

# VAADA : A Spotlight on Women's Issues and Perspectives with Substance Use

The Women's Alcohol and Drug Service

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the women's  
the royal women's hospital

# Do men speak women?



# Why?



Trump, with bandage over ear, makes first public appearance since assassination attempt

**NBC**  
**NIGHTLY**  
**NEWS**  
with LESTER HOLT



Former PM Tony Abbott is congratulated after finishing the 2km swim in the Sydney Morning Herald Cole Classic at Manly in February. *CREDIT: SALTY DINGO3*

# Broadly Speaking.....

We know that violence against women **is common**:

- One in three have experienced physical or sexual and/ emotional abuse by an intimate partner since the age of 15
- Intimate partner violence contributes to 5.1% of the burden of disease in women aged 18-44 years of age for. Aboriginal women its 10.9 %.
- More than alcohol use (4.1%/ 7%) and way more than illicit drugs (1.8/3.7%)

Webster, K. (2016). *A preventable burden: Measuring and addressing the prevalence and health impacts of intimate partner violence in Australian women* (ANROWS Compass, 07/2016). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

# Improving health outcomes: The Women's Hospital

Established over 165 years ago, the Women's is Australia's first and largest stand-alone hospital dedicated to improving and advocating for the health and wellbeing of women and newborns.



“We are committed to continually improving and utilising the social model of health to ensure we acknowledge, understand, and respond to the individual needs of women and, across all aspects of our work, we are committed to identifying and reducing inequities in healthcare”  
Sue Matthews CEO



# WADS

- Officially opened in 1985
- Part of the Royal Women's Hospital in Parkville
- State funded, state wide service

## What we do:

- Specialist support for women and infants affected by complex drug use
- Training and education
- Secondary consultation within the Women's and across the state of Victoria

## What we know:

- Most have experienced multiple forms of violence, adversity and trauma.
- Most of the women report experiences of **gender-based violence** that **commenced in their childhood and continued into their adolescent and adult lives.**



# Service system gaps: some of the Why's?

- Detox facilities for women only- why do we have only mixed detox options?
- Access to certain intervention and prevention services i.e. MSIR
- Long term family support options for parents who have AOD issues that are caring for their children
- Support for parents who lose custody of their children due to AOD use
- Work with dads who have AOD issues or FV in the antenatal and postnatal phase- such a crucial and important time for women and infants.
- Siloed systems

# Thankyou

[thewomens.org.au](http://thewomens.org.au)

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