

From: Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT <listmaster@aodsector.org.au>
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ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin: September 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

| News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT | In This Edition... |
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| <p>Call for Membership: Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc</p> <p>The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is the peak body representing the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). As a peak body, a key role of the ATODA is to ensure that individuals affected by the harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and the organisations that support them, are well supported and represented in policy and program development and public discussion. ATODA is currently calling on organisations and individuals to become members of ATODA. Membership of ATODA is offered at the following three levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full Membership A full member must be able to demonstrate its interest or involvement in alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues, and its charter must be compatible with the objects of ATODA. To be eligible for membership, a non-government, government, private sector or other organisation must have as its main function, or the main function of one of its programs, the provision of alcohol, tobacco and other drug services (e.g. prevention and/or treatment services) directly to the community or to parts of it. 2. Associate An organisation is qualified to be an associate member if it is an organisation, institution, company, or government agency with an interest in alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues, and its charter is compatible with the objects of ATODA. 3. Individual A person is qualified to be an individual member if they have an interest in alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues and endorse ATODA's objects. Applications for membership must be received by 30 September 2010, in order to be eligible to be approved by the ATODA Board prior to the Annual General Meeting to be held on 4 November 2010. <p>For further information about membership including the constitutional objects of ATODA, benefits of membership, membership fees and payment methods, please contact info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070 to request the membership application information package.</p> <p>Working with Vulnerable People Checking System</p> <p>ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT have been working collaboratively to raise the concerns of both sector of the potentially significant unintended negative consequences of the proposed Working with Vulnerable People Checking System, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Ms Joy Burch, Minister for Community Services; and • Developing a second submission outlining the concerns regarding the checking system. <p>The legislation was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 27 August 2010. The debate has been delayed until the next sitting, in approximately a month's time.</p> | <p>News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT</p> <p>Updates on Peak activities.</p> <p>Minimum Qualification Strategy</p> <p>Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy.</p> <p>Sector Activities and Events</p> <p>Launches, key weeks, international days and program and service activities.</p> <p>Mental Health Week: 10 - 16 October 2010</p> <p>Information and updates on Mental Health Week 2010.</p> <p>Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2010 Conference: 28 November - 1 December 2010</p> <p>Information and updates on the</p> |

The Hansard (proof) transcript can be accessed from: www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2010/pdfs/P100826.pdf
The draft legislation can be accessed from: www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_39278/current/pdf/db_39278.pdf

For further information about the checking system, including the policy paper, visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwwvpc

ATODA will continue to raise the significant concerns with the legislation, including viability of the workforce, employer discretion and the importance of ensuring that accessing treatment of support does not become a barrier to employment. For further information or for a copy of ATODA's submissions please contact Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au

ATOD Sector Forum: Proactively Progressing the new ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014 (Part 2)

Alcohol tobacco and other drug (ATOD) workers and invited stakeholders are invited to attend the ATOD Sector Forum. The forum builds on last month's successful forum where stakeholders engaged in developing a range of proposals to progress our new Strategy. The forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage to proactively progress the new ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014 (Forum 2).

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=d|pubpoldoc&document=1967

The Strategy Summary can be accessed from: www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=d|pubpoldoc&document=1968

Date: Thursday 23 September

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Venue: TBC

Cost: Free

Food: Morning tea will be provided.

RSVP: Essential. Numbers are limited. One place will be reserved for each ACT Health funded ATOD service. Please contact Ben Frommel on (02) 6255 4070 or ben@atoda.org.au

Note: Background papers and further information will be provided to registered participants prior to the forum.

Second Annual ACT ATOD Sector Awards: Call For Organising Committee Members

There are many exceptional people who work to promote health and prevent the harms associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. For the first time last year the ATOD sector held the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards which aimed to recognise, promote and reward outstanding practice in the AOD field in the ACT. Following the success of the first awards, the ATOD sector will again be hosting the awards at the end of 2010. The ATODA is currently calling for interested stakeholders to volunteer to join the Second Annual ACT ATOD Sector Awards Organising Committee. Interested stakeholders should contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Smoke-free Workplace Project

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT The short term Project funded by the ACT Health. 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.

ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy

Please see [Minimum Qualification Strategy section](#) for further information.

September – October 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar

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

The September to October 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar is now available. The Training

APSAD
Conference 2010.

**News from
the Executive
Directors'
Group**

Information from
the 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
affecting the AOD
sector.

**Policy,
Reports and
Research**

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

Media

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

**Consumer
Participation**

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. To request an electronic copy of the current Training Calendar, please contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au.

Vienna Declaration

British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, International AIDS Society, AIDS 2010

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT announces that it has endorsed and become a signatory of the Vienna Declaration.

See [Sector Development section](#) for further details.

National Compact: Working Together

Australian Government

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT announces that it has become a National Compact Partner.

See [Sector Development section](#) for further details.

Improved Services National Forum

NCETA, ATODA, ATCD, WANADA, NTCOSS, VAADA, NADA, QNADA, and SANDAS with support from the Department of Health and Ageing.

See [Interstate Conferences section](#) for further details.

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

ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT

See [Policy, Reports and Research section](#) for further details.

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)

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 currently in the process of implementing the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy (ACT ATOD MQS) for the ATOD sector. 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 ACT ATOD MQS it is necessary for all staff of ATOD services operated by ACT Health or community organisations funded by ACT Health to provide ATOD services, to either possess the minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their agency to meet the minimum qualification within 3 years. The following classes will be held shortly for participants enrolled in 4 Core Competencies:

- September 2010 - Monday 13, Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15
- October 2010 - Monday 11, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13
- November 2010 - Monday 15, Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17
- December 2010 - Monday 6, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8

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

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

Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD sector.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Policy

ACT Health

This new policy, effective from 1 July 2010, provides guidance on the implementation of the ACT ATOD MQS including eligibility criteria, the key components, reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements and review. The policy was developed through input of members of the ACT ATOD Executive Directors and Workers Groups; the ACT ATOD MQS Development and Implementation Committee; and participants of the ACT ATOD MQS Policy Development Workshop on 9 April 2010. The National Centre for Education and Training on Addictions also provided support to develop this policy. To access an electronic copy of the ACT ATOD MQS Policy document, please contact ATODA on

info@atoda.org.au.

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) Project Implementation and Development Committee: Call For Members

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is inviting expressions of interest from individuals interested in participating in the ACT ATOD MQS Project Implementation and Development Committee. The Committee will meet at least three times over its term (July 2010 – June 2011) with other meetings to be determined on a needs basis. The Committee will provide guidance and support to ATODA to conduct the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Project. For more information contact ATODA, on (02) 6255 4070 or info@atoda.org.au.

