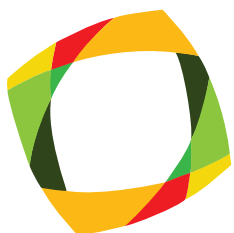




2023

# REFLECTIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

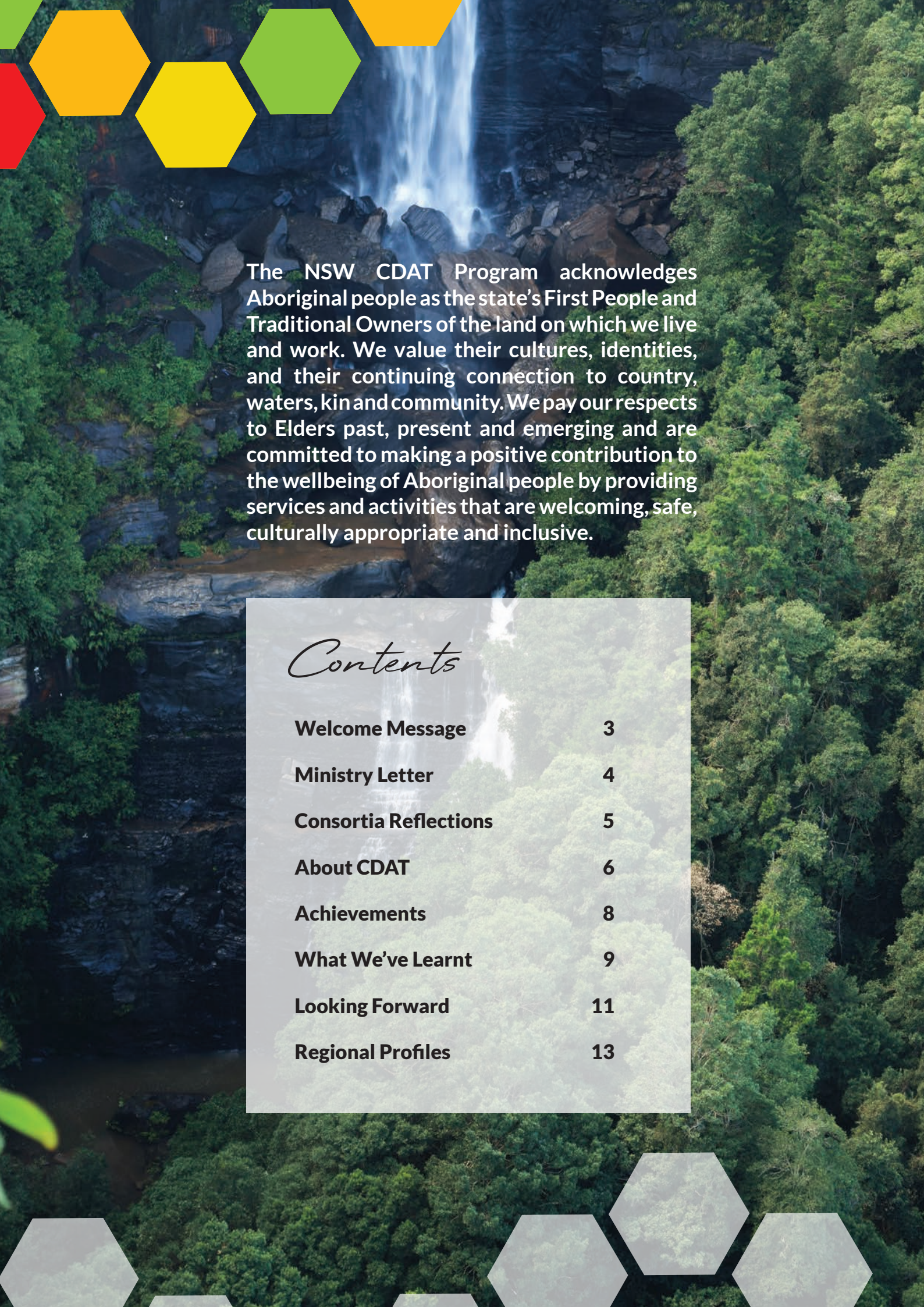


**CDAT**

We're stronger together







The NSW CDAT Program acknowledges Aboriginal people as the state's First People and Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work. We value their cultures, identities, and their continuing connection to country, waters, kin and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and are committed to making a positive contribution to the wellbeing of Aboriginal people by providing services and activities that are welcoming, safe, culturally appropriate and inclusive.

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# Welcome

## MESSAGE

After two and half years managing the Community Drug Action Teams (CDAT) Program, it is exciting to reflect on what has been achieved and what future opportunities lie ahead. As consortium partners, our focus is to support the CDATs to be well equipped to address alcohol and other drug concerns in their local communities. We hope you enjoy reading this report.

Bringing volunteers together from across NSW has been a highlight during this time. Two Conferences have been successfully delivered with the numbers growing from over 90 volunteers in 2020 to over 140 in 2023.

Conference sessions were recorded and have been made available to those unable to attend in person, so they do not miss out on the content delivered.

Developing a standalone website has cemented a foundational key to the program. The dual functionality means the public can access resources and explore what CDATs across NSW are doing. The members only platform provides the 120 registered CDAT members with access to administrative resources, capacity building workshops, communication, and marketing collateral.

The CDAT program has embraced the opportunity to work with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) to collect information and identify opportunities to optimise resources and activities. We are also looking forward to contributing to the development of the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention and Early Intervention Framework that the University of NSW have been commissioned to undertake.

We want to pay tribute to the hard work and collective effort of the volunteers that makeup the CDATs across NSW and the skilled and passionate CDAT staff who support them. We also acknowledge the critical support of our funding partner the Ministry of Health. We welcome the announcement to extend the management of the CDAT project under the consortia partnership to December 2025. This will enable us to continue to raise awareness of the program, increase the knowledge across communities, support regional collaboration and add to the evidence about the importance of a grass roots approach to preventing, responding, and reducing health, social and economic harms related to alcohol and other drug use.

We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

## CONSORTIA PARTNERS

**Carmel Tebutt**  
Odyssey house  
CEO



**Sharon Tuffin**  
Karralika Inc  
CEO



**Leone Crayden**  
The Buttery  
CEO



**Shayana Naden**  
Bila Muuji  
Business Development  
Manager





## *A Message from*

## **CENTRE FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS, NSW MINISTRY OF HEALTH:**

The NSW government has supported the CDAT program since 1999 and in 2020 we welcomed the consortia in delivering the program.

This unique partnership brings a wealth of collective experience in alcohol and other drugs and close connections to local communities.

After the challenges we all experienced with COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021, it was fantastic to see so many achievements across the CDAT program in 2022-2023 – and we are excited to see them highlighted in this Year in Review. The CDAT program plays an important role in empowering local communities to respond to local issues and reduce the impact of alcohol and other drugs.

It was great to see the accomplishments of the CDAT management team. These included providing a range of training opportunities for CDATs, an engaging annual forum, the development and implementation of a communications strategy and the CDAT website coming into action.

This year also saw NSW Health extend the consortia contract to deliver the CDAT program to the end of 2025.

We want to give special thanks to all the CDAT volunteers who are the heart of the program. Volunteers have continued to give their time to mobilise and empower their communities to make positive changes.

Thank you for a successful year and we look forward to continuing the good work.

**DANIEL MAEDDU,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

Proudly funded by



# CONSORTIA REFLECTIONS

## GAIL EASTON ODYSSEY HOUSE

Management of the CDAT Program has been marked by challenges. From the initial disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the impact of floods and most recently fires - these trials have not only tested our resilience but compelled the entire CDAT program to reassess our approach.

In the face of these adversities, we've persevered and also undertaken a fundamental evaluation of how we connect to reduce harm, raise awareness, and enhance the capacity of communities to address alcohol and drug harm minimisation. We take immense pride in our connection to the communities we serve, to remain actively engaged despite the challenges that come our way.



