CHC53215 Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs

Course Information Brochure



Be equipped with high level specialist knowledge, practical skills and competencies to support people with health issues related to alcohol and drug use. You will expand your knowledge on the effects of alcohol and other drugs and learn how to provide counselling, referral and promotion services to clients.

Delivery Mode

Online + optional Work Experience

2026 Enrolment Intakes

Anytime from 2 February – 30 November

Course Duration

Two years

Eva Burrows College Vocational Training RTO 0328 is registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) under the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011.

Thank you for your interest in undertaking the CHC53215 Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs with Eva Burrows College Vocational Training.

This course will equip you with the skills to offer realistic and achievable pathways to clients, improving their lives and enabling their re-engagement with their family, the community and the workforce.

Three important things you should know about this course.

1. **You have two years to complete this online course.**
   This is an online course with a flexible study plan, delivered via our online portal, Booth Online. You will have two years from enrolment to complete this course.

2. **Work experience in an alcohol and other drugs setting is recommended.**
   To gain the most from this course and successfully complete the course work, we recommend work experience in an alcohol and other drugs setting. This will assist you to gain an understanding of the sector and better develop practical skills to complete assessments.

3. **Approximately 16 hours a week should be set aside for study.**
   We recommend students allocate up to 16 hours per week to work through the Learner Guides, online activities, assessments and complete the work placement component.

You can find all the relevant course details including entry requirements, enrolment dates and course fees in this Course Information brochure.

Whether you are looking to start a career in community service, already work in the sector with no formal qualification or looking to upgrade your qualification, we are here to help and support you in achieving your goals.

For any further information email the Student Support Services team vtoenquiries@ebc.edu.au.

Course Overview

This qualification is suitable for individuals already working in an alcohol and other drugs support environment, who want to develop their skills and knowledge. Be equipped with high level specialist knowledge, practical skills and competencies to support people with health issues related to alcohol and drug use and misuse. You will expand your knowledge on the effects of alcohol and other drugs and learn how to provide counselling, referral and promotion services to clients.

Industry Trends

Employment in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry grew over the 20 years to August 2025. The number of workers grew by 112,000 (or 4.9%) over the last year. It is the country's largest employer, with a high share of female workers and a need for a highly educated workforce.

The community services sector forms a part of the overall Health Care and Social Assistance industry and plays an important role in supporting Australia's welfare system. According to the Community Services Workforce Insights report, the community services sector is expected to grow over the next five years, driven by a combination of the NDIS, government funding, income and donations. Therefore, there will be an increase in labour demand for people to work in the community services sector.

Trainer and Assessor



Cassandra Makin has worked in various settings across the alcohol and other drugs sector, supporting both youth and adult clients throughout the intake and assessment process, during residential withdrawal, as well as providing care, recovery support and counselling for over 10 years. She has been involved in a Youth Crime Prevention Pilot to reduce recidivism and improve alcohol awareness.

Cassandra holds a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Diploma of Counselling, Diploma of Community Services, Certificate IV in Youth Work, Certificate IV in Mental Health, Certificate IV Alcohol and Other Drugs and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Cassandra's research interests include the intersect between development theories, trauma, and attachment styles. She is also passionate about effective social policy design that improves outcomes for marginalised members of the community.



Course Coordinator

Helen Maerz
helen.maerz@salvationarmy.org.au

Delivery Mode

Online + optional Work Experience

Duration

Two Years

2026 Enrolment Intakes

Anytime from 2 February – 30 November

2026 Course Fees

This course is open to all Australian residents and costs $7,733. There are two options for paying your course fees.

Option 1

Pay on Enrolment and Save

$7,030

A non-refundable 10% deposit is required at time of enrolment, and the balance is required before commencement of the course.

or

Option 2

Monthly payment plan

$7,733

A non-refundable 10% deposit is required at time of enrolment, and the balance paid in 10 instalments.

Course fees are correct at time of distribution. You can confirm the current Course Fee here.



Course Structure

The CHC53215 Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs is a competency-based course which requires 22 units for the qualification (16 core units and 6 elective units).

