



# Leading reform summit 2022

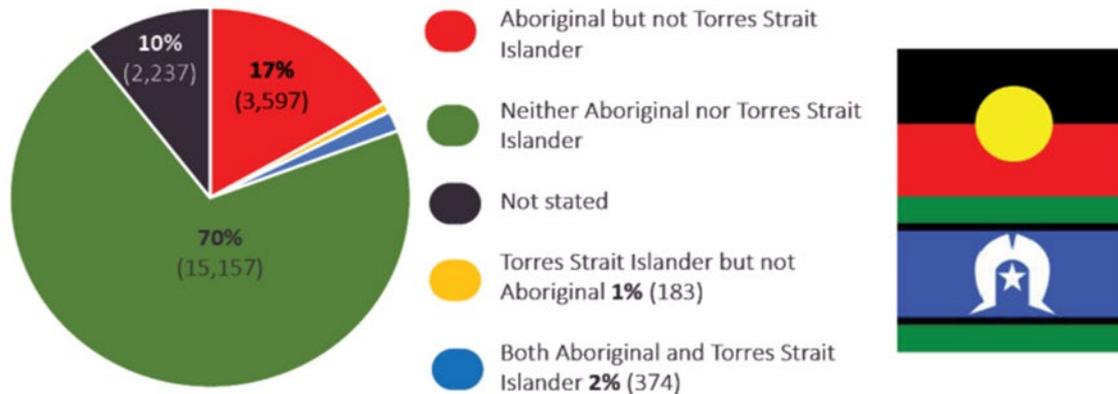
Rebecca Lang, CEO

# 2020-2021 Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set

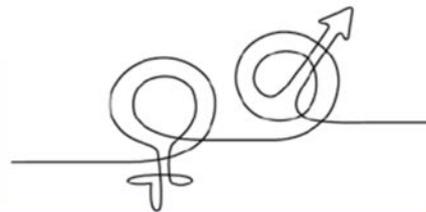
In 2020-2021, 106 establishments across Queensland provided 21,548 closed treatment episodes to 14,939 clients aged 10+



## Indigenous Status



## Sex



# frequency of use

## Cannabis

12.6% reported recent use.

60% reported using monthly or less frequently, 23% used weekly and 14.4% reported daily use

## Methamphetamine

1.5% reported recent use.

83% reported using monthly or less frequently, while 16.9% reported at least weekly use.

## Cutting down or stopping

Fewer than 1 in 10 people reported they couldn't stop or cut down cannabis (8.7%) or methamphetamine (8.3%), even though they wanted to.

## Strategic Plan 2021 – 2023

**About QNADA:** QNADA is the peak organisation for the non-government (NGO) alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment and harm reduction sector in Queensland. QNADA members provide evidence informed treatment and harm reduction services throughout Queensland.

**Purpose:** To support our members in the delivery of high quality AOD treatment and harm reduction services in Queensland through policy and system improvement.

**Vision:** A system that values responses that address the social, cultural and structural determinants of health.

### Values



#### Integrity

We undertake our work ethically and honestly.



#### Accountability

We understand that process transparency is the foundation of consensus.



#### Diversity

We recognise that effective policy and system improvement is supported by ensuring a range of social and cultural perspectives are heard.

### Priorities



#### Innovate

Facilitate research translation to strengthen harm reduction and treatment approaches.

#### Policy

Contribute to contemporary policy development.

#### Systems

Promote system responses that address the social, cultural and structural determinants of health.



#### Influence

Support service planning and investment that values effective responses to AOD use.

Increase understanding of effective responses to complex need.

Enhance alignment of systems to reduce AOD related harm.



