

# Drug Education Network Inc.

## Annual Report 2018



### Position Statement

The Drug Education Network (DEN) neither condones nor condemns the use of drugs. Rather, we acknowledge that drug use exists irrespective of legal status or societal norms.

DEN provides our community members with the resources, information and connections they need to keep themselves and their community safer in relation to their individual circumstances.

Our goal is to meet people where they are and encourage open dialogue that empowers the individual to be the primary agent of their own physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

# Messages from the Chair and the CEO

## CHAIR OF THE DRUG EDUCATION NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018 REPORT

The Drug Education Network (DEN) is now 30 years on from when it was initiated by a small, but dedicated and strategic thinking group of individuals who tempered fate, took the risk and resulted in what is today a vital, vibrant and flexible organization that has an indefinite future.

The 2017-2018 Financial Year was **an excellent year for transition and development**. The organization moving premises in Hobart into what all believe is an area for expansion and growth; the increase in staff, projects and visibility across the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) arena; the launching of new and innovative Resources; alignment with the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Foundation (FASD); Tobacco Control Coalition; and the continued work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, but to name a few arrangements and projects (<http://www.den.org.au>). This made for an interesting year, but there is more to come for 2018-2019. These projects again occurred against a background of significant work by all staff members across the State in the DEN not-for-profit organization. Whilst there have been challenges, these have been considered, addressed, and resulted in appropriate outcomes and understandings for the future.

DEN has been confronted by funding arrangements that have not been conducive to further development, growth and a willingness to project into the Community and beyond, as well as we could. With the announcement of only 12-months of state funding to permit Government to review the sector, the DEN Board has been obliged to focus on what strategies have priority, what we are able to fund, and to look to other possibilities. Whilst successive Tasmanian Governments have provided resources to the organization over a 3-year triennium, for which the Board is significantly grateful, the move to a 4-year or ongoing agreement for funding would be excellent. The Board believes the sustainability and future of DEN is vital, with the work (the prevention of alcohol and other drugs) continuing unabated across the State, with our resources, research and products highly sought from interstate and overseas. The Board acknowledges the commitment and drive demonstrated by all of the DEN staff and, in particular, the CEO Shirleyann Varney. The Board also acknowledges the significant ongoing support and commitment of the Minister for Health, the Hon Michael Ferguson (MHA), and especially his willingness to attend our launches and speak in our support, the Department of Health and Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Services and the staff who interact with DEN on a weekly basis. For that ongoing determination by the all Board members, I offer my appreciation and implore that you continue your service to DEN and its important work into the new financial year and beyond.

As Chair of DEN Board of Directors, I offer up this Annual Report for the financial year 2017-2018 which demonstrates our significant activities, effort and ongoing commitment to the State, and innovative service delivery in the ATOD sector.

**Wayne Moore**  
Chair of the Board of Directors  
15 Oct 2018

## CEO OF THE DRUG EDUCATION NETWORK 2017-2018 REPORT

**Preventing harm from drugs through education for healthier, inclusive and thriving communities** is at the core of all our work at the Drug Education Network (DEN). The services we provide remain responsive to individuals, families and wider community through DEN's collaborative practices with the Community sector; the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) sector; Mental Health organisations; the Education sector and Tasmanian community members.

DEN believes it is essential that drug prevention and early intervention are well-funded and remain a high priority for all governments of our state. During this past year DEN has prioritised project work that supports the Community sector, Education sector and the broader ATOD workforce, focussed in areas where DEN; as lead agency for Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI); believed our practice could affect change and where we could evaluate that impact.

As part of the PPEI work, DEN has delivered educational and awareness raising sessions regarding the practice and skills for engaging and effective short conversations, also known as *Brief Interventions*, for the broader ATOD workforce; In community, DEN has provided our many resources and information sessions across the state to assist communities to find ways to talk about ATOD issues and develop place-based solutions. Other significant projects during this year include *Tobacco Free Communities* in partnership with Royal Flying Doctors, UTAS, Cancer Council Tas and QUIT Tas; *wungana makuminya* in partnership with Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation, and the *Shine* project in partnership with NOFASD Australia.

