

Strategic Plan 2024-2027

The Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network (CMHDARN) is a partnership project between Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC), the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) and the Mental Health Commission of NSW (the Commission).

CMHDARN aligns with the Commission's three strategic priorities outlined in *Living Well in Focus 2020-2024*, namely:

- **Strengthening community recovery and wellbeing**
- **Strategically invest in and embed lived experience in community wellbeing and mental health**
- **Ensuring the right workforce for the future**

VISION

That community-managed and non-government mental health and alcohol and other drugs services conduct, participate, and utilise research that supports improved outcomes for people living with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs.

PURPOSE

CMHDARN aims to promote the value of translational research and the use of evidence-based practices in mental health and alcohol and other drug service delivery in order to build capacity across the two sectors.

GOALS

- **Increase Understanding and Awareness:** Promote a deeper understanding and awareness of the needs of individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use issues.
- **Improve Health and Social Outcomes:** Enhance health and social outcomes for people living with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs through the promotion and translation of evidence-based knowledge and practices.
- **Enhance Service Quality:** Improve the quality of service delivery for people accessing services, their supporters, and the workforce in the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors through increased application of evidence-based practices.
- **Support Best Practices:** Empower community-managed organisations to contribute to the best-practice knowledge base for addressing co-occurring mental health and substance use needs.

PRIORITY AREAS

Building Research Capacity & Enthusiasm:

Increase the research capacity of the CMO/NGO mental health and AOD services

Increase worker confidence in applying research to practice

Increase workforce research skills and contribution to knowledge creation and innovation across the CMO/NGO mental health and AOD sectors

Build the capacity and confidence of people, including people with lived and living experience of mental health and substance use, to undertake research

Promote Knowledge Sharing Activities:

Promote research activities which encourage best practice knowledge sharing

Encourage participation of people with lived experience in knowledge sharing activities and research endeavours

Provide learning activities and resources for CMHDARN members

Encourage participation and leadership in research activities for people living with mental health and substance use

Share information and resources

Increase understanding of co-existing issues for people accessing mental health and AOD services

MH & AOD Partnerships:

Support integration of CMO/NGO mental health and AOD services and research partnership projects

Increase application of best practice responses to co-existing mental health and AOD issues

Encourage partnership projects across the mental health and AOD sectors

Develop and promote research collaborations between universities, academics and researchers in the mental health and AOD sectors

Promote research activities with an integrated mental health and AOD focus