

Achieving balance

The Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2022-2027



Queensland
Mental Health
Commission



Consultation process

Consultation snapshot



840
Queensland
representatives



42 consultations
across
15 locations



10
independent
consultation papers



260
survey
responses



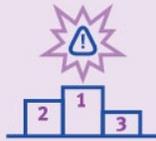
10
invited
submissions



43
social media
posts

Costs and impacts

Most harmful substances



1. Alcohol
2. Crystal methamphetamine
3. Heroin

1.2 million

(1 in 3) Queenslanders exceed single occasion risky drinking **monthly**



45,000
hospitalisations

due to alcohol
in Queensland each year

Queenslanders recently used illicit drugs (2019)

Almost **20%**

6% drop
in illicit drug use by **young people** nationally since 2001

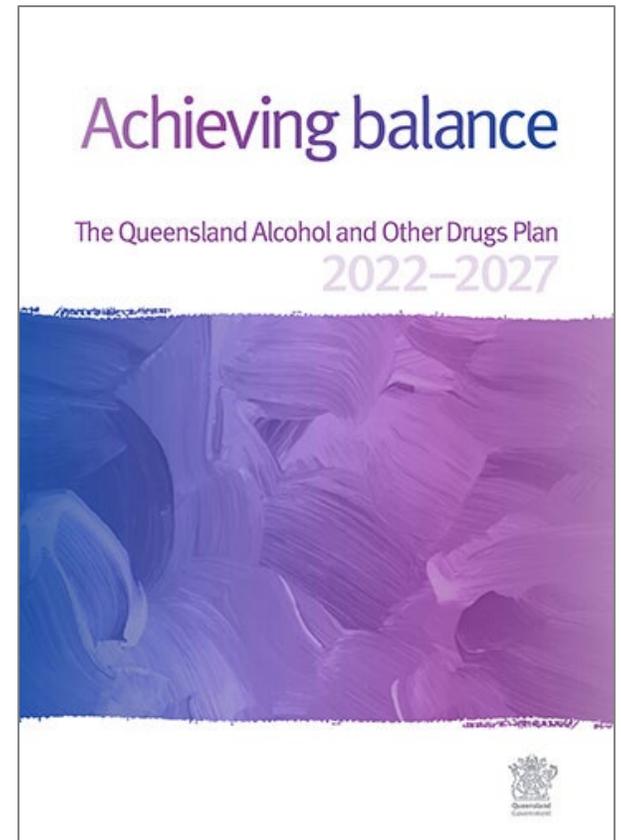


11,200
hospitalisations

due to drug use
in Queensland each year

About *Achieving balance*

- Aims to improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities
- Renews and strengthens commitment to prevent and reduce problematic AOD use
- Strengthens and broadens approaches
- Balanced effort & investment across harm minimisation pillars
- Greater emphasis on health responses
- Increased investment in treatment and prevention
- Expands diversion away from criminal justice system
- Backed by record state investment over five years



