

## 5.2 Client demographics analysis

This paper has been compiled by Catchment Based Planning to present a brief overview of client demographics data from the North and West Metro AOD Service Partnership (N&WMAODSP). The data relates to all clients seen across the 4 catchments of Inner North Melbourne, North Melbourne, North West Melbourne and South West Melbourne. It includes only reformed adult services, and does not include data from other service providers, residential or youth programs. We now have 2 consecutive years of reformed service data to draw from, which allows us to look at emerging trends and highlight particular changes as they occur.

In the following pages data from March 2016-February 2017 is presented, and figures from 2015-2016 data is included alongside to provide a comparison over time, where relevant.

### Our clients in summary

**69%** male (↑ from 68%)

**38** years average age (↑ from 36)

**82%** born in Australia (↓ from 84%)

**96%** English speaking (→ no change)

**62%** unemployed (→ no change)

**33.7%** issues with amphetamines (↑ from 30.6)

**52.5%** self-referred (↓ from 59%)

### Key changes

When we look at comparison between 2015/16 AOD Client data and 2016/17 AOD Client data, the following changes have occurred:

- We are seeing a slightly older client group (average age 38 years, compared to 36 years in previous data).
- Over the last 3 years, AOD services have seen a steady increase in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (4.2% in 2013/14, 5.04% in 2015/16, 5.65% in 2016/17).
- The proportion of clients who were born outside Australia has increased (18% of clients born overseas, compared to 16% in 2015/16 data).
- Amphetamines have surpassed alcohol as the most commonly cited primary drug of concern.
- A slightly lower proportion of female clients than the previous year.
- More clients have injected (the proportion of clients who have never injected has fallen from 57.6% to 55.37%).

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

We are seeing an increasing proportion of clients identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

**5.65%** 2016/17

**5.04%** 2015/16

**4.20%** 2013/14

That's a **34%** increase over 2 years



## Living arrangements

**32.4% rent**  
(↓ from 35.5%)

**57% live with at least 1 family member or friend**  
(↓ from 64%)

**13.6% live with children**  
(↑ from 13.2%)



**22% private owned house or flat**  
(↓ from 30%)

**17.6% live alone**  
(↓ from 20.2%)

**8.2%** of our clients are in **unstable housing**  
(including prison, caravan parks, rooming houses and rough sleeping)

## AOD use

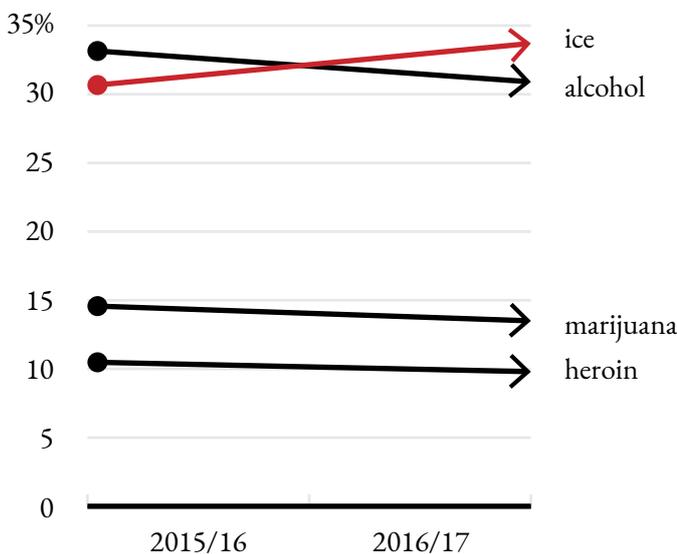
Top 4 primary drugs of concern, shown as percentage of users amongst our clients.

**Ice**  
**33.7%**  
(↑ from 30.6%)

**Alcohol**  
**30.9%**  
(↓ from 33.2%)

**Marijuana**  
**13.5%**  
(↓ from 14.6%)

**Heroin**  
**9.8%**  
(↓ from 10.5%)



**55.37%** of clients have never injected  
(↓ from 57.6%)

### Cultural heritage



#### Population

**39.3%** of the NW Melbourne population was born outside Australia.

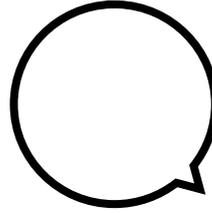


#### Clients

**17.96%** were born outside Australia (↑ from 16.2%).

Although we are seeing an increasing number of clients who were born outside Australia, we have a long way to go before our client group accurately reflects our regional population.

### Language



#### Population

**37.8%** of the general NW Melbourne population speak a language other than English at home.



#### Clients

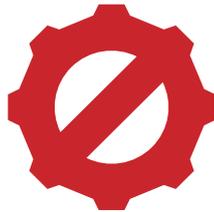
Only **4.4%** have listed a language other than English as their preferred (↑ from 3.6%).

### Gender



**1 in 3** of our clients identify as female

### Employment



**62%** unemployed

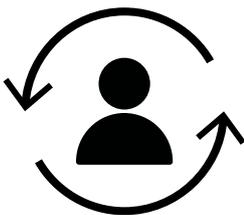


**15%** work full time

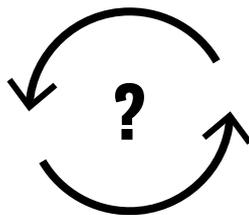


**8%** work part time

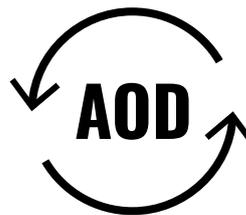
### Source of referral



**Self refer**  
**52.5%**  
(↓ from 59%)



**"Other" source**  
**21.6%**  
(no further definition)



**AOD service-  
non residential**  
**6.8%**



**Hospital**  
**4.9%**