

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

19 August 2026

9.30am – 3.30pm	Resisting collusion and motivating change: working with men who use intimate partner violence
9.30am – 3.30pm	Introduction to harm reduction

DAY ONE

20 August 2026

8.00 – 8.45am	Arrivals and registrations
8.45 – 9.15am	Welcome to Country
9.15 – 9.25am	Address by the Hon. Donna Kirkland, Assistant Minister for Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Families and Seniors and Central Queensland
9.25 – 9.30am	Conference welcome

Session 1 – Facilitated by Rebecca Lang

9.30 – 10.15am	Keynote: Examining cultural insights at the intersection of social determinants affecting AOD and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	Dr Vanessa Lee Ah Mat, Black Lorikeet Consulting
10.15 – 11:00am	Keynote: “If we keep looking back, we’ll keep going that way”: envisioning an AOD Sector after drug prohibition	Nicole Luongo, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

Morning Tea (11:00 – 11.30am)

Session 2 – Facilitated by Cameron Francis

11.30 – 12.15pm	Whose knowledge counts? From risk to rights: reimagining expertise, power, and Lived and Living Experience in Queensland’s AOD sector: an introduction to the Queensland AOD Lived and Living Experience framework	Emma Kill and Aimee Schoeman, QuIVAA
12.15 – 1.05pm	Panel Discussion: Holding space for what works: what to do when what we know isn’t what we do	Facilitator: Rebecca Lang, QNADA Cameron Francis, The Loop Australia Rebecca Johnson, Qld LGBTIQA+ Alliance Tiana Lea, QAIHC Emma Kill, QuIVAA Geoff Davey, QuIHN
1.05 – 1.15pm	Launch of the Queensland non government AOD treatment and harm reduction workforce strategy 2026 – 2036	Rebecca Lang, QNADA

Lunch (1.15 – 2:00pm)

Session 3

	Breakout Session 1 Session Chair: Raja Clay Room: Plaza P1 & 2	Breakout Session 2 Session Chair: Sean Popovich Room: Plaza P3	Breakout Session 3 Session Chair: Kelly D’cunha Room: Plaza P4
2:00 – 2.25pm	From resident to qualified AOD worker: turning lived experience into professional practice Jodey Brookes and Nathanael Martin, Goldbridge	Stronger together: an integrated model of care for youth AOD, mental health, and family support Amanda Hodgkinson, Better Together	Workshop: Evaluating AOD programs and initiatives Caroline Salom, The University of Queensland
2.25 – 2.50pm	The role of lived experience in a clinical hospital model John Knights, Avive	Recovery doesn’t pause: digital peer support for people waiting for, in, and leaving treatment Katinka van de Ven, Hello Sunday Morning	
2.50 – 3.15pm	Organisational readiness for implementing a Lived Experience (Peer) workforce in a statewide telephone and online AOD counselling service Cameron Blacklock, Adis	Strengthening a national AOD model of care: evidence, culture, and integration Tam Tran and Caitlin Harcourt, The Salvation Army	
3.15 – 3:40pm	Findings and opportunities: building domestic and family violence capability in mental health and AOD settings Alysha Bleney, QNADA	Long-acting injectable buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid concerns: drawing on insights from clinicians to enhance harm reduction and pharmacotherapy in Queensland Tony Barnett, The University of Queensland	

Afternoon tea (3.40 – 4pm)

Session 4 – Facilitated by Shennae Neal

4.00 – 4.45pm	Keynote: Neurodivergence and substance use	Emily Hughes, NZ Drug Foundation
4.45 – 5.30pm	Panel discussion: Wholistic responses to family and domestic violence	Facilitator: Raja Clay, QNADA Anoushka Dowling, Lives Lived Well Natalie B, DV Connect Thelma Yeatman, Gindaja Peta Steedman, CQID
5.30 – 6.30pm	Welcome function	

DAY TWO
21 August 2026

Session 5			
	Breakout Session 4 Session Chair: Alysha Bleney Room: Plaza P1 & 2	Breakout Session 5 Session Chair: Shennae Neal Room: Plaza P3	Breakout Session 6 Session Chair: Raja Clay Room: Plaza P4
9.00 – 9.25am	Exploring aging anxiety and the use of anabolic steroids to resist bodily decline Bahareh Ahmadinejad, The University of Queensland	At the intersection of GHB, gendered harm, and safe care: building a coordinated workforce response in Victoria Lucy Demant and Taran Dhillon, The Centre for Impact & Change	A qualitative investigation of burnout and compassion fatigue within community mental health and AOD services Thomas Wright, The University of Queensland
9.25 – 9.50am	Drug-checking: a gateway to health engagement locked shut in Queensland Steph Tzanetis, Pill Testing Australia	Recognise. Reflect. Respect: a DV informed men's program for men with AOD and mental health challenges Anoushka Dowling, Lives Lived Well	Co-designing culturally responsive relapse prevention: development of the Strong Culture, Strong Community program Katinka van de Ven, 360 Edge
9.50 – 10.15am	Motivation without options: navigating methamphetamine treatment gaps Sophie Osborne, Queensland Health	Women's AAS use as an emerging AOD issue Kim Akrigg, The University of Queensland	From practice to evidence: building evaluation capacity in NGO AOD services in NSW Michelle Campbell, NADA and Sam Booker, The Buttery
10.15 – 10.40am	Seen and heard: exploring the strengths and experience of people using opiate dependence treatment using photovoice Emily Cooper, QulVAA	Current trends in peptide use Sonya Weith and Tim Piatkowski, QulVAA	Scoping the size of the non government AOD sector in Queensland: the first NGO AOD Establishments Collection Kelly D'cunha, QNADA

Morning Tea (10.40 – 11.10am)

Session 6 – Facilitated by Professor Jason Ferris

11.10 – 11.55am	Nicotine: the latest escalation of Australia’s war on drugs	Dr James Martin, Deakin University
11.55 – 12.30pm	Understanding demand for illicitly traded tobacco products	Dr Cheneal Puljevic, School of Public Health The University of Queensland
12.30 – 1.00pm	Driving system change through partnership: national AOD peak body advocacy	Melanie Walker, Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC)

Lunch (1.00 – 1.45pm)

Session 7 – Facilitated by Rebecca Lang

1.45 – 2.00pm	Outstanding contribution awards presentation Bretine Curtis, Acting Mental Health Commissioner	
2.00 – 2.45pm	Substance use and the modern media environment	Benjamin Riordan, Centre for Alcohol Policy Research (CAPR)
2.45 – 3.00pm	Conference close	Rebecca Lang, QNADA



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