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ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin: August 2010

The monthly ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information relevant to the ATOD sector in the ACT. The eBulletin is an activity of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT. To subscribe, submit an item or to provide feedback email ebulletin@atoda.org.au

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately due to technical difficulties, the attached documents in this ebulletin do not work. Please email ebulletin@atoda.org.au to request any attached documents which you may wish to look at. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is the newly established peak body for the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the ACT. ATODA provides leadership, representation, policy, research, coordination, sector and workforce development. ATODA has been staffed since 1 July 2010, team includes:

- Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer (carrie@atoda.org.au)
- Amanda Bode, (amanda@atoda.org.au)
- Ben Frommel (ben@atoda.org.au)
- Justin Barker, (justin@atoda.org.au)
- David McDonald, Consultant and Evaluator (david.mcdonald@socialresearch.com.au)
- Ray Lovett, Consultant and Evaluator (ray.lovett@anu.edu.au)

Over the course of the month we have spent much of the month setting up the office from scratch and undertaking organisational establishment activities. Please note that we are experiencing some significant communication challenges but things look like they are improving. Your patience is appreciated. Some key activities ATODA is undertaking are outlined below.

ATODA's Contact Details are:

email: info@atoda.org.au
post: PO BOX 7187 Watson ACT 2602
visit: 350 Antill St., Watson ACT
phone: (02) 6255 4070
web: www.atoda.org.au (in development)
www.aodsector.org.au (in transition)

Smoke-free Workplace Project

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

The Smoke-free Workplace Project is a short term project been funded by the ACT Health under a Healthy Future – Preventative Health Program. The aim of the Project is to increase awareness of and support the implementation of smoke-free workplace policies and reduce the impact of smoking behaviours within three mental health and three alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) pilot sites. For further information please contact Dr Justin Barker on justin@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Minimum Qualification Strategy

Please see below for further information.

July - August 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT

In This Edition...

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

Updates on Peak activities.

Minimum Qualification Strategy

Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy.

ACT AOD Sector Project Wrap Up

The ACT AOD Sector Project story report.

Congratulations Jane Shelling, ACT Churchill Fellowship Recipient

Information on overseas research being undertaken by Mrs Jane Shelling.

Sector Activities and Events

Launches, key weeks, international days and program and service activities.

News from the Executive Directors' Group

Information from the

The July - August 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar is now available. The Training Calendar is produced bimonthly as a partnership between the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT, and provides training and professional development opportunities for workers in the alcohol and other drug, youth, mental health, family support and community sectors.

Download the current **Training Calendar**.

ATOD Sector Forum

Alcohol tobacco and other drug (ATOD) workers and invited stakeholders are invited to attend the ATOD Sector Forum.

The forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage to:

1. Meet ATODA - the new peak body!

On 1 July, the newly established peak body the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) became fully staffed and functioning. Workers are invited to meet the staff and find out what activities the peak is doing for you; what activities the peak could be doing with you; and identify opportunities to participate.

2. Discuss the new ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014

In June 2010, Minister Katy Gallagher released the new ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014. The forum will review the Strategy and support workers to discuss opportunities and implications.

- The complete Strategy can be accessed from: www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dipubpoldoc&document=1967
- The Strategy Summary can be accessed from: www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dipubpoldoc&document=1968

Date: Thursday 26 August

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Venue: TBC

Cost: Free

Food: Morning tea will be provided.

RSVP: Essential, please contact Ben Frommel on (02) 6255 4070 or ben@atoda.org.au

Download the **Forum Flyer**.

For more information visit www.atoda.org.au or contact the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Minimum Qualification Strategy

The ACT is implementing an ACT ATOD minimum qualification strategy (MQS) for workers in ATOD services funded by ACT Health. The ACT ATOD MQS aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional ATOD workforce in the ACT. It also aims to ensure that all ATOD workers in the ACT have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

Under the MQS, all workers of ACT Health funded non government AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification.

Attached is an information pack that provides more information on:

- The ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy and Project
- Funding available through the ACT Minimum Qualification Project
- Changes to the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy
- Funded Training and Assessment Opportunities for Semester 2, 2010
- Information for Government, Non Government and Allied Sectors
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Relevant Application Forms

EDs' group that is relevant to the AOD sector and Workers..

Sector Development

Information on networks, resources, websites, factsheets and tools for Workers.

Training and Professional Development

Training for the AOD and allied sectors, including upcoming seminars, conferences, bus tours, courses and other professional development opportunities.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Information on interstate conferences relevant to the AOD sector.

Policy Activities

Information on key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.

Policy, Reports and Research

New research, reports, inquiry findings, and any key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.

Media

Media Releases and news items relevant to the ACT AOD Sector.

Consumer Participation

Information items about consumer participation that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Information from and about allied sectors that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

Employment Opportunities

Download the **Information Package**.

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday 17 August 2010**.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, on info@atoda.org.au.

ACT AOD Sector Project Wrap Up

Coming Together, Keeping Together, Working Together: How Stakeholders Collaborated for Sector Development and Change

ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT

This report details the story of the ACT AOD Sector Project from its conception through to the establishment of the ACT alcohol tobacco and other drug peak body. In particular the purpose of the report is to:

- Describe the need for and the processes towards formalising ACT alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector support
- Describe the expertise that the Youth Coalition of the ACT has in sector support and how this was shared with the AOD sector
- Describe the work of the ACT AOD Sector Project
- Describe the processes of establishing a peak body for the ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector
- Acknowledge the many individuals, services, programs and organizations that have been involved.

Download the **ACT AOD Sector Project Report**.

Congratulations Jane Shelling, ACT Churchill Fellowship Recipient

Mrs Jane Shelling, Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia, has been awarded a 2010 Churchill Fellowship to assess methods for providing professional information to community based alcohol and other drug workers. Mrs Shelling wrote the following about the overseas research the Churchill Fellowship will allow her to undertake:

"I work for the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia managing their major project the National Drugs Sector Information Service. My team and I provide a national library and information service to the whole of the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) workforce in Australia. This workforce has varying information needs because they have a range of qualifications, work under different jurisdictions, have diverse working conditions, help different population groups, and their organisations may have varying ideologies."

