

2023-2025 Drug Action Strategy



Artist – Rachel Apelt



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fairfield City Council acknowledges the Cabrogal people as the traditional custodians of the Fairfield City Local Government Area and pays its respects to its Elders both past, present and emerging. The Cabrogal clan takes its name from the 'cobra grub' a staple food for the clan, which can be found in local creeks and estuaries in the area. Deerubbin and Gandangara are the names of the Local Aboriginal Lands Council's (LALCs) within the Fairfield City Council LGA.

Fairfield City Council would like to acknowledge the contributions of the many groups of individuals consulted to develop the Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025. The acknowledgements include local residents, NSW Police Force, Fairfield Businesses, the Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group, Fairfield City's Local Drug Action Team, Fairfield Community Drug Action Team, the Fairfield Youth Workers Network, government and non-government agencies. All involved attended and contributed their wisdom and insights in the consultation process.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	Alcohol and Drug Foundation
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AOD	Alcohol and other Drugs
BOCSAR	NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
CALD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
CDAT	Community Drug Action Team
CPO	Community Project Officer
CSCPS	Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy
CSPC	Community Safety Precinct Committee
FCC/Council	Fairfield City Council
FDAS	Fairfield Drug Action Strategy
KPA	Key Priority Area
LDAT	Local Drug Action Team
LGA	Local Government Area
LGCSPN	Local Government Community Safety and Crime Prevention Network
LHD	Local Health District
MCPRG	Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group
NDS	National Drug Strategy
NSW	New South Wales
SPCD	Social Planning and Community Development
SWSLHD	South Western Sydney Local Health District



Fairfield LDAT - AOD Workshops 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It is my pleasure to introduce Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025. The strategy is a result of extensive research and consultation with the community and other key stakeholders to develop strategies that minimise alcohol and other drug related harm in our City.

Through our partnerships with the police, local business and government and non-government agencies, we have delivered successful projects and programs that prevent and/or reduce the incidence of alcohol and other drug related harm.

Our collaborative efforts over the years have achieved significant improvements to Fairfield City's drug profile and over the next two years, we will continue to develop and deliver a diverse range of evidence informed initiatives and programs to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm.

Frank Carbone
Mayor of Fairfield City

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Fairfield City Council has a long-standing commitment to community safety and reducing alcohol and other drug related harm. Safety is fundamental to the liveability of a city. The actual and perceived safety of our residents, businesses and visitors continues to be a priority for our City.

The Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 outlines the strategic direction that Council and its partners will take to deliver targeted initiatives that address alcohol and other drug related harm and associated risk factors.

Council recognises that partnership based strategies are the key to improving community safety outcomes, and we thank all parties involved for their time, resources and input.

We look forward to continuing to support these partnerships to work toward a safe, connected and inclusive Fairfield City for everyone.

Brad Cutts
General Manager of Fairfield City

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 sets out the Key Priority Areas (KPAs), objectives and actions that will be implemented to address alcohol and other drug (AOD) related harms in Fairfield City. Fairfield City Council has a long-standing commitment in working towards implementing early intervention, prevention and harm minimisation strategies in partnership with Police, government and non-government agencies. Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 continues that commitment, providing a framework to collectively respond to community concerns about AOD related harm. This Strategy aims to develop and deliver a diverse range of evidence informed initiatives and programs to reduce AOD related harm.

The Strategy is identified as a key deliverable in Council's yearly Operational Plan. Moreover, it builds upon the strengths and partnerships between Council and Police, the Fairfield community, local businesses, government and non-government service providers. The diversity of Fairfield City is also reflected in this Strategy to ensure inclusivity and strengthen the social cohesion of the community.

To identify the key AOD related harms and trending issues in the community, a Fairfield City Drug Profile was created. The data was collected and analysed from a number of sources such as the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), NSW Health and Fairfield City Police Area Command. Over the last five years, there has been an increase in the possession and/or use of amphetamines, narcotics and 'other drugs' in Fairfield City (NSW BOCSAR 2019). 'Other drugs' is defined by BOCSAR as 'drugs other than cocaine, narcotics, ecstasy, amphetamines and cannabis, such as prescription drugs'. Further analysis of local, state and federal policy documents and strategies identified smoking, alcohol consumption and methamphetamine use as significant concerns in South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD), which includes Fairfield City.

While data provides a statistical analysis of AOD related harms and trends, consultation offers an additional insight into the main community concerns. Community members and stakeholders reinforced the importance of strong partnerships in addressing AOD related harms and associated risk factors. Community concerns, combined with the analysis of data helped inform the direction in developing the Key Priority Areas (KPA's) that are the focus of this Strategy. The four KPA's include alcohol, tobacco, illicit and prescription drugs.

Objectives and actions have been developed in direct response to the identified KPAs that emerged from the data analysis and community feedback about AOD related harms. Such objectives and actions will be implemented over the next two years. Continual monitoring and evaluation of this Strategy will be done to analyse the effectiveness of it and address any emerging concerns.



COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCING THE IMPACTS OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE

Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 sets out priority areas and actions that will be implemented over the next two years. The strategy will assist in the identification of, and response to, community priorities that align with Fairfield City Council's broader vision of the City as a **'Welcoming, Safe and Diverse Community, where we are proud to belong, invest and prosper.'**

As a Local Government body, Council is committed to providing strategic direction and leadership in reducing the social, economic and health-related harms associated with AOD use. To achieve this, an early intervention, prevention and harm minimisation approach is adopted to ensure all individuals are provided with the necessary and specialist support they require. This approach also aligns with the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 that outlines the three pillars of harm minimisation:

- **Demand reduction:** working collaboratively towards reducing, preventing and responding to emerging drug related concerns in the community and implementing supportive measures to reduce intake
- **Supply reduction:** working collaboratively with law enforcement agencies and service providers to monitor trends, control availability and accessibility to drugs
- **Harm reduction:** working collaboratively to raise awareness and reduce the risks and harms associated with drug use and misuse

Fairfield City Council understands the importance of community action in responding to local priorities and interests. This strategy is no exception and will see partnership initiatives in place to strengthen community action in responding to AOD use and related harms. Working collaboratively with those who live, work and visit Fairfield City offers the opportunity to implement a multifaceted strategy that aligns with the variation of AOD use. It is important to recognise that there is no one 'typical' AOD user. Instead, all age and cultural population groups are susceptible to excessive or inappropriate AOD use, related harms and drug-induced deaths. With this in mind, the priority populations of this strategy include cultural and linguistic diverse communities, young and older people.

Council will work with community stakeholders, as well as utilise an early intervention, prevention and harm minimisation approach to address four key areas of AOD use: alcohol, tobacco, illicit and prescription drugs. Each is a specific KPA where actions have been devised to have a tangible impact on Fairfield City and the lives of each community member. For areas that require additional support, Council will advocate and represent the local community needs to State and Federal Governments. On the following page, a visual representation of the framework of this Strategy is provided.

