

IDENTIFYING TASMANIAN LGBTQA+ COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ACTIVITIES



COMMUNITY AOD SURVEY FINDINGS (2024)

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working it out

Tasmania's gender, sexuality and intersex
support, education & advocacy service

WIO is Tasmania's only dedicated support, education and advocacy service for Tasmania's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQA+) population. Our mission is to create change through lived-experience based education, support and advocacy which enables LGBTQA+ Tasmanians to live their best lives.



Alcohol
and Drug
Foundation

Local Drug Action Team Program

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) is Australia's leading organisation committed to preventing and minimising the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. Their mission is to inspire positive change and deliver evidence-based approaches to minimise alcohol and drug harm.

Summary & Next Steps

Note about the data: no respondents identified as intersex, so our research will refer to LGBTQA+ when discussing demographic results.

1. LGBTQA+ Tasmanians are recognised as a priority population in the Tasmania Government's ATOD strategy, although no specific activities have been funded or planned to address needs.
2. WIO identified AOD as an issue impacting Tasmania's LGBTQA+ communities as part of its last strategic planning cycle but recognised the organisation did not have the capacity to work in this space without additional resourcing and capacity building.
3. WIO signed an agreement with the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) early this year to undertake exploration of needs in Tasmania via short community action plan. The main activity of this plan was to engage with community at events across the state and via a survey to better understand how people perceive AOD use in their communities and to explore primary prevention strategies to address issues.
4. Findings identified the majority (56.25%) of LGBTQA+ people think alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drug (ATOD) use in the LGBTQA+ community is a concern, and an overwhelming percentage (88.8%) of LGBTQA+ people would like to attend events without alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs present. Detailed findings attached.
5. Data analysis from the ADF Community Action Plan shows an appetite for AOD free activities across the state. WIO intends to submit a further application to ADF to support a 'Dry Event Community Fund'. This would fund local community organisations and groups to run AOD free or 'Dry' events. Events would be badged and promoted using developed media to provide consistent messaging across events state-wide, hopefully leading to a shared understanding and recognition of events badged as 'Dry'. This project would also develop guidelines/FAQs/Key Message resources to support groups to run their events. WIO will seek support from local community organisations and leaders to form a Local Drug Action Team to promote these activities.
6. Other survey findings may inform additional future program and response activities.

Background

WIO has joined the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) Program – leading collaborative initiatives to develop and deliver evidence-based, locally-informed activities addressing the challenges of alcohol and other drugs. The first Community Action Plan (CAP) initiated by the WIO LDAT involved statewide community consultation to accurately identify the issues and needs of LGBTIQIA+ Tasmanians.

Because of systemic inequalities (discrimination, exclusion, minority stress) for LGBTIQIA+ populations, and the socio-historical context of government and societal response to drugs, some community members have negative experiences and outcomes with AOD use. The Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2024-2029 recognises people identifying as LGBTIQIA+ as a priority population. For LGBTIQIA+ communities these considerations can include:

- Higher levels of AOD use among LGBTIQ+ people being closely tied to minority stress.
- Social/environmental and internal stressors arising from a range of historic and ongoing factors found within families, schools, workplaces, health services and the broader community which include stigma, rejection, prejudice, stereotyping, legal and cultural discrimination, demeaning, derogatory or othering views and attitudes and violence.
- Limited data on TIQA+ populations.

WIO's community scoping project was delivered between Feb-May 2024 to identify primary prevention activities Tasmanian LGBTIQIA+ communities want in the future. This involved developing partnerships across the state, surveying and attending groups and events asking about community gaps for social connection and local issues for LGBTIQIA+ communities regarding alcohol and other drugs.

The Type 1 CAP findings inform the development of a potential next CAP in the implementation of an evidence-based activity in preventing and reducing ATOD-related harms.

Survey Findings

TOTAL number of eligible responses = 80

LGBTQA+* Identities:	No.	Age	No.
Lesbian	23	16-25	14
Gay	9	26-35	25
Bi	32	36-45	11
Trans	30	46-55	16
Non-binary	8	56-65	8
Queer	26	66-75	5
A (asexual/aromantic/agender)	8	75-86	1
+	3	TOTAL	80
Pansexual	1		

Main community identities were bi, trans and queer, capturing data from underrepresented voices and communities.

80% use alcohol, tobacco, and/or other drugs

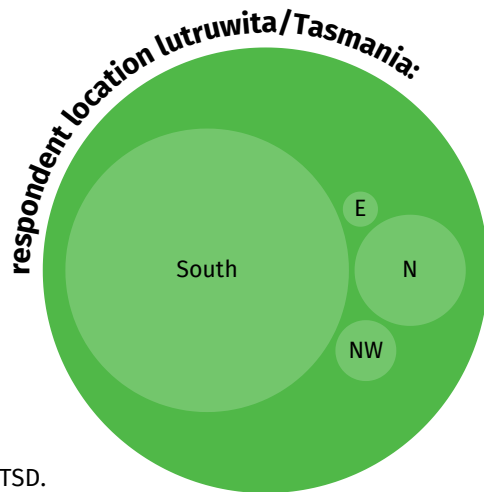
Top 4: alcohol | cannabis | tobacco | ecstasy

Top 4 Reasons for use:
Social, Recreational, Escapism and Coping, Managing mental health and pain

**Note about the data: no respondents identified as intersex, so our research will refer to LGBTQA+ when discussing demographic results. Respondents could also provide multiple identities.*

TOP 6 OTHER IDENTITIES OR INTERSECTIONS THAT FURTHER INFORM EXPERIENCES

Neurodiverse (n=13)
Disability (n=5)
Trauma (n=4)
Regional (n=4)
Aboriginal (n=3)
Person of Colour (n=3)



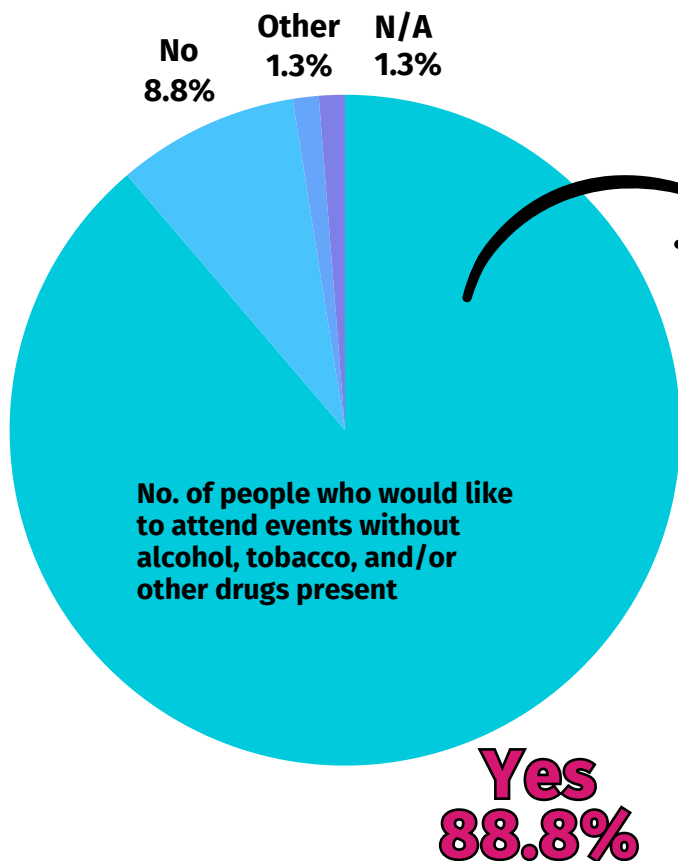
SHARED ANY DETAILS ABOUT THE INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITY IMPACTS

- Sensory issues from autism make loud events quite stressful for me.
- Growing up as Transgender had a huge impact.
- I find loud environments a little overwhelming.
- This tiny box speaks volumes! Discrimination and exclusion are the biggest barriers for people like me. Inclusion (equal but separate) is not the same as belonging.
- As an aboriginal woman I suffer from intense generational trauma which affects me daily.
- Being homeless as a teen let alone a teen with mental health difficulties is a terrifying fate. It sends you on a downward spiral no matter who you were before.
- Makes me hesitant to break any rules.
- Autistic with C-PTSD.
- Discrimination, isolation.
- Limits things I can do.
- Easier to socialise, very hard to find events/venues that don't rely on alcohol sales for income.
- Both alcohol and marijuana were used and abused heavily by my parent and were very present during my upbringing.
- Without my ADHD meds, all of my other disabilities get worse.
- Being a parent of a child with a disability means that I limit my alcohol use and do not use other drugs. I'm too afraid that I wouldn't be able to assist my child in an emergency.
- Sometimes I use substances to forget about my chronic pain.
- They're the reasons I started using drugs - to deal with chronic pain & mental health issues.

56.25% THINK ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND/OR OTHER DRUG (ATOD) USE IN THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY IS A CONCERN. 21.25% WERE NOT SURE. 22.5% DID NOT THINK IT WAS.

The top 5 reasons for why use in the LGBTQIA+ community is a concern:

1. Normalisation of use
2. Most events held in alcohol venues
3. Lack of coping strategies / tools to use (MH related)
4. Queer marginalisation & stigma
5. Trauma



TOP 5 IDENTIFIED EVENT OPTIONS

Sports and recreation (n=27)
Clubs and Hobbies (n=26)
Social coffee meet up (n=24)
Community space (n=23)
Dry parties (n=18)

TOP 5 WHAT PEOPLE THINK WOULD HELP TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY IF CONCERNED ABOUT USE:

Destigmatising & education (n=20)
Substance Abuse Programs (n=15)
 - that are queer specific/informed (n=11)
Community Spaces (n=8)
Mental health & suicide prevention (n=7)
Dry location venues (n=7)