"I successfully applied for a Churchill Fellowship to find out if there are more efficient, effective ways to disseminate evidence-based information to AOD workers. I am interested in the information needs of drug workers from other similar countries, the best format that information should take and the most effective way to deliver it. I will take this new knowledge and combine it with what I already know about Australian conditions in order to improve information provision to those working with people recovering from alcohol and drug problems."

"I will be visiting Canada to look at alternative ways to deliver information over large distances, to workers based in remote areas. I also want to investigate the way information is provided to workers helping in Indigenous communities. In the US I want to visit Dartmouth University where they produce Project Cork an international database of alcohol and drug information, to learn more about how they manage this database and how they encourage its use. I will also visit a number of substance misuse libraries on the East Coast to observe how they deliver information particularly how they deal with issues of state borders.

Finally to England where I want to learn how their alcohol and drug workers are kept informed within both the government and non-government sectors so I will be meeting with representatives from the National Health Service and non-government agencies like Alcohol Concern. I will also go to Manchester to visit England's largest alcohol and drug library and also attend an evidence-based librarianship conference where I hope to learn more about how I can implement new methods, and measure the impact of information services on alcohol and drug work practice."

Anyone interested in applying for a Churchill Fellowship can find out more information at www.churchilltrust.com.au/

Sector Activities and Events

Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD sector.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

'Candidates on Drugs'

Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform, supported by ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre, Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT, Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users' League, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy, DIRECTIONS ACT, Hepatitis Australia, Toora Women Inc, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service

This event will enable a candidate from each major party to answer questions and provide information on their party's policies on drug issues prior to the forthcoming election on 21st August, 2010.

Date: Monday 9 August

Time: 5pm for 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Johnson Auditorium, Pilgrim House, 59 Northbourne Avenue, Civic Centre

For further information download the **Public Forum Flyer** or call (02) 6254 2961.

ACTOSS Forum: Meet your local Federal Candidates

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS will be hosting a community sector forum, providing people with an opportunity to meet and question federal election candidates for the Senate and House of Representative seats of Canberra and Fraser.

Date: Monday 16 August 2010

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Venue: Room 8, Griffin Centre, Genge St, Canberra City

Cost: Free

Registration: Essential, by Friday 13 August

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/MeetTheCandidates-Aug2010.pdf for more information or to register for the forum.

News from the Executive Directors' Group

The ACT ATOD Executive Directors Group met on Tuesday 20 July. Members discussed a range of issues including:

- Developing strategies to better support people affected by hepatitis C;
- The on-going development and support of the peak body;
- Engagement with the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia's Federal Council; and
- The potential implications of the Working With Vulnerable People Checking System (www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc) on the sector.

For further information about the group please contact Carol Mead, Chair, on carolm@directionsact.com or (02) 6122 8000

Sector Development

Hard copies available: Guidelines on the Management of Co-occurring Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Conditions in Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Settings

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to develop guidelines on the management of co-occurring mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment settings. The Guidelines are based on the best available evidence and draw upon the experience and knowledge of clinicians, researchers, consumers and carers. The Guidelines aim to increase AOD workers' knowledge and awareness of mental health conditions, improve the confidence and skills of AOD workers who have clients with comorbid mental health conditions, provide guiding principles for working with clients with comorbid mental health conditions, and improve AOD workers' ability to identify mental health conditions.

The Guidelines may be ordered free of charge by emailing your name, number of copies required and address details to Margaret Eagers on ndarc21@unsw.edu.au. The guidelines are also available for downloading from the NDARC website at <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Comorbidity+Guidelines>

Working with traumatised clients in AOD services: How does this affect you?

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) in collaboration with National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)

NDARC in collaboration with NCETA is looking for AOD workers (i.e. anyone who works in AOD settings) to participate in a study that examines the impact of working with traumatised clients. As part of this study, NDARC and NCETA have formulated an anonymous online survey that takes 15 minutes to complete. To participate in the survey or for further information about the study visit

[www.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/resources/participation/\\$file/AOD+Work+Survey.pdf](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/resources/participation/$file/AOD+Work+Survey.pdf)

'Of Substance' July 2010 Edition Available

Of Substance Magazine

The July 2010 Edition of 'Of Substance' Magazine, the national magazine on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, is now available. This issue includes articles about sexual abuse in childhood and its link with the later development of drug and alcohol problems, an interview with Margaret Hamilton, current drug trends, tobacco use in migrant communities, AOD use in the Pacific, Indigenous-run interventions and AOD recruitment. Visit www.ofsubstance.org.au to view the latest issue.

CentreLines July 2010

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

CentreLines is a newsletter from the National Centres for Drug and Alcohol Research and the July edition contains details and selected abstracts of the most recent publications from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), Sydney. The July edition focuses on the global burden of disease project.

Visit [http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/CL_2010/\\$file/CentreLines27.pdf](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/CL_2010/$file/CentreLines27.pdf) to view the July edition of CentreLines.

Updated Drug Policy Timeline

Drug Policy Modeling Program (DPMP)

The DPMP has updated their Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline. The timeline includes all key events and policy changes at the federal and state and territory level from 1985 till 30 June 2010. To view the timeline visit

www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/dpmpweb.nsf/page/Drug+Policy+Timeline.

Nominations Open: ACT 2010 Health Promotion Awards

Health Promotion Branch, ACT Health

Nominations are currently open for the ACT 2010 Health Promotion Awards, which recognise local outstanding achievements and innovative contributions to health promotion practice within the ACT. A total of nine Awards will be presented at the ACT 2010 Health Promotion Awards dinner to be held on Thursday 18 November 2010.

Nominations for the awards close **Friday 10 September 2010**.

Download the **Nomination Form and Guidelines** or visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10132614&pid=1276753638 for further information.

Nominations Open: 2010 LIFE Awards

Suicide Prevention Australia

The LIFE Awards are held annually in conjunction with International World Suicide Prevention Day, and recognise the outstanding contribution to suicide prevention in Australia. Nominations for the awards are now open, and include the following categories: Business and Industry, Indigenous, Healthy Communities, Media, Public Sector, Lifetime Research, Emerging Research and Youth. Nominations for the awards close **13 August 2010**.

