

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

Activity Work Plan

Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services

2023/24 – 2027/28

Updated August 2025



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.



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Disclaimer

All activities captured in this Activity Work Plan are identified in the Joint Regional Needs Assessment conducted by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and have been approved by the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing.



AOD – 1 – NIAS Operational and Mainstream Funding

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

To improve access to community-based alcohol and other drug treatment interventions by commissioning a range of treatment services aligned with the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS).

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) commissions a number of service providers to deliver alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services across the NQPHN region. These services align with the National Ice Taskforce and its recommended actions.

Additionally, NQPHN continues to be involved in key stakeholder groups to maintain awareness of sector gaps and support integration of the AOD service system. These include, but are not limited to:

- Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA) regional network meetings.
- Local AOD provider networks.
- Northern Queensland Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan Steering Committee.

Key activities in 2022-24

- Undertake a review of the current AOD service delivery across the northern Queensland region (to better understand all AOD investments including state investment) and consider the existing gaps and needs to inform ongoing investment and co-design opportunities.
- Develop an approach to implementing recommendations from the review, including an approach to codesign and commissioning.



AOD – 2 – NIAS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

To improve access in community-based alcohol and other drug treatment interventions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by commissioning a range of treatment services aligned with the National ICE Action Strategy (NIAS).

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) commissions a number of service providers to deliver culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services across the NQPHN region. These services align with the National Ice Taskforce's final report and its recommendations. NQPHN also commissions place-based AOD services to address the needs of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the Torres and Cape region and build the local capacity of these communities.

NQPHN ensures activity objectives are met through engagement with commissioned service providers on a minimum quarterly basis to monitor service deliverables, outcomes, and compliance.

Meetings will include opportunities to:

- obtain updates and discuss service performance indicators and reports
- understand service uptake, access issues and opportunities for further improvement.

Additionally, NQPHN will continue to be involved in key stakeholder groups to maintain awareness of sector gaps and to support integration of the AOD service system. These include, but are not limited to:

- Queensland Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (QNADA) regional network meetings
- Local AOD provider networks
- Northern Queensland Joint Regional Wellbeing Steering Committee.

Key activities over the next two years

- Undertake a review of current AOD service delivery across the northern Queensland region and consider the existing gaps and needs to inform ongoing investment and codesign opportunities.
- Develop an approach to implementing recommendations from the review, including an approach to codesign and recommissioning.



AOD – 3 – Core and Operational

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

To address identified service gaps and challenges to access in community-based alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment interventions by commissioning a range of treatment services across the northern Queensland region.

Description of activity


Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) commissions a number of service providers to deliver alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services across the NQPHN region with a focus on improving access to services across the community for vulnerable populations and those living in regional, rural, and remote areas.

NQPHN's focus areas

- Ongoing stakeholder engagement to increase access and reduce stigma related impacts on access.
- Integration of referral pathways and programs.
- Improving AOD service delivery pathways and programs.
- Improving AOD service delivery capacity within primary health care services.
- Education to enhance capacity within primary health care.
- Delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander treatment services (often through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs)) to ensure culturally appropriate AOD services.
- Increasing service access for young people.
- Participation and implementation of the NQ Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan, as it articulates AOD as a key priority.
- NQPHN is working with the Queensland Health Mental Health and AOD (MHAOD) branch to trial the use of the Queensland Drug and Alcohol Service Planning Model (QDASPM) across Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) and primary health services to review northern Queensland AOD service delivery funding that informs future commissioning.

NQPHN ensures activity objectives are met through engagement of providers on a minimum quarterly basis to monitor service deliverables, outcomes, and compliance. Meetings include opportunities to:

- obtain updates
- understand service uptake, access issues, and opportunities for further service improvement.



Additionally, NQPHN continues to be involved in key stakeholder groups to maintain awareness of sector gaps and support integration of the AOD service system. These include, but are not limited to:

- Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA) regional network meetings (where relevant)
- Local AOD provider networks where these are active
- NQ Joint Regional Wellbeing Plan Steering Committee.



AOD – 4 – Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service Maintenance

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Aim of activity

To provide eligible commissioned services with supplementary payments that replace SACS payments as a transition phase.

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) commissions services to deliver alcohol and other drug services who require Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service Maintenance (DATSM) supplementary payments following the cessation of SACS.

This funding is used in the delivery of services against staff cost line items in contract budgets.