Sector Activities and Events

Relapse Prevention Group

Womens Information Resources & Education On Drugs & Dependency (WIREDD), Toora Women Inc.

WIREDD has recommenced its relapse prevention group which covers topics such as self-esteem, relationships, practical strategies, art projects, stress management, anger, body image and provides a support system for women. Lunch is provided at the group.

Date: Every Tuesday (from August 24 2010)

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Venue: Griffin Centre, Room G03, Genge Street, Civic.

To access an electronic copy of the Relapse Prevention Group Flyer, please contact WIREDD on

wiredd@toora.org.au.

For more information contact WIREDD on (02) 6248 8600.

Annual Remembrance Ceremony - 'For Those who Lose their lives to Illicit Drugs'

Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT)

The annual remembrance ceremony is attended by around 100 people each year including family members, friends and concerned people from the community. Names of more than 100 people to be remembered are read out. The ceremony is very moving and also helps raise awareness about the need for better drug policies.

Speakers include:

- Reverend Rex Graham, Social Justice Consultant, UnitingCare
- Senator Rachel Siewert, Australian Greens
- Music will be by "The Cashews".

Date: Monday 18 October

Time: 12.30 – 1.30pm

Venue: Weston Park, Yarralumla, ACT (to take place at the dedicated memorial located on the right of Weston Park Road opposite the Prescott Lane junction).

Enquiries to Marion or Brian McConnell, Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform, (02) 6254 2961.

Self Help and Support Groups National Awareness Day Fair

Self Help Organisations United Together (SHOUT) Inc.

As part of the National Self Help and Support Groups Awareness week (6 – 12 September), SHOUT Inc. will be hosting a Self Help & Support Groups National Awareness Day Fair. The fair aims to showcase, celebrate and raise awareness of the work that self help and support groups conduct for the well being of the community. The 2010 edition of the ACT Directory of Self Help, Support Groups and Community Services will also be launched on the day.

Date: 8 September 2010

Time: 11am – 3pm

Venue: Weston Creek Community Centre Hall, Parkinson St, Weston

Visit <http://www.shout.org.au/index.php/self-help-nad> for more information.

The ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Sexual Health, AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (SHAHRD) Stakeholder Forum

The ACT Ministerial Advisory Council on Sexual Health, AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (SHAHRD)

This forum will be an opportunity for key stakeholders and informants to express local views about relevant issues in the context of the Burnett Institute's current evaluation of drug policies and services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Date: Thursday 16 September 2010

Time: 12:45pm – 5pm

Venue: Riley Hall, Pilgrim House, Northbourne Avenue, Civic

RSVP: Essential, by **13 September 2010**

For more information or to RSVP contact Tony Blattman, Population Health Executive Office, ACT Health on (02) 6205 3345 or tony.blattman@act.gov.au.

Anti-Poverty Week: 17 - 23 October 2010

Anti-Poverty Week was established in Australia as an expansion of the United Nation's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:

- strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia;
- encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. For more information visit

www.antipovertyweek.org.au/

ACT Health Promotion Awards

ACT Health

Nominations are being sought for the ACT 2010 Health Promotion Awards in recognition of outstanding achievements and innovative contributions to health promotion practice in the ACT. These awards were last held in 2007 and any non-grant funded program implemented since then is eligible to nominate. Grant funded programs will be assessed through a separate process. Award categories include outstanding achievement in: promoting health and wellbeing in settings; addressing chronic disease risk factors; delivering health promotion messages to identified target groups; and health promotion evaluation or research. An Awards Dinner will be held on 18 November 2010 to recognise and celebrate health promotion successes in the ACT. Nominations for the awards close **Friday 10 September 2010**.

For further information visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10132614&pid=1276753638.

Mental Health Week: 10 – 16 October 2010

Mental Health Week: 10 – 16 October 2010

National Mental Health Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia and over 100 countries in an effort 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.

For further information about Mental Health Week 2010 in the ACT contact Gavin Bussenschutt on (02) 6245 6400 or gavinb@mifellowship.org.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Day and Wellbeing Expo

Picking Up the Peaces

On 10 October 2010 for Mental Health Week, Picking Up The Peaces is hosting the 3rd Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) awareness day health and wellbeing expo. The aim of the day is to break down the stigma associated with PTSD. Organisations are being encouraged to register to set up an information stall to promote the work they do.

Date: October 10, 2010

Cost: \$30 for an information stall

Venue: Near Carillon, Lake Burley Griffin

Registrations for a stall close **10 September 2010**.

For further information or to register your interest contact Richard Murray on 0413994880 or

info@pickingupthepeaces.org.au.

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference: 28 November – 1 December 2010

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

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

Nominations Open: 2010 APSAD Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Research and Practice

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

APSAD are now calling for nominations for the APSAD Awards in two categories; Early Career and Senior Scientist. The Awards will be presented at the 30th APSAD Conference in Canberra, 28 November to 1 December 2010.

For further information visit www.apsadconference.com.au/program/awards/ or contact the APSAD office on (02) 9331 7748 or exec.officer@apsad.org.au.

Nominations are due **15 October 2010**.

News from the Executive Directors' Group

The ACT ATOD Executive Directors Group met on 17 August to discuss a range of issues, including:

- The ACT ATOD Workers Group
- Discussing issues related to blood borne viruses, with a particular focus on people who inject drugs and hepatitis C
- Developments of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT
- Discussing the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia's (ADCA) work regarding the Federal election campaign and Take Away Hours submission.
- Discussing the potential implications of the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System

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

Sector Development

Early Intervention Pilot Program

ACT Health and the Australian Federal Police

On 1st July 2010 the Early Intervention Pilot Program commenced in the ACT. This program is federally funded and is a new national strategy to address binge drinking among young Australians.

ACT Health and the Australian Federal Police will work in partnership to assist young people at risk of abusing alcohol move from engagement with police into the health system where they will be offered help and education to encourage them to change their attitudes and behaviours towards alcohol use.

Young people under the age of 18 years who are found by police to be in possession of alcohol or consuming alcohol will be eligible to be referred to the Diversion Service of the Alcohol and Drug Program to attend an assessment and education session with possible referral to other services if needed. If the young person does not attend an infringement notice may be actioned by the AFP.

For further information about the pilot program contact:

Clare Purcell: Alcohol and Drug Program, Diversion Service, ACT Health, (02) 6205 8384

Sergeant Paul Whittaker: Youth Liaison Team: Crime Prevention, ACT Policing, (02) 6256 7777

David Ridley: Drug and Alcohol Diversion Officer, ACT Policing, (02) 6245 7274

Improved Services Initiative Newsletter

Collaboration between Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations (or equivalent), funded under the initiative

The winter edition of the national newsletter for the Improved Services Initiative has been released. The newsletter contains information about the way in which the Improved Services Initiative funding is being used to achieve integrated comorbidity capacity within non-government Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services across Australia. To access an electronic copy of the Improved Services Initiative Newsletter visit www.comorbidity.org.au/node/980 or contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au.

Clinical Supervision of Postgraduate Psychologist Trainees Undertaking Placements in Alcohol and Other Drugs Services

The Australian Psychological Society Ltd funded by Department of Health and Ageing

This project aims to develop workforce capability to deal with comorbid substance use and mental illness by addressing the shortage of psychologists in the non-government alcohol and other drug (AOD) workforce. The project runs until June 2011 and provides funding for the payment of consultant psychologists to provide clinical supervision for postgraduate psychology students on placement in non-government AOD services as well as incentive payments for AOD services to host placements. Consultant supervisors are funded to attend one hour of supervision per two days of placement, up to a maximum of 20 hours of supervision for a 40 day placement. All AOD services that facilitate placements will receive \$2,000 (plus GST) per student placement for expenses incurred during the placements.

For more information visit www.psychology.org.au/academic/scholarships/clinical/ or contact the project assistant, Athena Politis on a.politis@psychology.org.au.

Written Report and Audio of the 'Candidates on Drugs Forum'

Family and Friends for Drug Law Reform (FFDLR)

On Monday 9 August 2010, FFDLR in partnership with a number of local service providers and ATODA held a forum for the candidates prior to the recent 2010 Federal Election to answer questions and provide information about their party's policies on drug issues. A written report of the forum as well as an audio recording of the event can be accessed at <http://ffdlr.org.au>.

For Kids Sake: A Workforce Development Resource for Family Sensitive Policy and Practice in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)

This resource is designed to provide workforce development/capacity building knowledge and strategies for AOD interventions that are sensitive to the needs of, and involve families and children. The resource takes a public health perspective on interventions that aim to prevent and reduce the impact of AOD misuse on families and children. For further information on the resource visit www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/.

Toolkit for AOD Family Work

Eastern Drug and Alcohol Service (EDAS)

The Toolkit for AOD Family Work is a collection of selected resources including screening tools, questionnaires, worksheets, and utility practice tools gathered from the sector, research and professional bodies. The toolkit is divided into five key areas, namely:

- Family work framework and assessment
- Families where there is problematic parental substance use
- Coping Assessment
- Concurrent Disorders
- Family Violence

Visit http://o.b5z.net/i/u/6136340/i/Family_Focus_Toolkit.pdf to access the toolkit.

August Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia Newsletter

Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) is the peak, national, non-government organisation representing the interests of the Australian alcohol and other drugs sector, providing a national voice for people working to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. Issue 51 of the ADCA Newsletter is currently available. The issue provides information on Drug Action Week 2010, including the winners of the National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2010. Visit www.adca.org.au/images/publications/ADCA_news/adcanews_aug2010_lowres_web.pdf to view the newsletter.

"Let's Talk" Suicide Prevention Campaign

ACT Health

ACT Health is currently undertaking the "Let's Talk" Suicide Prevention Campaign that has run from 16 August and will finish on 12 September 2010. The campaign aims to: raise awareness about suicide and suicide prevention for residents of the ACT, provide information about where residents of the ACT can obtain assistance if they, or someone they know, is at risk of suicide and reduce the stigma associated with suicide. The "Let's Talk" campaign includes regular articles in local print and radio media, bus posters and wallet cards and will culminate with an awareness raising event at the Civic Bus Interchange from 8:00 to 9:30 am on Friday 10 September 2010.

For more information about the campaign visit <http://health.gky.com.au/c/health?a=da&did=11071645>.

Suicide Prevention Newsletter

ACT Health

ACT Health, with the support of the Suicide Prevention Implementation and Evaluation Working Group, has developed a newsletter for workers and services to promote upcoming events and resources related to suicide prevention. The newsletter includes resources and tools for workers, along with training and professional development opportunities.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sendfile&ft=p&fid=1281937086&sid= to view the newsletter.

Vienna Declaration

British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, International AIDS Society, AIDS 2010

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT announces that it has endorsed and become a signatory of the Vienna Declaration. The Vienna Declaration is a statement seeking to improve community health and safety by calling for the incorporation of scientific evidence into illicit drug policies. Organisations, scientists, health practitioners and the general public are invited to endorse the document in order to bring the issues it raises to the attention of governments and international agencies, and to illustrate that drug policy reform is a matter of urgent international significance. For more information and to read and sign the declaration visit www.viennadeclaration.com/index.html.

National Compact: Working Together

Australian Government

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT announces that it has become a National Compact Partner. The National Compact: Working Together is an Australian Government initiative and outlines how the Government and the Third Sector of community and not-for-profit organisations want to work together in new ways based on partnership and respect. The compact is the result of extensive consultation between the Government and the Sector. All not-for-profit organisations are invited to sign up to the compact. For further information or to sign up visit

www.nationalcompact.gov.au

Pain Support Group: Calling for Expressions of Interest

Self Help Organisations United Together (SHOUT) Inc.

Expressions of interest are currently being taken to commence a pain support group. The group would work with Arthritis ACT, the Chronic Conditions Alliance and would also be linked with the Australian Pain Management Association. The group could enable participants to: talk about experiences and feelings, hear from medical and other experts, learn pain management strategies, advocate for the interests of those with chronic pain, access disease and pain management information and benefit from mutual support. For more information contact Margaret McCulloch on (02) 62811036.

Feedback Sought - Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit: Good Practice Standards for Culturally Appropriate Community Services

ACT Council Of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit (CASAT), launched by ACTCOSS in July 2009, is a set of good practice standards developed to assist community service organisations improve the quality of their services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities and to improve the organisation's knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. ACTCOSS is currently seeking feedback from organisations who have completed CASAT, are in the process of completing, or who would like more information on getting started. Visit www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Publications_2009/2109PAP.pdf to view the toolkit.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Business Forum

Which Way Same Way Rainbow Network

This forum provides an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender to support each other in a relaxing environment. The Network is supported by the ACT Council of Social Service.

Date: Sunday 12 September 2010

Time: 10.30am - 3pm

Venue: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre

Cost: Free

For more information contact 0439 571 624 or lespur77@hotmail.com.au.

ACOSS submission to fair work Australia on equal remuneration

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The ACOSS submission to Fair Work Australia regarding pay equity for community sector workers is now available at www.fwa.gov.au/sites/remuneration/submissions/ACOSS_Submission.pdf. For more information about ACOSS's campaign for funding, including the Sector Statement and funding campaign resources visit www.acoss.org.au/equalpay.