Download the **Nomination Form** or visit <http://suicidepreventionaust.org/Awards.aspx> for more information.

Training and Professional Development

Young People and Alcohol and Other Drug Use Workshop

Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is hosting a one-day workshop on Young People and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) use. Facilitated by Annie Bleeker, this workshop will explore issues such as:

- What are the effects of AOD?
- How are young people affected by AOD use?
- What is the youth worker role in supporting young people with AOD issues?
- What interventions are appropriate for young people?
- How to assess and refer young people to AOD services?

The Young People and Alcohol and Other Drug Use workshop is targeted at generalist youth workers who want to increase their knowledge, understanding and skills when working with young people with AOD issues. This is the second time this workshop has been run, and places are filling up quickly.

Date: Wednesday 25 August 2010

Time: 9.30am - 4pm

Venue: 46 Clianthus Street, O'Connor (Youth Coalition office)

Cost: \$80 for Youth Coalition members, \$100 for non-members

Food: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided

RSVP: Essential by Tuesday 17 August - limited places available. Contact Katrina on (02) 6247 3540 or katrina@youthcoalition.net.

Building on the Capital – Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

The Conference will focus on innovative treatment, prevention, law enforcement and policy in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The Conference will feature both Australian and International speakers and will also highlight Canberra-based issues and achievements.

Date: 28 November – 1 December 2010

Venue: National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra ACT

Cost: \$720 member, \$820 non-member (early bird)

Registration: Early bird closes 24 September 2010

Download the **APSAD Poster**.

For further information or to register for the Conference visit www.apsadconference.com.au/.

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training - Part I and II

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Part I aims to give participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. Part II builds on the initial training and aims to provide an opportunity to further advance skills when working with Aboriginal people and community. This two part training is open to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers.

Date: Part I – Friday 6 August 2010, Part II – Friday 20 August 2010

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach

Cost: \$54 Homelessness Services, \$162 ACTCOSS members, \$198 non-members, \$239 government/corporate

For further information or to register download the **Part I Registration Form** and the **Part II Registration Form** or contact Lisa on lisa@actcoss.org.au or (02) 6202 7200.

Introduction to Health Records and Privacy Workshop

ACT Human Rights Commission

The ACT Human Rights Commission is conducting a workshop outlining rights and responsibilities in relation to health information. It will cover issues related to privacy and access to health records. The workshop will also assist consumers to gain a better understanding of their rights relating to their medical information.

Date: Tuesday 10 August or Tuesday 7 September

Time: 10am - 12pm

Venue: Level 9/12 Moore St Canberra City

Registration: Essential

Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/calendar/site/eventview.php?id=43 for more information or to register for the training.

Financial Management, Building Better Boards Governance Workshop Program

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop will provide an overview of topics including legal and financial responsibilities of board members, the relationship between governance and management, and core documents.

Date: Wednesday 11 August 2010

Time: 5.00pm - 8.00pm

Venue: Room 7, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City

Cost: ACTCOSS members \$30, Non-members \$37.50

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/FinancialManagement-Aug10.pdf for more information or to register.

Human Rights in the Community Sector - Advocating with Rights, and Meeting Potential Public Authority Obligations

ACT Human Rights Commission

This workshop will provide participants with an understanding of the purpose and operation of the Human Rights Act 2004, including advocating for clients using the Act and responsibilities community organisations have under the Act.

Date: Thursday 19 August

Time: 9:30am – 1pm

Venue: Pilgrim House - Uniting Church (cnr of Northbourne and Rudd St Canberra City)

Registration: Essential

Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/calendar/site/eventview.php?id=45 for more information or to register.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Many organisations are required to use Raising the Standard as part of their service funding agreements. This workshop aims to assist participants to implement quality improvement in their organisations.

Date: Thursday 19 August

Time: 10am – 3:30pm

Venue: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach

Cost: \$54 ACTCOSS Members, \$63 Non-Members, \$75 Corporate/Government

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/RTS-Aug10.pdf for more information or to register.

Introduction to the Discrimination Act Workshop

ACT Human Rights Commission

This course is designed to increase people's knowledge of their rights and/or responsibilities under the Discrimination Act 1991. This course is also designed to guide staff in the development of their policies and procedures that relate to preventing discrimination in the workplace.

Date: Tuesday 24 August

Time: 9.30am - 1pm

Venue: Level 9/12 Moore St Canberra City
Registration: Essential

Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/calendar/site/eventview.php?id=46 for more information or to register for the training.

Holistic Stress Management

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This course focuses on essential principles, skills, knowledge and techniques to prevent and reduce the impacts of stress in the workplace. It aims to increase self-awareness, mindfulness, self-knowledge and wellbeing.

Date: Wednesday 25 August

Time: 10am – 2:30pm

Venue: ACTCOSS Office, Level 1, 67 Townshend St, Phillip

Cost: \$212 Members, \$267 Non-members, \$322 Corporate/Government

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/HolisticStressMgt-Aug10.pdf for more information or to register.

Legal Obligations, Building Better Boards Governance Workshop Program

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This seminar aims to introduce participants to the basic legal obligations relevant to community sector organizations, including requirements of specific Board/Committee roles. The workshop will provide an overview of the legal responsibilities of board members, relevant legislation and core documents.

Date: Wednesday 8 September 2010

Time: 5.00pm - 8.00pm

Venue: Room 7, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City

Cost: ACTCOSS members \$30, Non-members \$37.50

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/LegalObligations-Sept10.pdf for more information or to register.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Applying the Evidence: drug and alcohol research in policy and clinical practice

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The 2010 NDARC Annual Symposium will focus on translating recent research into evidence-based policy and clinical practice.

Date: Tuesday 10 August 2010

Time: 8:45am – 5pm

Cost: \$290

For more information or to register for the symposium visit

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Symposium>.

National Improved Services Initiative Forum - A Tale of Two Systems: Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Co-occurrence

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction in partnership with the State and Territory alcohol tobacco and other drug sector peak bodies, with support from the Department of Health and Ageing

The forum will provide an opportunity for all recipients of the Improved Services Initiative funding to come together to:

- Showcase examples of best practice in capacity building
- Hear from experts in the field
- Discuss the outcomes, success and challenges experienced
- Explore opportunities for sustainability

Date: 7 – 8 October 2010

Venue: The Shores, Cnr. Hamra & Military Roads, West Beach, South Australia

Download the **Forum Flyer**.

