

# EAST GIPPSLAND DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION ALLIANCE

## BACKGROUND

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From its inception in January 2015, the work of the East Gippsland Ice Prevention Working Group (now known as the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Alliance) has reflected the needs of the local community. In response to community concerns about the use of crystal methamphetamine, the group focussed on providing accurate information about use of the drug across East Gippsland. As a result of these information sessions, a group of committed community champions were identified to be involved in designing local solutions to local problems.

## PARTNERS

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East Gippsland Shire Council  
Victoria Police-  
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service  
Save The Children  
Australian Community Support Organisation Limited  
Gippsland Lakes Community Health  
Orbost Regional Health Service  
Omeo District Health Service  
Latrobe Regional Hospital  
Department of Human Services  
Department of Education  
Gippsport-  
Headspace

## METHOD

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Over 3 workshops, the East Gippsland PCP EGPCP led the working group and collaborated with a diverse group of community champions from across all of East Gippsland to map the local causes of first drug use. .

Over 50 local causes of first illicit drug use and over 200 relationships between these causes were identified.

This map was then presented by PCP and agency staff at a large community forum to over 60 community leaders. The forum focussed on primary prevention, leadership across the community, and focussing on addressing causes that would have the greatest impact across the system. Over 160 community action ideas were canvassed.

These were then refined by community members and professionals and prioritised in conjunction with the municipal public health and wellbeing plan objectives.

An outcomes thinking approach was applied to this, forming the basis of DAPAs shared plan and measures.

This is one of the first times that this approach has been implemented in Gippsland. The work continues to adapt over time, depending on the needs of the community and the Working Group.

## OUTCOMES

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Some achievements as a result of this work include:

- EGPCP has been successful funding submissions to support this work, building capacity of partners and progressing learning in this space
- DAPA was successful in its application to be the East Gippsland Local Drug Action Team (LDAT), supported by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation

- Drug and alcohol prevention was prioritised in the local municipal public health and wellbeing plan
- In 2018, EGPCP and the East Gippsland Shire Council connected the work of DAPA to the East Gippsland Communities That Care initiative, resulting in a single, coordinated network for the primary prevention of drug and alcohol use in East Gippsland.
- We have refined our prevention focus to first use of alcohol. Accordingly, we have implemented programs to increase protective factors and prevent first use of alcohol, such as youth and teen mental health first aid (to equip young people to identify and respond to their own mental health issues and others around them at risk of developing a mental health issue )and the Incredible Years Parenting Program.
- Family protective factors in young people have increased over this time, particularly in the areas of family attachment, opportunities for prosocial involvement and rewards for prosocial involvement.
- We have commenced re-delivery of the Smart Generation supply monitoring scheme in East Gippsland, which has seen sale of alcohol at bottle shops to people who look underage reduce from 75% in 2013 to 47% in 2018. We are on track for reducing this number again in 2019.

Along with our partners, we have

- developed a strong skill set in building our community to drive change
- learnt to be more adaptable, to be able to mould implementation in response to outcomes, even if it means that those outcomes have changed slightly along the way.