

Conditions associated with Substance Misuse



There are several conditions associated with substance abuse in Australia. It's important to recognize that these conditions are interconnected and addressing substance abuse often requires a comprehensive approach that includes mental health support, harm reduction strategies, medical interventions, and social support networks.

Accessing appropriate treatment and support services is crucial for individuals affected by substance abuse and the associated conditions.



Some of the more common conditions include the following:

Mental Health Disorders

Substance abuse is often linked to mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions may turn to substances to self-medicate or cope with their symptoms.

Substance abuse can worsen the symptoms of mental health disorders and vice versa, creating a cycle of co-occurring disorders.

Infectious Diseases

Substance abuse, particularly through injecting drug use, can increase the risk of contracting infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis (HCV and HBV).

Sharing needles, syringes, or other drug paraphernalia can facilitate the transmission of bloodborne viruses.

Harm reduction strategies such as needle and syringe programs, safe injecting facilities, and education campaigns aim to reduce the spread of infectious diseases.



Overdose and Accidental Injuries

Substance abuse increases the risk of overdose and accidental injuries.

Overdose can occur due to the toxic effects of drugs or the combination of substances.

Accidental injuries, such as falls, accidents, and self-harm, are more prevalent among individuals under the influence of substances.

Legal Issues

Substance abuse can lead to legal problems and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Drug-related offenses, such as possession, trafficking, or driving under the influence, can result in legal consequences and penalties.

Diversion programs and treatment alternatives to incarceration aim to address the underlying substance abuse issues rather than solely focusing on punitive measures.

Social and Relationship Issues

Substance abuse often strains relationships with family, friends, and coworkers.



Individuals may experience difficulties maintaining employment or engaging in meaningful social connections.

Substance abuse can contribute to social isolation, financial problems, and a breakdown in support networks.



There are a wide range of support and resource options available at the ELPIS Foundation of Australia for those who are or may know someone affected by drug or alcohol addiction.

Reach out to ELPIS today.

Tel: (02) 9816 1859

E: info@elpisfoundation.org.au



Emergency Support Information

The ELPIS Foundation of Australia is not a crisis centre and cannot provide crisis support.

If you or someone you know needs immediate help, please call:

Emergency | 000

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)

02 9361 8000 or free call 1800 422 599 (NSW regional and rural callers).

Lifeline Australia – 13 11 14

<https://www.lifeline.org.au>

1800 RESPECT

<https://www.1800respect.org.au>

Alcoholics Anonymous

<https://aa.org.au>

Narcotics Anonymous

<https://www.na.org.au>