As we acknowledge the achievements of the past year and stride forward into the next, I thank the DEN Board for their hard work and ongoing commitment to this organisation, and commend the work and energy of the highly talented DEN team. This organisation has continued to strive towards being a great place to work, which resulted in DEN being named a winner of the 2018 Employer of Choice awards. DEN thanks and acknowledges the various funding bodies that support the essential work of this organisation, and the many organisations from the ATOD and community sectors that collaborate and partner with us. Together, we can achieve further prevention of harm from drugs in our communities.

**Shirleyann Varney**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Who are we?

## Board of Directors

### **Chairperson**

Wayne Moore

### **Vice Chairperson**

Sandra Lovell

### **Vice Chairperson**

Michael Robinson

### **Treasurer**

Emma Lovibond

### **Founding Member, Public Officer**

David Daniels

### **Secretary**

Judy Travers

### **Member**

Allison Matthews

### **Member**

Philip Holliday

## The Team

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Shirleyann Varney

### **Finance & Payroll Coordinator**

Anita

### **Administration Officer**

Mary-Jane

### **Project, Systems + UX Developer**

Zoe

### **Educator**

**South**

Maria

### **Educator**

**North**

Maurice

**NOFASD Shine  
National Educator, TFC  
Coordinator, Educator  
North**  
Marion

**wungana makuminya  
Project Coordinator and  
Trainer**  
Dave

**wungana makuminya  
Lead Trainer and  
Assessor**  
Janet

### **Policy & Research Officer**

Elida

### **AOD Curriculum Project Officer**

Margaret

### **Brief Interventions Trainer**

Sue

## Talk to us



facebook.com/  
drugeducationnetwork



**Our Website**  
www.den.org.au



youtube.com/  
drugeducationnetwork



pinterest.com/  
drugedtas



**Everybody's Business**  
www.everybodys.business



twitter.com/  
DEN\_TAS

## What is DEN's Vision?

To improve the health and wellbeing of all community members through the provision of education, training and resources aimed at reducing the impact of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

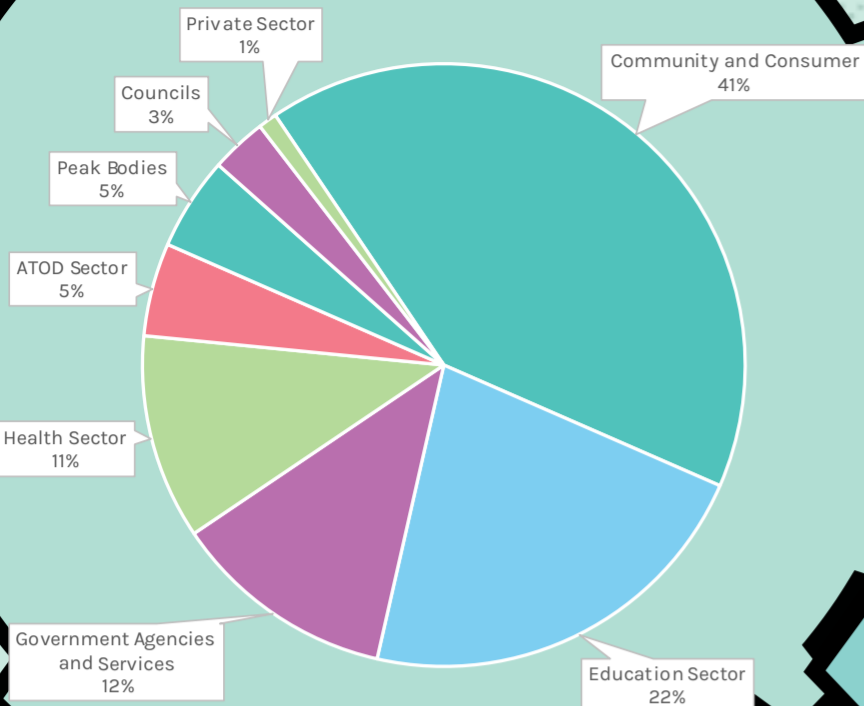
How do we fulfill our vision?  
By utilising our mission objectives:



### Mission Objective 1:

**Providing leadership in Drug Education across Tasmania**

Who attends our education and training sessions?