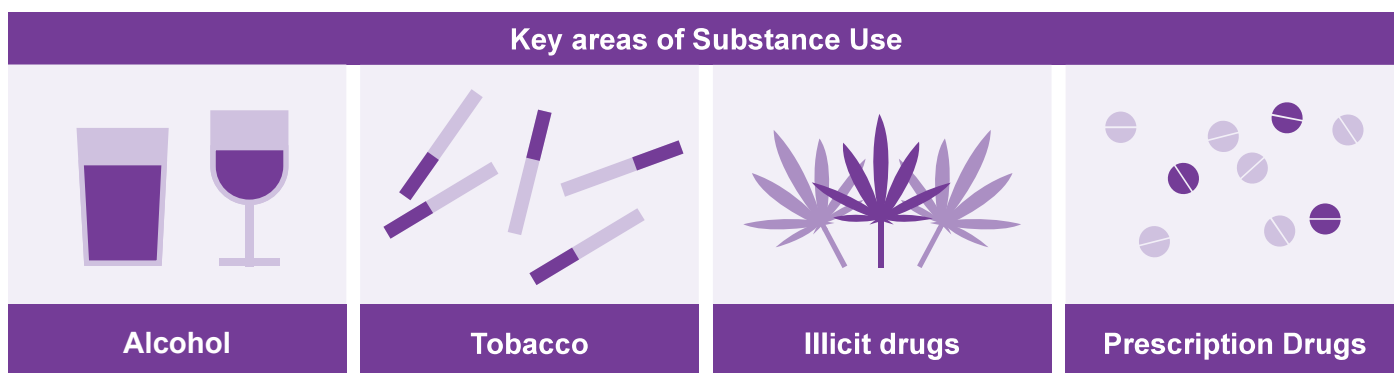
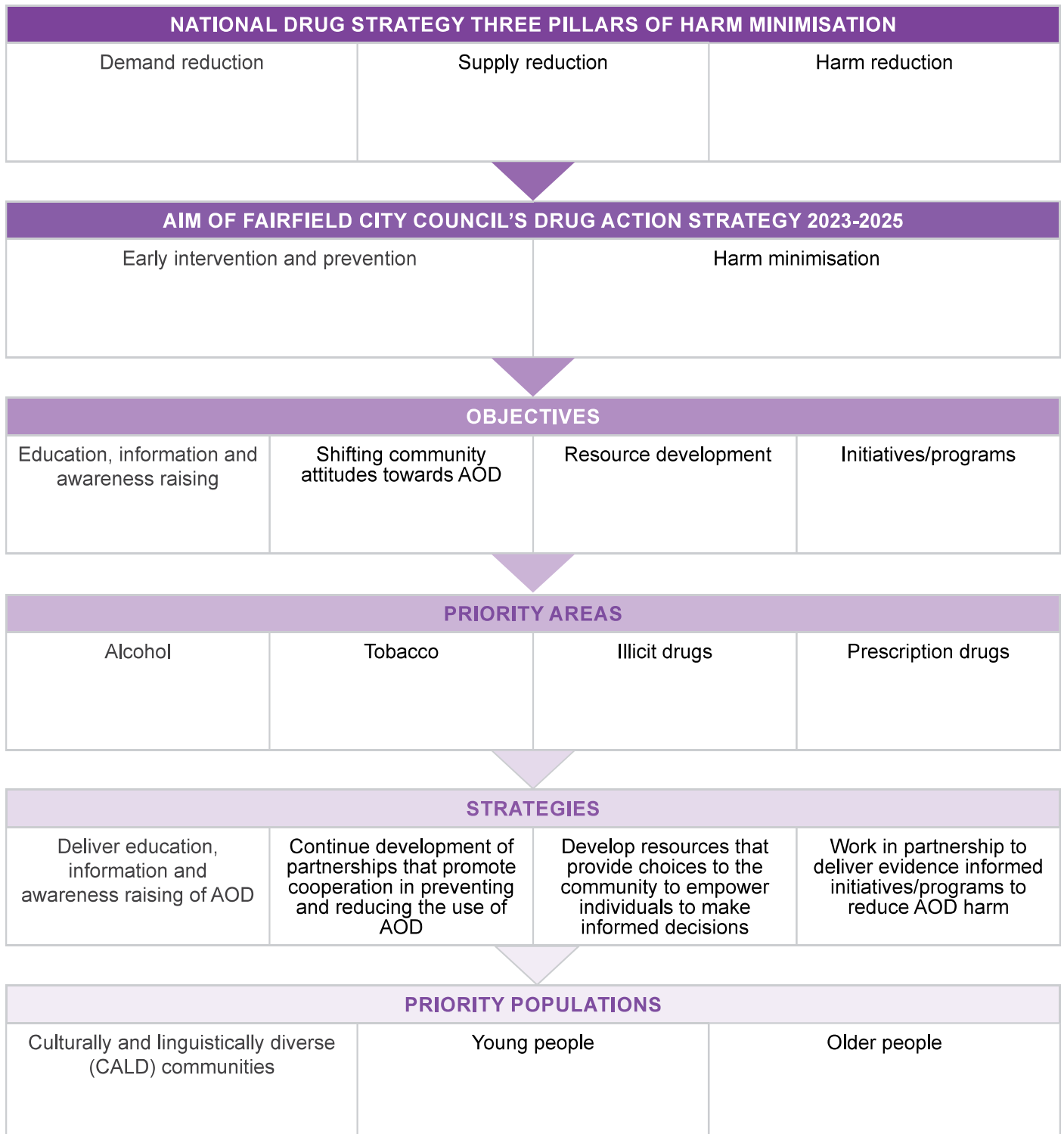


Figure One – The Four Key Priority Areas of Fairfield City's Council Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025

FRAMEWORK OF THE DRUG ACTION STRATEGY 2023-2025



POLICY AND STRATEGY CONTEXT

Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 was informed by a range of Local, State and Federal policies and strategies. The Strategy aligns with the key themes, priority areas, goals and targets of relevant alcohol and drug policies and strategies while also providing a context of the issue of alcohol and drug use in Fairfield City, NSW and Australia. Table One below outlines the relevant alcohol and drug policies and strategies in greater detail.

Table One – Policies and Strategies Informing the Strategy

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES	KEY THEMES, PRIORITY AREAS, GOALS, TARGETS
Fairfield City Plan 2022-2032	Theme One: Community Wellbeing
	Theme Two: Places and Infrastructure
	Theme Three: Environmental Sustainability
Fairfield City Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2023-2025	Key Priority Area Two: Engaging Diverse Groups in Crime Prevention
	Key Priority Area Three: Informing and Educating the Community about Domestic Violence, Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Gambling
	Key Priority Area Four: Building Bridges Between Peoples, Services and Agencies to Improve Community Safety
Strategy for Young People in Fairfield City 2023-2025	Key Priority Area Two: Health and Wellbeing
	Key Priority Area Three: Education and Employment
	Key Priority Area Four: Safety and Awareness
NSW Youth Health Framework 2017-24	Goal One: The health system responds to the health needs of young people, including targeted responses for vulnerable young people – The Framework supports the provision of a holistic and integrated approach to healthcare for young people across NSW
	Goal Three: Young people are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing – NSW Health has an important role to support young people to make healthy choices and to be healthy now and into adulthood
NSW Police Force Alcohol Strategy 2019-2026	Priority Area One: Prevention - Partnership and Collaboration: Promoting safe drinking practices and building resilient communities.
	Priority Area Two: Disruption - Harm Minimisation: Restricting alcohol supply and promoting safe drinking environments.
	Priority Area Three: Response - Evidence-Informed Practice: Protecting individuals and communities from alcohol-related harm.
	Priority Area Four: Capability - Flexibility and Agility - Enabling the effective policing of alcohol-related crime.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG POLICIES AND STRATEGIES	KEY THEMES, PRIORITY AREAS, GOALS, TARGETS
National Drug Strategy 2017-2026	Priority Area One: Enhancing Access to Services and Support
	Priority Area Three: Preventing Uptake, Delaying First Use and Reducing Use
	Priority Area Four: Supporting Community Engagement in Identifying and Responding to Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Issues
	Priority Area Five: Reducing Adverse Health, Social and Economic Consequences
The National Alcohol Strategy 2018-2026	Priority One: Improving Community Safety and Amenity – Working to better protect the health, safety and social wellbeing of those consuming alcohol and those around them
	Priority Three: Supporting Individuals to Obtain Help and Systems to Response – Facilitating access to appropriate treatment, information and support services
	Priority Four: Promoting Healthier Communities – Improving the understanding and awareness of alcohol-related harms in the Australian community
National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Framework for Action 2012-2015	Goal One: To reduce the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs and associated harms in Australia
National Tobacco Strategy 2012-2018	Priority Area Two: Strengthen mass media campaigns to: motivate smokers to quit and recent quitters to remain quit; discourage uptake of smoking; and reshape social norms about smoking
	Priority Area Four: Bolster and build on existing programs and partnerships to reduce smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
	Priority Area Five: Strengthen efforts to reduce smoking among populations with a high prevalence of smoking
	Priority Area Nine: Provide greater access to a range of evidence-based cessation services to support smokers to quit
National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030	Target: Reduce the annual number of fatalities by at least 50 per cent and serious injuries by at least 30 per cent by 2030

ACHIEVEMENTS OF FAIRFIELD CITY DRUG ACTION STRATEGY 2021-22

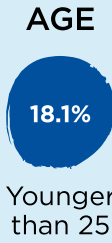
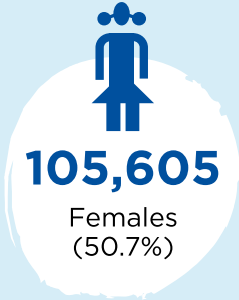
The Fairfield City Drug Action Strategy 2021-22, saw a number of achievements made by Council. The achievements were a result of the successful implementation of programs and the ongoing partnerships with community networks and agencies. It is important to note that many projects were impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns which limited community engagement activities. These achievements include, but are not exclusive to:

- Continued to convene the Fairfield Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) and in partnership with members, delivered a range of projects aimed to reduce the harm of AOD. This included delivery of the Fairfield World Cup with eight local high schools to provide a soft entry point for young people to access services and raise awareness of AOD and wellbeing. The CDAT also delivered the bystander coaster project which involved distribution of coasters to licensed establishments to raise awareness of how individuals can approach a potential gender-based violence situation in a positive and safe way. Additionally, the CDAT finalised the Stronger Without Steroids project, raising young people's awareness of the negative effects of steroid use and the importance of training, nutrition and sleep to build muscle in a safe way.
- Continued to convene the Fairfield Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) and in partnership with members, delivered the Leading Stronger and Connected Communities Project to build the capacity, knowledge and confidence of community and faith leaders and community workers to work towards prevention of AOD related harm. As part of the project, the LDAT developed an AOD resource toolkit and have since trained 115 community workers and 25 community and faith leaders on how to use the toolkit. The toolkit has been distributed to CDAT's across NSW and LDAT's across Australia to share with diverse communities. The LDAT received the Outstanding Collaboration in Partnership award in 2022 recognising the significant contribution of a project partnership in the South Western Sydney AOD sector. The Fairfield LDAT presented the outcomes of the project at the Alcohol and Drug Foundation – Community of Practice webinar in 2023 with LDAT's across Australia.
- Implemented a range of programs in partnership with community organisations and local Police in relation to: law processes; an increased understanding of law enforcement in Australia; engagement with the local police (For example, Coffee with a Cop).
- Supported both the expansion of youth services at the youth centre as well as, the support given to youth organisations to assist in the delivery of these services.



PROFILE OF FAIRFIELD CITY

Fairfield City is located in South Western Sydney, about **32 KILOMETRES** from the Sydney Central Business District.