## TANYA MAGNAY THE BUTTERY

I am proud that I am part of a dynamic and innovative approach in our community.

Our community has seen extraordinary events happen to them over the past few years; pandemic, drought, flood, and bushfires – and yet we still see our CDATs/communities working together to stay unified and remain strong – the CDATs remain firm and inspiring!



## SHAYANA NADEN BILA MUUJI

CDAT is important in every aspect from engaging strong partnerships in communities, to expanding the knowledge and support. By establishing local committees across the region we can educate communities on the harms of AOD use and provide harm minimisation strategies through evidence-based, primary prevention activities.

I am proud to be a part of a great working team and the outstanding work and effort especially from our Community Development Officer's with their ongoing commitment to engaging our communities to strengthen their understanding on the importance of reducing the harms associated with AOD as 'we are stronger together'.



## KERRY FITZROY KARRALIKA

Our involvement in the CDAT program has been an inspiring journey for myself and the team. To be apart of our CDAT members' drive and determination to inform their communities of the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs and provide harm minimisation activities and education has been exciting. The CDAT program provides excellent opportunities for communities to grow stronger and aim for positive outcomes for all. We look forward to continuing to support the great work of our CDATs in their regions.





## About CDAT

In May 1999 the NSW Government held a Drug Summit in response to growing concern over illicit drug use in NSW.

The Summit recognised that local community drug action is one of the best ways communities can work together to reduce drug use and drug-related harm.

Since then over 70 Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) have been set up across the state.

After the NSW Government Alcohol Summit in 2003, it was considered important to extend the focus of CDAT activities to also include alcohol misuse. For many CDATs alcohol is now the main focus of their work in the community.

CDATs operate within The National Drug Strategic Framework, which promotes harm minimisation as a philosophy and notes that a range of strategies is required to achieve the desired outcomes. These include abstinence-based approaches, primary prevention, early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation.

CDATs get involved in all sorts of activities. Many CDATs create their own special events, others play a role in existing community events. Their work often helps build skills and resilience in people at risk of drug and alcohol harms, by changing attitudes, increasing knowledge and fostering social cohesion.

CDATs are comprised of key stakeholders from their Local Government Areas including (but not limited to):

- Community Members
- Local Council Representatives
- Staff of key Government Agencies such as:
  - Area Health Services
  - Police
  - Department Of Community Services
  - Department of Juvenile Justice
  - Department of Housing
  - Drug Treatment Service Providers
  - Non Government Service Providers
  - Representatives of relevant community service organisations

CDAT members know their community and the risks and opportunities to focus on in their specific regions.





***“CDATs are important because they are grass roots. They are not told what they need to focus on from state or national bodies. They use local experience and knowledge to cater programming relevant to their community.” - Northern Region, Community Development Officer, Josh Seage.***



## ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the last twelve months the NSW CDAT program has continued to grow, with renewed interest and support across the state.

Some of the things we have achieved include:

- Development of the stand-alone website at [nswcdat.org.au](https://nswcdat.org.au)
- Implementation of the CDAT Management database to capture membership details, track activities and record measurable outcomes.
- 4 x Primary Prevention Webinars facilitated by the Matilda Centre. The Matilda Centre has since joined the CDAT Advisory Committee.
- Re-establishment of the CDAT Advisory Committee.
- 4 x Drug Trends and Emerging Drugs facilitated by Annie Bleeker.
- 4 x Asset Based Community Development workshops facilitated by Jeder Institute.
- Development of CDAT Communication Strategy and Toolkit to support CDATS across multiple stages of delivery.
- Successfully delivered the second CDAT State Conference.

## FUNDS ISSUED

92 Action Plans have been approved in the last two financial years, injecting approximately \$570,000 into communities across NSW. \$340,000 was invested in events, activities, training and resources in the last 12 months alone. All of these activities were initiated and implemented by CDAT members who represented the specific needs of their regions.

## GROWTH OF FOOTPRINT

When Odyssey commenced their contract in January 2021, there were 21 active CDATs around the state. Over the last two years, this has grown to a peak of 71, with 59 active CDATs as of June 2023. The largest growth has been the 'Central' region, incorporating varied demographics in the Sydney/Hunter/Illawarra regions.

These regional CDATs are all supported by 8 Community Development Officers (CDOs), with two in each region.

## PROGRAM EXTENSION

Following on from the success and growth of the last few years, we were able to successfully secure funding so that the NSW CDAT program can continue until the end of 2025.

The extension gives existing CDATs and Community Development Officers comfort and security, so they can continue to plan their community activities with the knowledge that their good work will be supported.



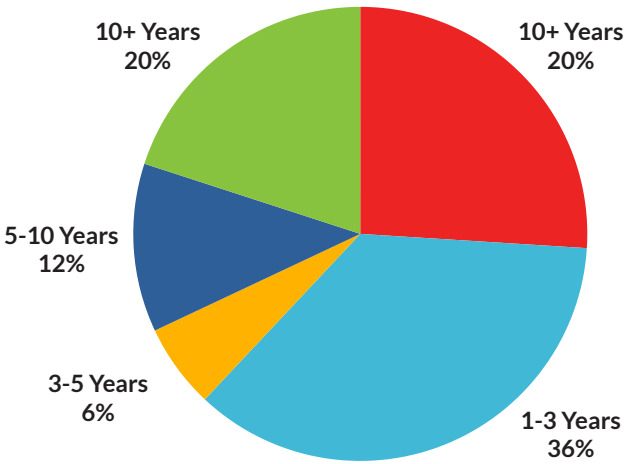


# WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

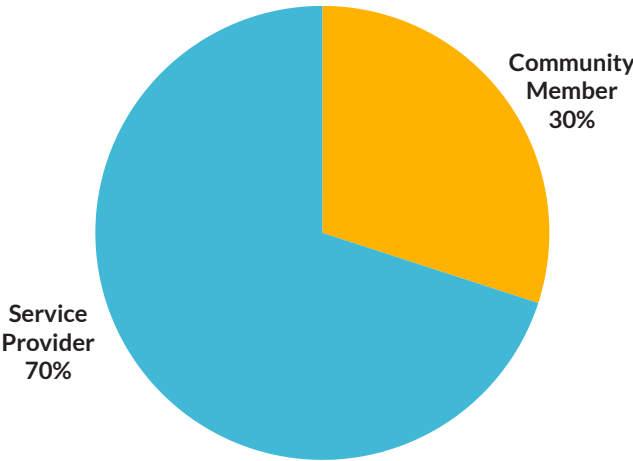
In August we conducted a survey, sent to all CDAT members. Questions included demographic information along with local attitudes and behaviours.

We received 50 responses from 36 CDAT's.

## How long have you been a member of the CDAT?

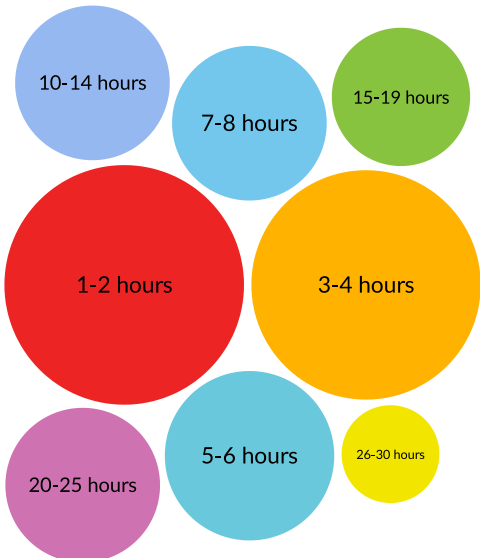


## What type of a CDAT member are you?



Service organisations include: Aboriginal Corporations, St Vincent de Paul Society, Headspace, neighbourhood centres, youth services, Youth Off The Streets, Royal Flying Doctor, Gamble Aware, Mission Australia, family support services, local government and rehabilitation services.

