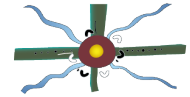




Western Australian  
AIDS COUNCIL



NGALA KAADITJ WADJUK MOORT KEYEN KAADAK NIDJA BOODJA

We acknowledge Noongar people as the original custodians of the land on which our office sits

12 July 2021

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Funding secures vital future services

Perth-based WA AIDS Council (WAAC) has been awarded close to \$20M in funding over the next five years to support people living with HIV and those in marginalised communities.

The funding, awarded under the Department of Health's Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program Communicable Disease Control Directorate, will enable WAAC to continue its delivery of services across the state.

These include counselling and health promotion services, its Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) and Perth's M Clinic, a nurse-led sexual health clinic which provides confidential advice and services for men who have sex with men, trans people and non-binary people who have sex with each other.

The funding will also allow WAAC to continue to progress its advocacy role within the community, namely addressing the ongoing impacts and challenges of stigma and discrimination on people living with HIV and other marginalised communities throughout WA, as well as general case management, peer support, and workforce and capacity building for corporate, government and non-profit organisations.

In addition, the organisation has gained a further \$150,000 grant from the Department of Health for a Syphilis Health Promotion pilot program, which will focus on combatting the growing outbreak of Syphilis in WA and will see a new health promotion role created and based at the M Clinic.

CEO of WAAC, Lisa Dobrin, says the organisation is thrilled to have received the Department of Health funding, which directly supports any individual and all communities throughout the state seeking assistance to optimise their sexual health and wellbeing.

"We are absolutely delighted to be awarded this vital funding to support some of the most vulnerable people within our community," Ms Dobrin says. "We know our services dramatically change lives, and they are only possible as a result of funding from the Department of Health, so we are enormously grateful for our continued partnership."

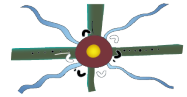


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WAAC provides a wide range of services and supports that are non-judgmental, inclusive and easy to access including counselling and support services for LGBTIQA+ people and people living with HIV, a sexual health testing clinic for men who have sex with men, trans people and non-binary people who have sex with each other, a drop-in space for LGBTIQA+ young people, peer mentoring, resources and education on sexual health, as well as free condoms.

These services are offered for free or at an affordable cost for all residents as well as international students.

## ENDS

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