

JAMH ECHO: Stigma and Advocacy - The Power of Words



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SHARC

Acknowledgment Of Country

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and pay respect to Elders past and present.

I acknowledge the sorrow of the Stolen Generations and the continuing resilience, pride and strength of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



Lived and Living Experience

SHARC acknowledges the individual and collective expertise of those with a lived or living experience of alcohol and other drugs, mental health, and/or gambling harm. We envision a world where all people affected by the impact of addiction can proudly and openly seek help, help each other, and demonstrate the living proof that recovery is possible.

Language Matters

Language is powerful and complex in the AOD community, as it is in any other community. Even within the community there are different world views regarding language.



Stigma

While stigma is about more than language, it is a critical step in reducing both internalised and external stigma.



Addressing stigmatising language can start the conversation and help individuals reconsider how they think about people who use alcohol or other drugs.

So What Can We Do?

1. People should not be defined by their alcohol or other drug use or diagnosis.
2. Language is broader than just the words used.
3. Alcohol and other drug use is a health and social issue.
4. Look for the most recent consensus on appropriate language.
5. Choose terms that are strengths-based and empowering.

So What Can We Do (cont.)?

6. When discussing a person who uses drugs or a drug-related crime, convey factual and accurate information and terminology.
7. Keep your audience in mind as words can mean different things to different audiences.
8. People who use/have used drugs will refer to themselves and their life experiences in different ways.

More information



www.adf.org.au/powerofwords

Thank you



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