

COMMUNITY & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

WASUA fields a Community Development worker, and all WASUA programs provide education, training, and consultancy to other agencies in the AOD, Mental Health, and Health sectors. WASUA workers also represent our consumers on a range of committees and advisory groups.

WASUA has continued involvement in community events, including the Birak Concert, Palmerston Community Forum, Graylands Festival (for mental health week), Sexual Health Week and Hepatitis Week events, and Homeless Connect. WASUA facilitated several events, most notably our annual International Overdose Awareness Day barbeque at Hyde Park's Remembrance Tree.

During this year WASUA has provided education or training to a range of agencies, including; Holyoake, the START Court, Alma St Clinic, mental health services in the South West, Fiona Stanley Hospital, the Financial Counsellors Association, Community Legal Centres, the Viral Hepatitis Interest Group, the Bloodwood Tree Association and community services in the Pilbara. WASUA provided lectures at Curtin School of Pharmacy and School of Law, Notre Dame School of Medicine, and at Edith Cowan University Addiction Studies and School of Medical and Health Sciences.

WASUA's unique expertise in developing and delivering peer based harm reduction programs is recognised internationally, with the Global Partnership for Drug Policy Development and the International Drug Policy Consortium inviting and funding WASUA to present at an international Expert Group Meeting for Harm Reduction and Psycho-stimulants in October 2017.

TREASURERS REPORT

We would like to express our thanks to the State Government departments (the Health Department Communicable Diseases Directorate, the Mental Health Commission and Local Government and Communities) and Lotterywest for their support of WASUA through funding grants over the past financial year. The grant funds received for 2016-2017 were \$1,653, 243.

The audited financial statements are enclosed in the Annual report. The financial statements outline income statements and balance sheets for the 2016-2017 financial year. As is reflected in the Statement of Financial Position WASUA completed the financial year with a profit of \$49,798. It is therefore with pleasure that I present to the Members the 2016-2017 audited accounts.

I would also like to thank Leteesha Stallard and Stevie Davis for the work in the finance section throughout the year and Nexia for their auditing services, support and advice.

Jane Harwood
Treasurer

IN MEMORY OF

The following people were WASUA consumers and will be missed by us.

Rosie
Julie

Thank you to the Committee of Management for their continued support and direction during 2016/2017

Thank you to the following government bodies for their funding support during 2016/2017:



WASUA

Annual Report 2016—2017

CEO REPORT

The last 12 months has again been a busy time for WASUA. We have settled into our new premises at our Perth site and have seen an increase in the number of consumers we have provided a service to at both the Perth and Bunbury sites. WASUA has continued to increase its credibility and expertise as a peer based service and leader of harm reduction services in WA. We have recruited new staff and volunteers who have added to the enthusiasm and professionalism of our teams. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all WASUA staff, volunteers, and students, the Committee of Management, the agencies we work with and most importantly, the consumers.

Our core funding through the Health Department, Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses branch was extended for a 6 month period until the end of December 2017. For the first time in WASUA's history our core services would be subject to an open tendering process. Our project funding through the Mental Health Commission for the Peer Naloxone Project and the Opioid Overdose Prevention and Management Project were reviewed and extended for a further 12 month period to June 2018. During the last 12 months we also secured new funding for a capacity building project in the Southwest through the WA Primary Health Alliance. We also received funding from Lotterywest to upgrade our Information and Communication Technology, which has enabled us to upgrade our IT systems and redevelop our website. We were fortunate to engage with Murdoch University School of Arts, website and graphic design students and now have a fantastic new website.

After consultation with staff, consumers and key stakeholders WASUA lodged an application to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, WA to change the name of our organisation. This application was accepted and as of today we will no longer be trading as the Western Australian Substance Users Association. The organisation will be known as Peer Based Harm Reduction WA. This is another exciting development in the evolution of the organisation and we feel more accurately reflects the work that we do. We are excited about the future possibilities for Peer Based Harm Reduction WA and the community we work alongside.