ACT Community Sector Policy Network

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS has established a new email network, the ACT Community Sector Policy Network. The network is intended to be an online forum for people working in various policy areas across the community and non-profit sector to network and share ideas. To sign up to the list, visit www.communitylists.org.au/mailman/listinfo/act-policy-network.

Training and Professional Development

September – October 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar

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

See [News from ATODA section](#) for further details.

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

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

See [APSAD 2010 Conference section](#) for further details.

What About Me? Children of Parents with a Mental Illness

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), Mental Health ACT and ACT Health

This workshop will provide workers and services with the opportunity to reflect on the experience of families when mental illness enters a parent's life; the impact of mental illness on the parenting role; issues faced by children and young people who live with parents who experience mental illness; children's construction of the experience; and what to consider when talking with children and young people.

Date: Thursday 16 September 2010

Time: 8.45am - 4.30pm

Venue: Meeting Room, Therapy ACT, Cnr Weingarh St and Blackwood Terrace, Holder

To request an electronic copy of the Workshop Flyer, please contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au. For more information or contact Sally Markham on (02) 6207 1344 or Bridget Dillon on (02) 6205 1110.

The 8th Dangerous Consumptions Colloquium

Australian National University

The Dangerous Consumptions Colloquium is a forum for the presentation and discussion of research on contemporary consumption. In past years presentations have explored alcohol, illicit drugs, gambling, sex, food, blood, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, celebrity magazines and pleasure from a social research perspective. Presentations on these or other forms of 'dangerous consumption' are welcome.

Date: 2 - 3 December 2010

Venue: School of Sociology, Australian National University

Cost: \$80 – \$100 (TBC)

Call for abstracts close **20 September 2010**.

For further information contact Dan Woodman on dan.woodman@anu.edu.au or (02) 6125 4120.

5th Annual Practice Talking Conference 2010

Department of Disability, Housing, and Community Services (DHCS), in partnership with Australian Catholic University

(ACU)

The Conference is themed "Seeds of change: growing practice" and is an opportunity for front line workers/practitioners who work with children, youth, adults, families and communities to share their practice ideas, knowledge, experience and skills with each other.

Date: Tuesday, 30 November 2010

Venue: Australian Catholic University

Call for abstracts close **10 September 2010**.

For further information contact the conference organisers on practice_talking@act.gov.au or (02) 6207 7336 or visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/practice_talking.

Human Rights Commission Training and Professional Development Opportunities

ACT Human Rights Commission (HRC)

The HRC has released their July - November Training Calendar, and have a number of training and professional development opportunities available to community sector workers and services. These include: Human Rights in the Community Sector, Introduction to Health Records and Privacy, Introduction to the Discrimination Act, and Human Rights for ACT Agencies.

Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/content.php/category.view/id/77 for more information.

Managing Challenging Behaviours

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This one-day seminar provides participants with strategies that can be used to achieve effective outcomes more often with clients presenting with challenging behaviours. The seminar is facilitated by Biff Ward of Spectra Consultants.

Date: Wednesday 22 September 2010

Time: 9am – 4:30pm

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

Cost: \$139 ACTCOSS members, \$199 Non-members, \$274 Government/Corporate

Registration: Essential, by **15 September 2010**

For more information visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/ChallengingBehaviours-Sep10.pdf or contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au.

Sexual Health Training

Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT)

SHFPACT will be providing training to workers titled 'Introduction to Sexuality and Health' during 21 - 23 September, which offers participants an opportunity to update knowledge on sexual health and learn to communicate comfortably and confidently with clients about sex, sexuality and relationships. In November they will be running 'Educating in Sexuality and Health' which offers participants an opportunity to learn how to perform a needs assessment, and how to design, implement and evaluate a program to meet the needs of their clients.

Visit www.shfpact.org.au for more information or contact Elle Reid on (02) 6163 3439 or ereid@shfpact.org.au.

Governance Workshop: Legal Obligations

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS Governance workshops are designed to meet the needs of people intending to become Board Members of not-for-profit organisations in the ACT. The aim of this seminar is to introduce participants to the basic legal obligations relevant to community sector organisations. This will include requirements of specific Board/Committee roles.

Date: Wednesday 8 September 2010

Time: 5pm – 8pm

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

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

Registration: Essential, by **1 September 2010**

For more information visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/LegalObligations-Sept10.pdf or contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au.

One Day Appreciation of Torres Strait Culture Awareness Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This one-day training is facilitated by Benny Hodges and is for both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. It aims to assist participants to develop a better understanding of the cultural perspectives of Torres Strait people in Australia.

Date: Thursday, 16 September 2010

Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm

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

Cost: \$162 ACTCOSS members, \$198 Non-members, \$239 Government/Corporate, \$54 Homelessness Services

For more information visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/TSICulturalTraining-Sept10.pdf or contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

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/.

Selling Prevention in 2010: 2010 NSW Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) Workers Forum

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Workforce Development Program

This Forum is an opportunity for NSP workers to gather for the purpose of learning together, swapping ideas, problem solving and gaining new insights into this key public health initiative.

Date: Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 September 2010

Venue: Citigate Central Hotel Sydney, 169-179 Thomas Street

Registration: Essential, by **Friday 10 September 2010**

For more information or to register for the forum visit www.wdp.org.au/harm-reduction/41-general/90-2010statewidenspworkersforum.

Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco Conference 2010

Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT)

The theme of APACT is Change, Challenge and Progress: Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in the Asia Pacific. APACT 2010 aims to encourage tobacco control and public health advocates, researchers, practitioners,

policy makers and youth leaders to share experiences, and discuss strategies for implementation of the FCTC and for dealing with the tobacco industry.

Date: 6 – 9 October, 2010

Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: \$790 fulltime delegate, \$325 day delegate

Registration: Standard registration closes **3 September 2010**.

For more information or to register for the conference visit www.apact2010.org.

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

To request an electronic copy of the Forum Flyer, please contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au.

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

2010 National Drug Trends Conference

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The National Drug Trends Conference will present recent findings in illicit drug use, markets and related harms across Australia. The Conference will include the first release of the 2010 findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS).

Date: Friday 15th October 2010

Time: 9.45am-4.45pm (followed by a cocktail party from 5 – 7pm)

Venue: Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo, Sydney

Cost: \$180 early bird (an additional \$30 for the cocktail party)

Registration: Early bird closes **23 September 2010**

For more information or to register for the conference visit

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

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 midnight **Friday 10 September 2010**.

Visit www.conventionwise.com.au/images/ATDC_2010/ATDC_Conference_Program.pdf to view the Full Conference Program. For more information on the conference visit <https://events.conventionwise.com.au/ei/cm.esp?id=9603010000274&pageid=2VT0TF2GB>.

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

Visit www.australiandrugsconference.org.au/download/ADC%20Program%20Highlights.pdf to view the Conference Program Highlights.

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 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/.

