

Alcohol. Drugs. Issues. Ideas?

Get involved!

From 23 January to 19 February 2012, we want to hear your ideas on how the Victorian Government can respond to the complex issues surrounding alcohol and other drugs.

Join the online discussion at

www.your-say.net.au

A series of focus groups will be held in February 2012 in metropolitan Melbourne. If you are interested in participating please call (03) 9412 5600 or email info@your-say.net.au to register.

Your comments and ideas will help shape a Victorian Government strategy which will address issues associated with alcohol and other drugs throughout the State. The strategy will aim to:

- Decrease the current rates of alcohol and other drug misuse in Victoria.
- Reduce the amount of harm that alcohol and other drug misuse causes in the community.
- Increase the access to treatment options so that people with alcohol or other drug problems can get help when they need it.

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Did you know?*

- Currently one in 10 Victorians drink at least weekly at risky levels. In the period since 1999, there has been a 47% increase in alcohol related hospital admissions and a 49% increase in rates of alcohol-related assaults in Victoria.
- Approximately 26% of 16 to 24 year old Victorians have used illegal drugs in the last 12 months.
- Unsafe injecting drug use is a major driver of blood-borne virus infections like Hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS.
- In 2008/09 illicit drug related hospitalisations in Victoria included 1,502 hospitalisations for opioids, 716 for cannabis, 628 for stimulants, and 547 for polydrug use.
- Alcohol continues to be the principle drug of concern in Victoria; 44% of all alcohol and other drug treatment in 2008/09 was alcohol related and during 2007, there were 728 deaths related to alcohol in Victoria.
- Pharmaceuticals are being used more regularly. There has been a significant increase in pharmaceutical misuse, evident in ambulance call outs; Benzodiazepines are used in conjunction with other drugs by over 50% of users.
- The cost of harmful alcohol and other drug use in Victoria has been estimated to be about \$14 billion annually (2004/05). This includes the costs of healthcare, crime, road accidents and injuries, decreased economic participation and lost productivity.
- Approximately 80% of the population stated that Australians have a problem with excess drinking and alcohol misuse. This perception is growing, is shared across age groups, and is increasingly supported among regular drinkers.



VAADA is the peak body representing Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services in Victoria. VAADA's purpose is to ensure that the issues for people experiencing the harms associated with alcohol and other drug use, their families and the organisations that support them are well represented in policy and program development and public discussion. Visit www.vaada.org.au for more information. VAADA is undertaking this community engagement with the support of the Department of Health. Contact for further information on the engagement process please call (03) 9412 5600 or email info@your-say.net.au

* SOURCES: Whole-of-Government Victorian alcohol and drug strategy - community consultation [<http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/Whole-of-government-Victorian-alcohol-and-drug-strategy---Community-Consultation>] Department of Health [[http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/7164579E661CFA03CA2578B5007B7E31/\\$FILE/Vic%20DSHB%20\(Report%20No.%2012\)%20July%202008%20to%20June%202009%20\(FINAL%20to%20DH\)%20V3%20-%20processed.pdf](http://docs.health.vic.gov.au/docs/doc/7164579E661CFA03CA2578B5007B7E31/$FILE/Vic%20DSHB%20(Report%20No.%2012)%20July%202008%20to%20June%202009%20(FINAL%20to%20DH)%20V3%20-%20processed.pdf)] Australian Institute of Health and Welfare [<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420903>]