#### Grow

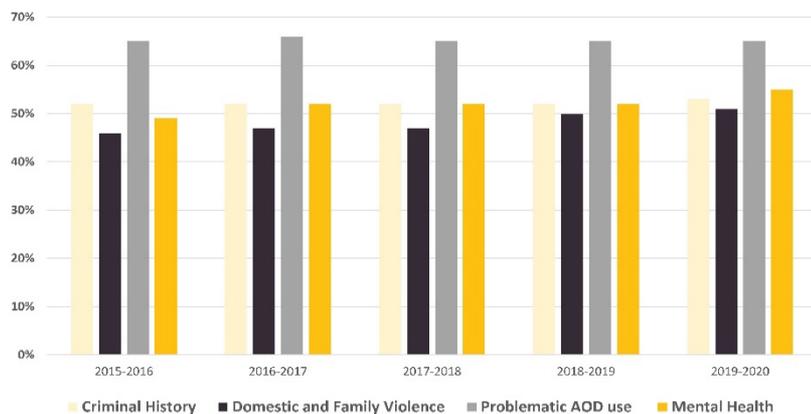
Enhance service and workforce capacity to deliver effective interventions.

Encourage development and implementation of policies that support self-determination.

Engage with systems that intersect with AOD treatment and harm reduction services to promote effective system design.

## Child Safety System data:

Prevalence of risk factors in substantiated households, Queensland:



- In 67% of households, a parent had a current or past drug/alcohol problem.
- 54% of parents had a criminal history.
- 56% had a current or previously diagnosed mental illness.
- 51% had experienced domestic and family violence within the last year.

## Youth Justice System data:



From 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2016, 2,569 young people were under youth justice supervision and received AOD treatment in Australia.

**11%** of the most common principal offences among young people aged 10-17 were illicit drug offences.



About 1 in 3 young people under youth justice supervision received an AOD treatment service.

## Criminal Justice data:

AODTS NMDS data in 2020 showed that **5%** of treatment episodes in Queensland were referred via diversion in 2019-20.



**78%** of police detainees who provided a urine sample in 2019 tested positive for at least one drug type in Australia.

In 2019, **33%** police detainees indicated that illicit drug use contributed to their offending.



- A total of 151,186 offenders were sentenced in Queensland courts for the offence of possessing dangerous drugs.
- Of these offenders, just under two-thirds **65%** were sentenced for possessing dangerous drugs as their most serious offence (MSO).
- An additional **35%** were sentenced for drug possession offence/s where drug possession was not their MSO.



Prison entrants in 2018 were more likely than the general population to be non-drinkers, however those who did drink were more likely to drink at high risk levels than people in the general community.

**65%** of prison entrants in 2018 reported using illicit drugs in the 12 months before incarceration.

*‘Systems change is about addressing the root causes of social problems...it is an intentional process designed to fundamentally alter the components and structures that cause the system to behave in a certain way. Unless we attempt to deal with the causes we will only be mitigating the consequences of malfunctioning systems, or even providing inadvertent cover for their failure –  
**we will not create the change we want to see.’***

*Wharton & Evans 2021*

# Achieving Balance

## Priority 3: Expand Diversion

*There is clear evidence that law enforcement responses, particularly incarceration, are less effective and more expensive than alcohol and other drug treatment. Rates of alcohol and other drug use are disproportionately high among people who have had contact with the criminal justice system.*