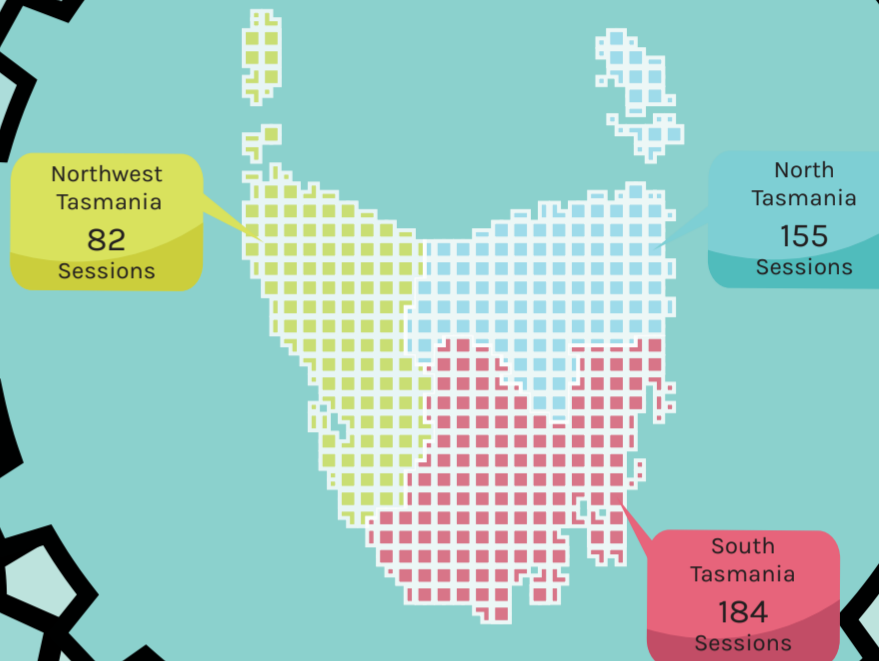


PPEI Lead Agency  
Secretariat support to the PPEI Advisory Group

421 Sessions across Tasmania

Shine: Partnership with NOFASD Australia  
12 month project delivering FASD awareness raising and educational training

wungana makuminya: PHT funded project in collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation  
30+ students enrolled in Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs  
29 students enrolled in Cultural Awareness Training  
28 students enrolled in Cultural Safety Training



4,593 visits to the resources webpage

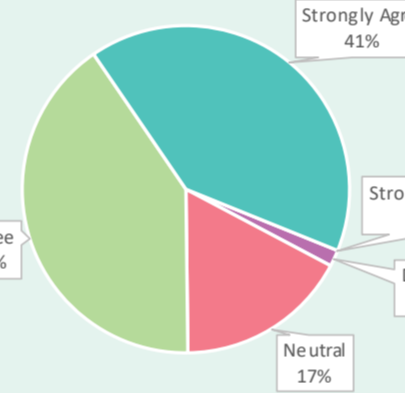
Reinvigorated partnership with ALDAF

### Mission Objective 2:

**Providing best practice education, training and resources that will improve the health and wellbeing of all community members**

