

## **Objectives of the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)**

### **Preamble:**

The Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) is the national peak organisation for the State and Territory Drug User Organisations and represents issues of national significance for illicit drug users.

The organisational philosophy of AIVL is user-centred and supports the right of people who use illicit drugs to self-organise and form peer-based structures and processes in order to reduce drug related harm. AIVL operates within a health promotion framework as articulated in the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986) which defines health promotion as “the process of enabling people to increase control over and to improve their health”. The Charter outlines five strategies for achieving the above process which are:

- Building healthy public policy;
- Creating supportive environments;
- Strengthening community action;
- Developing personal skills; and
- Reorienting health services.

With this overall framework in mind, AIVL undertakes a broad range of health promotion and disease prevention activities and programs. One of the primary aims of the organisation is to prevent and reduce the transmission of blood borne viruses amongst people who inject illicit drugs such as hepatitis B and C and HIV and to ameliorate the negative impact of such conditions amongst those already infected.

Although AIVL represents and addresses issues affecting all illicit drug users, AIVL and its member organisations will maintain a priority focus on injecting drug users and injecting drug user issues due to the higher levels of harm and marginalisation routinely experienced by people who inject drugs.

AIVL takes a non-judgmental approach to drug use and recognises the fundamental role that drug use has played historically within society. AIVL believes that people who use illicit drugs have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and be able to live their lives free from discrimination, stigma and health and human rights violations.

As an organisation, AIVL is committed to achieving fundamental reform of the current drug laws and a re-orientation of the health system in relation to issues affecting people who use illicit drugs.

The objectives for which the association is established are (in no order of priority):

1. To provide an avenue through which the interests of people who use illicit drugs can be represented at the national level.
2. To maintain an effective, efficient, well-funded organisation which is primarily accountable to its membership.
3. To address and represent the health needs of people who use illicit drugs at the national level through a health promotion and disease prevention approach.

4. To prevent the transmission of blood borne communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, hepatitis B, etc, among people who inject illicit drugs.
5. To promote and represent the health and support needs of people with hepatitis C and/or HIV/AIDS who inject drugs.
6. To promote the provision of high quality, accessible and relevant services to people who use illicit drugs throughout Australia.
7. To challenge social and legal barriers to the health and well-being of people who use illicit drugs in Australia including, ensuring that users have access to the resources and means to reduce drug related harm.
8. To promote and protect the health and human rights of people who use illicit drugs in Australia.
9. To offer developmental national activities designed to improve the capacity and effectiveness of the State and Territory Drug User Organisations throughout Australia.
10. To form strategic alliances and partnerships to address issues affecting people who use illicit drugs at the national level.
11. To maintain an active public voice on issues affecting people who use illicit drugs at the national level.
12. To operate as a genuine partner in research undertaken on issues affecting people who use illicit drugs in Australia.
13. To link and collaborate with like-minded organisations outside Australia to promote the principles and objectives of AIVL on an international level.
14. To support like-minded organisations, networks or projects in the Asia Pacific region to ensure users have access to the resources and means to reduce drug related harm and promote health.