A call for abstracts, registration forms and further details will be available shortly.

For further information contact Amanda Bode, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT on amanda@atoda.org.au.

Reducing Harm across the Lifespan

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)

The conference will raise the level of awareness of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs (ATOD) sector issues at the local, state and national level, and aims to link the increasingly emergent preventative health perspectives with the now traditional notion of harm minimisation.

Date: 18 – 20 October, 2010

Venue: Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart

Cost: \$595 member, \$645 non-member (early-bird)

Registration: Early bird closes 31 August 2010

For more information on the conference visit <https://events.conventionwise.com.au/ei/cm.esp?id=9603010000274&pageid=2VT0TF2GB> or contact Christine Murphy on christinem@atdc.org.au.

Anex 2010 Australian Drugs Conference - Public Health and Harm Reduction

Anex

The Conference will explore challenges and set new priorities to expand efforts to address the health and social implications of problematic substance use at the individual and community level.

Date: 25 – 26 October 2010

Venue: Melbourne Cricket Ground

Cost: \$440

Call for abstracts close **3 August, 2010**.

For further information or to register for the conference visit www.australiandrugsconference.org.au/index.htm

2010 Creating Synergy Drug and Alcohol Conference

Creating Synergy and NSW Health

The Conference will provide a forum for government and non-government alcohol and other drug researchers, practitioners and policy makers from across NSW to discuss the evidence and models for family inclusive approaches to alcohol and other drug interventions. The Conference theme is Family and Carers.

Date: 3 – 5 November 2010

Venue: University of Wollongong

Cost: \$475 (including pre conference workshop on 3 November)

For further information or to register for the conference visit www.creatingsynergy.org.au/.

7th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference

The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases, Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research, The Gastroenterological Society of Australia, Hepatitis Australia, The National Centre in HIV Social Research, The National Hepatitis B Alliance, The New Zealand Hepatitis Foundation

The Conference aims to present the latest advances in the research and treatment of viral hepatitis. The conference is themed Looking Back, Moving Forward: Challenges for the Next Decade.

Date: 6 – 8 September, 2010

Venue: Sebel Albert Park Melbourne, Victoria

Cost: \$660 individual, \$440 community organisation

For further information or to register for the conference visit www.hepatitis.org.au/.

Policy Activities

Review of the Liquor Act: Liquor Regulation

Department of Justice and Community Safety

On 24 June 2010, the Attorney General introduced the Liquor Bill 2010 in the Assembly and tabled an exposure draft regulation for public consultation. The Liquor Bill will replace the Liquor Act 1975 with new legislation, the object of which is to regulate the sale, supply, promotion and consumption of liquor in a way that minimises harm associated with the consumption of liquor, and in a way that takes into account the safety of the community. The Liquor Regulation underpins the new law by prescribing detailed rules and requirements for licensees and the regulator must follow. The Regulation contains procedural and administrative matters such as new standard trading hours from 7am to midnight and a new late night authorisation process for late night trading.

For more information visit www.justice.act.gov.au/?/review.

Submissions close **5pm 6 August 2010**.

Policy, Reports and Research

Note: Most of the reports and research items referenced below are available from the Alcohol and Other Drug Council of Australia's National Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS) <http://ndsis.adca.org.au>.

What were the impacts of the alcopops tax increase?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates alcohol consumption, nationally, from the amount of alcoholic beverages imported into and produced in Australia. The estimates released in May covering the year to 30 June 2009 show that the apparent consumption (10.1 litres of pure alcohol available per person aged 15 years and over) was 2.3% lower than the previous year (10.3 litres).

However, the consumption of alcohol through ready-to-drink, pre-mixed beverages (alcopops) fell by 31% from the previous year (from 1.08 to 0.74 litres of pure alcohol per adult), presumably an impact of the significant tax increase that had been placed on these beverages. During the same period, although the apparent consumption of beer and wine remained relatively stable (2008-09 beer 4.5 litres per adult and wine 3.6 litres per adult), the consumption of spirits increased by 10% (from 1.17 to 1.29 litres of pure alcohol per head). This seems to confirm that a partial shift occurred between the 2007-08 and 2008-09 years from alcopops to spirits drinking.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2010, *Apparent consumption of alcohol, Australia, 2008-09* Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4307.0.55.001.

How can workers help families to prevent alcohol-related harms in young people?

A resource published by NSW Health is designed 'to improve workers' understanding of the current research-based findings about how families, in particular parents, can prevent alcohol-related harm among young people; and to provide "best practice" examples of effective actions, programs and strategies that can be used in professional practice to enhance services to families'. The resource 'outlines specific strategies that involve families including community mobilisation, family intervention, parent education and partnerships with police, schools and community organisations. It also provides a range of practical examples that workers can use to help families and parents prevent youth alcohol problems'.

Leung, R, Kennedy, V, Kelly, AB, Toumbourou, JW & Hutchinson, D 2010, *Preventing alcohol harms in young people: family-based interventions. A resource for workers*, NSW Health, Sydney,

www.health.nsw.gov.au/mhdao/workforce_development.asp#para_2

Are internet-based interventions effective in reducing problematic drug use by young people?

A review of randomised trials of web-based interventions for problematic substance use by adolescents and young people concludes that 'Based on findings largely from tertiary students, web interventions targeting alcohol-related problems have

an effect about equivalent to brief in-person interventions, but with the advantage that they can be delivered to a far larger proportion of the target population. Web-based interventions to prevent the development of alcohol-related problems in those who do not currently drink appear to have minimal impact. There are currently insufficient data to assess the effectiveness of web-based interventions for tobacco use by adolescents’.

Tait, RJ & Christensen, H 2010, ‘Internet-based interventions for young people with problematic substance use: a systematic review’, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 192, pp. S15-S21.

What are the barriers to access to NSPs and injecting equipment for people who inject drugs?

The Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) has developed a position paper which provides ‘a national overview of the legislative and policy barriers which currently restrict access to Needle & Syringe Programs (NSPs) and new injecting equipment for PWIDs ...with the view to reducing BBV transmission rates in the future’. Issues covered in the discussion paper include: ‘removing barriers to peer distribution of injecting equipment; ensuring the full range of injecting equipment and paraphernalia are legally available in all states and territories; removing policy and legislative inconsistencies in relation to safe disposal of used injecting equipment; assessing the impact of self-administration legislation on BBV prevention; reviewing the impact of local council development applications on new NSP outlets; and reviewing the effectiveness of policy protocols restricting police attendance at NSPs’.

The paper makes comprehensive recommendations for addressing barriers including ‘All states and territories to review legislation relating to mandatory and discretionary reporting for negative consequences in relation to access to new injecting equipment by PWIDs and repeal and revise legislation as necessary...State and Territory health departments in consultation with drug user organisations regularly conduct research into the injecting equipment needs of PWIDs in their jurisdiction and use data to inform policy decisions on the injecting...equipment made available through NSPs... All States and Territories implement NSP in prison in line with available evidence and as part of a comprehensive approach to BBV prevention and harm reduction among prisoners’.

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League 2010, *Legislative and policy barriers to needle & syringe programs and injecting equipment access for people who inject drugs*, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Canberra, www.aivl.org.au/files/29057-AIVL-book-text_FA.pdf.

What do we know about the health of Australian prisoners?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released *The health of Australia’s prisoners 2009*, the first report relating to the National Prisoner Health Indicators, ‘which were developed to assist in monitoring the health of prisoners and to inform and evaluate the planning, delivery and quality of prisoner health services’. Most data for the report are from the National Prisoner Health Census which was conducted in 87 of the 93 public and private prisons throughout Australia during mid 2009. At that time there were over 27,000 prisoners in custody in Australia.

The report shows that ‘prisoners in Australia have poor health compared to the general community...25% had a chronic condition (such as asthma, cardiovascular disease or diabetes); 81% were current smokers; 52% consumed alcohol at risky levels; and 71% had used illicit drugs during the previous 12 months; 37% of prison entrants reported having received a mental health diagnosis at some time, 43% had received a head injury resulting in a loss of consciousness, and 31% had been referred to prison mental health services. The report also contains data relating to communicable diseases, educational attainment, deaths in custody, the use of health services and the types of medications used by prisoners’.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare 2010, *The health of Australia’s prisoners 2009*, AIHW cat. no. PHE 123, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Canberra, www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11012.

Are prisoners more likely to re-offend after release if they have a mental health disorder?

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has examined ‘whether released prisoners with mental health disorders (including substance, non-substance, and comorbid substance and non-substance disorders) are at increased risk of re-offending when compared with released prisoners without mental health disorders...Data for 1,208 NSW prisoners who participated in the 2001 Mental Health Survey (conducted by NSW Justice Health) were linked to the NSW re-offending database to track their criminal history for five years prior to entering prison and 24 months following their exit from prison. Mental health diagnoses were obtained using the Composite International Diagnostic Interview and a number of other mental health screening measures’. The researchers found that ‘Within 24 months of their release from prison, 65 per cent of the total sample had re-offended, and their rate of re-offending was related to their mental health disorder/s.

The weighted rate of re-offending was greater in prisoners who had comorbid substance and non-substance mental health

disorders (67%) compared with prisoners who had: only a substance disorder (55%), a non-substance mental health disorder (49%), and no mental health disorders (51%'. They concluded that 'an effective way of reducing re-offending is to treat prisoners who have comorbid substance and non-substance mental health disorders. Investing in evidence-based programs and court or prison alternatives could result in numerous benefits for both the community and the individual offender'.

Smith, N & Trimboli, L 2010, *Comorbid substance and non-substance mental health disorders and re-offending among NSW prisoners*, Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 140, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, [www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB140.pdf/\\$file/CJB140.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB140.pdf/$file/CJB140.pdf).

How does treatment with supervised injectable heroin compare with methadone treatment for chronic heroin dependence?

A randomised trial conducted for 26 weeks at three supervised injecting clinics in England compared 'the effectiveness of supervised injectable treatment with medicinal heroin (diamorphine or diacetylmorphine) or supervised injectable methadone versus optimised oral methadone for chronic heroin addiction'. The researchers found that 'Treatment with supervised injectable heroin leads to significantly lower use of street heroin than does supervised injectable methadone or optimised oral methadone'. They recommended that 'UK Government proposals should be rolled out to support the positive response that can be achieved with heroin maintenance treatment for previously unresponsive chronic heroin addicts'.

Strang, J, Metrebian, N, Lintzeris, N, Potts, L, Carnwath, T, Mayet, S, Williams, H, Zador, D, Evers, R, Groshkova, T, Charles, V, Martin, A & Forzisi, L 2010, 'Supervised injectable heroin or injectable methadone versus optimised oral methadone as treatment for chronic heroin addicts in England after persistent failure in orthodox treatment (RIOTT): a randomised trial', *The Lancet*, vol. 375, pp. 1885–95.

What is NOPSAD?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released the third bulletin from the National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSAD) collection. At 30 June 2009 there were 43,445 pharmacotherapy clients of whom around two-thirds were male, an increase of 2,098 compared with 2008. There was a proportional decrease amongst clients aged 29 years or younger and an increase amongst clients aged 40 years and over. Seven out of ten clients (70%) were receiving methadone and the remainder received buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone. This finding has remained stable since 20. The majority of pharmacotherapy clients (64%) received treatment from a private prescriber. The total number of dosing point sites (2,157) rose slightly since 2008 (2,143). Most dosing points were pharmacies (85%). In 2009, 36% of pharmacies across Australia dosed pharmacotherapy clients. The average number of clients per dosing point site has risen slightly between 2007 (18) and 2009 (20). Some 8% of clients were in correctional facilities.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010, *National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2009 report*, Bulletin no. 79, cat. no. AUS 115, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, www.aihw.gov.au/publications/aus/125/11417.pdf.

What is 'addiction neurobiology', and should it be of interest to us?

A 188-page report from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug addiction provides an excellent overview of the rapidly developing field of addiction neurobiology. It is written in a relatively non-technical manner, edited by prominent researchers from the University of Queensland and the National University of Singapore. The editors' overview follows: 'In this report we review the developments in the neuroscience of addiction, explore how they might affect the way we view and treat drug problems, and consider the ethical issues that they raise for drug policy...The reader will find that it is difficult not to be both excited and apprehensive when considering the implications of the developments occurring in this field. Neuroscience provides us with a better understanding of how people become addicted to drugs and why they find it so difficult to stop, even when experiencing severe negative consequences. It also holds out the prospect of providing us with some novel approaches to both the prevention and treatment of drug problems. It may also lead to developments that —if misused—could have serious negative consequences, such as the unrestricted use of sensitive screening techniques or invasive and potentially dangerous surgical interventions' (p. 5).

Carter, A, Capps, B & Hall, W (eds) 2009, *Addiction neurobiology: ethical and social implications*, Monograph Series, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Lisbon, www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/monographs/neurobiology. Large file warning: 2.5 Mb.

Why is alcohol 'no ordinary commodity'?

A consortium of researchers writing as the Alcohol and Public Policy Group characterise their article in a recent issue of the journal *Addiction* as follows: 'This article summarizes the contents of *Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity* (2nd edn). The first part of the book describes why alcohol is not an ordinary commodity, and reviews epidemiological data that establish alcohol as a major contributor to the global burden of disease, disability and death in high-, middle- and low-income countries. This section also documents how international beer and spirits production has been consolidated recently by a small number of global corporations that are expanding their operations in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. In the second part of the book, the scientific evidence for strategies and interventions that can prevent or minimize alcohol-related harm is reviewed critically in seven key areas: pricing and taxation, regulating the physical availability of alcohol, modifying the drinking context, drink-driving countermeasures, restrictions on marketing, education and persuasion strategies, and treatment and early intervention services. Finally, the book addresses the policy-making process at the local, national and international levels and provides ratings of the effectiveness of strategies and interventions from a public health perspective. Overall, the strongest, most cost-effective strategies include taxation that increases prices, restrictions on the physical availability of alcohol, drink-driving countermeasures, brief interventions with at risk drinkers and treatment of drinkers with alcohol dependence'.

Alcohol & Public Policy Group 2010, 'Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity: a summary of the second edition', *Addiction*, vol. 105, pp. 769–79.

What are the challenges and opportunities in delivering culturally appropriate residential rehabilitation for urban Indigenous people?

Western Australian researchers reviewed the literature concerning Indigenous and mainstream residential rehabilitation services for Indigenous people, aiming to explore opportunities to enhance the outcomes of these interventions. They found that, 'Despite debate about the effectiveness of mainstream residential alcohol rehabilitation treatment, most Indigenous Australians with harmful alcohol consumption who seek help have a strong preference for residential treatment. While there is a significant gap in the cultural appropriateness of mainstream services for Indigenous clients, Indigenous-controlled residential organisations also face issues in service delivery. Limitations and inherent difficulties in rigorous evaluation processes further plague both areas of service provision.' Furthermore, 'With inadequate evidence surrounding what constitutes 'best practice' for Indigenous clients in residential settings, more research is needed to investigate, evaluate and contribute to the further development of culturally appropriate models of best practice. In urban settings, a key area for innovation involves improving the capacity and quality of service delivery through effective inter-agency partnerships between Indigenous and mainstream service providers.'

Taylor, K, Thompson, S & Davis, R 2010, 'Delivering culturally appropriate residential rehabilitation for urban Indigenous Australians: a review of the challenges and opportunities', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34, no. s1, pp. S36-S40.

How can mental health and alcohol and other drug services better meet the needs of people from CALD backgrounds?

Between October 2008 and June 2010, the Sydney-based Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC) and the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) undertook a project, funded by NSW Health, that aimed 'to investigate the experience of clients from CALD backgrounds accessing assistance for co-existing drug use issues (including cannabis) and mental health issues'. The researchers found that 'engaging with specialist services was challenging for nearly all the clients interviewed, yet it appeared even more so for those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. This was largely due to additional challenges and pressures relating to their migration experiences, language barriers and not understanding the Australian healthcare system. Despite the challenges, clients spoke highly of the services and workers they were currently engaged with, identifying what they had found helpful, and providing recommendations for addressing co-existing issues and working with clients from CALD backgrounds'.

Flaherty, I, Donato-Hunt, C, Arcuri, A & Howard, J 2010, *Finding the right help: pathways for culturally diverse clients with cannabis use and mental health issues*, Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre and National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre, Sydney, www.ncpic.org.au/static/pdfs/3-finding-the-right-help-full-report.pdf.

Media

Tougher Drink-Driving Laws Introduced

24 June 2010

Jon Stanhope, MLA

Learner and provisional drivers will face a zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) with high-range drink-drivers to face immediate licence suspension under new laws introduced by the ACT Government today. Chief Minister and Minister for Transport introduced the Road Transport (Drink Driving) Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 today marking the commencement of a tough new approach targeting Canberra's reckless drink-driving culture.....

"A full driver licence holder detected with a BAC of 0.1 or more will face the immediate suspension of their licence by police.....

"To further tackle the rising number of drink-driving offenders, the new laws will stop repeat drink-drivers or high range first time offenders with a BAC from getting access to a restricted licence. "Offenders will also need to complete an alcohol education course on the consequences of drink-driving, before they can regain their licence and get behind the wheel.".....

"The Government is also exploring further measures to deter drink-driving such as vehicle impoundment and confiscation, whether police should have the power to enter private premises to administer a screening test to a person who was the driver of a motor vehicle and also whether it should be an offence to consume intoxicating liquor while driving a motor vehicle.".....

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9673 to view the full media release.

Drug-driving bill fails human rights test

30 June 2010

Jon Stanhope, MLA

The Liberal-Greens drug-driving Bill would probably fail a Supreme Court challenge and was in breach of the ACT Human Rights Act, according to the ACT Human Rights Commissioner. In advice handed to the Government the Commissioner, Dr Helen Watchirs, said she had a number of reservations about the human-rights compatibility of the Bill, which is likely to be passed today by the Liberals and the Greens, as well as concerns regarding its 'practical implementation'. In her advice the Commissioner said the Bill failed to adequately justify the power to randomly stop drivers for a drug test - a practice she pointed out was rare internationally - and that the lack of justification "could lead to a declaration of incompatibility if this issue was to come before the Supreme Court". Mr Stanhope said that the Commissioner's critical advice added weight to that received earlier this week from the Chief Police Officer, who had also expressed concerns that flaws in the Liberal-Green drug laws could mean that not a single conviction would ever be obtained.....