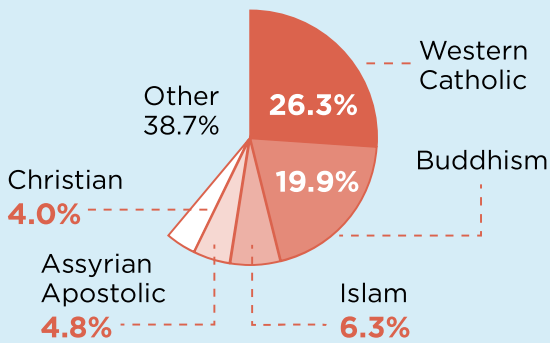


TOP 5 LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME

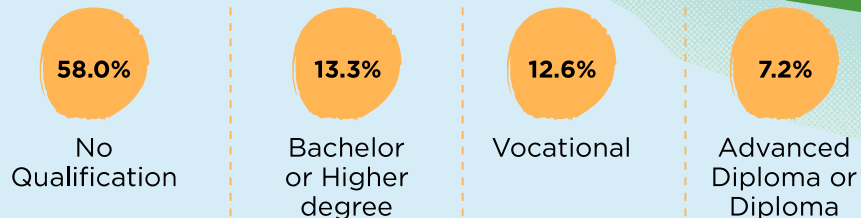
- 21.1% Vietnamese
- 11.9% Assyrian/Aramaic
- 9.3% Arabic
- 3.7% Cantonese
- 3.3% Khmer (Cambodian)



TOP FIVE RELIGIONS



EDUCATION





2,874

Males (9.3%)

MIGRATION TRENDS

Fairfield City is one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia and is a major settlement city for migrants and refugees.

The three main types of migration are overseas, interstate and within-state migration. In the last five years, in Fairfield City,

8.1%

Arrived from overseas

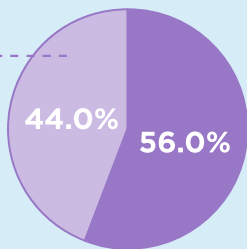
21.9%

Arrived from elsewhere in Australia

21.3%

Older than 60

Born in Australia



Born overseas

BORN IN MORE THAN

108

Different countries

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OUTSIDE OF AUSTRALIA

- 16.3% Vietnam
- 12.0% Iraq
- 3.6% Cambodia
- 2.8% Syria
- 1.8% China



1,528 | 0.7%

Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

HOUSEHOLDS

39.7%

Live in a household that contain two parents and their children

17.5%

Live in one-parent households

17.0%

Couples live in childless households



46.8%

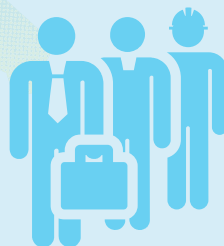
In full-time employment

26.5%

In part-time employment

8.7%

Are unemployed



9.3%



Need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability

EMPLOYMENT



IMPACTS OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, ILLICIT AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE

The consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs can have a considerable impact on an individual's health, social life and financial security. The impacts can be both short- and long-term and are exacerbated when individuals either become addicted or consume alcohol and drugs in excess. The health, social, and economic burden of alcohol and drug use are outlined in the diagrams below.



Reference: AIHW, ADF

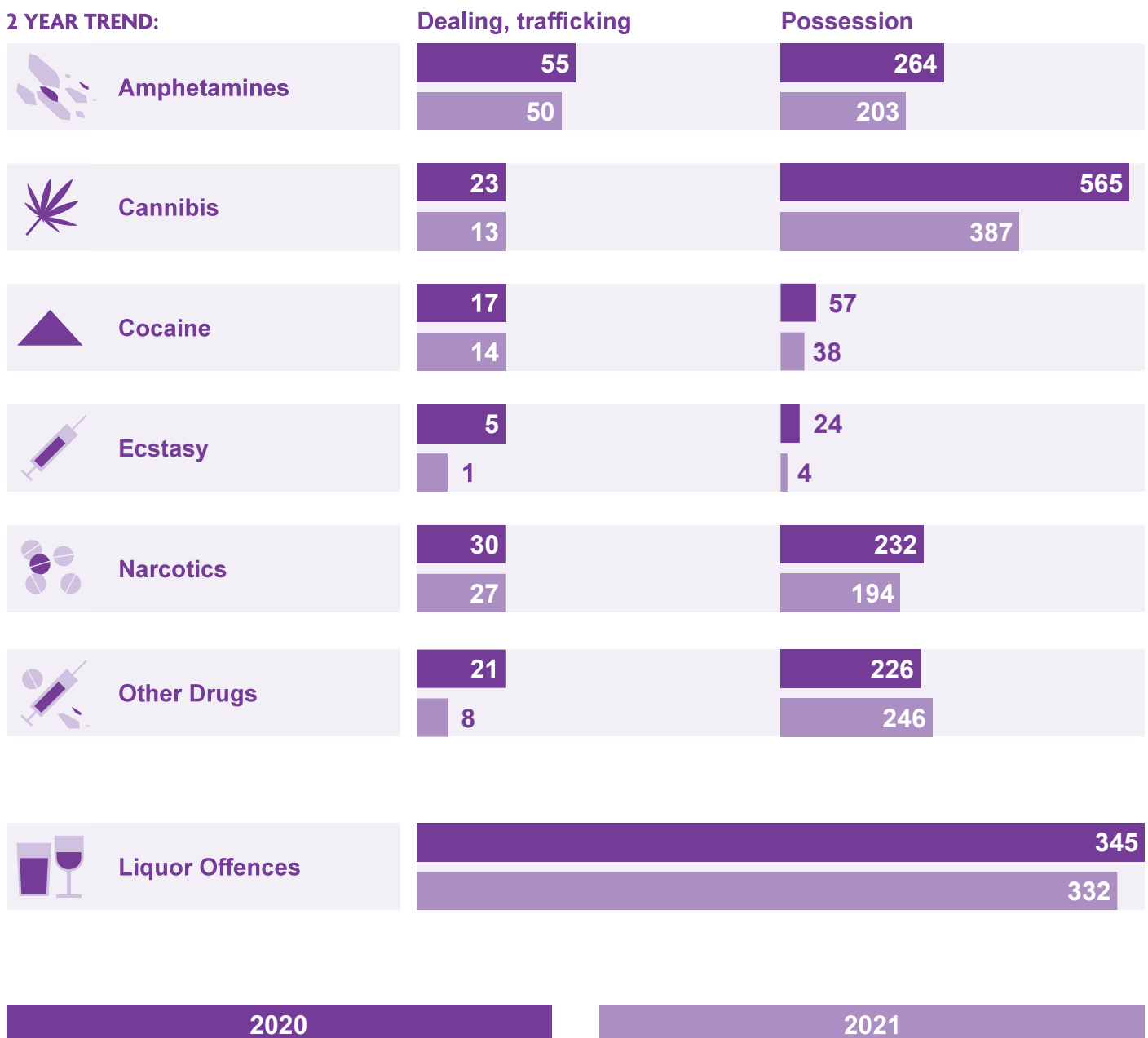
Reference: NSW Health Drug Health Services Strategic Plan (2016-2021), AIHW