Angela Corry
Chief Executive Officer



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

It is my privilege to present the Chairperson's report on behalf of the Western Australian Substance Users Association (WASUA) Committee of Management (COM).

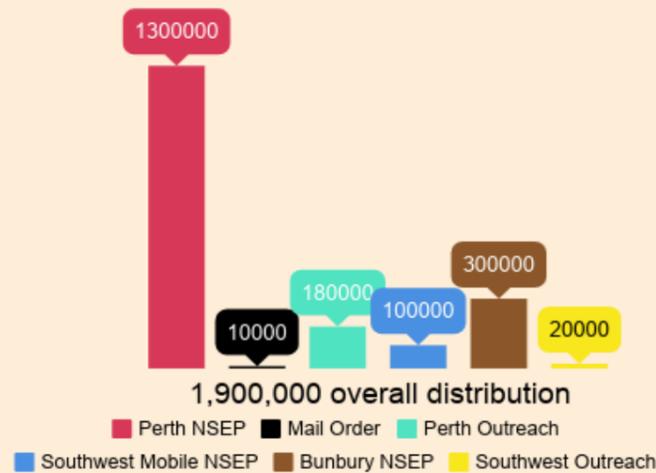
The 2016/17 has again been a very busy and productive year for WASUA and the community that we serve. While WASUA has continued to offer a diverse range of harm reduction services to support access and better outcomes for people who choose to use alcohol and other drugs over the last year, we have seen improvements and service innovation in a number of areas. Notably the introduction of our community based model of hepatitis C treatment for people who inject drugs. WASUA has also responded to the increase access to the service of local street present people with a number of service innovations to better meet the needs of these consumers. There has also been significant improvements in service evaluation, which has informed ongoing improvements to the way we provide services.

On behalf of the COM I would like to thank the WASUA staff and volunteers, including those who have left the service this year, for their professional and dedicated work providing unique and vital services to the Western Australian community. I would also like to thank fellow COM members for their commitment over what has been a busy last year. With our successful tender for our core services announced recently, we look forward to another year of consolidation and development of WASUA's strengths and to supporting increased community awareness of the important and significant service WASUA provides to the Western Australian community. I would also like to congratulate the WASUA team on the consultation, work and commitment to renaming of the organisation to Peer Based Harm Reduction WA.

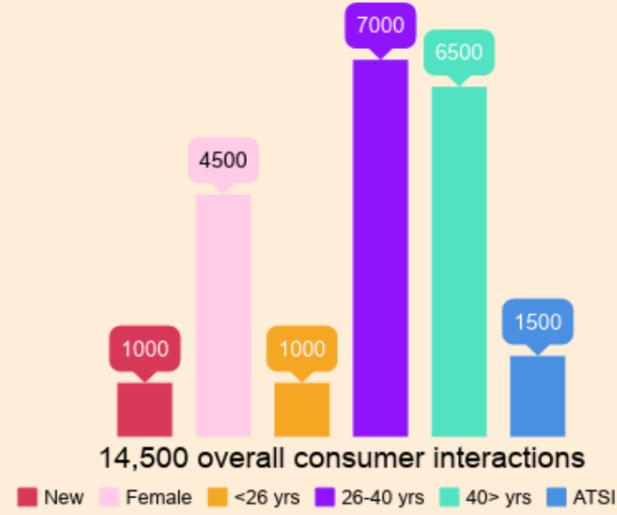
Jill Rundle
Chairperson

FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/2017

Needle & Syringe Distribution



Consumer Demographics



NSEP REPORT

The aim of WASUAs' Needle & Syringe Exchange Program is to minimise the spread of Blood Borne Viruses (BBV's) and reduce the harms associated with injecting drug use.

Needles and syringes are exchanged on a 'one for one' basis. Clients are charged a small cost for equipment if there are no needles or syringes exchanged; however, no client is refused equipment.

The NSEP staff provide education, intervention and referrals to the drug using community. This includes Safer Injecting – vein care, filtering, swabbing and wheel filter use and these are some of our most popular resources along the Australian Drug Foundation Resources.

