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| Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collection (VADC)VADC Bulletin 2025-26 |
| Edition 34: 4 August 2025 |
| **VADC Bulletins must be read in conjunction with the *VADC Data Specification*, available at** [VADC documentation](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation> |

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# VADC specifications update for 2025-26

The following annual specifications for VADC 2025-26 were distributed on 29 May 2025, and are available at [VADC Documentation](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation>

* VADC Data Specification 2025-26
* VADC Compilation and Submission Specification 2025-26
* VADC XSD Schema 2025-26

If you have any questions about the VADC specifications for 2025-26, please email VADC data team <vadc\_data@health.vic.gov.au>.

# VADC annual changes for 2026-27

The VADC 2026-27 annual changes process will commence shortly – further details will be communicated via email to the VADC Bulletin contact list in the coming days.

For further enquiries about VADC annual changes for 2026-27, please email VADC data team <vadc\_data@health.vic.gov.au>.

# Further information on Postcode-Locality reference file

The department is only permitted to share the *postcode-locality reference file* with Victorian service providers for non-commercial use, for the purpose of reporting and submitting data to the department.

All references and downloadable links to ‘postcode-locality reference file’ have been removed from website [VADC Documentation](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cvicm6fw%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5C9L81U79D%5CVADC%20Documentation) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation> and the *VADC Data Specification 2025-26*.

Please note that there are no changes to the reporting requirements for Postcode and Locality.

Service providers can request the postcode-locality reference file for departmental reporting via email to VADC data team <vadc\_data@health.vic.gov.au>.

# End of 2024-25 financial year transition reminder

Please do not artificially close service events on 30 June 2025 due to end of financial year. There is no requirement to end service events as part of end of financial year arrangements.

Service events should only be closed if there is appropriate clinical reason to close the service event, not because of end of financial year.

Details regarding how to handle service events spanning the two financial years are in Section 8 of the *VADC Compilation and Submission Specification 2025-26* available at [VADC Documentation](https://dhhsvicgovau.sharepoint.com/sites/MentalHealthDrugsData-DHHS-GRP/Shared%20Documents/VADC%20Data%20team/VADC%20Bulletins/2025-26/VADC%20Documentation) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation>

# Submission deadline extension for July 2025

The July 2025 data submission deadline (usually 15 August 2025) has been extended to 15 September 2025, to allow services to focus on completion and correction of 2024-2025 data. Please note August 2025 data will be due as usual on 15 September 2025.

# Refresh of departmental AOD webpages

There has been a recent refresh of the AOD webpages on the department’s website.

* [VADC Documentation](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation>

Note there is no change to the contents on the webpage, only the cosmetic display.

If you have any queries with the above webpage, please email VADC data team <vadc\_data@health.vic.gov.au>.

The AOD policy weblinks have also been updated:

* [Intake process and tools](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/aod-treatment-services/intake-process-and-tools) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/aod-treatment-services/intake-process-and-tools>
* [Screening and assessment tools](https://www.turningpoint.org.au/treatment/clinicians/screening-assessment-tools) < https://www.turningpoint.org.au/treatment/clinicians/screening-assessment-tools>

If you have any queries about these weblinks, please email [aod.enquiries@health.vic.gov.au](https://encoded-592c9deb-987b-4562-aa3c-9fa3d37d83e9.uri/mailto%3Aaod.enquiries%40health.vic.gov.au%2520%253caod.enquiries%40health.vic.gov.au%253e) <aod.enquiries@health.vic.gov.au>.

# Supporting inclusive data collection in LGBTIQA+ community

The department has engaged Transcend Australia and Transgender Victoria to consult and support trans and gender diverse community and health services in the implementation of reporting client’s *sex at birth* and *gender identity* data.

[Transcend Australia](https://transcend.org.au/) <https://transcend.org.au/> support Australian families and their trans, gender diverse and non-binary children and young people. [Transgender Victoria](https://www.tgv.org.au/) <https://www.tgv.org.au/> is Victoria’s leading body for transgender, gender diverse and non-binary people.

Services looking for support in developing or reviewing related policies, referrals, education, or resources, please contact Transcend Australia at vic.harden@transcend.org.au or Transgender Victoria at ceo@tgv.org.au.

Additionally, the department’s Mental Health and Wellbeing division, in partnership with Thorne Harbour Health, is launching a fully funded initiative to support inclusive, affirming care for LGBTIQA+ clients in mental health and AOD services through a Train-the-Trainer program and onsite Facilitation Mentorship. A two-day Train-the-Trainer program for Victorian mental health and AOD professionals will be held onsite at Thorne Harbour Health Abbotsford on these dates:

* 5 - 6 August
* 12 - 13 August
* 19 - 20 August
* 26 - 27 August

Ideal participants are Rainbow Diversity Champions and Learning Development staff.

The course aims to facilitate LGBTIQA+ cultural competency training with confidence and create more inclusive and welcoming environments for clients and staff.

Graduates will receive tools and resources to deliver ongoing training in their organisations. Participating services can also request tailored co-facilitated training sessions in September and October 2025. [Click here for further details and to register.](https://comms.health.vic.gov.au/ch/47492/p8yj2/2912277/CMiVWTF99r9O4Ssa476oiSs8vy0Egu5_tAGvLNGe.html)<https://comms.health.vic.gov.au/ch/47492/p8yj2/2912277/CMiVWTF99r9O4Ssa476oiSs8vy0Egu5\_tAGvLNGe.html>

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