Inaugural National Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Conference

Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Research Unit (IPDRU), Social Policy Research Centre, University of NSW

The conference aims to address the following three questions:

- What might we now do to create a more just and reconciled society?
- How might we create new opportunities to transform the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?
- What are the implications for policy making in this contested space?

Date: 18 – 19 November 2010

Venue: University of NSW

Cost: \$500

Registration: Essential by **28 October 2010**

Call for refereed papers close **13 September 2010**.

For further information or to register visit <http://nipdc.arts.unsw.edu.au/> or contact the conference organisers on nipdc@unsw.edu.au or +61(2) 9385 7588.

Policy Activities

'Vision Zero' ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020

ACT Government

The ACT Government has released a Discussion Paper on potential measures for the next ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020. The Discussion Paper proposes increased focus across a number of areas (including drink and drug driving) to support a move towards the 'Vision Zero' philosophy and a more robust application of 'safe system' principles. The ACT Government is welcoming written comments on the paper to communityengagement@act.gov.au or by mail. For more information visit

www.communityengagement.act.gov.au/engagements/tams/current/vision_zero_act_road_safety_strategy_2011-2020.

The closing date for comments is 5pm, Thursday 30 September 2010.

Workforce Plan for the Health Workforce of the ACT

ACT Health, ACT Government

ACT Health is developing a Workforce Plan to help plan for a sustainable health workforce for the ACT, following the expiration of the current ACT Health Workforce Plan 2005 - 2010. The new plan will build upon the current plan and will also be widened to include the entire ACT Health workforce (not just clinicians) and the health professional workforce across the ACT. ACT Health is welcoming input on the changing nature of workforce needs and associated challenges.

Email comments to workforceplan@act.gov.au.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sp&pid=1273549353 for more information.

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 is the single best source of scientific evidence about drug policy?

An international group of scientists from the fields of addiction, public health, criminology and policy studies have written a book *Drug Policy and the Public Good* 'to improve the linkages between drug research and drug policy'. The book provides 'a critical review of the cumulative scientific evidence in five general areas of drug policy: primary prevention programmes in schools and other settings; health and social services for drug users; attempts to control the supply of drugs, including the international treaty system; law enforcement and ventures into decriminalization; and control of the psychotropic substance market through prescription drug regimes'. It also discusses 'the current state of drug policies in different parts of the world' and describes 'the need for future approaches to drug policy that are coordinated and informed by evidence'. The authors summarise their book in this journal article.

Drugs and Public Policy Group 2010, 'Drug Policy and the Public Good: a summary of the book', *Addiction*, vol. 105, no. 7, pp. 1137-45.

Is Big Tobacco correct in claiming that there is no evidence supporting plain packaging of tobacco products?

Answer: no, it is another falsehood being promulgated by the tobacco industry. Some key studies, and their conclusions, including recent Australian research, are these: 'Removing as much brand information from cigarette packs as possible is likely to reduce positive cigarette brand image associations among adolescents. By additionally increasing the size of pictorial health warnings, positive pack perceptions of those who are at greater risk of becoming regular addicted adult smokers are most likely to be reduced.' Germain, D, Wakefield, MA & Durkin, SJ 2010, 'Adolescents' perceptions of cigarette brand image: does plain packaging make a difference?' *Journal of Adolescent Health*, vol. 46, no. 4, pp. 385-92

'Current regulations have failed to remove potentially misleading information from tobacco packaging. Removing colours from packs (plain packaging), as well as terms such as 'smooth' 'gold' and 'silver' would significantly reduce false beliefs and increase compliance with existing legislation.' Hammond, D, Dockrell, M, Arnott, D, Lee, A & McNeill, A 2009, 'Cigarette pack design and perceptions of risk among UK adults and youth', *Eur J Public Health*, vol. 19, no. 6, pp. 631-7.

'The findings suggest that current regulations have failed to remove misleading information from tobacco packaging.' Hammond, D & Parkinson, C 2009, 'The impact of cigarette package design on perceptions of risk', *J Public Health (Oxf)*, vol. 31, no. 3, pp. 345-53.

'Plain packaging policies that remove most brand design elements are likely to be most successful in removing cigarette brand image associations.' Wakefield, MA, Germain, D & Durkin, SJ 2008, 'How does increasingly plainer cigarette packaging influence adult smokers' perceptions about brand image? An experimental study', *Tobacco Control*, vol. 17, no. 6, pp. 416-21.

'Longitudinal studies consistently suggest that exposure to tobacco advertising and promotion is associated with the likelihood that adolescents will start to smoke.' Lovato, C, Linn, G, Stead, LF & Best, A 2003, 'Impact of tobacco advertising and promotion on increasing adolescent smoking behaviours', *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*, no. 4, p. CD003439.

Do urban-dwelling Aboriginal Australians have better health than Aboriginal Australians living in rural or remote areas?

General practitioners at the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (WNAHS) in Canberra completed a survey of all attendances at the service over two separate 2-week periods in 2006. The survey data revealed that 'most service contacts at WNAHS involved patients with complex and chronic illnesses – particularly psychological conditions, for which a third of the attendances were for substance misuse'. The findings of the research 'suggest that 'the patterns of health service attendance of urban Aboriginal people differ from those of the overall Australian population, particularly in relation to mental health, endocrine and neurological conditions'. In fact, 'Urban Aboriginal health service attendance appears to reflect significant ill health among the patients, aligning more with Aboriginal health statistics nationally rather than health statistics for urban non-Aboriginal Australians'.

Flegg, KM, Phillips, CB, Collins, AL, Sharp, PG, Kanagasundaram, M, Lovett, RW & Kljakovic, M 2010, 'Health service attendance patterns in an urban Aboriginal health service', *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 193, no. 3, pp. 146-8.

What evidence is available about managing alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians?

The July 2010 issue of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health contains two literature reviews of treatment of Indigenous Australians with alcohol-related problems, one on delivering culturally appropriate residential rehabilitation, the other on opportunities for Indigenous primary health care services to reduce alcohol-related harm. A third article provides an overview of the two review papers. The authors of the overview state that 'the papers highlight the paucity of the evidence base for the provision of treatment for Indigenous Australians with alcohol-related problems. Among the key issues identified are: the need to engage with clients in culturally safe ways; practitioner, organisational and client barriers to engagement; the contexts in which Indigenous drinking and treatment take place; the need to develop rigorous methods of evaluation more appropriate to Indigenous cultural and service provision settings; and the importance of effective partnerships in the provision of services.

Gray, D, Saggars, S, Wilkes, E, Allsop, S & Ober, C 2010, 'Managing alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians: what the literature tells us', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34, no. s1, pp. S34-S5.

How much does others' drinking cost Australians?