FAIRFIELD CITY PROFILE – ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE

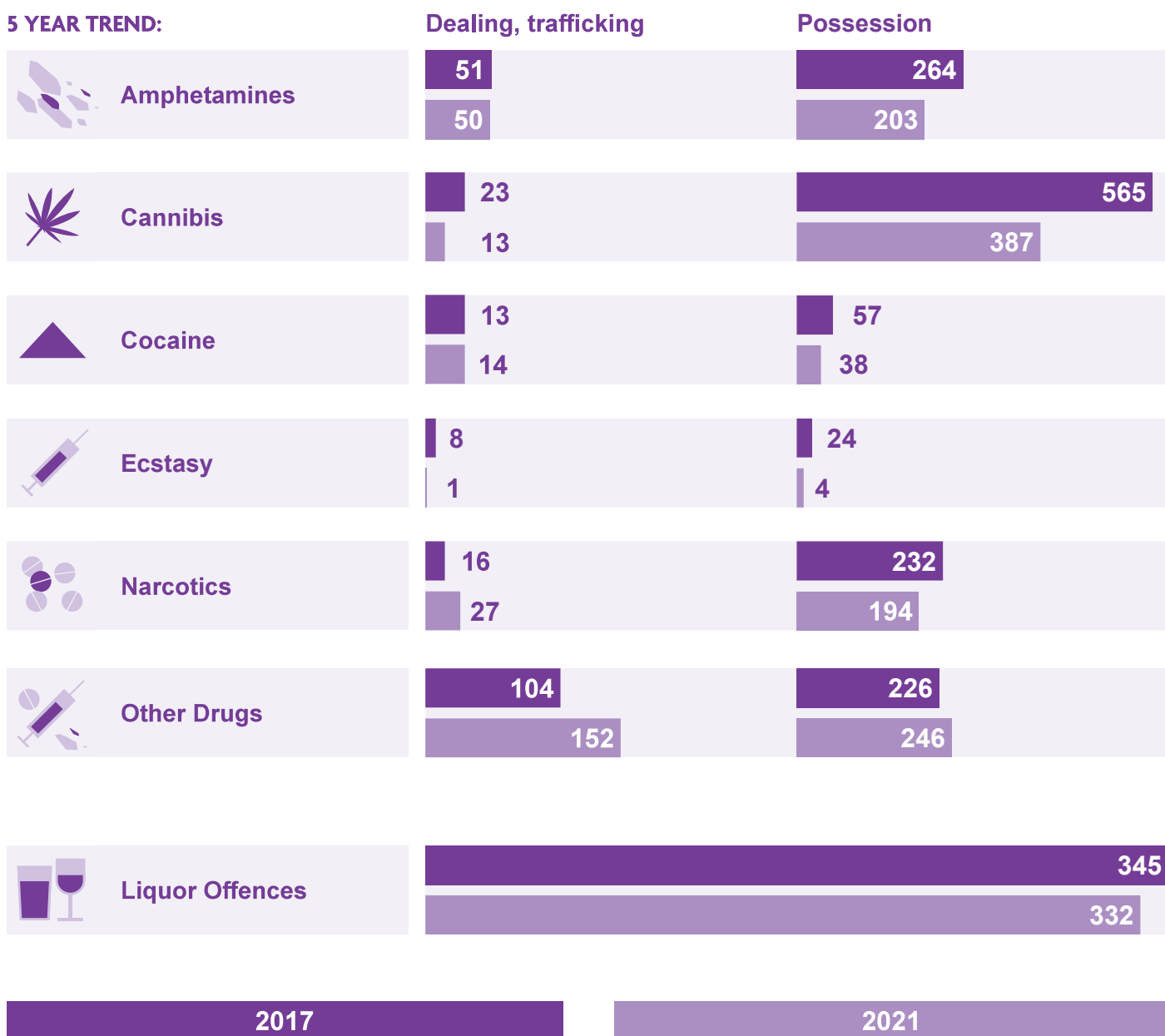
In developing the 'Fairfield City Profile – Alcohol and Drug Use', data was collected and analysed from a range of sources. Quantitative and qualitative data was collected from NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), NSW HealthStats (NSW Health) and South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD). Data was also collected from the consultations conducted with community, members, stakeholders, government and non-government agencies. The data collected is centred upon the alcohol, tobacco, illicit, and prescription drug use and related concerns. The data below provides a snapshot of AOD use in Fairfield City.

CRIME TRENDS

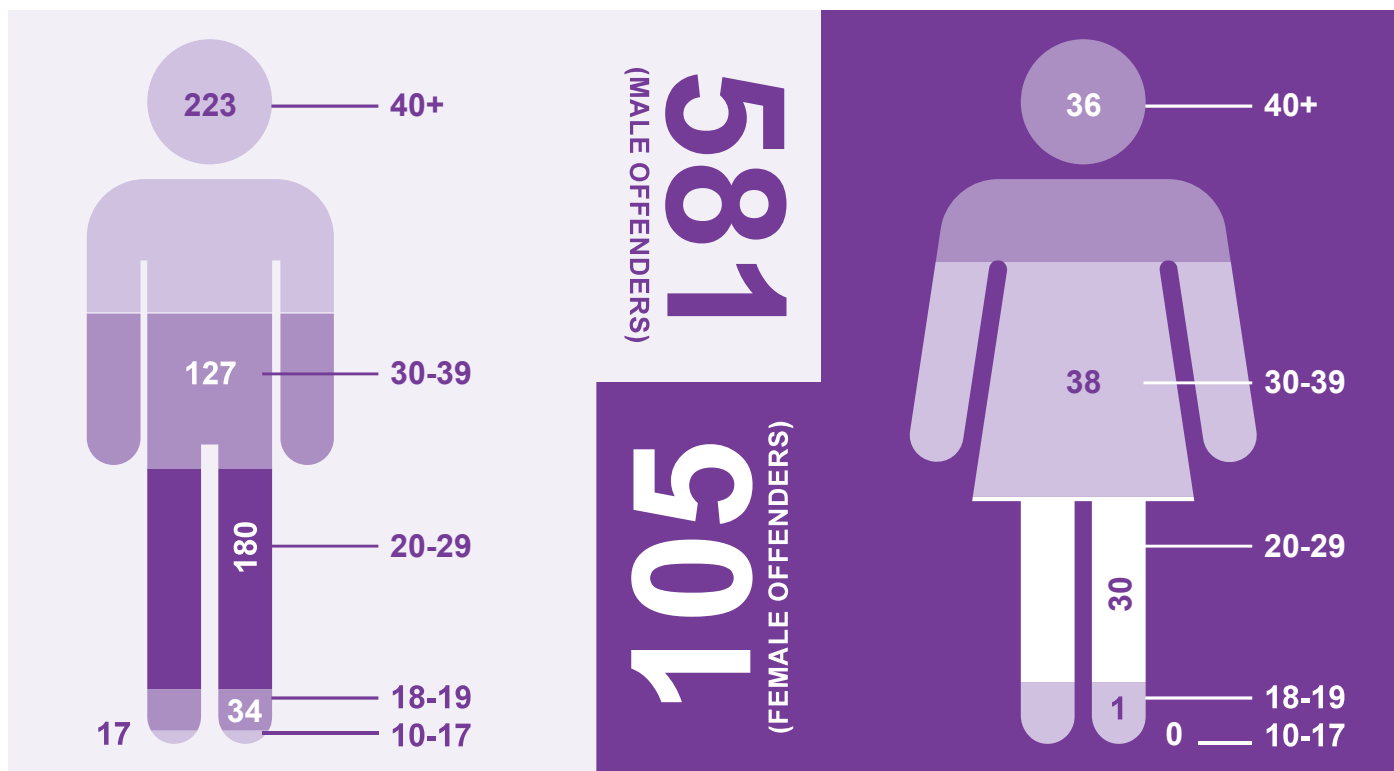
2 YEAR TREND:



5 YEAR TREND:



OFFENDER DEMOGRAPHICS (2021)



SNAPSHOT OF DRUG USE OF JUVENILES (10-17) IN 2022

Data sourced from NSW BOCSAR revealed that in 2022, young people aged 10-17 in Fairfield City were unlikely to be charged with dealing, trafficking, possession or use of most drugs. COVID-19 restrictions are likely to have influenced this data. Council will continue to monitor the number of offences and allocate resources accordingly.

Table Two – Reported Drug Offences Committed by Juvenile People in Fairfield City and NSW in December 2022

	FAIRFIELD		NSW	
	Count	Rate per 100,000	Count	Rate per 100,000
Drinking frequency				
Dealing, trafficking in amphetamines	0	0.0	1-4	w
Dealing, trafficking in cannabis	1-4	9.1	41	5.3
Dealing, trafficking in cocaine	0	0.0	33	4.2
Dealing, trafficking in ecstasy	0	0.0	1-4	0.4
Dealing, trafficking in narcotics	0	0.0	0	0.0
Dealing, trafficking in other Drugs	0	0.0	1-4	0.4
Possession and/or use of amphetamines	0	0.0	35	4.5
Possession and/or use of cannabis	7	31.7	1041	133.9
Possession and/or use of cocaine	1-4	4.5	27	3.5
Possession and/or use of ecstasy	0	0.0	16	2.1
Possession and/or use of narcotics	0	0.0	1-4	0.3
Possession and/or use of other Drugs	1-4	9.1	54	6.9

COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN FAIRFIELD CITY

Council works in partnership with relevant stakeholders, networks and community members to identify concerns and implement initiatives that meet the needs of the community. This is imperative to ensure a coordinated and effective approach in addressing AOD use, as well as the implementation of intervention, prevention and harm minimisation initiatives. The key Council and community networks are summarised.

FAIRFIELD LOCAL DRUG ACTION TEAM (LDAT)

The Fairfield Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) was established in late 2018 and is a partnership between Fairfield City Council, Fairfield City Police Area Command, Department of Communities and Justice - Community Corrections, Family Drug Support, The Rehabilitation Project, NSW STARTTS and South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) Drug Health Services. LDAT receives support and resources from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) to implement and deliver evidence-informed initiatives at a local level to respond to community concerns about AOD related harm. The Fairfield LDAT has delivered the Leading Stronger and Connected Communities project working with community and faith leaders to challenge stigma, shame and judgement associated with AOD in CALD communities.

MAYOR'S CRIME PREVENTION REFERENCE GROUP (MCPRG)

The Mayor's Crime Prevention Reference Group (MCPRG) is a formal Council committee. Membership includes Council, Fairfield City Police Area Command (PAC), government and non-government agencies, Neighbourhood Watch, Chambers of Commerce and residents. The Group meets quarterly and supports activities that raise awareness and understanding of community safety and ensure formal links between Council and the many forums and service providers that contribute to safety and crime prevention in Fairfield City.

FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAM (CDAT)

Fairfield Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) covers the region of Fairfield LGA and works in partnership with agencies, community representatives and government through a harm minimisation approach. Fairfield CDAT has been in existence since 2000 and continues to work towards identifying and responding to the diverse needs of the local community, increasing

community awareness and promoting protective factors in the community to reduce the impact of Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) related harms. The Fairfield CDAT has been successful in implementing a range of local community activities and initiatives to reduce drug-related harm in a proactive manner. Commencing January 2021, the CDAT program is managed by a consortia that is led by Odyssey House NSW and funded by NSW Health. Karralika Programs Inc., Bila Muuji Aboriginal Corporation Health Services Inc. and The Buttery are also members of the consortium.