## On average, how many hours per month do you spend working on CDAT activities?



*“Difficult due to work commitments. 1-2 hrs”*  
*“15 hrs a month, this increases with face to face program delivery”*  
*“Lately with Vaping 3 to 4 hours”*  
*“In the month leading up to the camp 10 hours; in the month of the training day and camp approx 60 hours”*





## LOOKING FORWARD

Knowing that the CDAT program has received a funding extension to continue operating through to the end of 2025, we are optimistic about the continued growth and program improvement,

### Expansion

The last 12 months saw a significant increase in communities represented by a local CDAT. We hope that over the next year we continue to grow our footprint as we support communities to form Action Teams that address their specific alcohol and other drug requirements.

### Evaluation

A partnership with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) will evaluate the program and provide recommendations.

The CDAT program and NDARC are working to develop a program logic that will help build the evidence base for the CDAT program.

This information may identify opportunities to optimise resources, e.g. potential for other formats/approaches. Any optimisation of resources would involve a co-design process, with the new tools then piloted in one or more region to review whether the new tools have improved the way in which their shared goals are achieved.

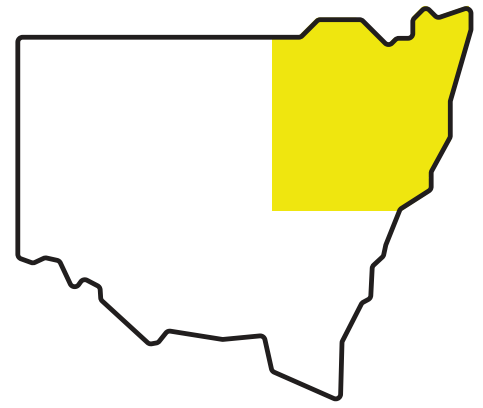
### Website

After some upgrades this year, including the new Communication Toolkit for CDATs, the website has been designed for a better user experience. It will continue to reflect the good work that is happening in the regions with regularly updated 'News' and 'Events' pages. It is hoped that this site will be not only a resource for CDATs but for community members too.



*"Securing an extension to manage the CDAT program has been a significant milestone, and we are enthusiastic about leveraging this opportunity to elevate the CDAT experience. Our commitment extends to amplifying access to resources, expanding programs, and facilitating connections with service providers where needed. As we embark on the program's 25th year of delivery across NSW, we are excited about the prospect of further enhancing our impact on the communities we serve." - Gail Easton, Odyssey House.*

# Northern Region



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER TINA BISHOP & JOSH SEAGE

- Armidale CDAT
- Glen Innes CDAT
- Gunnedah CDAT
- Inverell CDAT
- Kyogle CDAT
- Tamworth CDAT
- Tenterfield CDAT
- Bellingen Shire CDAT
- Clarence Valley / Grafton CDAT
- Coffs Harbour Village CDAT
- Kempsey / Macleay Valley CDAT
- Moree CDAT
- Nimbin CDAT
- Bowraville CDAT
- Byron Shire CDAT
- Nambucca Valley CDAT
- Port Macquarie / Hastings CDAT
- Richmond Valley CDAT
- Tweed Valley CDAT

### Q & A with Tina

#### How long have you been a Community Development Officer?

2 years.

#### Why do you think CDATs are important?

CDATs are a great way for communities to work together on the issues that really matter locally. CDATs bring together people who may not usually work together, strengthening relationships and community.

### Q & A with Josh

#### What are some of the big concerns for your regions?

Vaping, FASD is increasing in interest for my more western CDATs. Alcohol is always of concern.

#### What is one of the best CDAT activities you've seen?

Funding driving lessons for young marginalised youth. The young people had to complete AOD education in order to get the lessons. This improved young people's knowledge on risk and awareness of AOD generally and specifically while driving. It allowed for people who could not have got their license, to be able to get their license. This has a huge flow on effect as these young people can then get to school, work etc and have a greater respect and improved relationships with local authorities and services.





