

Term	Definition / Rationale
Abstinence	The full cessation of substance use.
Acute care	Immediate, short-term, managed or monitored care, lasting usually no longer than a month.
Addiction	See 'dependence' below.
Ambulatory care	See 'out-patient care' below.
AOD related harm	The range of harms that may result from substance use including physical, psychological, social, emotional, cultural, spiritual or legal harms.
Assessment	The process of a worker gaining an understanding of the individual circumstances of a client. It is undertaken on an ongoing basis, and can be a formal or informal process.
Care (or case) management	The planning, coordinating, brokering and monitoring of a treatment or support plan. NB: The word 'care' is being increasingly used instead of 'case' in many AOD settings as it is considered more person-centred (eg, 'care-plans')
Clients / service user	People who are being provided treatment or support by AOD services. NB: Whilst many health services (including mental health) use the term 'consumer' this term is potentially confusing and stigmatising in AOD contexts due to misinterpretation with the actual act of consuming substances. There can also be negative connotations associated with 'consumerism'.
Community Controlled Health Organisation	An organisation that is governed and delivered by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community members (eg, 'ACCHO' or 'ATSICCHO')
Consultation liaison	A specialist worker (such as an AOD nurse in a hospital) who provides specialist information and advice to another health practitioner on their area of clinical expertise.
Continuing care	Ongoing care and support offered to people who no longer require intensive treatment. Sometimes also referred to as 'after-care'
Demand reduction	Evidence informed treatment, education and information strategies designed to prevent, delay and/or reduce substance use (eg, social marketing health campaigns, AOD counselling)
Dependence	<p>The process whereby a person comes to physically and/or psychologically require a substance to keep feeling a certain way.</p> <p>NB: Whilst many practitioners use the term 'addiction', (especially medical officers who are trained as 'Addiction Medicine Specialists' etc.) 'dependence' is generally considered to be a less stigmatising term as 'addiction' can convey a sense of hopelessness and/or powerlessness.</p> <p>'Problematic use' is another acceptable term (see below).</p>
Detoxification	See 'withdrawal management' below.
Diversion	<p>Police or court-based process of diverting people who have committed a minor drug offence away from the criminal justice system and into AOD treatment.</p> <p>NB: 'Diversion' has an alternative meaning when it refers to prescription medication being used in a way other than as intended including being given to someone else to take.</p>

Dual diagnosis	<p>More than one health condition occurring at the same time.</p> <p>NB: In the AOD and mental health sector, this term is being increasingly replaced by the more person-centred term 'co-occurring substance use and mental health'.</p>
Early intervention	The process of providing specialist intervention and support to a person who is in the initial stages of substance use to prevent their use from increasing.
Harm reduction	Interventions that increase safety by reducing potential risks or harms associated with substance use. Can also refer to specific harm reduction services such as needle and syringe programs, safe consumption rooms and drug-checking ('pill-testing').
In-patient care	Admission to a hospital or facility for treatment
Integrated care	<p>An approach whereby clients, workers, organisations and systems work more seamlessly together. This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordination and collaboration between workers and services • co-location arrangements between services • multiple treatment or support types provided by a single service or worker • partnerships, MOUs and other formal arrangements between services.
Out-patient care	Services delivered to non-hospitalised patients / clients (e.g. hospital outpatient clinics, day programs, community-based AOD services etc)
Outreach	<p>An approach that takes the service to the client.</p> <p>There are a range of outreach types including 'assertive street outreach' (eg, in streets, malls, parks, shopping centres), 'assertive community/clinical outreach' (eg, at other health, community or accommodation service settings) and 'detached/mobile outreach' (eg, with clients in their own homes, workplaces, or other agreed settings).</p>
Maintenance	<p>A stage of change whereby someone successfully sustains a desired change, and new behaviour replaces old.</p> <p>NB: Is sometimes (albeit decreasingly) used to describe being stable on an opioid dependence medication such as buprenorphine or methadone (also sometimes referred to as opioid 'replacement' or 'substitution')</p>
Medication-assisted treatment	The use of medications in combination with counselling and behavioural therapies, to provide a "whole-patient" approach.
Pattern of use	The context, frequency, regularity, and dose of a substance a person uses over time. A person's pattern of use is often assessed to help determine if and what intensity of treatment or support is appropriate.
Peer	A person who uses (or previously used) substances and is recognised and considers themselves as belonging to a particular cohort of people who use the same or similar substances, or used them in the same way (eg people who inject drugs).
Peer worker (lived/living experience worker)	A person who is engaged as a peer in a formal role supporting AOD clients. The person may or may not continue to use substances and will usually have had some personal experience of the AOD treatment system in which they now work.
Pharmacotherapy	The treatment of a 'substance use disorder' using prescribed pharmaceutical medicines (eg, nicotine replacement, methadone / buprenorphine for opioid dependence etc).
Poly-drug / substance use	When a person uses more than one substance, either simultaneously or at different times over the same period, for non-medical purposes.
Prevention	Action that is taken to either stop people from starting to use drugs, or slow down or reduce further harms if already using them.
Psychosocial interventions	Structured psychological and social interventions which aim to help people develop skills to improve the quality of life. Often delivered via counselling and/or group work)
Problematic use	When a person is experiencing problems related to their substance use. This may include physical, psychological, social, emotional, cultural, spiritual or legal problems and it may or may not be diagnosed.

Recovery	In the context of Queensland AOD treatment, the term 'recovery' is used to describe any approach that seeks to identify and achieve goals that are meaningful to the client, which may be abstinence, but which may also be reduced use or safer using practices.
Rehabilitation	A specific type of medium-to-long term (usually 3-12 months) intensive treatment in either a residential or non-residential setting (ie, a 'day-program').
Relapse	To return to a pattern of substance use after a period of not using the drug/drugs.
Screening	<p>A brief assessment to help detect risky or harmful substance use using a standardised screening tool with cut-off scores to indicate the person's level of risk / harm and determine if further assessment is required.</p> <p>Can also refer to biological testing to determine the presence of drugs in a person's system (eg, urine drug screen).</p>
Substance use disorder	A clinical diagnosis that's reached by a qualified medical or nurse practitioner when a person meets a set of specific substance use dependence criteria over a 12-month period.
Therapeutic community (TC)	A setting where people with similar issues can either reside or meet to support each other's recovery.
Triage	The preliminary assessment of a person's condition to determine the urgency of their need for treatment and the nature of treatment required.
Withdrawal	A range of physical and psychological symptoms that occur when a person stops or substantially reduces their use of a substance upon which they have become dependent.
Withdrawal management	<p>The use of medication and clinical support to safely manage withdrawal symptoms whilst a person reduces or totally ceases their substance use.</p> <p>NB: 'Withdrawal management' is a preferred term over 'detox / detoxification'.</p>