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| Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collection  VADC Bulletin 2023-24 |
| Edition 27: 29 February 2024 |
| **VADC Bulletins must be read in conjunction with the VADC Data Specification, available here** [*VADC documentation - health vic*](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/vadc-documentation) |

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# 1. VADC Annual Changes for 2024-25

The VADC Data Custodian has considered the recommended changes from the VADC Change Management Group and has approved the revisions to the VADC specifications for 2024-25.

*Specifications for revisions to VADC for 2024-25* was distributed via email on 8th January 2024 to VADC Bulletin subscribers. A copy has been published on the [VADC annual changes](file:///C:/Users/tlee2609/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/PV36EPUM/VADC%20annual%20changes) website at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/victorian-alcohol-and-drug-collection-annual-changes>.

The proposal related to the new Support Activity entity was considered critical and approved to proceed. All other proposals for changes for 2024-25 have been deferred for consideration in future years.

Please ensure your client management system vendor has received a copy of the *Specifications for revisions to VADC for 2024-25* in order to beready to report from the July 2024 reporting period.

# 2. New forensic flag field in the Service Event Statement

The Service Event Statement (SES) includes a new field called ‘Forensic Flag’ with a Yes or No value. If the ‘Forensic Flag’ is a blank, the forensic rules have not been applied because the service event has not closed (i.e. no end date).

A copy of the new SES specification and information sheet are available here:

 

The SES specification and information sheet will be updated on the VADC website shortly at:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-and-reporting-aod-services/service-event-statement>

The new format SES which includes the forensic flag will be generated on the 7th of March 2024.

A reminder that the Service Event Statement (SES) is issued twice a month on the 7th and 17th of each month and all services should be checking this statement and using it as a tool for reconciliation.

# 3. Sex and Gender Inclusive Data Collection and Reporting Guide

The department has published a new [LGBTIQA+ Inclusive Language Guide](https://content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-10/LGBTIQA%2B-inclusive-language-guide.pdf). The guide aims to support public sector entities, including AOD service providers and their employees, to make Victoria a safer, fairer and more inclusive place for everyone.

It is important that everyone, including trans and gender diverse people, can accurately inform service providers of their sex and gender in a more safe and inclusive way.

The guide is available at <https://www.vic.gov.au/inclusive-language-guide>. For more information about the guide please contact the equality team at [equality@dffh.vic.gov.au](mailto:equality@dffh.vic.gov.au)

# 4. Data privacy awareness

A reminder to all organisations of the privacy requirements around sensitive health information. The department's Privacy Policy complies with the **Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014** and the **Health Records Act 2001***.*The Privacy Policy is available​​ for download at [Privacy (health.vic.gov.au)](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/privacy#privacy-policy). When sending enquiries to the VADC Data team, please do not attach any VADC data files or excerpts of reports in emails that contain re-identifiable client information which potentially may result in a privacy breach. A reference to the filename in your email will suffice, as we have copies of all previously sent files.

**Service providers should review their work practices and ensure compliance with data privacy legislation.**

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