10,784 resources distributed in hard copy

Participants who intend to change their behaviour after training



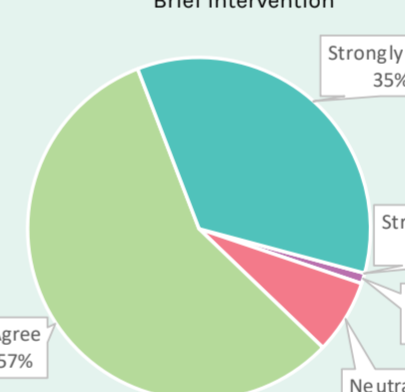
224 community client contacts

60+ referral, crisis referral and information requests

PPEI Community Drug Forums across Tasmania

4,172 views on YouTube

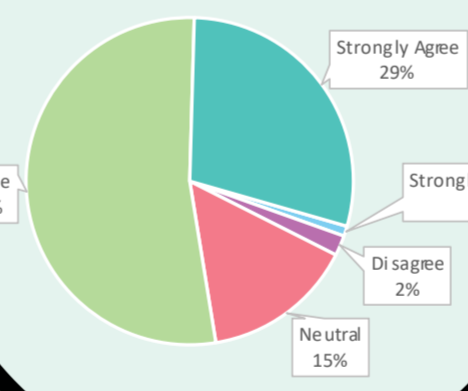
Participants who built on their knowledge and skills in Brief Intervention



PPEI Sector Plan: Collect and collate data from stakeholders across Tasmania

164 community resource requests

Participants who changed their awareness and knowledge



Development of the 'Brief Intervention Scaffold'  
A companion guide to the 'Tasmanian Alcohol and Other Drug Brief Intervention Framework'

Smoking Cessation Pilot Project: Partnership with UTAS, Cancer Council and Royal Flying Doctors  
Incentivised smoking cessation pilot program. As of the midpoint of the pilot, 13 out of 28 participants have quit smoking.

Development of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Sector Brief Intervention Framework

164 Facebook posts reaching 78,000+ people

Presentations at international and state conferences

New Resources for the Tasmanian community

Mocktails + Mastery  
Full to the brim with delicious non-alcoholic drink recipes and a sprinkle of related health knowledge.



Drive  
5 dice set designed to start conversations about drug use and driving. Includes a booklet of discussion questions.



More Options for Managing Pain  
Good information about opioid medicines, minimising risks, and many options to help manage pain.



AOD Worker's Guide to Domestic and Family Violence  
A toolkit for AOD workers, created in collaboration with SHE and Yemaya Women's Support Services.



Redesign: Overdose Wallet Card  
Wallet sized cards with information on what to do in case of an overdose.



