

CAHMA AGM 2024-2025 REPORTS

Acknowledgement to Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the A.C.T., the Ngunnawal and Ngambri Peoples. We acknowledge that the land was never ceded and it remains Aboriginal land. We would also like to pay respects to Elders, past & present. The land of the ACT always was and always will be Aboriginal Land.

CAHMA President's report for the financial year 2024/25

Dear Members,

This AGM marks 6 years of CAHMA's incorporation. This year has provided us with some significant challenges, but through hard work, creativity and a strong desire to see the CAHMA community supported, the majority of these challenges have been mitigated and in some areas, turned into opportunities.

While the year started with some optimism for potential new programs and new funding opportunities, this was not the case and CAHMA had to make do with less than expected. The ability for the CAHMA team to quickly pivot and seek new revenue sources and leap onto new opportunities meant that CAHMA has come out of what was looking like a deficit year, being sound and viable.

This year the Board undertook further governance training and will continue to work on making sure that the governance structures that support the important work being done is able to continue well into the future. The CAHMA board continued to review policies and procedures with the support of the CAHMA management team.

The board would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort put into this year's accreditation process, noting the very positive feedback

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received. This is a credit to the organisation's staff, managers, and volunteers. Members can take pride that the organisations systems, processes, policies and procedures are amongst some of the best in the country.

This year saw an increase in community and media scrutiny around CAHMA. The impacts of this have had a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of the community, and we want to acknowledge this impact. This community is so unique in Australia. For many in the ACT the work here is often misunderstood and judged without knowing what the role of CAHMA is and without seeing all the work and care that goes back out into the wider community. There are a number of issues at play here, but I would highlight the importance of CAHMA's advocacy work and key place in the ACT health landscape to ameliorate the discrimination against those people who make the choice to use AOD.

CAHMA's work ensures that the ACT community is well informed, well educated, has access to training, providing community alerts, drug testing, case management and health support, all geared to make this community as safe as it possibly can be. And this has not changed, but has often been overlooked this year. CAHMA is an essential part of the ACT health landscape. Providing services that many cannot or will not undertake, working with some of our societies most marginalised, isolated and stigmatised population.

As a new year approaches the board would like to thank the staff, managers, volunteers and members of this community, who continue to support, care and keep people safe. This new year will present new challenges, as well as still dealing with some old ones, but the focus and purpose of CAHMA remains unchanged. Continuing to focus on the humans who are at the core of what we do, and to acknowledge the small (and large!) changes and wins that are made every day.

Lachlan Dean
Acting President CAHMA

Treasurer's report for the financial year 2024/25

Dear Members,

Although this Annual General Meeting marks the beginning of my fourth year on the Board, this is my first report as Treasurer of CAHMA. I joined the Board of CAHMA not long after working alongside the organisation in the context of the ACT's drug decriminalisation reforms in 2022. Over the last four years come to deeply appreciate the organisation's impact on the day-to-day lives of people who use drugs and how this informs and motivates our systemic advocacy efforts. This year, I have become particularly familiar with the financial governance of our organisation and am pleased to report CAHMA is in a strong position having achieved a surplus and ended the financial year with a healthy working capital ratio. This is commendable given our size, age since incorporation and the pressures on the community sector more broadly.

Of course, CAHMA's impact and good financial position is such due to the strong leadership shown by our Management Team led by Executive Director, Chris Gough. I would like to thank him and the team for their support of me in my first year as Treasurer. Successful Alliances have once again been tremendous supports to the Board and I would like to thank Brett Lowe in particular for his excellent work, including his support of us through the audit processes we have undertaken this year.

The audited financial statements are presented for consideration by CAHMA's members. The audit was conducted by Nexia Australia and the management accounts throughout the year have been provided by Successful Alliances. This is Nexia's first year auditing the accounts for CAHMA and they conducted a detailed and thorough process which was important as an incoming auditing body to ensure Nexia has confidence in CAHMA's overall position and financial viability. No concerns were identified either during the audit process or since the balance date of 30 June 2025.

This year the organisation achieved a small surplus of \$7883, further strengthening our working capital ratio from last year's. CAHMA's

financial position remains strong with total equity of \$448, 366, (last year \$440, 483). On behalf of the Board, the audited financial statements are presented for acceptance by CAHMA's members at the Annual General Meeting on 26th November 2025.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Board recommends that Nexia Australia be appointed as CAHMA auditors for the 2025/26 financial year.

Isabel Mudford
CAHMA Treasurer

Executive Director's Report for the financial year 2024/25

Dear Members,

This year CAHMA has continued to thrive and grow despite significant challenges and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone at CAHMA for their dedication, energy, enthusiasm and passion in their work this year.

The CAHMA Community Centre expansion that was completed in the 23-24 financial year has seen a significant increase in inreach activities over the last financial year. The expansion has also enabled the provision of a proper clinic room for the Directions Health Services in-reach doctor and nurse service and our Point of Care Testing and Reach Teach Treat Thrive partnership with Hepatitis ACT. CAHMA's Community Centre is giving out increasing amounts of material aid to support drop-in centre service users as well as people accessing individual care through the Peer Treatment Support Service. During the 24-25 financial year, a total of 3468 people accessed the CAHMA Drop-in service (weekly average of around 69 people) and gave out a total of 2351 meals (weekly average of around 47 meals).