A new research report released by the AER Foundation provides new information on the costs of alcohol to Australians. It goes further than previous costings to emphasise alcohol's costs to other people associated with the drinker in some manner. The authors point out that '...almost three quarters of all adults in Australia were negatively affected over a one-year period by someone else's drinking, in ways ranging from minor annoyance to physical violence or death'. Furthermore, 'The study concludes that the overall tangible and intangible costs to Australia of alcohol abuse could be double the previous estimates if the additional impact that heavy drinkers have on others around them is taken into account, particularly in areas such as out-of-pocket expenses, lost time, forgone wages and productivity...At least \$14 billion per annum can be attributed as tangible costs of alcohol's harm to others. Much of this is additional to the more than \$15 billion previously identified as costs associated with alcohol abuse in Australia.'

Laslett, A-M, Catalano, P, Chikritzhs, Y, Dale, C, Doran, C, Ferris, J, Jainullabudeen, T, Livingston, M, Matthews, S, Mugavin, J, Room, R, Schlotterlein, M & Wilkinson, C 2010, *The range and magnitude of alcohol's harm to others*, AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Eastern Health, Fitzroy, Victoria, [http://aerf.com.au/Harm to Others Full Report with-errata.pdf](http://aerf.com.au/Harm%20to%20Others%20Full%20Report%20with-errata.pdf). Summary report
[http://aerf.com.au/Harm to Others Summary.pdf](http://aerf.com.au/Harm%20to%20Others%20Summary.pdf) Large file warning: 3.3 MB

What does the United Nations advise in relation to HIV in prisons?

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has produced a toolkit which describes the characteristics of HIV in prisons, prisoners' unique requirements and principles of assessments; and the tools' for a multidisciplinary approach to situation and needs assessments. One of the general principles is that HIV and TB services should be available to all prisoners and staff. The recommendations include that: 'In countries where clean syringes and needles are made available to people who inject drugs in the community, clean injecting equipment during detention and on release to prisoners who request them, should be provided... All types of evidence-based treatment available in the community should be accessible in prisons, especially opioid substitution'. Legal reforms should be undertaken to ensure 'the principle of equivalence of health care in prisons is clearly established... the legal status of comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services in prisons...there is no involuntary HIV testing or segregation of prisoners living with HIV or AIDS...health decisions in prisons are made by health professionals...laws allow for provisions to reduce imprisonment and pre-trial detention...laws allow for early release of terminally ill prisoners and... laws are supportive of an effective HIV programme'.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2010, *HIV in prisons: situation and needs assessment toolkit; advance copy*, UNODC, Vienna, [www.unodc.org/documents/hiv-aids/publications/HIV in prisons situation and needs assessment document.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/hiv-aids/publications/HIV_in_prisons_situation_and_needs_assessment_document.pdf)

How effective and feasible is heroin prescription for individuals who do not respond to methadone or buprenorphine treatment?

A prominent researcher from Sydney South West Area Health Service Drug Health Services analysed European studies and trials of the prescribing of injectable or smokable heroin to heroin dependent people on a maintenance basis. The analysis revealed that, generally 'heroin treatment results in a comparable retention, improved general health and psychosocial functioning, and less self-reported illicit heroin use than oral methadone treatment. Cost-effectiveness studies indicate heroin treatment to be more expensive to deliver but to result in savings in the criminal justice sector. There has been debate regarding how heroin treatment should be positioned within the range of treatment approaches for this condition. There is increasing consensus that, in countries that have robust and accessible treatment systems for heroin users, heroin treatment is suited to a minority of heroin users as a second-line treatment for those individuals who do not respond to methadone or buprenorphine treatment delivered under optimal conditions.'

Lintzeris, N 2009, 'Prescription of heroin for the management of heroin dependence: current status', *CNS Drugs*, vol. 23, no. 6, pp. 463-76.

What types of treatment are effective for cocaine dependency?

A review of treatment approaches has found that 'some...such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and medications have shown promise in successfully treating cocaine dependence. However, individually, each of these treatments exhibit weakness in longitudinal studies where long-term abstinence is the primary outcome of interest. Although other treatments are being explored, thus far, the combination of CBT and pharmacotherapy has elicited the best results for treating cocaine dependence with respect to patient retention and relapse prevention following abstinence. No treatment method has yet been shown to completely and effectively treat cocaine dependence'.

Penberthy, JK, Ait-Daoud, N, Vaughan, M & Fanning, T 2010, 'Review of treatment for cocaine dependence', *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 49-62.

Does cannabis use affect educational achievement?

Researchers from Australia and New Zealand analysed data from three cohort studies (the Christchurch Health and Development Study; the Victorian Adolescent and Health Cohort Study; and the Mater-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy and Outcomes) to examine 'The associations between age of onset of cannabis use and educational achievement'. They found that 'There were significant...associations between age of onset of cannabis use and all

outcomes such that rates of attainment were highest for those who had not used cannabis by age 18 and lowest for those who first used cannabis before age 15...Pooled estimates suggested that early use of cannabis may contribute up to 17% of the rate of failure to obtain the educational milestones of high school completion, university enrolment and degree attainment'.

Horwood, LJ, Fergusson, DM, Hayatbakhsh, MR, Najman, JM, Coffey, C, Patton, GC, Silins, E & Hutchinson, DM 2010, 'Cannabis use and educational achievement: findings from three Australasian cohort studies', *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, vol. 110, no. 3, pp. 247-53.

Can cannabis use cause long-term psychosis?

Researchers based in Rome, Italy, assessed the results of five systematic reviews on the association between cannabis use and psychosis. They found that there is 'a consistent association between cannabis use and psychotic symptoms, though it is not possible to draw firm conclusions about a causal relationship'. They concluded that 'there is insufficient knowledge to determine the level of risk associated with cannabis use in relation to psychotic symptoms and that more information is needed on both the risks of cannabis use and the benefits of preventive interventions to support evidence-based approaches in this area'.

Minozzi, S, Davoli, M, Bargagli, AM, Amato, L, Vecchi, S & Perucci, CA 2010, 'An overview of systematic reviews on cannabis and psychosis: discussing apparently conflicting results', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 29, no. 3, pp. 304-17.

What can we learn from the results of national alcohol prohibition in the USA from 1920 to 1933?