NSW POLICE COMMUNITY SAFETY PRECINCT COMMITTEE (CSPC'S)

Community Safety Precinct Committees (CSPCs) provide another forum for Fairfield City Council and the communities to meet with Fairfield PAC and discuss local crime and safety issues. CSPCs:

- Support communication between the Commanders and local communities
- Encourage partnerships to prevent crime and fear of crime and promote public safety
- Develop collaborative responses to local crime concerns
- Enable community input on local policing practice

FAIRFIELD CITY HEALTH ALLIANCE

Fairfield City Health Alliance is a partnership between the Primary Health Network (PHN), South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) and Fairfield City Council. The purpose of the alliance is to support, shape and sustain a healthier Fairfield Community through developing health strategies and strengthening collaboration with health providers and organisations in Fairfield.

FAIRFIELD HEALTH PARTNERSHIP (FFHP)

FFHP is a partnership between South West Sydney Local Health District Population Health (SWSLHD). This partnership focuses on health promotion and includes projects to minimise harm from tobacco use.

DEVELOPMENT OF FAIRFIELD CITY COUNCIL'S DRUG ACTION STRATEGY 2023-2025

Fairfield's City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 was developed using a number of sources. Data was collected and analysed from a range of agencies to identify the trends and prevalence of AOD use in Fairfield City. Additionally, Council partnered with community members, government and non-government agencies and staff to obtain a thorough understanding of AOD related issues in Fairfield City. The analysis of statistics, combined with the feedback and input from community stakeholders, informed the development of the Strategy and the actions that encompass it.

COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Data related to drug offences, crime statistics and AOD use was collected and analysed from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and NSW Health. Additional analysis of Federal, State and Local policies and strategies informed the direction for observing trends in AOD use and related-harms in Fairfield City, NSW and Australia. The analysed data assisted in the identification of the key drug-related concerns for Fairfield City.

STAKEHOLDERS – COMMUNITY SURVEYS AND NETWORKS

Council developed an online survey targeting the whole community to explore the prevalence and use of alcohol, tobacco, illicit and prescription drugs. The online survey helped identify the types of drugs that are of high concern in the community.

A consultation was also carried out with the Fairfield Seniors Network. The consultation was carried out to identify the types of drugs that they believe are the biggest concerns in Fairfield City. Alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs and ice were identified and some participants felt that AOD use is becoming increasingly normalised in younger generations. Data shows increase use of AOD by older groups of residents.

STAKEHOLDERS – YOUNG PEOPLE

A survey targeting young people aged 12-24 years-old was developed to understand their concerns around AOD use. The survey explored AOD use, influences and their personal experiences with drug-related educational programs carried out in schools across Fairfield City. The survey was carried out in three separate focus groups which included the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), Community First Step and Youth off the Streets.

STAKEHOLDERS – COUNCIL

The internal consultation involved an online survey that was disseminated to various Council departments. This internal survey aimed to identify the responsibilities and actions of different Council departments in addressing and reducing drug related harm. It also helped identified ways in which different Council departments can work together to strengthen the coordination of services and programs in reducing AOD related harms in Fairfield City.

IDENTIFICATION OF KEY PRIORITY AREAS

The research conducted by Fairfield City Council provides an insight into the AOD related issues that are the most prominent within the LGA. The analysed data, as well as the consultations with stakeholders, helped developed four key priority areas (KPAs) centred upon drug harm minimisation, early intervention and prevention.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE

Fairfield City Council’s Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 has been informed and developed through consultations with networks, staff and community members. The consultations were conducted with focus groups to explore community perceptions and attitudes of AOD use and related issues. The responses helped inform the key actions undertaken in this Strategy and are described in greater detail below.

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES FROM THE CONSULTATIONS

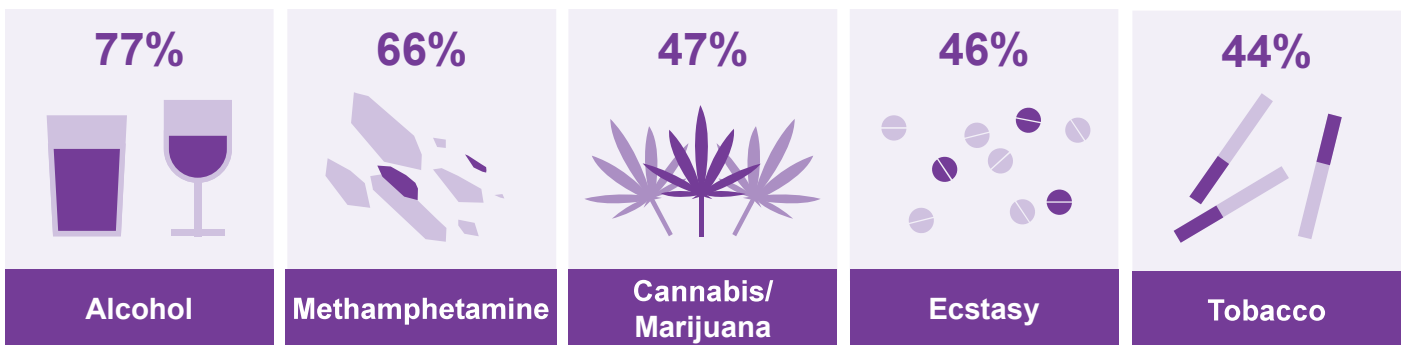
Council’s drug and alcohol survey captured residents’ concerns about AOD in Fairfield City. Results show that more than half (53%) of residents expressed that they were very concerned about AOD in Fairfield City, with 38% reporting being somewhat concerned and 8% reporting not being concerned at all. Survey data from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy consultations found similar results, with 57% of residents expressing that they were very concerned about drugs.

Figure Four – Community Concern about Drugs



Residents who completed the online survey ranked alcohol, methamphetamine, cannabis/marijuana, ecstasy and tobacco from most to least concerning.

Figure Five – AOD of most concern according to community members



YOUNG PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVE

Three focus groups were consulted, exploring and identifying concerns about AOD use in the community. The consultations further explored perceptions towards the accessibility of drugs, effectiveness of AOD educational programs in schools and how relevant stakeholders can be more involved in reducing drug misuse in the community. Four areas of concern emerged from the consultations with young people of Fairfield City.

- **Prescription Drug Misuse**
Young people overwhelmingly felt that pharmaceutical drug misuse has become increasingly common due to increased accessibility
- **Peer Pressure**
Young people identified that peer pressure was the main influence of AOD use in Fairfield City
- **Marijuana/Cannabis**
Young people discussed the easy accessibility of marijuana/cannabis in the community. Some participants mentioned that in many cases marijuana/cannabis is cheaper than purchasing alcohol
- **Ineffectiveness of Educational Programs**
When asked about the effectiveness of educational programs about drug use and harms in schools, most young people felt that were ineffective in achieving a deterrent effect.

Young people of Fairfield City expressed the need for Council, Police and the broader community to be more active in educational and awareness initiatives. The aim of the initiatives would be to educate young people and parents about the harmful effects of AOD use and support services available.



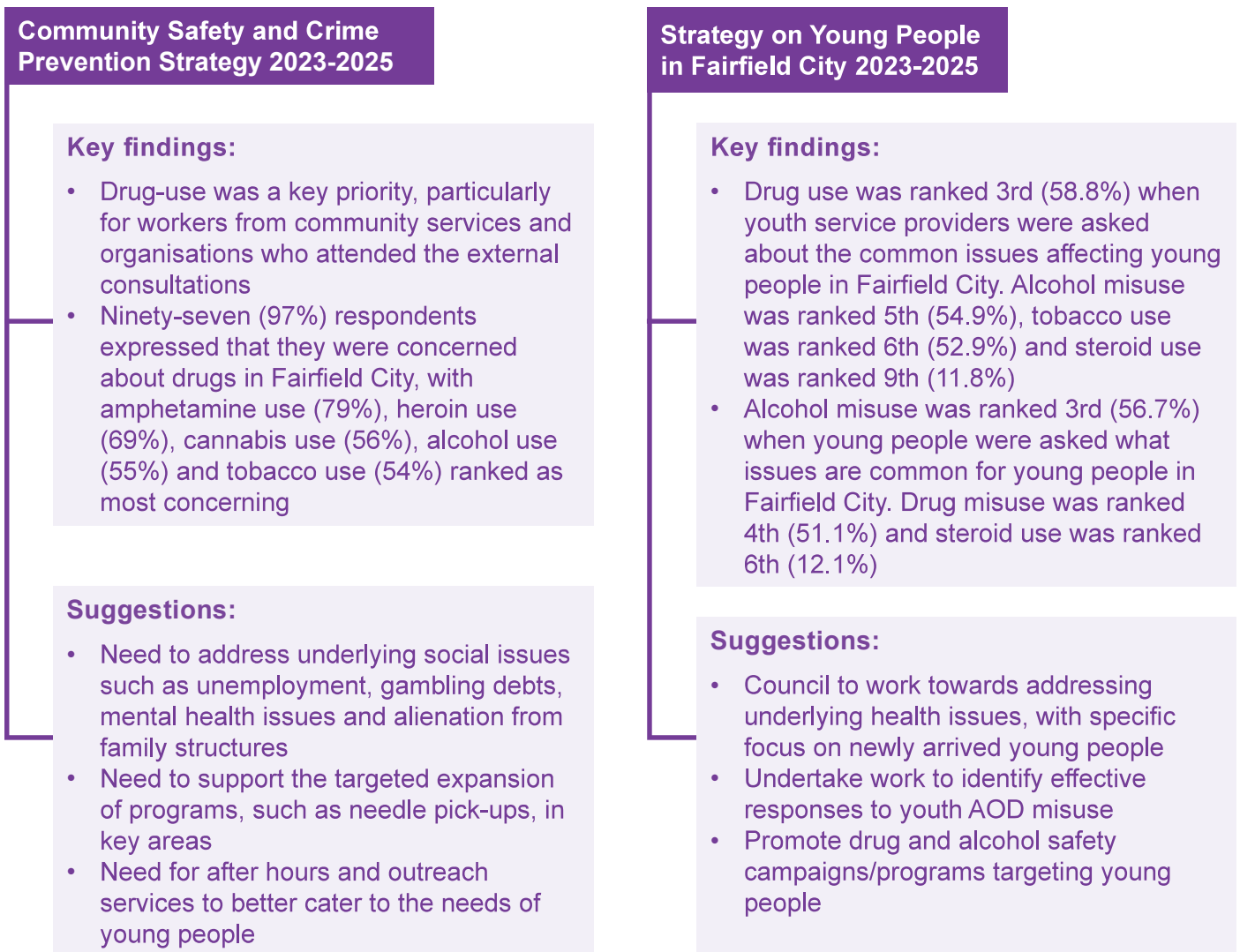
General Volunteers Putting Up No Smoking Poster