CORE UNITS

CHCADV005	Provide systems advocacy services
CHCAOD001	Work in an alcohol and other drugs context
CHCAOD004	Assess needs of clients with alcohol and other drugs issues
CHCAOD006	Provide interventions for people with alcohol and other drugs issues
CHCAOD007	Develop strategies for alcohol and other drugs relapse prevention and management
CHCAOD008	Provide advanced interventions to meet the needs of clients with alcohol and other drugs issues
CHCAOD009	Develop and review individual alcohol and other drugs treatment plans
CHCCCS004	Assess co-existing needs
CHCCOM006	Establish and manage client relationships
CHCDIV001	Work with diverse people
CHCMHS005	Provide services to people with co-existing mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues
CHCMHS007	Work effectively in trauma informed care
CHCPOL003	Research and apply evidence to practice
CHCPRP002	Collaborate in professional practice
CHCPRP003	Reflect on and improve own professional practice
HLTAID011**	Provide first aid

ELECTIVES

Note: Eva Burrows College offers the following electives

CHCADV001	Facilitate the interests and rights of clients
CHCAOD002	Work with clients who are intoxicated
CHCAOD005	Provide alcohol and other drug withdrawal services
CHCCSM004	Coordinate complex case requirements
CHCLEG003	Manage legal and ethical compliance
HLTWHS006	Manage personal stressors in the work environment

** Note: HLTAID011 Provide First Aid is one of the core units in the course for which you are required to have a valid First Aid Certificate from an external provider. This unit will not be delivered as part of the program.

Competency-based training

Competency is the consistent application of knowledge and skill to the standard of performance required in the workplace. As this is a competency-based course, the assessments will involve the demonstration of skill, knowledge and the ability to work consistently to the standards required. The assessment tasks may include questions, case studies, third party feedback or workplace projects

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

If you believe you have the skills and knowledge in some or all of the units, or you already hold a similar qualification and are looking to upgrade, then you may wish to consider Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

Recognition for units may be granted based on previous learning, studies, work and/or life experiences. You may apply for RPL once you have enrolled in the course. Students are encouraged to apply for RPL within their first 12 weeks of enrolment. Please note, RPL is charged at the same rate as the course fee as it is still a form of assessment. Please discuss this with the Course Coordinator when you enrol.

Credit Transfers

A credit transfer provides automatic credit for equivalent units you have already completed in an accredited course with another training provider. There is no charge for credit transfers, and your course fees will be reduced if you are eligible. Please discuss this with the Course Coordinator when you enrol.

Work Experience

Whether you are already working in the alcohol and other drugs sector or are looking to move into the industry, work experience will give you an invaluable opportunity to put your course theory into practice.

If you are not currently working in the industry, you have the flexibility of identifying a work experience opportunity or our Placement Officer can assist you. Due to the ever-changing demands placed on organisations it is not possible for the college to guarantee a suitable work experience opportunity. For further information email the Placement Officer.

Entry Requirements

There are no entry requirements for this qualification. However, in order to ensure that the applicant is enrolled in the most suitable and appropriate course of study they will be required to complete a Pre-Enrolment Evaluation as part of the online enrolment application.

Residential Status

This course is open to Australian residents. Unfortunately, we are not registered to accept international students. The eligibility of students will be confirmed during enrolment.

IT Requirements

Students will require access to a computer and the internet to allow them to study using our online learning portal, Booth Online. To participate and engage in any online courses and tutorials, it is recommended students are competent in using a computer and have:

- a laptop or desktop computer (PC or Mac) with at least 2GB of RAM.
- a stable internet connection (ADSL2 equivalent or higher)
- a USB microphone headset or iPhone headset with built-in microphone.
- a current version of a modern web browser (Chrome, Firefox or Safari).
- the Microsoft Office Suite installed on your computer. MS Word is required for most of the assessment tasks.

Course Materials and Resources

Trainer and Assessor To support and guide you in your learning.	Eva Burrows College has trainers and assessors who are qualified and currently working in their industry, thereby providing you with the most up to date knowledge and skills to support and guide your learning. Each topic of your learning journey commences with an introduction to the subject matter, followed by forums, quizzes, and online facilitation. At any stage of your learning, you can contact your trainer by email, who is available to help you with your query.
Booth Online The login instructions for the online portal will be provided after enrolment.	Access to all learning materials and assessment tasks will be available through our online portal, Booth Online. Our Online Support Team is available Monday to Friday to assist you to navigate the system and can be contacted via email at online@ebc.edu.au.
Learner Guides Learner Guides will be made available to you after enrolment.	Eva Burrows College will provide you with a Learner Guide for each unit, to enable you to advance your knowledge of each topic. To progress through your course, simply work through the Learner Guide and online resources to complete each unit's online assessment tasks, and then upload your completed assessments through Booth Online.
Eva Burrows Library Can provide additional resource material on request.	The Eva Burrows Library offers both onsite and online access to resources that help meet the study, research and leisure reading needs of our students. To become a member of the library, please complete the Library Registration Form.

Pathways

One qualification – three pathways

Pathway 1 – New	Pathway 2 – RPL	Pathway 3 – Upgrade
If you are new to alcohol and other drugs work	Currently work in the sector with no formal qualification	Needing to specialise in an area of community work
Aspiring worker in the area of alcohol and other drugs	Experience as an Alcohol and Other Drugs worker, who has the experience but not the qualification	You already hold a qualification in Community Services but looking to specialise in an area

Upon successful completion of all assessment tasks, work placement and being deemed competent in all units, you will be awarded a CHC53215 Diploma of Alcohol and Other Drugs.



FAQs

Why should I study at Eva Burrows College?

Eva Burrows College is the national education and learning centre of The Salvation Army Australia. Drawing from our cutting-edge Salvation Army experience, Eva Burrows College Vocational Training (RTO ID 0328), exists to encourage and empower you through our nationally recognised and accredited courses. We provide a comprehensive learning pathway that integrates practical experience with formal qualifications. We also offer a range of study options to suit your lifestyle needs and can help schedule your learning to empower you to graduate successfully. All learning options for this course can be discussed with your Course Coordinator.

Who should consider this training?

This qualification is suitable for individuals already working in an AOD support environment who want to develop their skills and knowledge.

What are some possible career opportunities after successful completion of the course?

Drug and Alcohol workers provide support to people in the community with drug and alcohol issues. These services can include assessment, intervention and counselling. They may also act as advocates by promoting awareness of drug and alcohol services and health education. Upon graduation, some of the career prospects could include:

- Drug and Alcohol Counsellor
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Case Worker
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Community Rehabilitation Worker
- Drug and Alcohol Community Support Worker
- Outreach Officer
- Youth Worker

How many hours a week will I need to spend studying?

This course is delivered online, which means you can complete it at your own pace, in your own time. As a guide, we recommend students allocate a minimum of 16 hours per week to their studies.

You can fast-track your studies and graduate sooner if you wish or take time so you can focus on work or family commitments. To help you stay on track and complete your course in time you will be provided with a suggested Study Schedule Guide upon enrolment.

Is the qualification recognised nationally?

Eva Burrows College Vocational Training has been a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for over 30 years. Registered by ASQA, we deliver nationally recognised and accredited courses and conduct our operations in accordance with the Australian Quality Training Framework.

Our qualifications are nationally recognised and developed to meet industry needs. Our accreditation within the vocational training sector means that whatever level of study is right for you, we have an entry point that can match your current needs.

Does the course fee include GST?

Nationally recognised training delivered by Eva Burrows College is not subject to GST.

Would a VET Student Loan be available for this course?

Eva Burrows College is not registered to provide VET Student Loans.

How much does the course cost and what does this include?

This course is open to all Australian residents and costs $7,733. There are two options for paying your course fees.

Option 1

Pay on Enrolment and Save

$7,030

A non-refundable 10% deposit is required at time of enrolment, and the balance is required before commencement of the course.

Option 2

Monthly payment plan

$7,733

A non-refundable 10% deposit is required at time of enrolment, and the balance paid in 10 monthly instalments.

