

OUR GOAL — WHY WE EXIST

We strive to advance the health, human rights and dignity of people who use or have used illicit drugs.

OUR VALUES — WHAT DRIVES OUR WORK

We are committed to:

- Respect
- Inclusiveness
- Self-determination
- Empowerment
- Courage
- Innovation

We actively seek to demonstrate these values in all our interactions with people who engage in our programs, our members and our stakeholders, and in all our activities.

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NUAA
NSW USERS AND AIDS ASSOCIATION

NUAA STRATEGIC PLAN 2015—2019



NUAA
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WHO ARE WE?

The NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) is a peer-based non-government organisation with a proud history as the voice of the drug using community in NSW since 1989.

In collaboration with others, we have played a vital role in keeping the rates of HIV low among people who inject and in lessening the impact of hepatitis C infection more generally. We work in an area of public health that is certainly complex and often challenging — and we do it with energy, commitment and passion.

Peer education and outreach, peer support, community development, education and information provision, and advocacy are the key approaches we use in working towards our goal of improving the health and well-being of people with a history of drug use.

Our work is guided and informed by key policies and plans in public health and blood borne viruses in particular. National and State strategies in HIV, viral hepatitis (both hepatitis B and C), Aboriginal health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as in alcohol and other drugs, together provide the practical foundation for our work.

As we move forward we look to enhance the resilience of our organisation, strengthen and build on our achievements and seek out new opportunities to make a positive difference. We face the challenges ahead with vigour and optimism as we continue our efforts to contribute to positive change within our community.

NUAA is funded by the NSW Ministry of Health. The organisation, with a membership of more than 2200 people, is overseen by an elected Board of Governance who give freely of their skills and experience to provide guidance and support to the work of management, staff and peer participants.

OUR PLAN — WHAT WE WILL DO

The Action Areas described in this Strategic Plan are translated into more detail in NUAA's Business Plan which, in turn provides the framework for team and individual workplans for staff across the organisation. The specifics of the activities and the performance measures that show how well we're doing under each of the Action Areas are listed in the Business Plan and in individual workplans.

Over the life of the Strategic Plan NUAA's Board of Governance will systematically monitor the Plan and review the organisation's progress towards achieving our objectives.

ACTION AREAS — WHAT WE DO

In our work over the next five years we will continue to build on the successes NUAA has achieved over its proud history. We will work to consolidate and expand our programs and activities in four key Action Areas.

The Action Areas are:

1. Improving the health and human rights of people with a history of drug use
2. Using alliances and partnerships to provide targeted interventions and enhanced outcomes
3. Advocating for sound public policy and a voice in decision-making
4. Keeping NUAA vibrant, reflective and focused.



Action Area 1: Improving the health and human rights of people with a history of drug use

The outcomes we want to see in this area of our work:

- The consolidation of peer education as the cornerstone of our work with people who use drugs
- The delivery of evidence-based peer-driven targeted health promotion resources and campaigns in response to identified need
- Ongoing provision of a range of sterile equipment to injecting drug users through the operation of the NSP and automatic dispensing machines (ADMs)
- The adoption and expansion of innovative peer distribution and community NSP outreach strategies based on demonstrated success and efficacy
- Reduced levels of stigma and discrimination involving people with a history of drug use, particularly within the health sector
- Improved access for people with a history of drug use to the expanding range of hepatitis C treatment services, as well as enhanced peer support, consumer participation and options for self-directed care
- The consolidation of the organisation's stakeholder communication strategies in print (including *User's News*, campaign material and resources) and online (including our website and our use of social media platforms).



Action Area 2: Using alliances and partnerships to provide targeted interventions and enhanced outcomes

The outcomes we want to see in this area of our work:

- Appropriate and timely consumer-based advice and practical input to collaborative projects, partnership activities with other agencies (government and non-government) and key professional networks
- Targeted programs for key groups — people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people and people in corrections settings. These programs will be planned and implemented with relevant agencies and services
- Participation in the work of the NSW Harm Reduction Alliance furthering its goals of collaborative action within the sector
- Ethical engagement with social researchers and other academics to contribute to the evidence base in the field.



Action Area 3: Advocating for sound public policy and a voice in decision-making

The outcomes we want to see in this area of our work:

- That NUAA is seen as providing essential, reliable and valued input to advisory groups, working parties and policy forums in matters relating to harm reduction and the health and wellbeing of people with a history of drug use
- Lively participation in discussion on major issues at all levels guaranteeing the lived experience of users is a key element in policy and decision-making
- Enhanced consumer representation for people engaged with drug treatment services and programs and improved engagement with service users at all levels.



Action Area 4: Keeping NUAA vibrant, reflective and focused.

The outcomes we want to see in this area of our work:

- An agile healthy Board of Governance supported and acknowledged in its work
- Strong levels of effective planning, implementation and evaluation of all our activities and programs, allowing us to demonstrate quality, rigour and transparency
- A continuing focus on effective staff and peer participant management supported by appropriate workforce development, feedback and recognition
- Policies, procedures and organisational practices that are systematically reviewed to ensure continuous improvement
- An ongoing focus on quality improvement at all levels of our work
- An active engagement with our members and supporters so that NUAA's work remains responsive to need, drawing on the experience and strengths of its membership base.