



South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance
C/O SHINE SA, 64C Woodville Rd
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On Kaurna land
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23 July 2024

By email

Preventative Health SA
PO Box 388, Rundle Mall
ADELAIDE SA 5000
PreventiveHealthSA.AlcoholTobaccoandOtherDrugs@sa.gov.au

RE: Draft South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2024-2030

Dear Preventive Health SA

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2024-2030 ('the Strategy').

SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance is the peak body representing LGBTIQ+ South Australians and the sector that supports us.

We know there is a high prevalence of alcohol and other drug (AOD) use within LGBTIQ+ communities that influences the health disparities experienced by LGBTIQ+ South Australians.¹ That's why we're pleased that LGBTIQ+ communities are identified as a priority population in the Strategy.

We are concerned to note, however, that this priority is not reflected throughout the actions and supporting activities outlined in the Strategy, with only 1 of 67 actions specifically referencing LGBTIQ+ communities and none of the key performance indicators measuring outcomes for LGBTIQ+ people.

We recommend Preventative Health SA further consider further actions specific to LGBTIQ+ communities, with reference to the recommendations made by Thorne Harbour Health's submission on the Strategy.

¹ Amos, N., Lim, G., Buckingham, P., Lin, A., Liddelow-Hunt, S., Mooney-Somers, J., Bourne, A., on behalf of the Private Lives 3, Writing Themselves In 4, SWASH, Trans Pathways, Walkern Katatdjinn, and Pride and Pandemic teams (2023). Rainbow Realities: In-depth analyses of large-scale LGBTQ+ health and wellbeing data in Australia. Melbourne, Australia: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University. Available at <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/arcshs/work/rainbow-realities>.



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We also recommend that Preventative Health SA:

- review our policy position on [LGBTIQA+ inclusive data collection](#) to understand the issues and absence of LGBTIQA+ evidence in relation to AOD services²
- work to embed LGBTIQA+ inclusive data standards across the South Australian AOD sector
- transparently report on the key performance indicators with specific reference to LGBTIQA+ communities.

LGBTIQA+ South Australians experience a range of unique risk factors that influence our health outcomes including discrimination and rejection from both family and healthcare providers. Our experiences of discrimination in health settings can often lead to a preference for AOD support services specifically designed to meet the needs of LGBTIQA+ communities, or mainstream services who are appropriately trained in LGBTIQA+ inclusive service provision.

In South Australia, the main LGBTIQA+ specific AOD support service is Thorne Harbour Health, an organisation member of SARAA. We fully support the submission made by Thorne Harbour Health (attached) and their recommendations in relation to the South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2024-2030.

We are not aware of any mainstream AOD support services in South Australia that are specifically equipped to provide LGBTIQA+ services. One way to assess the safety and inclusion of health and human services for LGBTIQA+ communities is via Rainbow Tick, an accreditation and quality framework provided by Quality Innovation Performance and Australian Council on Healthcare Standards.³

We also strongly encourage Preventative Health SA to build the capacity of the AOD sector to provide LGBTIQA+ inclusive services, with reference to the standards set by Rainbow Tick.

Lastly, we understand the Commonwealth Government are currently developing a 10-year LGBTIQA+ Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, anticipated for release within the next 12 months. We hope to see a strong strategic alignment between the Strategy and that Plan.

² SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance, '[LGBTIQA+ inclusive data collection](https://www.saraa.org.au/lgbtqa-inclusive-data-collection/)', policy position available at <https://www.saraa.org.au/lgbtqa-inclusive-data-collection/>.

³ Rainbow Health Australia, 'Rainbow Tick', available at <https://rainbowhealthaustralia.org.au/>.



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Conclusion

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important matter.

We look forward to collaboratively working with Preventive Health SA to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ South Australians and address their unique needs across the alcohol and other drug service system, as well as in other areas of health.

If you wish to discuss these matters further, please contact Varo, SARAA Board Chair via email chair@saraa.org.au.

We will also make this submission publicly available on our website to ensure our members and supporters are aware of our position.

Kind regards,

Varo they/them

Chair

SA Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA)

E: chair@saraa.org.au