Mr Stanhope said the advice lent weight to the Government's preferred approach on random testing for drug-driving - to consult widely, especially with those who would have to implement the law, and to ensure that the Bill eventually presented to the Parliament was robust enough to withstand challenge.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9689 to view the full media release.

Acting Judge appointed to help address Supreme Court backlog

6 July 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

The Government's plan to address the backlog in the ACT Supreme Court is underway, Attorney General, Simon Corbell, said today while announcing the appointment of John Nield as an acting judge of the ACT Supreme Court. "The ACT Government committed to addressing the backlog in the Supreme Court earlier this year by making several announcements in the 2010-11 ACT Budget including the allocation of funds for an acting judge and the creation of a District Court," Mr Corbell said. "Today I am pleased to be able to announce the first of these measures in the appointment of John Nield as an acting judge for the ACT Supreme Court.....

It is expected Acting Justice Nield will commence sitting in the ACT in early August.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9724&s=1 to view the full media release.

Investment in advice for ACT homeless

13 July 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

Federal Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, and ACT Attorney-General, Simon Corbell, today launched the Street Law outreach legal service for homeless people in the ACT. The Federal and ACT Government's have invested \$540,000 in this important initiative which provides legal advice and referrals for the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless in

areas such as debt, welfare, tenancy and domestic violence issues.....

More information on Street Law is available at: www.streetlaw.org.au/.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9751&m=53 to view the full media release.

One in four young Australians have a mental disorder: ABS

19 July 2010

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

One in four young Australians aged 16–24 years had a mental disorder in 2007, according to figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.....

Substance Use disorders affected 13% of young people with Harmful Use of Alcohol the most common Substance Use Disorder (9%).....

Almost one-third of young women had a mental health disorder compared with around one-quarter of young men. Young women were more likely to have Anxiety or Affective disorders while Substance Use disorders were more common among young men.....

Young people with a mental disorder were more than 5 times as likely as those without mental disorders to use illicit drugs or misuse legal drugs; twice as likely to be current smokers and around 1.5 times more likely to drink alcohol at least weekly....

While the prevalence of mental illness is relatively high in young people, they have a relatively low use of mental health services.....

Young people with a Substance Use Disorder were the least likely to use mental health services. More details can be found in the Mental Health of Young People (cat. no. 4840.0.55.001)

Visit <http://abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/4840.0.55.001Media%20Release12007?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=4840.0.55.001&issue=2007&num=&view=> to view the full media release.

Care and protection worker awarded Audrey Fagan scholarship

23 July 2010

Joy Burch, MLA

A Canberra care and protection case-worker and crisis counsellor has been awarded the annual Audrey Fagan Post-Graduate Scholarship. The ACT Minister for Women Joy Burch said Erica Boulter supports vulnerable, at risk families and children, working to make a positive difference to their lives. Ms Burch said the scholarship program assists its women recipients to undertake post-graduate study and professional development in the areas of law enforcement, care and protection and victim support.....

To find out more about the Scholarship program, contact the ACT Office for Women at www.women.act.gov.au/

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9794&m=138 to view the full media release.

A place to call home affordably. And more to come

27 July 2010

Jon Stanhope, MLA

The first affordable rental property to be built by a community housing provider under the ACT Government's Land Rent Scheme was handed over to a family of seven in Franklin today. Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said the home, one of 1000 being built for rent or sale by CHC Affordable Housing under a deal with the ACT Government, was the first of four CHC rental homes to be delivered in Franklin over the next two months. CHC would build another 77 affordable rental homes on Land Rent blocks in the nearby suburb of Bonner over the next two years.....

Mr Stanhope used the occasion of the handover to announce that the Government would convene an expert roundtable next Wednesday, to explore further creative ideas for delivering affordable housing options for Canberrans on low incomes who were in the private rental market.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9810 to view the full media release.

Addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the justice system

Simon Corbell, MLA

2 August 2010

The ACT Government and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) have signed a new

agreement to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT justice system, Attorney General, Simon Corbell, announced today. Mr Corbell was joined by Chairperson of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Terry Williams, to sign the agreement. "The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement moves towards a higher level of understanding and a mutual commitment to addressing the needs of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our justice system," Mr Corbell said.....

"The reforms tailor justice services and programs to the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and aim to be more inclusive." Chairperson of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Terry Williams, said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people account for 1.2% of ACT residents and approximately 10% of people in the ACT criminal justice system. "The actions outlined in the agreement demonstrate an ongoing commitment in the ACT to address the over-representation of our people in the criminal justice system, and brings together the efforts of ACT Government agencies and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to get serious and do something about it," Mr Williams said.....

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement has been endorsed by all ACT Government ministers to demonstrate the Government's commitment to delivering results across all government agencies.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9819&m=53 to view the full media release.

Housing affordability should be centre of election agenda: ACOSS launches election platform

Australian Council of Social Service

4 August 2010

ACOSS is calling for political leaders to commit to measures to improve the critical shortage of affordable housing in Australia and alleviate the acute financial pressures on low-income people. Launching its election platform today, ACOSS has called for the establishment of an Affordable Housing Growth Fund to address the shortage of nearly half a million affordable homes..... "Australia has some of the most expensive housing in the world. With rents rising dramatically over the past five years in our capital cities, renters on income support payments or low wages are struggling to make ends meet," said Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO, Australian Council of Social Service..... Read the Election platform at the ACOSS website: [www.acoss.org.au/images/uploads/ACOSS Election Platform 2010.pdf](http://www.acoss.org.au/images/uploads/ACOSS_Election_Platform_2010.pdf)

Visit

www.acoss.org.au/media/release/housing_affordability_should_be_centre_of_election_agenda_acoss_launches_el to view the full media release.

