

Victorian voices on alcohol harm: Research report

Stakeholder kit

Thank you for supporting the release of the [Victorian Voices on alcohol harm: Research report](#).
The report can be promoted from **Wednesday 13 December 2023**.

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1. Overview of the report

Everyone in the Victorian community should be supported to be safe and well. However, alcohol fuels significant harm to individuals, families and communities.

To ensure policies and systems are effective to keep people safe from alcohol harm and support the needs of those most affected, the voices of people with lived and living experience of alcohol harm must be elevated and heard in public conversations and policy making about alcohol in Victoria.

This report aims to showcase lived and living experiences of alcohol harm in the Victorian community. Advocates in Victoria whose stories are featured in the report were engaged as active participants in co-producing research on their experiences, shared through their participation in the Victorian Voices on Alcohol Harm Network.

The Lived Experience Advocates had experienced a range of alcohol harms, including alcohol use disorders or dependence, serious harms to physical and mental health, alcohol-related abuse and violence and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

The experiences and insights of the Lived Experience Advocates centred on five key themes:

1. Mental health
2. Family violence
3. FASD
4. Culture
5. Embedding lived experience in policy development

2. Report recommendations

The report makes five key recommendations for the Victorian Government to integrate lived experience into policy- and decision-making on alcohol and intersecting issues:

1. Work with Lived Experienced Advocates to co-design and publish an Alcohol Lived Experience Strategy.
2. Establish a Victorian alcohol lived experience advisory group, comprising Lived Experience Advocates from diverse communities, to advise on Government actions to reduce alcohol harm.
3. Collaborate with the alcohol lived experience advisory group to co-design and co-produce a framework for engaging Lived Experience Advocates. This should set out the vision, objectives, principles and values for the engagement, and outline solutions to overcome potential barriers to participation.
4. Engage Lived Experience Advocates in the co-design of a range of policy and program measures to reduce alcohol harm in the Victorian community, including policies to address alcohol marketing, availability and online sales and delivery, and programs to increase awareness of alcohol harms and impacts.
5. Invest in a program of research on lived experience of alcohol harm in Victorian communities to inform laws, policy, programs and support services.

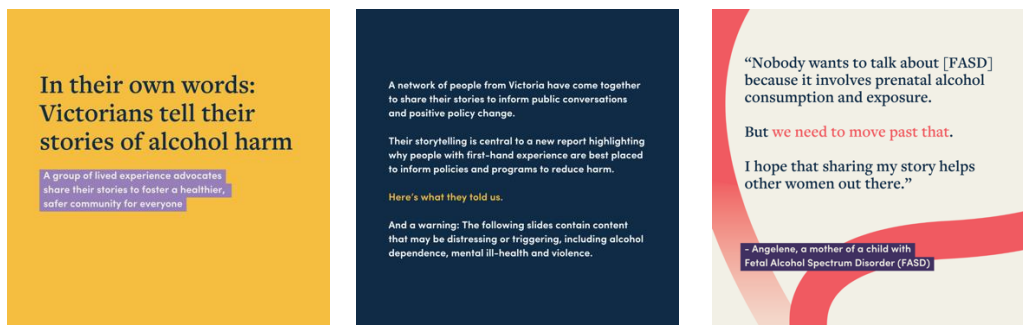
3. Key messages

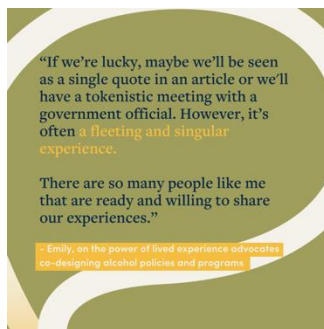
- Good decision making is informed by personal stories and experiences of people in our community.
- Alcohol harm affects so many Victorians and when their voices are heard, it results in better outcomes for the whole community.
- All Victorians have the right to be safe and well. But alcohol fuels significant harm across the State.
- That's why these Victorian advocates have spoken out to share their expertise and foster a safer community, by ensuring lived experience is embedded in decision making.

4. Social media content

Tiles

Find individual and carousel social tiles [available for download here](#).





Suggested copy (FB, IG, LinkedIn)

Please tag [@fare.australia](https://www.instagram.com/fare.australia) on Instagram and [@FAREAustralia](https://twitter.com/FAREAustralia) on Twitter.

- Alcohol harm affects so many Victorians and when their voices are heard, it means better outcomes for the whole community.

A group of Victorians' first-hand stories of alcohol harm are central to a new report, on why lived experience is vital to inform policies and programs to reduce harm.

They know what changes are most effective to tackle systemic issues of alcohol harm. Their voices must be heard.

Read their stories:

- All Victorians have the right to be safe and well. But alcohol fuels significant harm across our state.

That's why a group of Victorian advocates have spoken out to reduce stigma and foster a safer community for everyone.

Victoria has included diverse advocates in family violence and mental health decision-making.

But a gap remains for alcohol harm.

That's why these advocates have shared their experience, to reduce stigma and highlight how their unique expertise can help better outcomes for everyone.

Learn more:

- We know people are empowered when they can tell their stories and be heard by decisionmakers.

Importantly, it ensures policies are holistic, and touch on intersectional issues related to alcohol harm, such as mental health.

A group of advocates with stories of alcohol harm have shared their experience in a new report highlighting their expertise to guide policies and foster a safer community.

Learn more:

Suggested copy (Twitter/X)

- A group of Victorians' first-hand stories of alcohol harm are central to a new report, on why lived experience is vital to inform govt and reduce harm.

They know the changes most effective to tackle alcohol harm. Their voices must be heard.

- All Victorians have the right to be safe & well. But alcohol fuels harm across our state.

A group of advocates have shared their experience, to highlight how their unique expertise can help better outcomes for everyone.

- We know people are empowered when they can tell their stories and be heard by decision makers. It ensures policies are holistic, respond to lived experience and are better for everyone.

See what alcohol harm looks like across Victoria in this new report: