

## WANADA Input to WA LGBTI Health Strategy

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WANADA recommends that the WA LGBTI Health Strategy align with key national strategies, particularly the National Drug Strategy and the draft National Alcohol Strategy.

Both national strategies identify LGBTI people as experiencing disproportionate levels of harm within some contexts and communities. For example:

- People who identify as LGBTI are less likely than heterosexual people to be abstainers or ex-drinkers; are more likely to be lifetime risk drinkers; and more likely to consume eleven or more standard drinks on a monthly and yearly basis. (draft National Alcohol Strategy 2018-2026, p.10)
- People who identify as LGBTI can be at an increased risk of harms associated with other drugs. These risks can be further complicated by stigma and discrimination, familial issues, marginalisation within their own community, and a lack of support. (National Drug Strategy 2017-2026, p.29)

Both national strategies adopt a “national direction, jurisdictional implementation” approach. To ensure a consistent, systems-based approach, it is important that the WA LGBTI Health Strategy reflects both national alcohol and drug strategies, and identifies the reduction of harms associated with alcohol and other drugs as a priority issue.

Supporting improved person-centred and continuous care across the health system will require the consideration of current systems barriers that affect service access, and impact treatment and support pathways for LGBTI people who are experiencing alcohol and other drug associated harms.

Addressing the systemic barriers impacting the provision of care to LGBTI people with alcohol and other drug associated harms across both health and specialist services will:

- reduce harm and improve health outcomes
- reduce presentations at secondary and tertiary health services
- result in significant cost savings across the health system.

It is imperative that the Strategy is accompanied by sufficient resources to deliver on its commitments and initiatives.

So as to ensure the effective application of resources, the Strategy must include an implementation plan that outlines:



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- key stakeholders
- responsibilities
- timelines for implementation of actions
- intended outcomes

In addition to providing strategic certainty, an implementation plan would coordinate and support the efficient application of the Strategy by all relevant stakeholders. It would also support stakeholder confidence in contributing to the Strategy's objectives and systems changes.