From July 2016 to June 2017 WASUA distributed 1,900,000 pieces of sterile injecting equipment to over 14,500 consumer interactions.

'During this period WASUA introduced a health promotion activity called 'Injection Infection' week. During injection infection week consumers are offered additional equipment and filters to try. An evaluation of the effectiveness of injection infection week activities showed a 50% reduction, from 56% to 28%, in consumers reporting re-use of equipment in the annual consumer satisfaction survey.'

OUTREACH REPORT

During this year Outreach have evolved and expanded our activities, with; new staff joining the team; new strategies to engage with people in the community; and a new role developed to help people access health services.

The team dispenses ~10% of equipment distributed by WASUA, home-delivered to people whose circumstances prevent access to NSEP. Outreach Youth partners with Passages, DAYS, and other youth services. ORPACS supports people accessing opioid-replacement-pharmacotherapy. OPAM recruits, trains and supports volunteer peer-educators.

This year we began delivering NSEP to street-present people in the inner city via foot patrols, following two routes/week which target places where street-present people gather and known 'hot-spots' for unsafe disposal of injecting equipment. We also partner with St Pats Assertive outreach team in Fremantle, and with the Crossroads Assertive AOD outreach team in the inner city.

This year we established a new 'HCV Case-Management worker' position. This outreach role works to support people in accessing testing, entering and completing DAR treatment, and engaging with other health services.

I would like to thank the all of the Outreach Team for their commitment, solidarity and adaptability over the last 12 months. I look forward to us building further over the next year!

HEALTH CLINIC

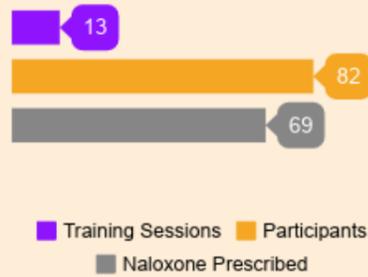
Over the past twelve-months the health clinic has continued to expand its clinical service. Changes to the Poison's Act earlier in 2017 impacted on the nurse practitioner role enabling the clinical governance role to exist solely between the employer and the NP themselves. This has facilitated the growth of the clinic which now offers prescribing for hepatitis C treatments, sexually transmitted infections, specific other infections and contraceptive methods.

Outreach clinics which were conducted at Hepatitis WA are no longer conducted. This has allowed the WASUA clinic to open on a Wednesday as well as Tuesday and Thursday.

A total of 266 new patients and 345 returning client consultations were conducted between July 2016 and June 2017. A total of 8 positive Chlamydia Trachomatis cases and 1 Neisseria Gonorrhoea case have been identified and treated. Thirty-four patients have commenced hepatitis C treatment since the program commenced in June 2016 with 25 patients having completed treatment. One patient was lost to follow up. The HCV treatment figures on the preceding page relate to financial year 2016/2017.

The hepatitis C treatment program now includes the services of a case management worker to provide support, and other services to clients to facilitate their participation in the treatment program.

Naloxone



OPAM

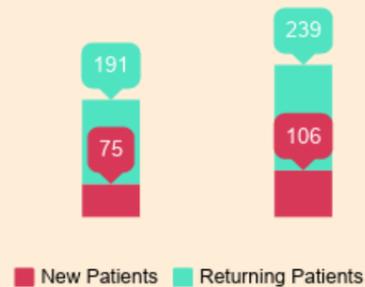


Volunteer Recruitment

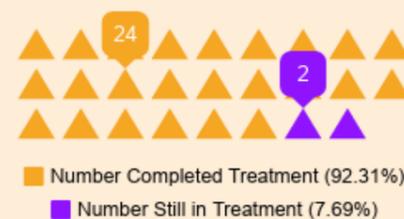


WASUA Health Clinic

Consumer Contacts



HCV Treatment Program



Surveys



Participants reporting reuse of equipment in WASUA's annual consumer satisfaction survey



Australian National NSP Finger Prick Survey