## CDAT PROFILE

### *Hastings*

Hastings Port Macquarie CDAT partnered with the Hastings Neighbourhood Service to deliver a mural and community connection day. The target audience was young people, families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The focus was on education around alcohol and other drugs, as well as connection building and awareness for the CDAT.

A local First Nations artist supported the community to participate in the completion of the mural. Handprints were added to represent the individuals within the community who all came together to create the artwork.

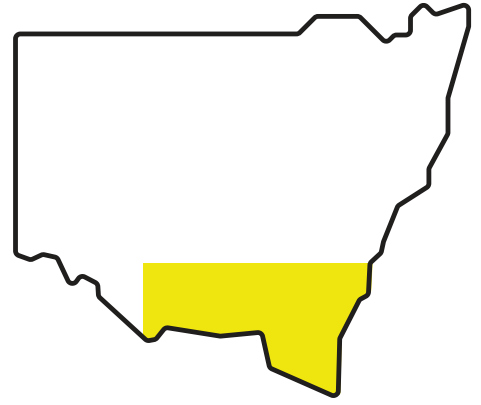
Just over 40 community members attended the day. Groups came from different services and children and parents engaged on their way home from school. Participants were able to share in the BBQ and coffee, as well as receiving resources and having conversations with CDAT and other services, such as Community Housing.

8 services attended including police, council, Headspace and Booroonjen Djugun.

“The event raised our communities awareness of the existence of the CDAT but more importantly the support options and information around the impact of drug use.”



# Southern Region



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER LOUISE GRAHAM & CHLOE CHANT

- Albury CDAT
- Bega Valley CDAT
- Coolamon CDAT
- Goulburn CDAT
- Queanbeyan CDAT
- Federation (Corowa) CDAT
- Griffith CDAT
- Nowra CDAT
- Temora CDAT
- Wagga Wagga CDAT

### Q & A with Louise

#### What CDATs do you look after?

I cover the Murrumbidgee in Southern NSW region – Currently we have 6 active CDATs in the area.

#### What are some of the big concerns for your regions?

Focuses and concerns vary within each community, however, as many towns that I support are rural and isolated, youth boredom, leading to AOD use is a current concern with most of my CDATs, as well as vaping and drinking driving.

### Q & A with Chloe

#### How long have you been a Community Development Officer?

Since May 2021

#### Why do you think CDATs are important?

The local viewpoint is crucial for creating successful interventions, and they create customised strategies to meet the particular needs and challenges of their community. As we have discovered, what works in one region doesn't always work in another. Involving the community and bringing together a variety of stakeholders to collaborate in a coordinated manner for decision-making and action, CDATs are essential to community empowerment.







## CDAT PROFILE

### *Temora*

For the last eight years, Temora CDAT has supported the Dramatic Minds Festival. The festival is a presentation of creative expressions of mental health and drug and alcohol related issues by secondary students in regional schools across the Riverina.

Along with the student creations, a professional drama piece called The Rainmaker was presented.

CDAT was able to offer educational resources around alcohol and other substance use, and facilitate discussion around the risks and links to mental health. Approximately 30 CDAT resources were taken and other services also shared their information.

Eleven schools submitted works and over 60 staff and students attended the event. Floods and poor weather restricted some schools from attending the festival, however they still had access to resources, including a video of The Rainmaker.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and there is a strong desire from students and schools that the event continues.



**DRAMATIC MINDS FESTIVAL**  
 TAKING THE DRAMA OUT OF MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

**THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2022, 10.00AM**  
**TEMORA TOWN HALL LOFTUS ST TEMORA NSW**  
**ENTRIES CLOSE FRIDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2022**

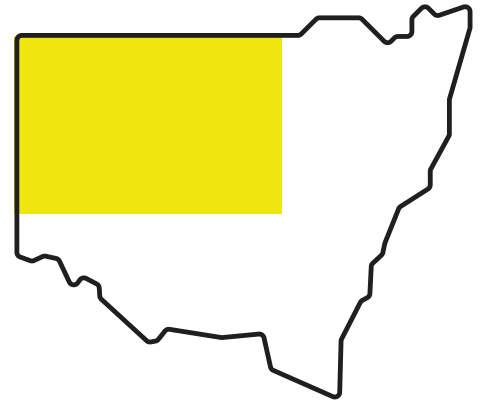
The Dramatic Minds Festival incorporates a series of original creative presentations including drama, dance, film and art, produced and performed by students from across the Murrumbidgee Region.