### What you're telling us:

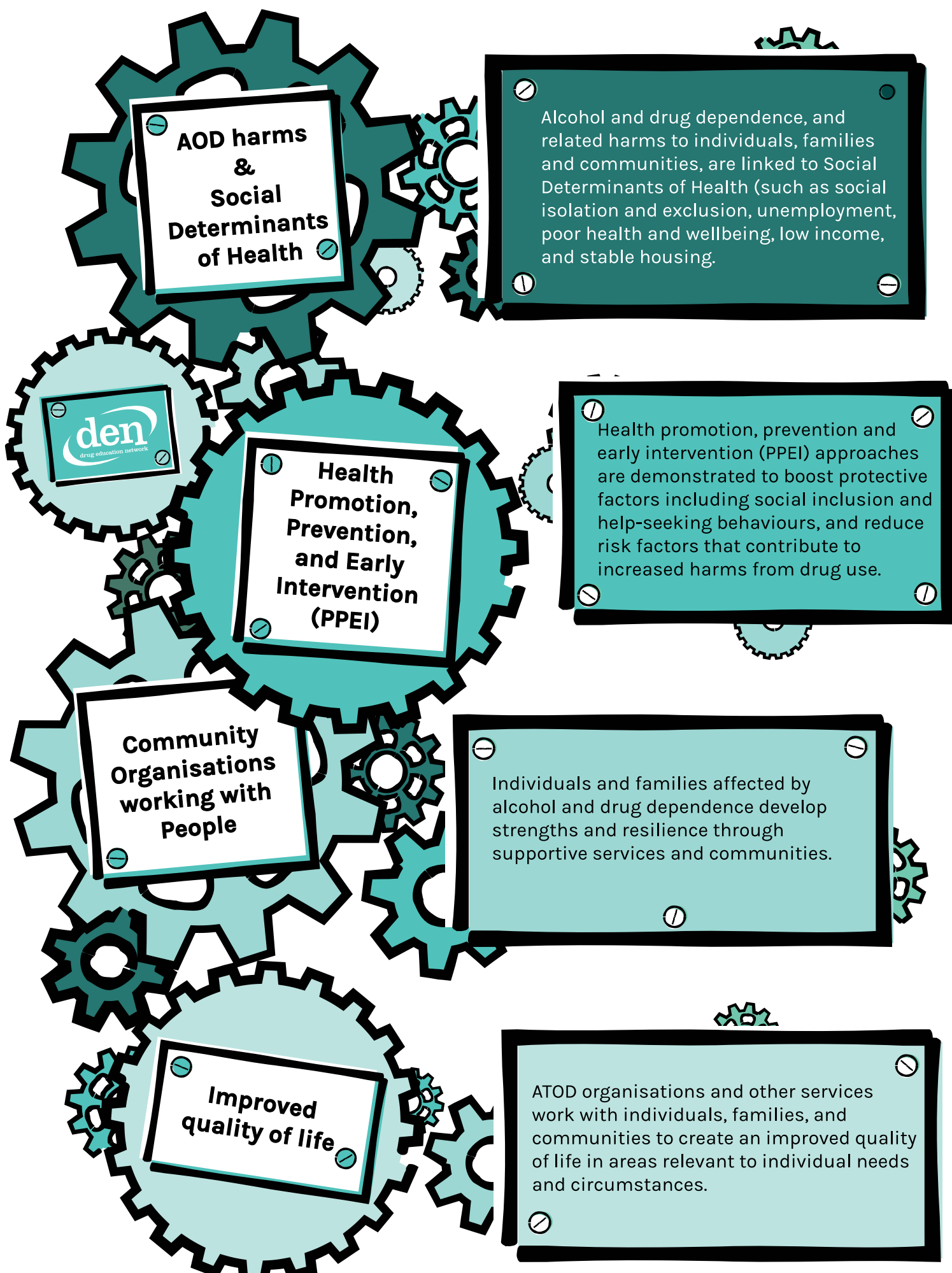
- "The team really enjoyed the training and it opened up useful conversation."
- "Wow, aren't DEN kicking goals lately? Great quality resources, great training, and it's the place to be!"
- "In the beginning I really struggled to build conversation with [a client]. For our last appointment, I took the ['Possibilities' resource] along and it worked absolute wonders!"
- "It has actually been a lot of fun! You provided us with such great training and instructions I am doing things I didn't even know I could!"
- "We are always finding good tips as to how to handle hard situations, whether big or small."
- "Participants were put at ease very early into the session which allowed them to disclose/discuss sensitive topics."

### Mission Objective 3:

**Being recognised as the credible and influential voice in the development of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Sector**

Winner of the 2018 Employer of Choice Awards

# DEN's Theory of Change



**AOD harms  
&  
Social  
Determinants  
of Health**

Alcohol and drug dependence, and related harms to individuals, families and communities, are linked to Social Determinants of Health (such as social isolation and exclusion, unemployment, poor health and wellbeing, low income, and stable housing).

**Health  
Promotion,  
Prevention,  
and Early  
Intervention  
(PPEI)**

Health promotion, prevention and early intervention (PPEI) approaches are demonstrated to boost protective factors including social inclusion and help-seeking behaviours, and reduce risk factors that contribute to increased harms from drug use.

**Community  
Organisations  
working with  
People**

Individuals and families affected by alcohol and drug dependence develop strengths and resilience through supportive services and communities.

**Improved  
quality of life**

ATOD organisations and other services work with individuals, families, and communities to create an improved quality of life in areas relevant to individual needs and circumstances.