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The PTSS team opened 152 cases (where people set short-medium term goals and then work towards them), with 127 cases completed and 85 still active and ongoing. There were 951 occasions of service for those cases which is a huge amount and shows that people continue to return to the PTSS to progress their health and wellbeing goals and trust our PTSS team to support them meaningfully with their health needs. Of the 127 cases that completed the PTSS program 94 episodes were closed due to completion of treatment which is an excellent rate of completion for PTSS treatment at 74%.

One of the most important programs at CAHMA is The Connection which provides culturally safe access to all of CAHMA programs and services. The Connection team have done an amazing job this year of welcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to CAHMA and working with them across all of our programs. This has resulted in 19.3% of the people who come through the doors of CAHMA identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander which is a great achievement.

Please join me in thanking the Directions team in particular Dr Ben for looking after our community so well and providing a trusted drop-in Doctor and Nurse service for our people. None of this work could happen without the amazing staff of the drop-in service who have worked hard to create a welcoming environment for all members of our community. Congratulations and a big thank you to the whole community centre team.

CAHMA's outreach BBQs continue to play an important part in community life in the ACT and over the year the BBQ team provided a total of 4461 meals to people where they live. This means that 89 people every week were afforded a good BBQ meal and a chance to talk to a peer worker and be linked into primary care through the Pat Van. Across the year our outreach partners expanded to include Orange Sky laundry and St Vincent de Paul Street Patrol in Veteran's Park, with the Ainslie Village Blue Door and St Vincent de Paul services at Oaks Estate continuing to support CAHMA's outreach activities.

CAHMA has also been more active in provision of needle and syringes throughout the year with CAHMA launching an Emu Parade to pick up

used injecting equipment several times a week around Belconnen. Additionally, the veinoscope interventions have been very popular and continue to support people with poor venal access to use as safely as possible.

The ACT continues to lead the way with naloxone programming and access to this life saving medication. Through-out the year we completed a total of 626 trainings in naloxone administration and overdose recognition and response, a significant increase from last financial year. Additionally, the CAHMA Naloxone Team provided 114 naloxone brief interventions. One important expansion in naloxone access is CAHMA's postal naloxone service which began in November 2024. In the 24-25 financial year the CAHMA Postal Naloxone Service has trained and delivered naloxone to a total of 72 people.

One of our major achievements this year has been the amount of material aid and charity that CAHMA has been able to access and distribute throughout our community. In particular the PTS team have been exceptional at linking up material aid with people in need. CAHMA is now positioned very well to provide material support to our community. Over the past year material aid has included food, hampers, linen, crockery and cutlery, phones and computers, white goods, clothing, petfood and pet products, strollers and many other things.

CAHMA continues to punch above our weight in research and academic areas and has continued this trend in the 24-25 financial year. As just one example, CAHMA is a partner in the UNSW Drugs of Dependence Amendment Evaluation being conducted by the Drug Policy Modelling Program. As well as participating in many research projects, the 2024 Australasian Professional Society of Alcohol and other Drugs conference was held in Canberra and was co-convened by the Executive Director of CAHMA. The whole organisation put on an excellent turnout for the conference, with 9 staff presenting in various forms including on the ATODA Service User Survey of Outcomes, Satisfaction and Experience (SUSOSE) Project, the CAHMA Community Development Project and the AIVL Ageing and Peer Workforce Development Panels. The abstracts for these presentations can be found in the special edition of the Alcohol and Drug Review of Australia ASPAD special edition for

2024 [Special Issue: APSAD 2024 Conference 30 October-2 November 2024 National Convention Centre, Canberra: Drug and Alcohol Review: Vol 43, No S1](#). CAHMA also put on a special CAHMA booth which included a special edition CAHMA t-shirt which was very popular as well as providing a space for a community art exhibition where people could purchase art produced in the Healthy and Creative Ageing Project with proceeds going back to the artists.

CAHMA has played a key role in the CanTEST drug checking service this year allowing people to test their drugs and understand what they have and in many cases how pure it is. The CanTEST Harm Reduction Peer Worker team has done an excellent job in energizing the community to bring in their samples as well as providing harm reduction information on some of the novel psychoactive substances being found.

I also want to thank our partners over the course of the year:

- Directions Health Services – CanTEST, CAHMA Clinic, Pat Van BBQs
- Salvation Army CRS, Wagga Wagga Recovery Hub
- Hepatitis ACT – Reach Teach Treat Thrive HCV Treatment Program
- ACT Corrections – Friday reporting point for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Givit – major charity portal and important partner
- Kirby POCT – Kirby Australian Point of Care Testing Program
- ATODA – SUSOS Survey – Satisfaction survey
- Legal AID – inreach team
- CentreLink – inreach team
- Street to Home – inreach team
- Care Financial – inreach team
- Orange Sky laundry – outreach partner
- St Vincent De Paul Street Patrol – outreach partner

In addition to our work within the ACT, CAHMA now has a peer worker in Wagga Wagga NSW working out of the Wagga Recovery Hub. The Recovery Hub is a consortium of organisations led by The Salvation Army and over the course of the financial year CAHMA was invited to

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provide peer worker services for the Hub. We now have two full time peer worker in Wagga a further 1 FTE than last financial year and we thank The Salvation Army and our Recovery Hub partners in helping us support the needs and overcome the barriers that people face in Wagga Wagga accessing ATOD and related services.

In conclusion I want to thank all of the volunteers, staff members, board members of CAHMA over the last year. The amount of work, effort and dedication you have put into your roles this year has been amazing. Thank you for making CAHMA a truly safe and welcoming place for our community.



Chris Gough
Executive Director CAHMA