### *Priority actions (6)*

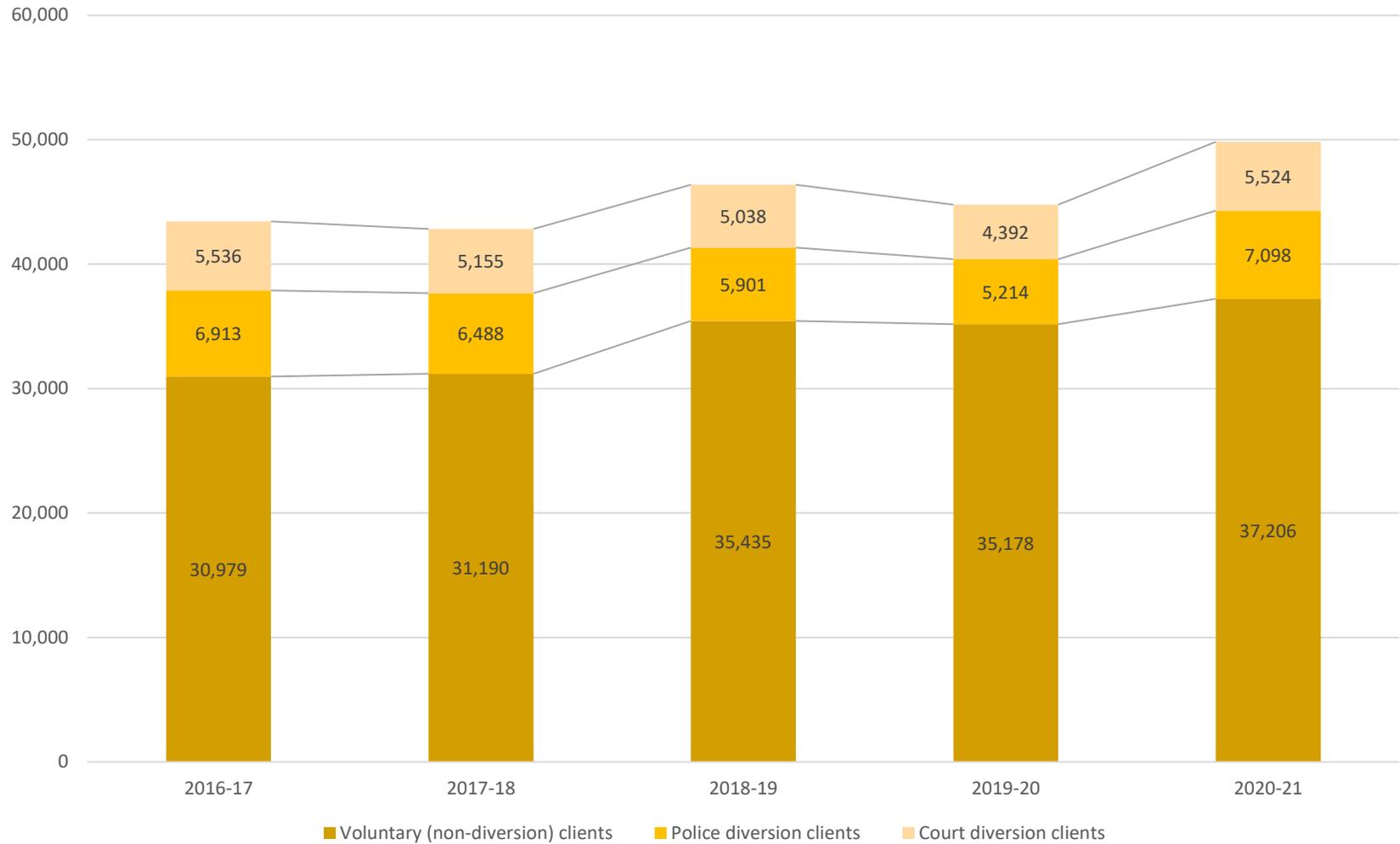
Increase the availability of health responses and reduce criminal justice responses for people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use.

# Aims of diversion

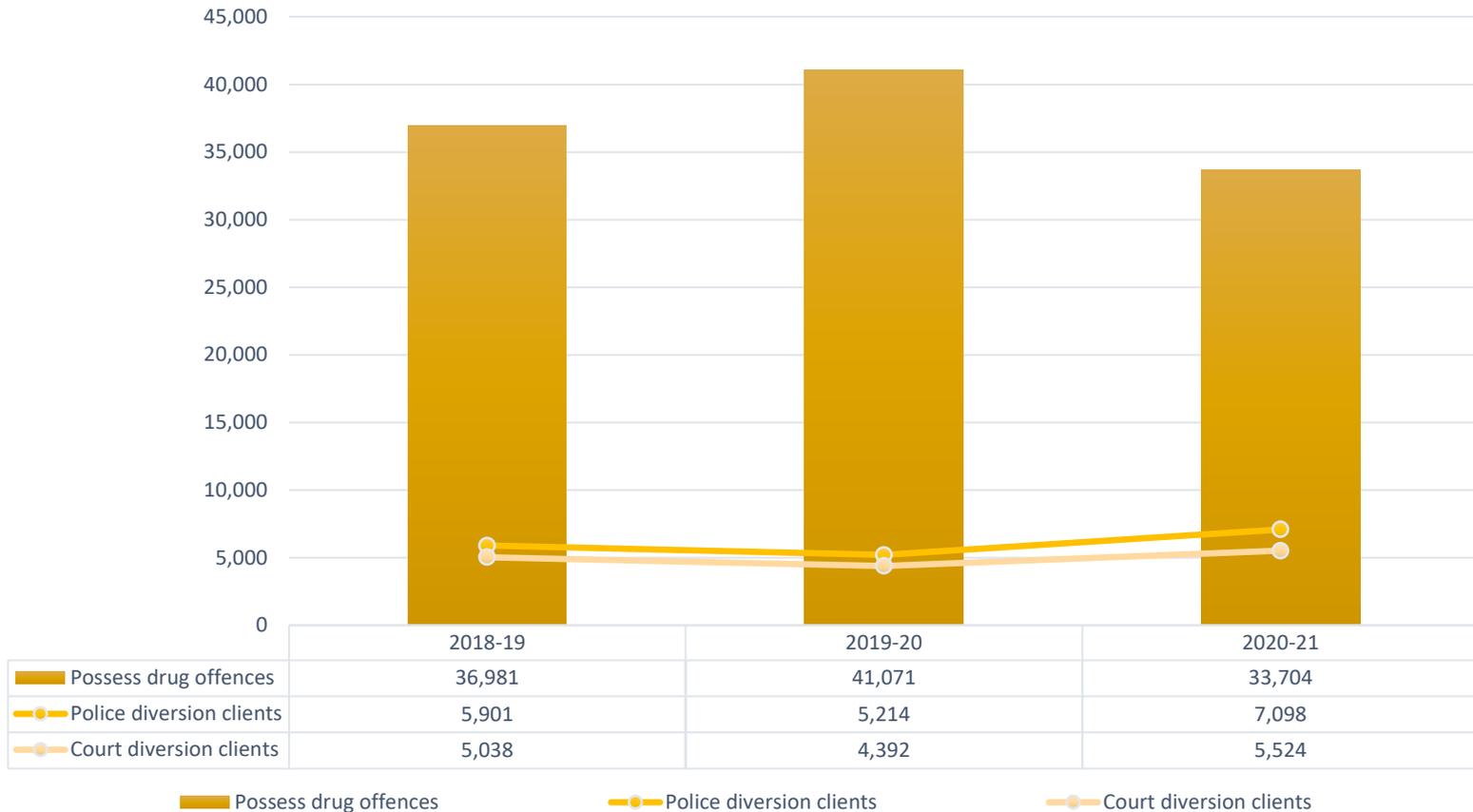
Australian Institute of Health & Welfare explains diversion has several objectives, including:

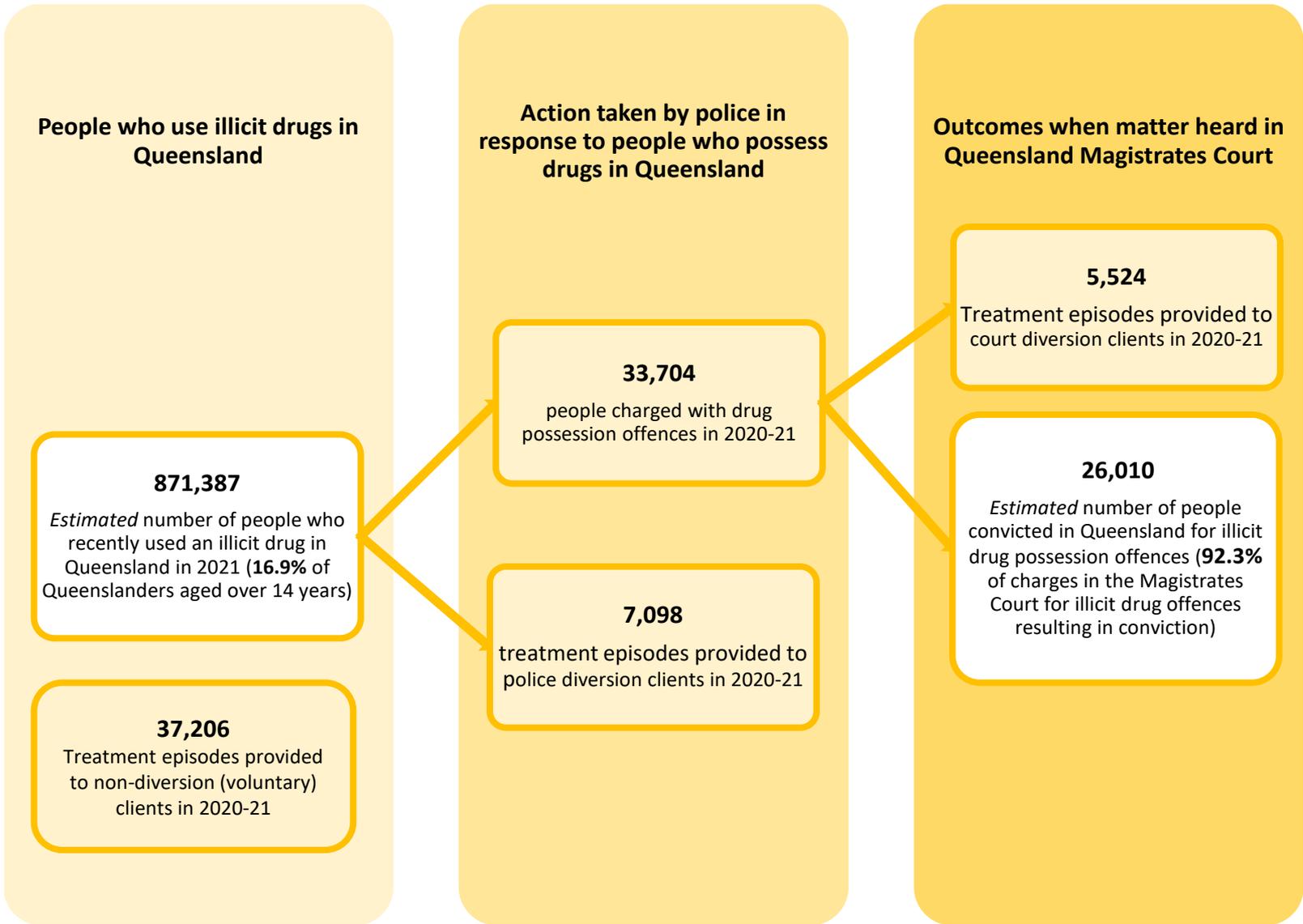
- Avoiding the negative labelling and stigma associated with criminal conduct and contact with the criminal justice system.
- Preventing further 'offending' by minimising a person's contact with, and progression through, the criminal justice system.
- Reducing the number of people reaching the courts and prisons, thereby lightening the heavy caseload of courts and reducing delays as well as in costs of court processes and incarceration.
- Reducing unnecessary social controls.
- Providing appropriate interventions to those people who are detected for a drug offence who are in need of treatment or other services.

## Number of treatment episodes provided to voluntary and diversion clients in Queensland in 2016-17 to 2020-21



## Reported drug possession offences compared to number of treatment episodes provided to Diversion clients in Queensland from 2018-19 to 2020-21





# How do we 'do' systems change?

## Work with others

We need to enact change together, as all agencies have their own unique, experiences, knowledge and perspectives which provides a holistic understand of the system change required.

Sharing perspectives can help develop a sense of joint purpose and momentum for change even where agencies have different interests and objectives.

## Distribute leadership

Change can only occur with a move away from a top down approach to leadership.

While public sector entities are effective in setting expectations or objectives they are less able to design, control and implement successful solutions.

Empowering frontline services, who often understand situations the best, is key to enabling change to occur.

## Foster a learning culture

While developing a learning culture is essential for implementing systems change, this needs to be supported through the allocation of dedicated time, space and resourcing.

There also needs to be capacity to adapt responses and to be able to learn from what others are doing.