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES AS EXPRESSED IN OTHER COUNCIL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Findings from the Fairfield Community Safety and Crime Prevention Strategy 2023-2025 (CSCPS) and the Strategy for Young People in Fairfield City 2023-2025 highlight many AOD related concerns in Fairfield City. The CSCPS provides an overview of AOD related harms and offences in Fairfield City, and key suggestions as expressed by community members and local service providers. Additionally, the Strategy for Young People in Fairfield City 2023-2025 scopes an overview of the issues affecting young people aged 12 to 24 years in Fairfield City. The consultations conducted with young people, workers in the local youth sector and community members found that AOD use is a significant barrier for young people achieving optimal health.





Figure Six below outlines the key AOD related harms and concerns in the CSCPS and the Strategy for Young People in Fairfield City 2023-2025. The figure demonstrates the importance of adopting a holistic approach in addressing local AOD related harms and concerns and how no single Plan or Strategy can do it in isolation.

Figure Six – Key drug related harms and concerns in the CSCPS and the Strategy for Young People in Fairfield City 2023-2025



KEY PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2023-2025

Information gathered from consultations and analysis of crime statistics and drug related data has informed the key objectives and actions for the Fairfield City Council's Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025. The key objectives actions are scoped within an early intervention, prevention and harm minimisation framework, working towards reducing demand, supply and harm associated with AOD misuse. The Strategy focuses on four KPAs:

1.	2.	3.	4.
			
Alcohol use	Tobacco use	Illicit drugs use	Prescription Drugs misuse



Fairfield World Cup 2022

KEY PRIORITY AREA ONE – ALCOHOL USE

Alcohol remains the most widely used drug psychoactive drug in Australia and one of the most harmful (ADF 2022). ‘Alcohol causes more chronic diseases and is linked to more deaths than any illicit drug’ (ADF 2022). In 2021, there were 1,559 people who died of an alcohol-induced death, comprising 1,156 men and 403 women (ABS 2021). The widespread effects of alcohol use on the individual and broader community at large stresses the need for evidence-based responses to minimise harm-related risks.



ALCOHOL USE IN SWSLHD

In 2021, data collected from the NSW Population Health Survey found that South Western Sydney is ranked second lowest amongst 15 LHD’s in consuming alcohol at levels that pose immediate risk (16.1%) and long-term risk (22.9%). When analysing the frequency of alcohol consumption, males tend to drink more on a weekly (47.1%) and daily (8.2%) basis in comparison to females (38.1% and 4.2%, respectively). Notably, 37.5% of respondents reported never drinking alcohol and there has been an increase in people who claim to be ex-drinkers. Although, SWSLHD’s ranking is the second lowest and the general population’s alcohol consumption is decreasing, the average number of alcohol attributable deaths per year has been steadily increasing [see below].

Table One – Alcohol attributable deaths by age, SWSLHD

SWSLHD	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Average number per year	199.6	202.3	203.4	210.3	209.4

ALCOHOL USE IN FAIRFIELD LGA

Council's online drug and alcohol survey found that 77% of residents ranked alcohol as the most concerning drug in the community. Eighteen (18%) of respondents reported consuming more than four standard drinks on one occasion. Additionally, data sourced from a sample youth survey in 2019 found that 57% of respondents reported being non-drinkers, with 22% as party drinkers, and 16% as occasional drinkers. The survey highlighted that most common place where alcohol was consumed was at parties.

ALCOHOL-RELATED OFFENCES IN FAIRFIELD LGA

In 2021, data sourced from NSW BOCSAR found that most reported criminal offences in Fairfield LGA were not related to alcohol consumption. However, alcohol remains a concerning risk for some incidents of crime, such as domestic violence related assault, non-domestic violence related assault, intimidation, stalking and harassment.

Table Two – Top 7 Alcohol Related Offences in Fairfield LGA 2021

OFFENCE TYPE	TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENCES	ALCOHOL RELATED OFFENCES	ALCOHOL RELATED %
Domestic violence related assault	793	122	15.4
Non-domestic violence related assault	484	60	12.4
Assault Police	54	18	33.3
Sexual offences	231	13	5.6
Intimidation, stalking and harassment	1069	115	10.8
Offensive conduct	40	12	30
Offensive language	31	8	25.8

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research 2021

ALCOHOL ATTRIBUTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS AND DEATHS IN FAIRFIELD LGA

- From 2017-18, there were 19.9 alcohol attributable deaths per 100,000 population in Fairfield LGA compared to 20.0 in NSW
- From 2017-19, there were 269.3 hospitalisations per 100,000 population alcohol-attributable hospitalisations in Fairfield LGA compared to 514.0 for NSW

Source: HealthStats NSW ([HealthStats NSW Alcohol attributable deaths by Local Government Area, trends](#) || [HealthStats NSW Alcohol attributable hospitalisations by Local Government Area, trends](#))

KEY PRIORITY AREAS – ALCOHOL

Information gathered from consultations and analysis of crime statistics and drug related data has informed the key objectives and actions for the Fairfield City Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025. The key objectives actions are scoped within a harm minimisation framework, working towards reducing demand, supply and harm associated with AOD misuse. The key action areas align with the broader Fairfield City Strategy and the five themes.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Promote the message of responsible drinking to young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support existing alcohol campaigns by disseminating information at Council run events • Provide local safe and alcohol free recreational opportunities for young people • Work with schools to increase education opportunities for young people • Advocate for alcohol free environments for sporting and cultural events 	Social Planning and Community Development Team (SPCD) Fairfield Community Drug Action Team (CDAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of alcohol free recreational opportunities for young people in the community 	Within existing resources
Encourage and promote healthy lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support programs that promote healthy and active lifestyles for children and/or young people 	SPCD Leisure Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation of young people in healthy and active lifestyle programs 	Within existing resources
Increase awareness of the long term effects of alcohol use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver awareness raising initiatives and projects that demonstrate long term effects of alcohol use 	CDAT LDAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of the long term effects of alcohol use 	Explore potential funding opportunities
Comply with the requirements of the Liquor Act 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to applications from Liquor and Gaming NSW 	SPCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased involvement in responding to applications that require social impact studies 	Within existing resources

KEY PRIORITY AREA TWO – TOBACCO USE

Tobacco use remains a significant health concern in Australia and New South Wales despite decades of strategies minimising the related-harms. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia and New South Wales. Tobacco use is responsible for more drug-related hospitalisations and deaths than alcohol and illicit drugs combined (HealthStats 2021). Exposure of smoking can also be damaging particularly for older people, children and pregnant women (AIHW 2018).

Fortunately, the rates of tobacco use in Australia and New South Wales have significantly decreased over the years. Since 2001, the prevalence of adults who smoke daily reduced from 22.3% in 2017- 2018 to 10.7% in 2021 (ABS National Health Survey). Indigenous Australians, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, single parents, people experiencing mental illness and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, are a few population groups that report higher consumption of tobacco (ACOSH).

The emerging concern is e-cigarettes and vapes which have not been around long enough for health researchers to have a strong grasp on the short and long term impacts of their harm. Research found that most young people do not vape with 7.6% of 15-17 year olds reported having used an e-cigarette or vaping device at least once. This data was likely provided by an adult living in the same household as 77.3% of people aged 15-17 years were reported on by another person in the household. Due to limited self-reporting or reluctance to report in cases where other household members were present when completing the survey, the use of e-cigarettes and vapes may be significantly underreported (ABS 2020-21). About 5% of people aged 18-24 reported vaping in 2019 (Australian National University 2022). Any percentage of vaping by young people is a cause for concern as vaping can cause long-lasting damage to the individual's brain and physical development (World Health Organisation 2022).