This fee includes all learning and assessment resources, work experience assistance, online support and assessment services for a period of two years.

Course fees are correct at time of distribution. You can confirm the current Course Fee here.

Is there financial assistance available for Salvation Army Officers or employees?

Officers may apply for up to 90% of the course fee. Employees may apply for up to 60% of their course fee. For further information on the policy and how to apply see the Personnel Development Policy.

Can I access a government subsidy?

Some courses are subsidised by either State or Federal Governments. Please refer to Course Fees and Subsidies on our website to learn more about the current subsidies available.

If I withdraw from the course, do I get my money back?

Please note that the 10% deposit collected on enrolment application is non-refundable. If the enrolment does not proceed to confirmation of enrolment, no fee is charged.

If the student withdraws from a course after confirmation of enrolment, the Enrolment Fee will be retained as per the conditions below:

Withdrawal Condition	Fee
Withdrawal **within 30 days** after confirmation of enrolment	30% of course fee retained
Withdrawal **between 31 and 60 days** after confirmation of enrolment	50% of course fee retained
Withdrawal **more than 60 days** after confirmation of enrolment	100% of course fee retained

How to Apply

Applying for a course is a simple process.

Step 1	**Contact Us** To register your interest email vtoenquiries@ebc.edu.au. The 2026 Enrolment Intakes for this course are: • Anytime from 2 February – 30 November An online enrolment application link will be emailed to you once the intake opens.
Step 2	**Complete the Online Enrolment Application** and upload the requested information including: • A Unique Student Identifier (USI). Applying for a USI is cost free. It is a requirement of the federal government that when you enrol in a nationally accredited vocational training program a USI is recorded on your application. Apply for a USI at usi.gov.au. • Photo identification documents (VIC and NSW residents applying for government funded training must provide certified copies). • To ensure that you are enrolled in the most suitable and appropriate course a Pre-Enrolment Evaluation will be completed during the online enrolment application.
Step 3	**We will be in contact** Your enrolment application will be reviewed, and you will be advised of the outcome via email which will include an invoice for Course Fees.
Step 4	**Finalise Your Application** Confirm that you wish to proceed with your enrolment by paying the 10% non-refundable deposit. Note that enrolment is not confirmed until course fees have been paid or the monthly payment plan has been confirmed.
Step 5	**Begin to Study** When the enrolment process is complete, final confirmation of your enrolment will be emailed to you, and we will: • Advise the Trainer and Assessor who will support you through your studies and answer any queries regarding the course content or assessments. • Provide you with a login to the Booth Online portal via a separate email with instructions on how to access the portal. • Start your learning journey with access to the interactive online orientation, available via Student Central.

Other Courses

available through Eva Burrows College Vocational Training

Certificate IV

CHC43215	Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs
11237NAT	Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology
CHC42021	Certificate IV in Community Services
BSB40520	Certificate IV in Leadership and Management

Diploma

11070NAT	Diploma of Chaplaincy
CHC52025	Diploma of Community Services (Case Management)
CHC51122	Diploma of Financial Counselling (Generalist)
CHC51122	Diploma of Financial Counselling (Rural Specialisation)
BSB50420	Diploma of Leadership and Management

Skill Sets

CHCSS00093	Alcohol and Other Drugs Skill Set
CHCSS00077	Financial Literacy Education Skill Set
CHCSS00111	Problem Gambling Skill Set
CF	Chaplaincy Foundations
RFC	Rural Financial Counselling Specialisation
CHCFIN010	Small Business Unit

Short Courses

View a full list of accredited and non-accredited Short Courses now available.

Nationally Recognised Training

Eva Burrows College Vocational Training RTO 0328 is registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) under the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011. Accreditation meets an established industry, enterprise, educational, legislative or community need. We have been providing quality training to equip people with work-specific skills for more than 30 years.

This version 2026 publication outlines courses and services offered by Eva Burrows College. Every effort has been made by the college to ensure the information provided is accurate and current at the time of publication. Eva Burrow College reserves the right to change the contents without prior notice, including the method of delivery, or to withdraw any course offered. To make an informed decision about your study, we recommend you contact us.

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

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