



First Annual  
**ACT Alcohol and  
Other Drug Awards**

including presentations to participants of the

**ACT Alcohol and Other  
Drug Minimum Qualification  
Strategy Project**

CEREMONY PROCEEDINGS

11 December 2009 • ACT Legislative Assembly

[www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au)



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, families and ancestors.

## **ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project**

The ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project aims to build the capacity and identity of the alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector in the ACT, foster intra and cross-sectoral relationships, and improve outcomes while maintaining respect for the diversity of services and for people who are affected by AOD.

The Project supports a range of activities in the sector including: the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Workers Group; a monthly ebulletin and sector forum; a bi-monthly training and professional development calendar; the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group; annual ACT AOD Sector Conference; biannual ACT AOD Sector Directory; bi-annual Comorbidity Forums; the Comorbidity Project; the ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project; the ACT AOD sector website ([www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au)); the Review of AOD Written Materials for Young People in the ACT; and regular training, professional development, and consultative activities.

The Project is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT.

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## **Youth Coalition of the ACT**

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is the peak body for youth affairs in the ACT.

**phone:** (02) 6247 3540  
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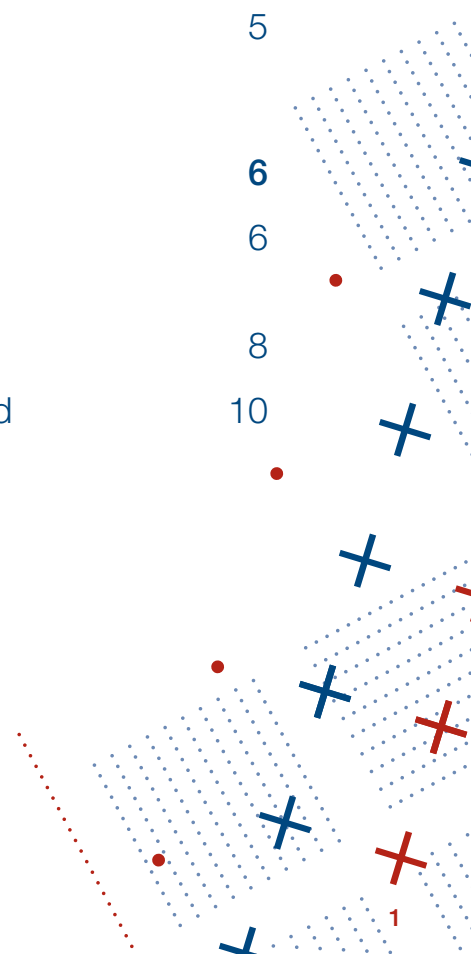
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# About the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Project

In recent years a number of Australian states have introduced a minimum qualification strategy for their alcohol and other drug workforce. While it is acknowledged that there is an extensive depth of knowledge and skills within the Australian alcohol and other drug workforce, the recent move towards the introduction of minimum qualification strategies highlights the importance of workers having accredited credentials specific to their field. That is, that there be a consistent approach to learning and skills development based on nationally recognised standards.

In line with this, the ACT has been in the process of implementing a minimum qualification strategy (the Strategy) for the alcohol and other drug sector. Under the Strategy, all workers from ACT Health funded alcohol and other drug services whose core role is to provide drug treatment services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their service, to meet the minimum qualification.

During 2009, almost 25% of the ACT alcohol and other drug sector workforce participated in training and assessment opportunities through funding from the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Project to obtain the minimum qualification. This is an extraordinary achievement by individual workers, services, and the sector, which reflects a shared commitment to on-going learning and improvement processes.

This success has been underpinned by the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Executive Directors Group; driven by the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Development and Implementation Committee; supported by the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project; and funded by ACT Health.

For further information about the Strategy visit: [www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au).

# Participants in the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Project in 2009

48 workers, or almost 25% of the alcohol and other drug workforce, participated in obtaining the minimum qualification in 2009 through the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy Minimum Qualification Project.

The certificates of participation were kindly presented by:

## **Dr Colin Adrian**

Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Institute of Technology

Below is an alphabetical list of participants after which their service is cited in brackets.

- + Ainsworth, Kylie (Toora Women Inc.)
- + Babic, Susan (Toora Women Inc.)
- + Barry, Erin (ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project)
- + Barton, Candace (DIRECTIONS ACT)
- + Bates, Tonya (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Bode, Amanda (ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project)
- + Capper, Aimee (Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy)
- + Costello, James (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Crowe, Michelle (Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health)
- + Cutmore, Carol (Toora Women Inc.)
- + Elferkh, Roberta (Toora Women Inc.)
- + Elferkh, Yasmin (Toora Women Inc.)
- + Files, Marsha (Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation)
- + Fordham, Jane (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Fowlie, Carrie (ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project)
- + Frommel, Ben (ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project)
- + Gordon, Vanessa (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Henry, Carolyn (The Salvation Army)

