



## Baseline in the Grass: Advancing harm reduction for alcohol and drugs at music festivals

WELLBEING AND PREVENTABLE CHRONIC DISEASES

MEDICAL STUDENTS | MPH | HONOURS | MASTER BY RESEARCH

PhD

Previous studies show that young festival attendees are more likely to consume alcohol at risky levels and use illicit drugs compared to the rest of the population. Festivals present an opportunity for harm reduction interventions to high-risk groups, as well as an opportunity to collect data on AOD related risk behaviours and harms. **Local evidence on AOD behaviours and harms is essential to inform effective harm reduction services.** Further, **evidence on the effectiveness of harm reduction services** can guide future implementation on the Northern Territory and elsewhere.

The Baseline in the Grass study has two main aims:

1. To evaluate the impact of the DanceWize peer-based harm reduction service delivered at Bass in the Grass in 2022
2. To generate new evidence on alcohol and drug use in the Northern Territory including patterns of behaviour, factors influencing harm outcomes and opportunities for future harm reduction services

We conducted a survey with more than 500 people at Bass in the Grass and followed them up two days post-event. We also collected data on the delivery of the DanceWize service and will undertake qualitative interviews with key stakeholders to gather information on the broader impact of the service at the event. We will conduct epidemiological analyses of administrative data including ambulance, police, and hospital data to look at patterns of alcohol and drug harms related to major events in the NT. The student would be welcome to combine a range of data sources for their project, depending on their skills and interests.

Any students interested in alcohol and drug related projects are also welcome to contact me to discuss other possible project opportunities or their own ideas and interests.

Cassandra Wright  
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# Eligibility Criteria and Scholarship Provisions

**Eligibility:** The successful applicant must have a basic understanding of the concept of harm reduction; solid foundational knowledge of either qualitative or quantitative research methods. Prior experience in using software such as NVivo, Stata or SPSS; prior experience or interest in learning to create simple infographics or other creative dissemination outputs

**Scholarship Provisions:** Nil

**Application Process:**

Applicants should submit the following:

- Brief summary of why they want to complete the project
- Current CV
- Copies of certified academic transcripts
- Proof of Residency (not required for Australian citizens)

All applications should be submitted to Cassandra Wright ([cassandra.wright@menzies.edu.au](mailto:cassandra.wright@menzies.edu.au))