Focus areas



Focus area 1

Vulnerability

*Individual and
family level*



Focus area 2

Harm & safety

Community level



Focus area 3

Impact

Systems level

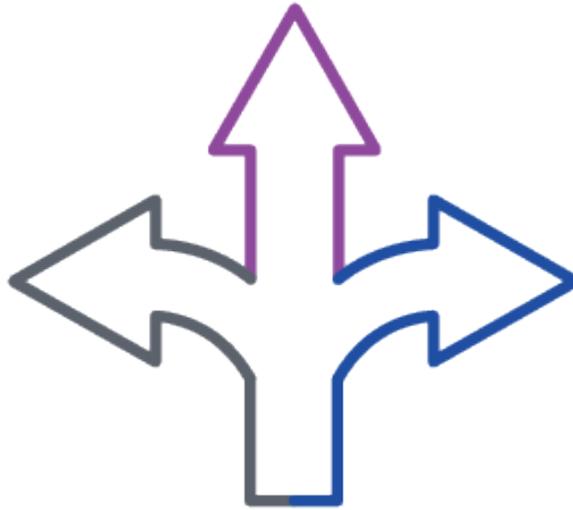
Five strategic priorities



Prevention and
early intervention



Enhance treatment
and support systems



Expand diversion



Reduce
harm



Reduce stigma
and discrimination

Five strategic priorities



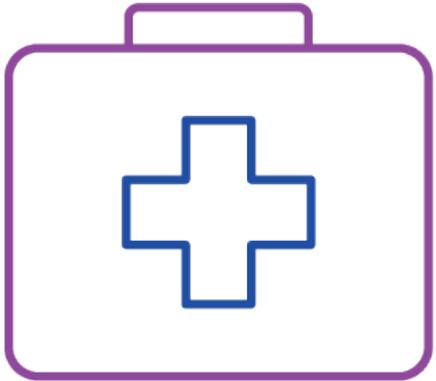
Priority 1

Prevention
and early
intervention

Priority actions

1. Improve coordination across systems
2. Improve community prevention and harm reduction awareness
3. Earlier identification and provision of appropriate services for children and young people experiencing vulnerability

Five strategic priorities



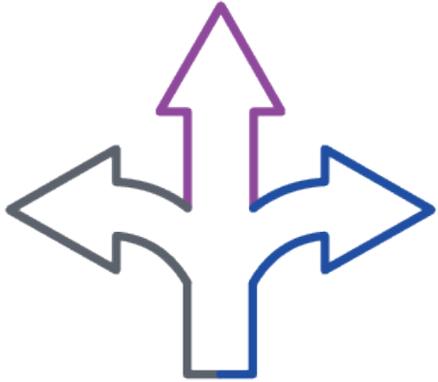
Priority 2

Enhance
treatment and
support systems

Priority actions

1. Training and support to the AOD specialist workforces and supporting other workforces
2. Build AOD workforce sustainability
3. Strengthen treatment/support system responses across the continuum
4. Ensure individuals can access the right services at the right time
5. Improve treatment options and harm reduction measures for people in the criminal justice system
6. Implement other harm reduction measures in prison health services and corrective services
7. Build workforce capacity to recognise and respond to underlying vulnerabilities

Five strategic priorities



Priority 3

Expand diversion

Priority actions

1. Broaden options for police diversion for minor use/possess charges
2. Ensure police are supported/ equipped to implement diversion options
3. Increase availability of health responses across the service system
4. Resource evidence-based health options and streamline processes to expand health responses available as diversion options
5. Effective, health-led, holistic and coordinated intervention at point of contact with the criminal justice system
6. Implement and evaluate a trial for 10-14 year-olds for substance-related behaviours

Five strategic priorities



Priority 4

Reduce
stigma and
discrimination

Priority actions

1. Build capacity of health services, law enforcement and other systems to respond appropriately and encourage help-seeking
2. Implement lived-experience-led training initiatives
3. Establish pathways into the specialist workforce through identified peer roles
4. Promote language guidelines to encourage objective and non-judgemental conversations about substance use and people who use drugs
5. Improve the cultural capability of the AOD and supporting workforces

Five strategic priorities



Priority 5

Reduce
harm

Priority actions

1. Increase effort in the harm reduction pillar and consider additional interventions such as early warning systems and drug-checking
2. Review & discuss evidence for a national minimum unit price for alcohol
3. Consider a regulatory framework for online alcohol sales & home delivery
4. Develop alcohol awareness campaigns
5. Implement a renewed approach to alcohol management

Five strategic priorities



Priority 5

Reduce
harm

Priority actions

6. Introduce measures targeting non-medical use of pharmaceuticals
7. Listen to young people involved with support services in co-design of solutions, systems and services
8. Ensure agencies and stakeholders work together across sectors to reduce harm, demand and supply associated with young people's substance use

Putting it into action

Overview of system reform 2022–27



- Access *Achieving balance* and Consultation report at:

info.qmhc.qld.gov.au/queensland-alcohol-and-other-drugs-plan