According to ABS (2020-21) 9.3% of 'people aged 18 and over have used an e-cigarette or vaping device at least once, while 2.2% reported currently using a device'. Men are more likely to have used and to be currently using an e-cigarette or vaping device (ABS 2020-21).



Tobacco use is responsible for more drug-related hospitalisations and deaths than alcohol and illicit drugs combined (HealthStats 2021)

**6,284
DEATHS**

From 2020-21, 56,393 hospitalisations and 6,284 deaths were attributed to smoking (HealthStats 2021)

15.2%

12.0%

From 2017 to 2021, tobacco use in NSW declined from 15.2% to 12% (NSW Health)

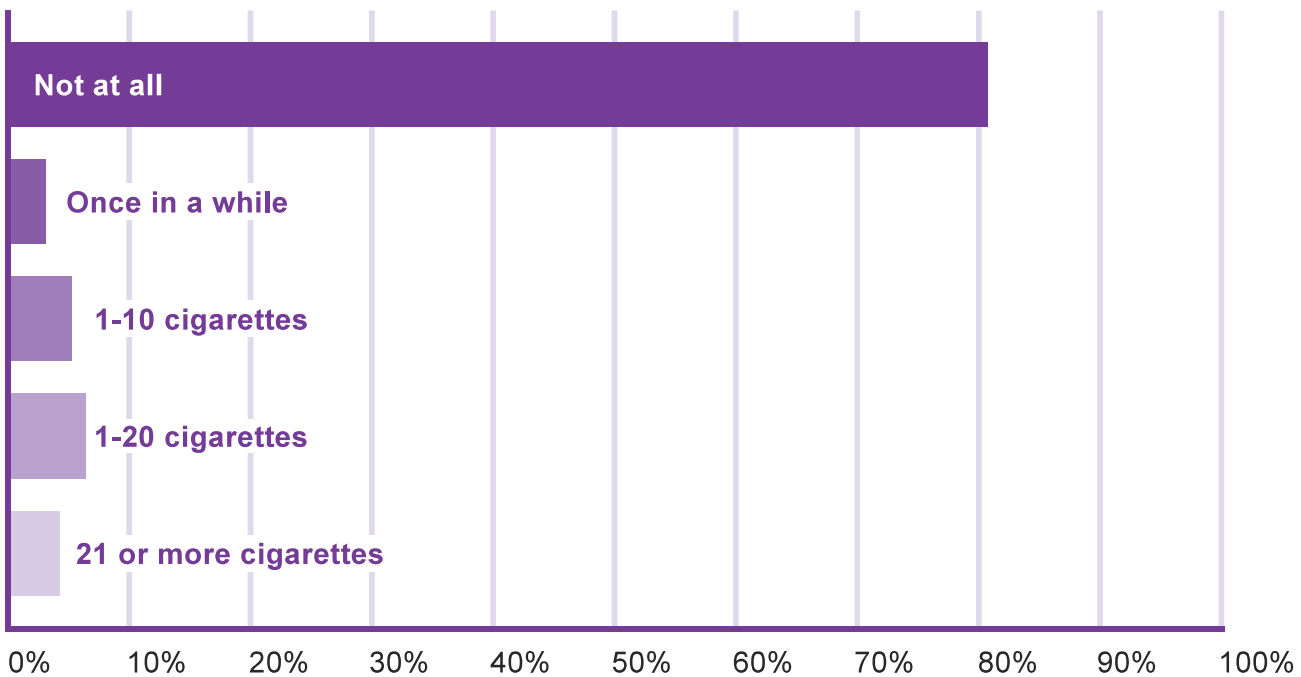
TOBACCO USE IN SWSLHD

Tobacco smoking continues to remain a prominent concern in SWSLHD which includes Fairfield City. According to Health Stats NSW (2020-2021):

- SWSLHD had a higher rate of smoking in adults (15.0%) than the rate across all LHDs in NSW (12.7%) [people who smoke daily and people who smoke occasionally]
- Males had a higher rate of smoking daily (14.9%) compared to females (8.0%)
- 46.7% of males reported having never smoked and 65.2% of females reported having never smoked
- Smoking in young people remains a concern in SWSLHD. In 2017, school students in SWSLHD had higher rates of smoking (7.1%) than that of the rate in NSW (12.3%).

TOBACCO USE IN FAIRFIELD CITY

The rates of tobacco use in Fairfield City reflect the decreasing national and state trend. Data collected from an online consultation, completed by local residents, highlighted that 81% of respondents did not smoke cigarettes. Of the remaining 19% of respondents who do smoke, 12% reported smoking daily. Within this online consultation, people who smoke identified a range of reasons were they were not able to quit. Reasons identified included: enjoyment; relaxation; and the ineffectiveness of previous attempts. The figure bellows displays the variations of tobacco use in Fairfield City.




KEY PRIORITY AREAS – TOBACCO

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Increase awareness of the harms associated with tobacco smoking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen partnerships with service providers to raise awareness of the harms associated with tobacco smoking Distribute CALD appropriate resources at events Increase awareness of the harms associated with second hand smoking Support targeted anti-smoking campaigns run by SWSLHD 	SPCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of the harms associated with tobacco smoking 	Within existing resources



KEY PRIORITY AREA THREE – ILLICIT DRUG USE

Illicit drug use impacts all individuals, families and communities either directly or indirectly. The associated harms of illicit drug use can be both short- and long-term and affect all areas of life such as an individual's health, financial and job security, social and family life, and criminal associations (AIHW 2018; Department of Health 2017) . The severity of the associated harms can vary from injury and poisoning, to heart damage, mental illness, unemployment, homelessness, criminal records and social isolation (AIHW 2017; Parliament of Australia). The use of illicit drugs can vary between population groups and geographical locations, however, there are some consistent trends that require action. The use of particular drugs such as methamphetamine is increasing in Australia and cannabis remains the most commonly used drug.



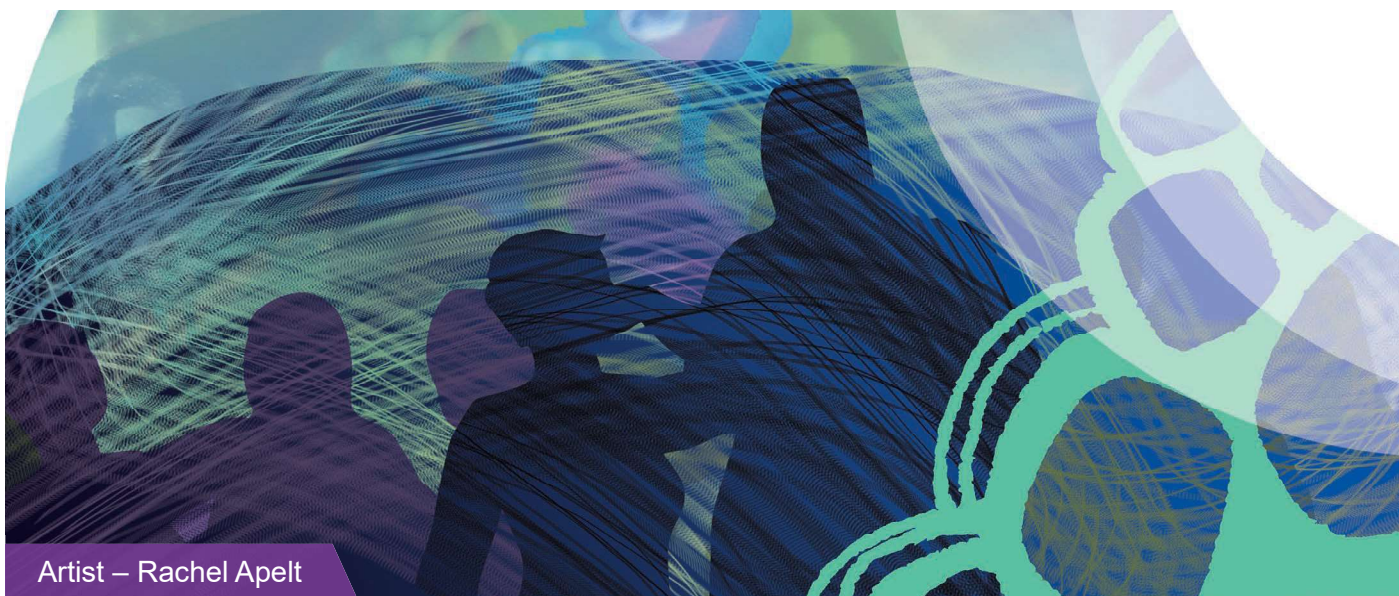
11.6%
Cannabis is the most widely used illicit drug in Australia (AIHW 2022)

6x
Amphetamine-type stimulants induced and related deaths increased in 2020. The death rate in 2020 was over six times higher than in 2000 (AIHW 2022)

830
Methamphetamine-related hospitalisations
In SWSLHD, between 2020-21 there were 830 hospitalisations relating to Methamphetamine compared to 9088 in NSW (HealthStats 2022)

DRUG POSSESSION AND/OR USE IN FAIRFIELD CITY

Recorded drug possession and/or use offences vary in prevalence and drug type in Fairfield City. In 2022, possession and/or use of cannabis were the most reported criminal offence with 244 incidents. This was followed by possession and/or use of amphetamines with 176 incidents, narcotics (189), other drugs (241), cocaine (37) and ecstasy (5).