- + Huddleston, Dale (Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation)
- + Hunt, Jan (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Kersley, Camille (Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT)
- + Lai, Genevieve (DIRECTIONS ACT)
- + Lang, Glen (CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn)
- + Mapiva, Jane (Toora Women Inc.)
- + McIntyre, David (The Salvation Army)
- + Miller, Rebecca (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Monaghan, Fred (Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation)
- + Monck, Laura (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Morosi, Mark (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Northam, Jaimie (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + O'Sullivan, Sean (The Salvation Army)
- + Phan, Dean (Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy)
- + Phillips, Lyn (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Pridmore, Brett (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Rankin, Joanne (Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy)
- + Ransom, Andrew (The Salvation Army)
- + Ruddell, Randall (CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn)
- + Russell, Geoffrey (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Ryan, Nardine (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Ryan, Tanya (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Smith, Jeremy (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Sullivan, Tai (Toora Women Inc.)
- + Varkey, Shobha (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Walker, Selina (Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation)
- + Wiggins, Nicole (Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy)
- + Wilkins, Glen (DIRECTIONS ACT)
- + Williams, Anthony (Ted Noffs Foundation ACT)
- + Windon, Margaret (Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health)





# About the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards

The ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards (the Awards) recognise individuals who, during the course of their careers, have made outstanding contributions: to improving the health and well-being of people affected by alcohol and other drugs issues; to reducing alcohol and other drug related harm; and towards developing the alcohol and other drug profession.

The Awards are based, and were judged, on the following principles: carer and consumer participation; diversity; evidence-informed practice; harm minimisation; human rights; social determinants of health; social justice; and working in partnerships.

Many impressive nominations were received reflecting the depth of talent, skill, knowledge and commitment of individuals in the alcohol and other drug field in the ACT; and the desire of workers to recognise the exceptional work of their colleagues.

Award recipients were presented with an award and \$500 to spend on a professional development activity of their choice.

The Awards were an initiative of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Workers Group and the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Executive Directors Group; developed and implemented by the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards Committee and Judging Panel; supported by the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project; and funded by ACT Health.

The Awards were kindly presented by:

## **Ms Mary Porter**

Member of the Order of Australia, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and Member for Ginninderra

For further information about the Awards visit: [www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au).

# Award Recipients 2009

## Excellence in Alcohol and Other Drug Work Award

This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated excellence in non-clinical and / or clinical alcohol and other drug work in the ACT. The individual has demonstrated a strong commitment to embodying the principles of the Awards and to conducting their professional practice with empathy, skill and knowledge.

### + AWARD RECIPIENT

#### Clare Purcell

Clare Purcell is a well-respected, reliable, competent and highly valued member of the ACT alcohol and other drug sector who has worked tirelessly to minimise the harms resulting from alcohol and other drug use in the Canberra community. She has supported many individuals to identify and achieve their goals through the provision of both empathetic and evidenced-informed approaches to treatment.

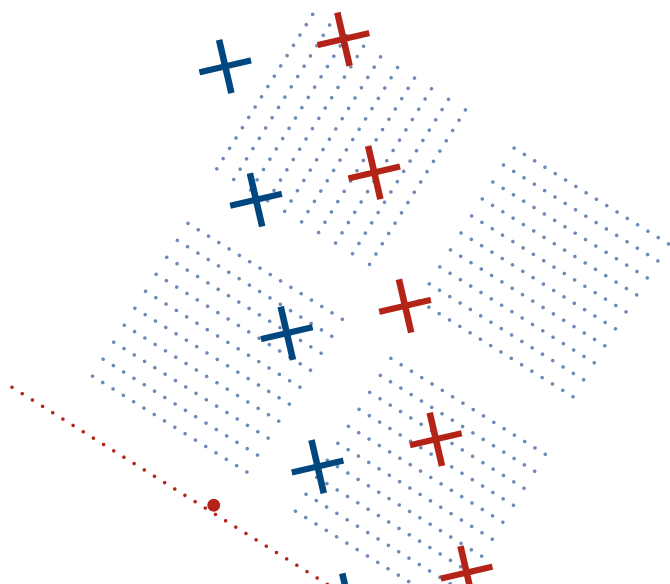
Clare demonstrates her passion and adaptability, when managing multiple roles with a high level of skill and enthusiasm, while maintaining a strong client centred approach. Clare is an invaluable mentor and supports the orientation and training of new staff members.

Clare has worked for the Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health since 1994. In this time Clare has worked in the Withdrawal Unit; the Opioid Treatment Service; the Counselling and Treatment Service; and she currently works in Diversion Services.

Clare is committed to health promotion, she engages in activities aimed at raising awareness of alcohol and other drug issues in the ACT. She participates in many community events, such as the planning and implementation of Drug Action Week.

Clare takes a leadership role through her clinical work to liaise with stakeholders cross-sectorally to develop treatment plans to support the best outcomes for clients. Her commitment to working in partnership has been reflected in the respect she has gained from her colleagues within the alcohol and other drug and across allied sectors. Clare's client focus and non-judgemental attitude has also been evident in her professional dealings over a number of years with key stakeholders, such as the Australian Federal Police and the ACT Law Courts.

It is for these, and many other reasons, that Clare's peers believe she embodies the principles of the Awards; and is a worthy recipient of the inaugural Excellence in Alcohol and Other Drug Work.