According to conventional wisdom, the prohibition of alcohol in the United States over the period 1920 to 1933 was 'a misguided and failed social experiment'. Australian scholar Professor Wayne Hall provides econometric and historical analyses of the policy which indicate that 'if considered as a public health policy, reduced alcohol use and harm'. He found that 'all indicators suggested that alcohol use declined substantially during the early years of prohibition... steep and sustained declines...in liver cirrhosis deaths, hospitalizations for alcoholic psychosis...and arrests for drunkenness'. Prohibition 'probably reduced alcohol consumption and alcohol-related harm by as much as 60%... incurred substantial social costs [the creation of large black markets run by criminal gangs, police corruption, increased violence, etc]'. He concludes that 'It is incorrect to claim that the US experience of National Prohibition indicates that prohibition as a means of regulating alcohol is always doomed to failure. Subsequent experience shows that partial prohibitions can produce substantial public health benefits at an acceptable social cost, in the absence of substantial enforcement. Hall, WD 2010, 'What are the policy lessons of National Alcohol Prohibition in the United States, 1920-1933?' *Addiction*, vol. 105, no. 7, pp. 1164-73.

Are people recently released from prison really at increased risk of dying from a drug overdose?

A meta-analysis of studies that followed up prisoners after release 'demonstrated an internationally high, three- to eightfold increased risk of drug-related death in the first 2 weeks after release from prison compared with the subsequent 10 weeks...The risk of drug-related death is also shown to remain elevated beyond the first 2 weeks post-release into the second 2 weeks (relative to weeks 5-12)'. The authors comment that 'the increased risk of drug-related death may be explained by a decrease in tolerance to drugs as a result of being in prison where drug use is less frequent and the drugs may be of lower purity...and there could be a tendency for "celebration" on release'.

Merrall, EL, Kariminia, A, Binswanger, IA, Hobbs, MS, Farrell, M, Marsden, J, Hutchinson, SJ & Bird, SM 2010, 'Meta-analysis of drug-related deaths soon after release from prison', *Addiction*, vol. 105, no. 9, pp. 1545-54.

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, developed by Amanda Bode and Carrie Fowle, details the story of the ACT AOD Sector Project from its conception through to the establishment of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA). The report describes the processes towards formalising ACT alcohol and other drug support, the work of the ACT AOD Sector Project, the work towards establishing ATODA, and acknowledges the individuals and services that were involved in the Project.

To access an electronic copy of the ACT AOD Sector Project Report, please contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au.

Dutch Courage - Young People, Alcohol and Alcohol Related Violence

Dr Justin Barker, Youth Coalition of the ACT

This report outlines the findings of a research project that took place in March - May 2010. The Youth Coalition of the ACT employed Dr Justin Barker to implement a research project into young people and alcohol related violence, with a key focus on Civic, Canberra. The report examines the experiences, perspectives and understandings of young people regarding alcohol related violence in Canberra, and examines the patterns of alcohol consumption, the value and role attributed to alcohol and violence in the lives of young people who socialise in Civic.

Visit www.youthcoalition.net/documents/projects/Other/YCReport-DutchCourage.pdf to view the report.

Australia's Health 2010

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

Australia's health 2010 is the 12th biennial health report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. It provides statistics and commentary on: determinants of health and keys to prevention; diseases and injury; how health varies across population groups; health across the life stages; health services, expenditure and workforce; the health sector's performance.

Visit www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11374 to view the report.

Media

Risky drinking

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

10 August 2010

One in five Australians – some 3.5 million people – will experience problems of alcohol abuse and dependence during their lifetime, but few seek treatment, a new study from UNSW's National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre has found. The report, published online in the journal *Addiction* and launched at the NDARC Annual Symposium, provides the first ever lifetime estimates of alcohol problems in Australia....

Visit www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/articles/2010/aug/NDARC.html to view the full media release.

Making it easier to access justice in the ACT

Simon Corbell, MLA

10 August 2010

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, has launched a new practical guide to the ACT justice system, designed to increase the accessibility of legal services to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander guide to law and justice services in the ACT clearly lists and details all the legal services that are available in the Territory..... Mr Corbell was joined by representatives of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and community legal sector to launch the guide, and to celebrate United Nations International Day of Indigenous Peoples. The guide has been developed by ACT legal service providers to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people understand the wide range of services that are available if they:

- need legal advice;
- have been a victim of crime;
- are involved with the criminal justice system; or,
- want to make a complaint.....

The guide will be available on the ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety website www.justice.act.gov.au/, from ACT legal services, or by contacting the Aboriginal Justice Centre on (02) 6162 1000. Visit

www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9845&m=53 to view the full media release.

Australians of the year call for action on tobacco

Public Health Association of Australia

11 August 2010

Australia's six medical Australians of the Year have called on all parties to support plain packaging for tobacco products, a measure which is being aggressively opposed by the international tobacco industry. Professors Peter Doherty (Australian of the Year 1997), Sir Gustav Nossal (Australian of the Year 2000), Fiona Stanley (Australian of the Year 2003), Fiona Wood (Australian of the Year 2005), Ian Frazer (Australian of the Year 2006), and Patrick McGorry (Australian of the Year 2010) have issued a statement which condemns "the tobacco industry's cynical campaign" and calls "on all political parties to commit themselves unequivocally to supporting legislation on plain packaging as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing the devastating toll of death and disease caused by smoking".....

Visit www.phaa.net.au/documents/MediaReleaseAUSTRALIANSOFTHEYEARCALLFORACTIONONTOBACCO.pdf to view the full media release.

Scholarships to assist women in the boardroom

Joy Burch, MLA

16 August 2010

Canberra women are being encouraged to apply for two ACT Government scholarships aimed at improving their boardroom skills. ACT Minister for Women Joy Burch said applications for the 2010 ACT Women's Director Scholarships Program would be accepted until 8 October 2010. Each scholarship is worth approximately \$5,000.... More information and application packages are available from the ACT Office for Women by phoning 6205 0515, logging onto www.women.act.gov.au/ or emailing women@act.gov.au. Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9863&m=138 to view the full media release.

Government response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body report

Jon Stanhope, MLA

19 August 2010

Chief Minister and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Jon Stanhope, has released the ACT Government's response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Estimates Hearings which were held for the first time in August last year. Mr Stanhope said the hearings were important for Indigenous people in the ACT, allowing members of the Elected Body to directly question Chief Executives about their agency's spending and decision making. "For the first time, sanctioned by legislation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected representatives had the opportunity to directly question senior officials within Government, who were responsible for delivering services and programs for Indigenous people in the ACT," Mr Stanhope said. "The discussions, similar to any estimates hearing, were robust and the questioning of senior officials, direct, holding the government and its agencies to account.... The Government will meet with the Chair of the Elected Body, Terry Williams, in the coming week to discuss the Government's response. Mr Stanhope thanked members of the Elected Body for their ongoing role as a representative voice for Indigenous people living in the ACT. Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9874 to view the full media release.

