

Recognition of Lived and Living Experience

“I would like to recognise people with a lived and living experience of alcohol or other drug use, acknowledging the incredibly important role they play in shaping policy, education, services and their improvement.

Through their expert guidance, diverse experience and peer support, lives are saved and health outcomes realised. This participation takes courage, gives voice, and helps to reduce stigma and discrimination in our communities.”

Tips

- Can be a verbal or written statement
- Use the word statement of lived experience or recognition of lived experience. Don't use the word 'acknowledgement'
- Timing: Use the statement before a story, presentation or item of relevant discussion, not prior to or preceding an Acknowledgement of Country or Welcome to Country
- Language used should be simple and accessible, steer away from clinical language and jargon. Use in conjunction with NUAA and NADA's [Language Matter's Language Guide](#)
- For a longer statement, you could share a story (personal/client story, community story)
- If you would like to develop your skills further as a consumer representative or sharing your story, [South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Recovery College](#) offer courses in Storytelling

Statement developed by lived experience members of the Central and Eastern Sydney PHN AOD Advisory Committee 2021.