Roundtable discusses affordable housing

Jon Stanhope, MLA

4 August 2010

Increasing the stock of affordable housing for low-income Canberrans in the private rental market was high on the agenda for today's affordable housing roundtable, which was co-hosted by Chief Minister Jon Stanhope and Minister for Housing Joy Burch. Representatives from industry, government and the community sector met to explore new ideas and partnership models to improve the supply of housing, particularly at the low-cost end of the market. Mr Stanhope said that despite considerable advances in tackling affordability for many groups of Canberrans, recent events had highlighted that there was more room for fresh ideas.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9831 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Althea Wellness Centre Reference Group

DIRECTIONS ACT

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for a consumer representative to join the DIRECTIONS ACT Althea Wellness Centre Reference Group. The Althea Wellness Centre is a Department of Health and Ageing funded Community Based Health Care Service for clients and their family members with past or active alcohol and/or other drug issues.

For more information visit www.directionsact.com/employment.

Consumer Consultation Workshop – The Health System

Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF)

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) is conducting a consumer consultation workshop on the Medicare

Benefits Scheme Quality Framework as a follow up to the initial information paper and workshop held in May 2010. Key issues to be covered in the consultation include:

- How should Government decide what gets covered by Medicare?
- How can we ensure services funded by the Government are the safest, effective and cost effective?
- How can consumers be involved and have their voices heard?
- How should the Scheduled fee for services be set?
- How should new and yet to be evaluated services be made available?

The consultation in the ACT will be held on **Wednesday 11 August 2010**.

For more information visit www.chf.org.au/medicare-benefits-schedule-keydocs.php or contact Sarah Watt on (02) 6273 5444 or s.watt@chf.org.au.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Avoid the Harm - Stay Calm: Report on the inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth

This report outlines the findings of an inquiry into the impact of violence on young Australians with particular reference to:

- Perceptions of violence and community safety among young Australians
- Links between illicit drug use, alcohol abuse and violence among young Australians
- The relationship between bullying and violence on the wellbeing of young Australians
- Social and economic factors that contribute to violence by young Australians
- Strategies to reduce violence and its impact among young Australians.

The report recommends that a community-based survey be implemented to measure the prevalence, nature and severity of youth violence, enhancing and extending access to professional counselling and support services for young people, and a new crime prevention grants scheme. Visit www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fchy/youthviolence/report.htm#top to view the report.

Employment Opportunities

Inside-Out Throughcare Support Worker

DIRECTIONS ACT

Part Time, 30+ hours per fortnight

The Inside Out Support Worker will provide support, case management, advocacy and referrals to prisoners and their families to successfully reintegrate back into the community. The successful applicant will need a clear understanding of issues faced by prisoners with substance use disorder and be highly motivated, proactive, organized and professional in all aspects of their work. Download the position description. For more information contact Jo Smith on (02) 6122 8043.

Clinical Nurse

Althea Wellness Centre, DIRECTIONS ACT

The Althea Wellness Centre is seeking a Clinical Nurse who enjoys a varied and challenging primary health care setting and outreach environment. The Clinical Nurse will actively engage with, and provide excellence in clinical care to, people with alcohol and other drug issues and their families. The role supports other clinical and non-clinical personnel and provides practice nurse support within the Althea Team. Visit www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/awccn_0710.pdf for the position description and selection criteria.

For more information contact Genevieve Lai on (02) 6122 8043 or email genl@directionsact.com

Grants and Funding Opportunities

2010-11 Community Support and Infrastructure Grants

ACT Government

These Grants aim to support the development of community organisations in the ACT, and fund one-off community based projects, fixed and non-fixed infrastructure for community facilities and organisations. The three categories include: Community Support and Capacity (up to \$15,000 per project), Non-Fixed Infrastructure and Equipment (up to \$10,000 per project), and Capital Works and Fixed Infrastructure (up to \$20,000 per project).

For more information visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/community/grants or phone (02) 6205 1308.

Application close **Monday 9 August 2010**.

Improving Safety and Security Grants

ACT Government

These Grants aim to support community groups and organisations to purchase infrastructure and equipment to improve the safety and security of their facilities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for projects such as: lighting, alarm systems, security doors, window grills, and fencing.

For more information visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/community/grants or phone (02) 6205 1308.

Application close **Monday 9 August 2010**.

Mental Health Week 2010: Community Organisation Reimbursement Program

ACT Health in collaboration with Mental Health Community Coalition and Mental Health Recovery

ACT National Mental Health Week runs from 10 – 16 October and aims to increase the public's understanding of mental illness, encourage the reduction of stigma and discrimination against people living with mental illness, and promote positive mental health. ACT Health will offer reimbursement amounts in collaboration with the Mental Health Community Coalition and Mental Health Recovery ACT to assist community organisations with mental health promotion activities during Mental Health Week 2010. Reimbursements from \$200 up to \$1500 will be considered and provided on a cost recovery basis.

To apply download the Application Package.

For more information contact Gavin Bussenschutt on (02) 6245 6400 or gavinb@mifellowship.org.

Applications close **Friday 20 August 2010**.

Conference Attendance Grants

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Ltd.

Applications are invited from organisations seeking to enhance the professional expertise of their staff for financial assistance to attend conferences during 2010 and 2011. Conference Attendance grants, will be a maximum of \$5,000 per conference, with a maximum of two persons per organisation receiving assistance, for conferences within Australia.

For more information visit www.aerf.com.au/community/Conference%20Attendance%20form_2010.doc

Applications close **30 September 2010**.

Innovative Project Grants

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Ltd.

The Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Ltd (AER) invites submissions for Innovative Projects (capped at \$20,000 per grant) from organisations introducing distinctly new initiatives to the sector. Organisations seeking project grant must demonstrate the benefits that will be gained by AER, their organisation and by the broader community.

For more information visit www.aerf.com.au/community/Innovative%20Project%20form_2010.doc

Applications close **30 September 2010**.

Our Wellness Foundation Grants

Our Wellness Foundation

The Our Wellness Foundation is seeking applications for grants of up to \$20,000 for services and research projects that promote the health and wellbeing of the people in the ACT and surrounding region. Individuals, community organisations, research institutions and health services are encouraged to apply.

Visit www.ourwellnessfoundation.org.au/grants/funding-information.html for more information or contact (02) 6244 2963.

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