This year we are pleased to be able to bring to schools **THE RAIN MAKER**, a performance arts project presented by Centre Stage Scripts and the Regional Australia Institute. Set in a football club, it depicts the struggles of two young players and their coach, addressing the impacts of alcohol misuse and mental health issues in regional Australia. This is an incredible opportunity for our students to see a professional performance that approaches these issues, and participate in a Q&A with the actors after the play.

Schools and members of the public are most welcome to attend.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
 For more information, or if you would like your school to participate, contact  
**John Dean** P 0428 277 753 E John.Dean@health.nsw.gov.au

Proudly supported by  
 NSW GOVERNMENT  
 TEMORA  
 School-Link  
 CDAT



# Western Region

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SARAH FORRESTER & JOE GORDON

- Broken Hill CDAT
- Collarenebri CDAT
- Lightning Ridge CDAT
- Walgett Shire CDAT
- Forbes CDAT
- Lachlan (Condobolin) CDAT
- Orange CDAT

### Q & A with Sarah

#### How long have you been a Community Development Officer?

6 months.

#### What are some of the big focuses/concerns for your regions?

Methamphetamine (mainly ice) use in youth, alcohol abuse and drink driving. A big focus across all areas is changing the narrative and social 'norms' around AOD use.

#### What is one of the best CDAT activities you've seen?

Condobolin "What's your Plan" T-shirt activity - it has been running for numerous years and is still proving to be making a positive impact on community members.

### Q & A with Joe

#### Why do you think CDATs are important?

To raise early intervention and prevention around the harms associated with AOD addiction and other health related problems.

#### What are some of the big focuses for your regions?

Getting more smaller western NSW communities involved to deliver the CDAT core values.

#### What is one of the best CDAT activities you've seen?

Condobolin NSW/QLD State of Origin Series fun nights held at the Family Centre.







# ***Lightning Ridge Footy Funday***

**13th March 2023**

## **CDAT PROFILE**

### *Lightning Ridge*

The Community Drug Action Team at Lightning Ridge in northern NSW delivered a number of promotional activities in their region over the last year. Primarily, they partnered with their local junior rugby league club to sponsor a team.

The CDAT logo was displayed on the team's jersey and drink bottles were custom made to give out to team members. They also ran a competition to decide what anti-drug slogan should be printed on the drink bottles, with the winning message, 'Drugs aren't cool. Alcohol isn't awesome. You'll get a bigger kick out of playing footy!'.

While the number of entries was low (4) over the course of the competition this gave CDAT and other community members a chance to talk with young people about alcohol and other drugs, gathering informal information on attitudes and behaviours.

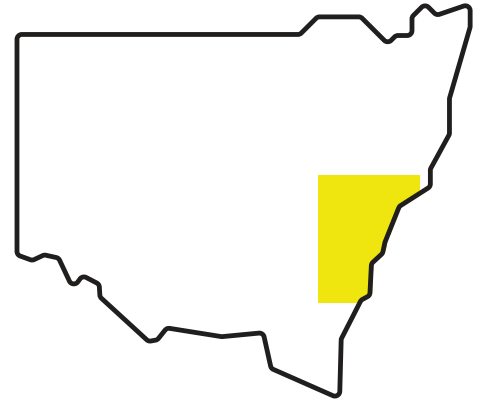
Lightning Ridge CDAT also partnered with PCYC, Creative Community Concepts, the local junior rugby league club and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to hold

a family fun day for the community. The collaboration allowed further provision of activities with a heavy focus on family wellbeing, primary prevention around AoD issues, mental health resilience, setting good examples as a parent and finding balance to reduce harms.

