



Standard on Culturally Secure Practice (Alcohol and other Drug Sector)

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Western Australian Network of
Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

The Standard on Culturally Secure Practice (Alcohol and other Drug Sector) allows alcohol and other drug (AOD) services throughout Australia to work towards certification against a standard which is relevant to AOD work. Development of the Standard has been supported by funding from the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office and the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. The Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office continues to support the implementation and use of the standard in the WA AOD sector.

Why use this Standard?

This Standard is the first to focus on cultural security and the first to be developed by and for the AOD sector. The cultural security of the Standard enables consideration of AOD services that work with specific population groups, including women, youth, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The scheme which supports the Standard has been developed by a Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) technical committee, with the participation of significantly interested stakeholders. Certification Bodies will need to apply for JAS-ANZ certification for the scheme when they commence auditing of services against the standards. The Standard is supported by an Interpretive Guide that provides examples of the way in which the criteria contained in the Standard on Culturally Secure Practice (Alcohol and other Drug Sector) might be applied in practice.

How can we achieve the Standard?

To achieve certification against the Standard, agencies will need to meet 80% of criteria labelled as 'essential' under a range of Performance Expectations. The essential criteria relate to an organisation's general policies and procedures, how an agency identifies the cultural and service delivery needs of their target community and what the management, staff and consumers know about how the service works. Agencies also have the option to achieve 'good practice' certification if, in addition to meeting the essential criteria, 80% of the good practice criteria under each nominated Performance Expectation are met. External auditors, familiar with the AOD sector, will work with organisations to assess the ways in which the Performance Expectations are met.

Where can I find out more?

The Standard and Interpretive Guide are available through the WANADA website. Hard copies of the Standard are available on request. You can also talk to one of the WANADA team about how the Standard might specifically work for your organisation.