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## Tāmaki AOD Working Group

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Kahui Tu Kaha, Tamaki Makaurau

### Categories

8 - Working with communities

### Abstract

The Tāmaki Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Working Group was formed in September 2018 as one of the projects of the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) Tāmaki Mental Health and Wellbeing Initiative. Membership of the peer led AOD Working Group included addiction practitioners, community members and ADHB staff. Tāmaki is a small community in eastern-central Auckland and ranks in the top 10% of the most deprived areas in the country. In Tāmaki, there is high income inequality; high availability of addictive consumptions; and high prevalence of substance use. Resulting in dense substance use-related harms.

The AOD Working Group engaged with local health providers, stakeholders, and service users, hosting a series of workshops on possible solutions. After an analysis of the lack of local addiction services available in Tāmaki, the working group concluded that a community-based hub could help to reduce the local harms of addiction. They proposed a public health One-Stop Harm Reduction Shop that offered every known harm reduction strategy to the community.

Free smoking cessation products and naltrexone, gambling self-exclusion, social detox, withdrawal first aid, public intoxication detox, supervised injecting, drug testing, peer support, counselling, green prescriptions, needle exchange and methadone dispensary would be some of the services available 24-hours for anyone who walked-in. Using all the known harm reduction strategies has the broadest reach for all needs and matches what the community told us they needed. The AOD Working Group disestablished in September 2019.

### Biography

Mr Alexander El Amanni is a qualified and registered addiction practitioner and counsellor. He is employed by Kāhui Tū Kaha, a Ngāti Whātua organisation based in Tāmaki Makaurau. Alex is also a postgraduate student researching addiction studies at the University of Auckland.