A community survey around alcohol was completed by 37 attendees who identified underage drinking as a big concern.

Conversations were had with community members around alcohol consumption, and 125 alco cups were given away to educate on standard drinks. Recipients expressed that the cup would be used in their household as a demonstration and measurement tool to show a partner, parent, significant other the true amount of what they were consuming.

Both the family fun day and the team sponsorship targeted young people, families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with the main focus on alcohol.



# Central Region

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER OLIVE TONGIAHOE & TANIA KELLAND

- Fairfield CDAT
- Canterbury CDAT
- Hornsby CDAT
- Inner West CDAT
- Bankstown CDAT
- Penrith CDAT
- Blue Mountains CDAT
- North Shore CDAT
- Surry Hills CDAT
- Northern Beaches CDAT
- Parramatta CDAT
- Liverpool CDAT
- St George CDAT
- Wollongong CDAT
- Erina CDAT
- Kariong/Peninsula CDAT
- Kincumber CDAT
- Northern Gosford CDAT
- Ourimbah CDAT
- Manning & Myall Lakes CDAT
- Muswellbrook CDAT
- Hunter Multicultural CDAT
- Callaghan CDAT
- Maitland CDAT
- Cessnock CDAT
- Singleton CDAT
- Port Stephens CDAT
- Gloucester CDAT
- Dungog CDAT

### Q & A with Olive

#### What are some of the big concerns for your regions?

Youth and the increase of new drugs in the community that they are experimenting with, the availability of opiate drugs over the counter at the pharmacy and the increase of accidental overdosing. A focus is also on CALD communities being a minority with the need for cultural sensitive approaches across AOD services.

#### What is one of the best CDAT activities you've seen?

Fairfield CDAT - Football World Cup Day with service stalls, youth specific services and a world soccer competition that a few schools participated in.

This not only allowed the youth to engage with local services but brought schools in the area together to foster a healthier community where the youth could engage and build positive relationships with each other.

### Q & A with Tania

#### Why do you think CDATs are important?

Who else will educate and spread the message about the harms and risks associated with alcohol and drugs? I saw an interview on ABC Breakfast TV and the doctor was saying there needs to be more education alcohol as there is a high rate of women presenting at hospital with alcohol poisoning. That's telling me there's more work to be done.

#### What is one of the best CDAT activities you've seen?

Ourimbah Campus standing outside the library engaging with students, striking up conversations about known harms and risks and seeing young people stop and pay attention and engage in dialogue. The CDAT volunteer was the Health Nurse at the campus and knew her subject well and could retrieve stats and strike up conversations with the students very easily.



## CDAT PROFILE

### *Fairfield*

The Fairfield CDAT, in partnership with Fairfield City Council, NSW Police, local community services and high schools delivered the Fairfield World Cup event on the 20 June 2023 at the Fairfield Showground. The purpose of the event was to provide a soft entry point for young people to engage with local support services and learn about Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) harms through interactive stalls and guest speakers. The theme of the day centered around wellbeing, mental health, and raising awareness about AOD harms. The event involved 6 local high schools, 26 support services who attended and facilitated a range of interactive activities.

We had 26 local support services attend who facilitated engaging activities for young people that raised their awareness of AOD harms, gambling harms, referral pathways and supported behaviour change.

The event also provided volunteer opportunities for young people from the Fairfield Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) and local high school students to assist with refereeing, and various duties throughout the day. In total we had 20 young people volunteering.



The poster features a background image of a soccer field with a goal. Two circular insets are overlaid: one showing a player in a yellow jersey with the number 15, and another showing a golden trophy. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout with a green and black color scheme.

### Fairfield World Cup 2023

**Tue 20 June  
9am - 2.30pm**

**Fairfield Showground,  
443 Smithfield Rd,  
Prairiewood 2176**

**Join us for a wellbeing event for high schools with a range of exciting activities including a soccer competition, guest speakers, interactive information stalls, and sport and art based activities!**



FAIRFIELD CDAT  
FYWM  
Fairfield City  
Celebrating diversity



*"We're stronger together"*

