

About the NSW and ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance



What is the NSW and ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance?

The NSW and ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance is an alliance of health, community, emergency services and research organisations that has been formed with the objective of promoting evidence-based actions to prevent and reduce acute and chronic alcohol-related harms.

The Alliance provides a means of reaching agreement on key priorities for action in NSW and the ACT and strongly communicating these effectively to decision-makers and the community. The Alliance will present evidence-based solutions and emphasise the need to act without delay.

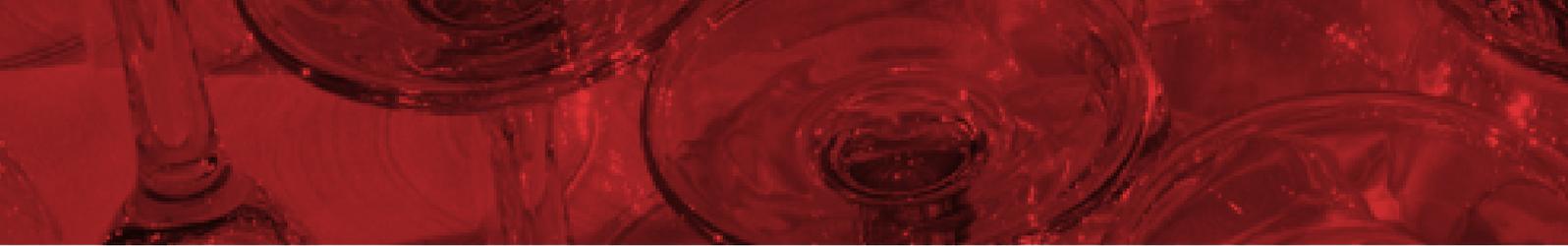
What is the purpose of the Alliance?

The Alliance will have a number of roles including to:

- Develop and support effective alcohol policy reform in NSW and the ACT and ensure that agreed alcohol policy is better promoted, evaluated and sustained across both jurisdictions.
- Advocate for evidence-based alcohol policy reforms to address the increasing concerns of alcohol-related harms in NSW and the ACT.
- Identify research gaps in NSW and the ACT in regards to addressing alcohol-related harms and continue to build on the evidence-base to support alcohol policy reform.
- Facilitate coordinated policy, advocacy and research for organisations concerned with alcohol-related harms in NSW and the ACT.
- Lead the public debate alcohol-related policy issues in NSW and the ACT.

Why focus on alcohol?

Alcohol-related violence has become front page news recently. Tragic events have mobilised the community, ignited media interest and put pressure on the NSW State Government to act effectively and timely to reduce alcohol-related harms.



When tragic alcohol-related incidents occur in the community, there is often significant pressure on governments to respond. This can sometimes result in the development and implementation of ad-hoc and incomplete policy responses that shift responsibility and costs onto impressionable and vulnerable consumers and the public whilst failing to address the core of the problem, being, government sanctioned dangerous oversupply, availability, affordability, promotion of alcohol in conjunction with ineffective RSA laws and regulatory capture.

The Alliance provides a shared voice for organisations in NSW and the ACT in response to the issues of alcohol-related harms in their jurisdictions.

Why form an Alliance?

- The public's "interest" and perception of the cause, extent and real cost of the alcohol "problem" and consequential government enacted "solutions" is largely shaped by media reporting and the associated dominant discourse and narrative. There is a need to articulate and provide pivotal strategic proactive leadership in the community that positively changes the narrative. Where organisations share common concerns, communicating consistent messages to decision-makers, the media and the community will promote clarity and reinforce the ready availability and applicability of proven, cost saving alcohol harm prevention measures.
- Strong alliances have been an essential component in public health success to date. There remain significant opportunities for coordinated, planned and professional advocacy activity by alliances in regard to the responsible promotion, supply, consumption and regulation of alcohol.
- There is a diverse range of stakeholders beyond the 'health' domain committed to sustaining demonstrable reductions in and prevention of alcohol related harms in NSW and the ACT. These stakeholders are often confronted with a powerful, well-coordinated industry that has to date, been able to exert disproportionate influence on all levels of governments' alcohol policy, legislative, administrative and enforcement agenda. Where organisations have common ground, greater outcomes will be achieved by working together.
- There is evidence available at the state, national and international levels as to the most cost-effective and efficient strategies and interventions to reduce and prevent alcohol-related harms. Strong advocacy is needed to achieve sustainable action on the basis of this evidence.
- The broad range of organisations represented in the Alliance will assist us to present new and interesting angles on alcohol issues.

Rationale for NSW and ACT linkages

- The Alliance recognises that there are commonalities and opportunities for joint action to reduce alcohol-related harms across the jurisdictions to make efficient and effective use of expertise and limited resources.
- The Alliance recognises that the NSW and the ACT are separate jurisdictions with their own legal and political structures, alcohol policies, population profiles, opportunities and constraints, and priorities for action.
- The Alliance recognises the cross border issues and the need for these to be considered within alcohol policy within the jurisdictions.

About membership

- Organisations but not individual can be members.
- Participation in the Alliance is not intended to replace or interfere with member organisations individual work in relation to alcohol.
- The Alliance will not constrain members' activities in any way, other than with respect to conditions noted below.
- Members will have no direct financial relationship with the alcohol industry or any of its organisations and the alcohol industry shall have no role in policy development within member organisations.
- The Alliance will work in partnership with state and local government; however state and local governments will not be members of the Alliance.
- The Alliance encourages member organisations to be involved in the National Alliance on Action for Alcohol (NAAA).

What will the Alliance do?

A focus of the initial meetings of the Alliance will be to identify the Alliance's key areas for action. In doing so, it will be important to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach. Following this, position statements will be drafted and member organisations will be invited to comment.

The focus and outcomes for the Alliance will be in regard to the NSW and ACT population. This will involve local, state and national initiatives with potential benefit for the NSW and ACT population. The National Alliance on Alcohol Action (NAAA) operates with a national focus; the Alliance is therefore well positioned to act at the state/territory –level to complement the nation level activity of the NAAA.

The Alliance encourages member organisations to be involved in the NAAA.

What is required of member organisations?

It is acknowledged that member organisations will vary in their capacity for activity in regard to the Alliance. Member organisations are welcome to participate to the extent they are able.

Participation in the Alliance is not intended to replace or interfere with organisations' individual work in relation to alcohol.

Member organisations may be called on for media comment on relevant topics. This may be planned or, in the case of opportunistic activity, may require urgent response. Media activity will be coordinated by the Alliance Secretariat. If individual organisations feel that the media request is not relevant to their organisation's priorities, they are able to decline media opportunities.

Secretariat support will initially be provided by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education.

Contact will mainly occur via email and phone. However there will be opportunities to meet face-to-face periodically.

Member organisations will be consulted in developing priority areas for action and position statements. Following this, member organisations will assist to identify how we can all work together to achieve these objectives both as an Alliance and through our own organisations.

Founding members

The following organisations are founding members of NAAPA:

1. Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
2. Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies
3. Darlinghurst Resident Action Group
4. Newcastle Community Drug Action Team
5. Police Association of NSW
6. Australian Medical Association NSW
7. Trauma Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
8. Public Health Association NSW Branch
9. Cancer Council NSW
10. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
11. Centre for Health Initiatives, University of Wollongong
12. Australasian College of Emergency Medicine
13. Jewish House Limited
14. Inspire Foundation
15. The Asia Pacific Centre for Crime Prevention Griffith University (Sydney)
16. University of Newcastle
17. Ulladulla Community Drug Action Team
18. Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia
19. Bondi Residents Association
20. Ted Noffs Foundation
21. St Vincent's Hospital
22. Australian Drug Foundation
23. Health Services Union
24. Pedestrian Council of Australia
25. The Salvation Army NSW
26. Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co Operative Ltd
27. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
28. Hello Sunday Morning (HSM)
29. Byron Bay Youth Service
30. Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP)
31. NSW Nurses and Midwives Association
32. 2011 Residents Association
33. Karralika Programs Inc.
34. Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Association ACT (ATODA)
35. Ted Noffs Foundation (ACT)
36. Canberra Recovery Service, Salvation Army
37. Public Health Association of Australia ACT Branch
38. Bondi Beach Precinct
39. Cancer Council ACT
40. Australian Medical Association ACT
41. Directions ACT
42. Last Drinks At 12
43. CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
44. Mental Health Association of NSW

Contact

If you would like to find out more information about NAAPA, please visit www.naapa.org.au or contact us at:

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