# Lifetime Achievements Award

This award recognises an individual who over the span of their career has consistently demonstrated a commitment to evidenced-informed and socially-just approaches to promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol and other drug issues. The individual is regarded as highly skilled, knowledgeable and experienced; and has made an exceptional contribution to the alcohol and other drug sector in the ACT.

## + AWARD RECIPIENT

### Dawn Bainbridge

Dawn Bainbridge has dedicated over two decades to supporting people affected by alcohol and other drugs in the Canberra community; and to strengthening the alcohol and other drug sector.

Dawn's contribution to the alcohol and other drug sector has been characterised by her steadfast commitment to the human rights of consumers, carers and families; her evidence-informed approach to program development and delivery; and her natural inclination to working in partnership.

Dawn is committed to a harm minimisation approach that recognises the value of each individual. Underpinning her work are the values of compassion, justice, human dignity, excellence and unity.

Dawn has always sought to challenge herself and those she has worked with to continuously improve their practice. She has also sought to identify gaps or areas for improvement in programs, services and systems and to work collaboratively to develop strategies to address these issues.

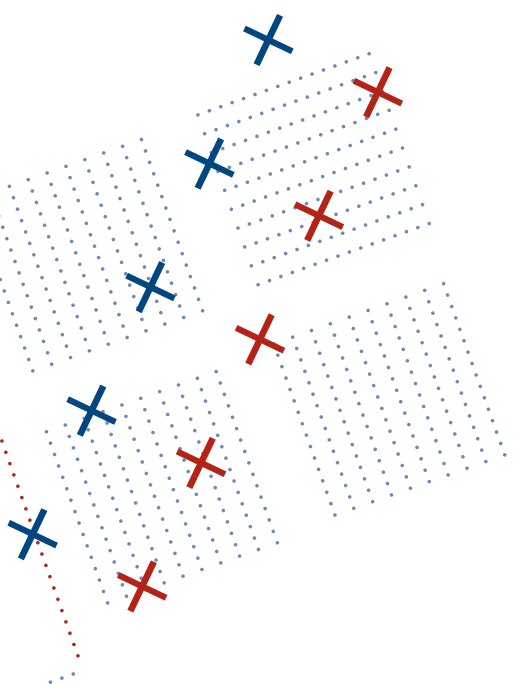
Dawn is perceived by her colleagues and staff as a strong and caring leader who is respectful, trustworthy and professional. She has always ensured that consumers, carers and families are at the centre of her work and that they are regarded and supported holistically.



From her student placement at a Queanbeyan alcohol and other drug service, she has gone on to work in various government and non-government settings. Dawn's impressive contribution to the sector and to the community has included various roles at the Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT for the past 11 years plus another 9 years of service prior to that with various other alcohol and other drug services.

Dawn's work has included generalist alcohol and other drug work, health promotion, community development, community needs assessment, workplace development and training, strategic planning, therapeutic communities, supported accommodation, outreach, employment support, court diversion, and drink driving programs.

Dawn is modest about her commitment and achievements, this is just one of the many reasons why her peers felt it important to recognise her impressive career by being the recipient of the inaugural Lifetime Achievements Award.



# Outstanding Contributions Award

This award recognises the contributions of an individual who has worked to prevent or reduce the psychological, physical, social and / or economic harms caused by alcohol and other drugs in the ACT. The individual need not have worked in direct service delivery or specifically in the AOD sector, but will have over a considerable period of time worked to improve the health and well-being of people affected alcohol and other drug issues.

## + AWARD RECIPIENT

### David McDonald

David McDonald is a social scientist who has worked tirelessly to improve the health and wellbeing of people affected by alcohol and other drug issues. He has particularly achieved this by contributing to the evidence base upon which ACT public policy is formed; and by supporting the ACT alcohol and other drug sector to engage with the evidence base.

David has published widely; is a regular presenter at national and international conferences; is a Fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University; an Associate of the Australian Institute of Criminology; and the Director of the Canberra-based consultancy Social Research & Evaluation. Some of David's recent appointments include:

- + ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy Implementation & Evaluation Group (Research Adviser);
- + National Advisory Committee, National Drugs Sector Information Service, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (Chairperson);
- + Current Issues in Criminal Justice (Editorial Board);
- + Of Substance (Editorial Reference Group); and
- + Public Health Association of Australia, Australian Capital Territory Branch Committee (Immediate Past President).

Through his various roles, David has had a significant impact on the sector, with the ACT sector particularly benefiting from his work.

For example his work on the extent and nature of drug use and harms in the ACT; profiling the workforce; conducting evaluations; monthly reviews of the evidence to support workers to bridge the gap between evidence, policy and service delivery; and active participation in over six ACT groups and committees concurrently.

David is dedicated to ensuring that the sector's public health initiatives and policy are carefully designed, rigorously implemented, and appropriately evaluated. For example, he has contributed to high level endeavours such as the National Drug Strategy and the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy.

David is a well-respected, valued member of the ACT and national sectors; and he has demonstrated his commitment to reducing the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs over many decades. David's colleagues therefore wanted acknowledge his achievements by awarding him the inaugural Outstanding Contributions Award.