Despite the possession and/or use of cannabis being the most commonly reported criminal offence, the number of incidents has decreased by 28.5% in a two-year time frame. However, the possession and/or use of other drugs have all increased in two years. The data highlights the variation of drug possession and/or use in Fairfield City and the importance of a multifaceted strategy to support all individuals. The table below outlines the recorded possession and/or use drug offences for Fairfield City from 2020-2022.

Table Five – Recorded possession and/or use drug offences for Fairfield City from 2020-2022

Offence Type	TO SEPTEMBER 2020		TO SEPTEMBER 2021		TO SEPTEMBER 2022	
	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population	Number of incidents	Rate per 100,000 population
Possession and/or use of cocaine	47	22.3	46	21.8	37	17.6
Possession and/or use of narcotics	215	101.9	202	95.8	189	89.6
Possession and/or use of cannabis	570	270.2	428	203.0	306	145.1
Possession and/or use of amphetamines	274	129.8	225	106.7	176	83.5
Possession and/or use of ecstasy	22	10.4	8	3.8	5	2.4
Possession and/or use of other Drugs	194	91.9	266	126.2	241	114.3

Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

DRUG POSSESSION AND/OR USE OFFENCES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES (10-17 YEARS OLD)

As stated in page 17, data obtained from the NSW BOSCAR (2022) found that young people in Fairfield City were less likely to be charged with possession and/or use of amphetamines and ecstasy when compared to young people in NSW. However, young people of Fairfield City were more likely to be charged with the possession and/or use of cocaine, cannabis, and other drugs. The data reinforces the need of actions and initiatives to be implemented that address illicit drug use and possession by young people in Fairfield City. The data also emphasises the importance of having young people as a priority population for this Strategy.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS – ILLICIT DRUGS

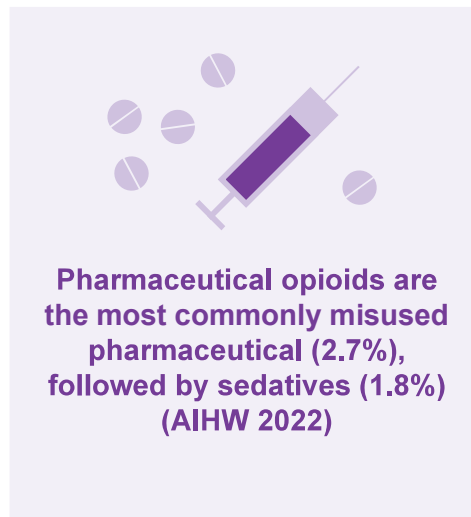
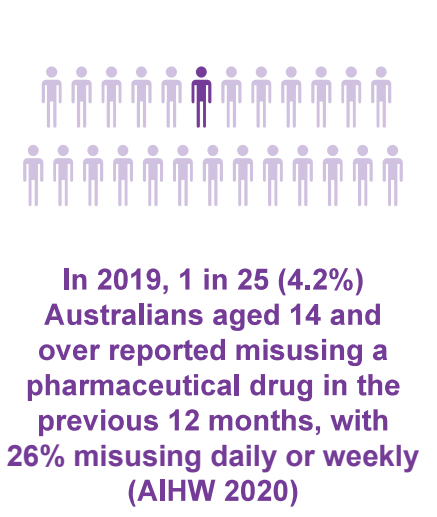
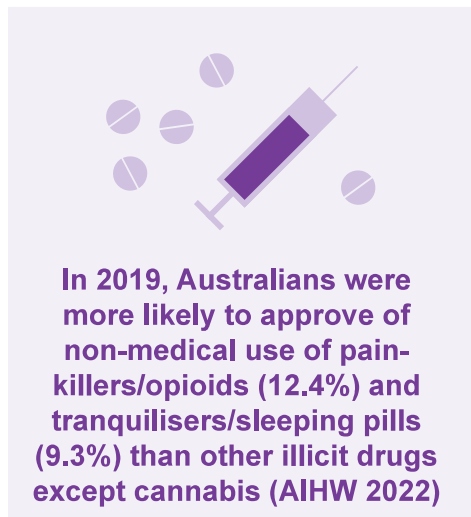
OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Increase awareness amongst young people about the effects of illicit drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute drug awareness resources at events targeting young people Provide information through youth services, libraries and Council website 	SPCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness amongst young people about the effects of illicit drugs 	Within existing resources
Investigate opportunities to support campaigns and programs that raise awareness of drug-related harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a social media campaign to raise awareness on drug-related harm Work with AOD services to raise awareness and promote campaigns and programs 	SPCD Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased awareness of AOD related campaigns and programs in the Fairfield LGA 	Within existing resources



Fairfield World Cup 2022

KEY PRIORITY AREA FOUR – PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE

The escalating misuse of prescription drugs in Australia is a significant concern where all efforts must be made to address this health issue. Opioids and benzodiazepines are the most commonly consumed prescription drugs, these drugs are usually prescribed to treat chronic pain and research suggests they can be addictive resulting in dependence, accidental overdoses and hospitalisation (AIHW 2018; Roxburgh, Bruno, Larance and Burns 2011).



Available data regarding current prescription drug misuse in Australia, SWSLHD and Fairfield LGA is limited. For the development of the Strategy, data was sourced through the development of an alcohol and drug survey. The survey targeted community members and young people and included questions related to prescription drug misuse. Through the focus group consultations, prescription drug misuse was expressed as a growing issue due to easy accessibility and affordability.

It is important to note that the data is reflective of a small sample of residents in Fairfield LGA and prescription drug misuse remains under reported by many. The issue of prescription drug use has been raised as a key area of concern by residents, seniors, youth and service providers and requires further data collection. Additional research into the impacts and prevalence of prescription drug misuse is required.

Council is committed to responding to this issue and has developed a specific KPA in the Strategy. Actions were created to decrease the number of prescription drug-induced deaths and hospitalisations, strengthen the coordination of support services available, deliver educational initiatives and programs tailored to all population groups, and collect valuable data to use for future projects and programs.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS – PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Increase awareness of the harmful effects of prescription drug misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local schools to educate young people • Work with relevant service providers to develop and deliver awareness raising initiatives to educate CALD communities and older residents on prescription drug misuse 	SPCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of the harmful effects of prescription drug misuse 	Within existing resources
Increase evidence-based data on prescription drug misuse in Fairfield City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage active discussion around consumption of prescription drugs and target groups most affected 	CDAT SPCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of prescription drug misuse in Fairfield City 	Within existing resources
Increase efforts to bring prescription drug misuse to the forefront of drug education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with agencies to develop and deliver awareness raising initiatives 	CDAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding by the community of the harms associated with prescription drug misuse 	Within existing resources



Bring It On! Festival 2019

PARTNERSHIPS

The outlined KPAs will be undertaken by networks and partnerships that focus on across the board drug related issues in Fairfield LGA. The networks and partnerships will work towards raising awareness of AOD related harm, shifting community attitudes towards AOD, developing resources and delivering initiatives that reduce demand, supply and harm through a multidisciplinary approach. The actions areas have been developed within an early intervention and prevention framework to work towards harm minimisation.

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Build capacity of community and religious leaders and community workers to respond to AOD issues in CALD communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene the Fairfield Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) to deliver the 'Community and Religious leaders – leading stronger and connected communities' project Continue to deliver training opportunities for community and faith leaders and community workers to learn how to use the AOD resource toolkit 	LDAT steering committee SPCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased capacity of community and religious leaders to respond to emerging substance-related issues in CALD communities 	ADF grant
Support Police with crime prevention and educational initiatives to emerging and refugee communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Police and emerging and refugee communities to identify and create opportunities for police visits and information sessions on AOD Engage with community and youth leaders in emerging and refugee communities to promote education on Australian laws and challenge norms around illegal activity Continue to work with Police and legal service providers to raise awareness of the law 	SPCD Fairfield City Police Area Command (PAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased understanding of the law among emerging and refugee communities 	Explore additional funding opportunities
Strengthen networks and services that support the safety and wellbeing of young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the work of the CDAT and LDAT in delivering projects and programs that educate, inform and minimise harm of AOD Work with services to identify opportunities for new recreational and diversionary programs 	CDAT LDAT FYWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased knowledge of AOD and their impact 	Within existing resources

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES	RESOURCES
Create opportunities for the community, government and non-government agencies to exchange information on AOD issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and convene the CDAT meetings • Develop evidence based strategies and initiatives in partnerships that will reduce AOD • Respond to review of legislation, policies and procedures • Exchange information and AOD emerging issues via networks 	CDAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved partnerships and collaboration across the Fairfield LGA 	Explore additional funding opportunities



MONITORING PROCESS

The Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 will be implemented over the next two years and Fairfield City Council will collaborate with a range of organisations to ensure the goals and objectives are met. The Strategy will be monitored through Council processes and within the relevant frameworks, specifically the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPR). The Drug Action Strategy 2023-2025 also links with the Fairfield City Council's Delivery and Operational Plans.

Council will regularly report the achievements associated with specific KPAs of the strategy in the outlined reports and plans. Council will also seek feedback on the implementation of this Strategy from community stakeholders. Actions in this Strategy will be reviewed and if necessary changed in response to feedback from stakeholders and will address new issues as they emerge.



Artist – Rachel Apelt

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