ACT leads the nation to protect our most vulnerable

Joy Burch, MLA

26 August 2010

The ACT Government will introduce the most comprehensive background checking laws in the country, which will for the first time provide centralized screening of anyone working with children and vulnerable adults. ACT Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services Joy Burch will today table a Bill in the Legislative Assembly that seeks to establish a regulatory framework for the background checking and risk assessment of people working - or volunteering - with children or vulnerable adults in the ACT..... The Working with Vulnerable People Checks Policy Position on which the Bill is based is available at: www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc. Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9890 to view the full media release.

Progress report on AMC review

Simon Corbell, MLA

26 August 2010

A progress report on the independent review of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly today by Attorney General, Simon Corbell. Earlier this year the ACT Government commissioned Keith Hamburger to conduct the review of 12 months of operation at the AMC. "This progress report details the methodologies that are being used during the review, a description of the different roles of the review team and a summary of work undertaken to date," Mr Corbell said. "This review will provide an important independent analysis of the first 12 months of operations at the AMC.... "The review process has so far engaged with a large range of key stakeholders from both the government and non-government sector," Mr Corbell said.... The progress report is now available on the Department of Justice and Community Safety and ACT Corrective Services websites. Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9894 to view the full media release.

ACT Government liquor reforms approved

Simon Corbell, MLA

26 August 2010

A major overhaul of liquor laws in the ACT which will take effect on December 1, 2010, has been supported by the Legislative Assembly today, Attorney General, Simon Corbell, said "These new reforms are designed to tackle the problem of alcohol-fuelled violence and irresponsible service of alcohol in our community," Mr Corbell said. "Greater responsibility will now be on liquor licensees and patrons to do the right thing and reduce the impact excessive alcohol consumption has on our community.".... "The Government has recently engaged in public consultation on the draft regulation that will accompany this new legislation. The Government is finalising its position and will be releasing further details shortly.... "A review process of the new laws will begin in 2012, and this will provide data to gauge how effective the new measures have been and what, if any, further measures need to be considered."

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9895 to view the full media release.

Amendments give drivers more notice about suspensions

Jon Stanhope, MLA

27 August 2010

The ACT Government is moving to amend its laws for notifying motorists when they face a licence or registration suspension for failing to pay an infringement notice penalty or court fine "The Government's amendments provide the road transport authority and motorists with much-needed certainty when licence or registration sanctions are taken," Chief Minister and Minister for Transport, Jon Stanhope, said today.... Under the amendments, a motorist will be sent a reminder notice after the initial period for paying the infringement notice or fine, including any extensions, has expired. This will be followed by a suspension notice (for unpaid infringement notice penalties) or a fine enforcement notice (for court fines), alerting the motorist that the road transport authority is required by law to suspend their licence, or if the person does not have a licence, their vehicle registration or their right to drive in the ACT, on a specified date. If the penalty or fine is not paid by that date, a final notice will be sent to confirm that the suspension has taken effect. "If people have any concerns about their licence or vehicle registration, for example because of an unpaid infringement notice penalty or excessive demerit points, they can check their current status by contacting Canberra Connect on 13 22 81," Mr Stanhope said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9896 to view the full media release.

ACT Government opens the door on more housing options

Joy Burch, MLA

30 August 2010

A centralised waiting list for public and community housing in the ACT will be introduced on September 1, giving low and middle income Canberrans a greater choice of housing products with a single application. The new system will mean that for the first time the ACT will have a single entry point for people applying for public and community housing, and will create a more efficient and responsive social housing system....

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9901&m=138 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Consumer Representative Training

Health Care Consumers Association of the A.C.T. (HCAA)

HCCA is running free training for people interested in becoming consumer representatives.

Date: Thursday, September 16, 2010 and Thursday, September 23, 2010

Time: 9:30am - 2:30pm

Venue: The HCCA Offices, 10 Maitland St Hackett

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential

For further information visit www.hcca.org.au or contact the HCAA office on (02) 6230 7800 or adminofficer@hcca.org.au.

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 other drug issues. For more information visit www.directionsact.com/employment.

Quarterly Consumer, Carer and Community Forum

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

This Forum focuses on new initiatives promoting employment and vocational rehabilitation for mental health consumers in the ACT. The forum will also provide an overview of current supported employment services in the ACT.

Date: 9 September 2010

Time: 5.30 to 8pm

Venue: Room 6, (Level 1) Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra City

For further information or to RSVP contact Mental Health Community Coalition ACT on (02) 6249 7756 or admin@mhccact.org.au.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Free Training for Youth Workers

Cancer Council ACT

As part of the Cancer Council ACT's Live it Up! project, free training is available to youth centres and youth organisations to assist workers in encouraging good nutrition and exercise habits amongst their clients. Training is being offered to any organization who works with young people and will be delivered to staff at your organisation. Training can be in the form of a one-off information session, or a structured series of sessions to best meet your organisational needs. There will be no cost to your organisation and all training resources will be supplied by the Cancer Council ACT. Visit www.actcancer.org/downloads/File/Live%20it%20Up%20FLYER.pdf for more information or contact (02) 6257 9999 or bernadette.urack@actcancer.org.

Employment Opportunities

Family Support Worker

Barnardos Kids in Focus Program

Part Time (28 Hours per week), Barnardos Enterprise Certified Agreement, Level 29 – SP9 (\$44,337 to \$60,634 – pro rata according to part time hours).

The Barnardos Kids in Focus Program is a new program set up based upon the Barnardos Family Support Program service provision model. Barnardos is looking for an energetic, creative and flexible, family support worker to work in a program that offers outreach support to vulnerable families who are experiencing drug and alcohol related issues, possibly in addition to poverty, difficulties caring for their children, housing, family relationship and wellbeing concerns. For more information including the selection criteria, contact Alison Taylor on (02) 6228 9529. Applications are due by **5pm 1 September 2010**.

Administration Officer

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

Part Time (25 hours per week - to be reviewed in 6 mths), a salary of up to \$45,000 pro rata (plus super) and salary packaging is available.

The ANCD is the principal advisory body to government on drug and alcohol policy and services and is currently seeking to fill a position within its Secretariat office based in Canberra. The flexible position offers an opportunity to work as part of a small team supporting the ANCD in its work on national drug and alcohol issues. For an information package, including selection criteria please contact Julie at the ANCD Secretariat on (02) 6166 9600 or email

ancd@ancd.org.au or visit www.ancd.org.au. Applications are due by **Friday 17 September 2010**.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

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](http://www.aerf.com.au/community/Conference%20Attendance%20form%202010.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](http://www.aerf.com.au/community/Innovative%20Project%20form%202010.doc).

Applications close **30 September 2010**.

ACT Multicultural Grants Program 2010 - 2011

Office of Multicultural Affairs, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

The aim of the ACT Multicultural Grants Program is to enhance the ACT community through the development of innovative projects that contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/matsia/multicultural/services/grants/act_multicultural_grants_program for more information.

Applications close **10 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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