



strategic plan

who we are

The Yarra Drug & Health Forum (YDHF) is a dynamic, adaptive and educative local network committed to identifying and responding to the health and social needs of the community in the City of Yarra (Yarra).

why we matter

- YDHF is the only forum of its kind in Australia
- We have been fearless advocates within our community for over 20 years, resulting in outcomes that are seldom seen elsewhere
- We provide an essential platform to bring together residents, service providers, policy makers and funders to ensure that decisions & investments are addressing critical locally identified needs & resulting in meaningful outcomes that are beneficial the entire community.

2018 to 2022

our goals

YDHF aims to ensure health and community relationships are minimally harmed by drug use in the City of Yarra – this includes the impact of drugs on individuals, families and friends, residents, visitors to the area & local businesses.

how we work

YDHF partners with people that live/work in the City of Yarra, along with the broader community, to reduce the harmful impacts of drug and alcohol misuse by promoting evidence-based, humane & compassionate policy and program approaches'. We do this by holding regular meetings where all interested individuals or services may attend & share their concerns or help codesign solutions.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1 successfully campaigned for naloxone to prevent overdose deaths,
- 2 successfully campaigned for secure NSP dispensing machines,
- 3 successfully advocated for Victoria's first Safe Injecting Facility to be established in Richmond, launched in 2018,
- 4 successfully campaigned for increased drug safety services in Yarra,
- 5 for over 20 years YDHF has given a strong voice to the Yarra Community and acted on their alcohol and drug concerns.

find us at

info@ydhf.org.au

www.ydhf.org.au

WHAT WE DO

knowledge brokerage

We work closely with Yarra's local community which includes the passionate and committed people who live or work in Yarra and are invested in seeing Yarra thrive.

We seek to develop local solutions to address alcohol and drug related social, welfare and health issues, both in Yarra and beyond.

We do this by:

- providing a neutral and safe platform that welcomes the whole of Yarra, along with the broader community, to play an active role in identifying critical issues,
- increasing community self-efficacy & empowerment to engage them in codesigning solutions that are relevant & agreed responses can be identified and implemented.
- identifying & raising awareness of local issues & developing the knowledge & capacity of our community & sector.

leadership

As a forum, we are made up of individuals who represent a broad range of organisations, views and We utilise our extensive networks and connections to ensure we remain abreast of the latest innovations, research and initiatives globally.

YDHF recognises the unique position we hold within the Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) sector.

We harness this to:

- play a leadership role that provides direction and pathways to reform across health, justice and related legal/policy frameworks to address inequity, stigma and discrimination, procedural unfairness and injustice,
- present a credible and informed voice that is recognised and consulted on critical issues.

advocacy

YDHF is on the ground, identifying local issues & harnessing the collective wisdom of our members to gather evidence & share this with policy makers to inform policy and law reform. to inform along & our with our uniquely balanced position to represent a strong voice

We utilise our unique ability to maintain a balanced position to provide a strong, representative voice on behalf of the Yarra community, to achieve the following outcomes:

- the development of evidence-informed policy,
- the delivery of innovative practice,
- advise on appropriate investment
- service provision that meets identified needs and addresses existing or potential service gaps,
- more nuanced and client-focused programs,
- the facilitation of easy access to assistance,
- representation & inclusion of people with a diversity of needs.

foster collaboration

It's well established that local collaboration is absolutely critical to ensuring that solutions are relevant & well suited to local needs and they're sustainable.

YDHF plays a central role in bringing people together to ensure opportunities are shared & appropriate networks are built so that common goals can be realised.

We do this by:

- bridging the gap between community, government and NGOs to ensure stakeholders are all on the same page and working towards shared outcomes,
- promoting coordination & collaboration to enhance local service provision and/or investment,
- hosting meetings & events to enable connections & foster relationships.

