

From: "Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Association ACT" <ebulletin@atoda.org.au>  
Subject: **ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: April 2011**  
Date: 1 April 2011 5:29:06 PM AEDT  
To: ben@atoda.org.au  
Reply-To: ebulletin@atoda.org.au

Having trouble reading this email? [Click here to view it in your web browser](#)

## ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: April 2011



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](mailto:ebulletin@atoda.org.au)

### News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

#### **ACT ATOD Services Directory: Version 6**

The ACT ATOD Services Directory aims to support workers to make referrals to ATOD services, increase cross and intra-sectoral knowledge and foster collaborations. It also aims to better communicate the diverse range of services and programs in the Sector. Version 6 of the Directory has just been released and profiles 39 programs including new information about services provided to reduce the harms associated with exposure to tobacco. Download the [ACT ATOD Services Directory: Version 6](#).

#### **Some Recent ATODA Policy Work:**

##### **ACT Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers (Submission)**

ATODA made a submission on the draft ACT Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers, which focuses on issues and implications related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs service users / consumers, services and comorbidity. Download the [ATODA Submission](#).

##### **Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010 (Submission)**

ATODA supported the Bill, the objective of which is to repeal section 35 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self Government) Act 1988 (Cth)*, which states "(2) Subject to this section, the Governor General may, by legislative instrument, disallow an enactment within 6 months after it is made". ATODA submits that this section allows the Federal Executive to assume the power bestowed on the elected representatives of the ACT Legislative Assembly to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the ACT. That power was used in 2006, when the Howard government used it to override an enactment of the ACT Legislature - the *ACT Civil Unions Act (2006)*. For a copy of the submission contact [ATODA](#).

##### **Consultation on Implementation of Model Drug Schedules for Commonwealth Serious Drug Offences (Submission)**

ATODA is concerned that the model controlled drug schedule may not be able to be incorporated in the ACT, due to the amounts for trafficable, commercial and large commercial quantities not being evidence based. There are significant opportunities to improve the system with the evidence that is now available. Three particular concerns, which require redress, are to ensure that the law: (a) has functional distinctions in offence severity; (b) minimises the risk that drug users are charged as traffickers; and (c) minimises the risk that serious commercial traffickers are charged with a minor drug offence. For a copy of the submission contact [ATODA](#).

##### **Enhancing our Sector Wide Response to the Hepatitis C Epidemic: Focusing on People who Inject Drugs (Proposal)**

Approximately 90% of new, and 80% of existing hepatitis C infections are attributable to injecting drug use. People who inject drugs (1) are the highest priority population of people at risk of hepatitis C infection and for hepatitis C prevention efforts; and (2) compose a significant proportion of people living with hepatitis C and are a significant priority population in terms of care, treatment, and support. *The HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C & Sexually Transmitted Infections Strategic Framework for the ACT (2007-2012)* and the *National Hepatitis C Strategy 2010-2013* clearly identify people who inject drugs as a priority population. To build on the existing positive work, the sector has developed a proposal where

#### **News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT**

Updates on Peak activities.

#### **ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy**

Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy.

#### **Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010**

Information about ATODA and MHCC concerns and activities to date regarding the proposed Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010.

#### **Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT**

Information and media relating to the wider availability of naloxone in the ACT.

#### **Needle and Syringe Program in Prison**

Information and media relating to the proposed trial of a Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

#### **Australia's new National Drug Strategy 2010 - 2015**

Information about the recently released National Drug Strategy 2010 - 2015.

#### **Health Reform Update**

An update on the progress of the Australian Government's National Health Reform.

based on the findings of a facilitated strategic and service delivery planning day with key stakeholders, it will develop a report that outlines the collaborative and agreed ways that services will respond to the hepatitis C epidemic's intersection with people who inject drugs.

#### **Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: March 2011**

*ATODA in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT*

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project aims to increase awareness, and support the implementation, of workplace tobacco management policies; and reduce the impact of smoking behaviours for the staff in nine programs within the mental health, ATOD, and youth sectors. The project is funded by ACT Health and the research component has received ethics approval from the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

To access the Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: March 2011 please contact ATODA on [tobacco@atoda.org.au](mailto:tobacco@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

For more news from ATODA see the following items:

- MQS Workshop and Training and Assessment in the [ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section.
- The Drug Action Week Planning Group in the [Drug Action Week 2011 Update](#) section.
- Comorbidity Bus Tours in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- February – March 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- [Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT](#) section
- [Working with Vulnerable People Background Checking Bill 2010](#) section
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual ATOD Sector Conference in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- World No Tobacco Day 2011 in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- ACT Primary Health Care Strategy Consultation in the [Health Reform Update](#) section.
- Contributions to policy development in [Policy Activities](#) section.

#### **ATODA's contact details are:**

email: [info@atoda.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.atoda.org.au)

### **ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug 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, which aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional workforce. It also aims to ensure that all workers have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

#### **MQS Policy Workshop: 6 May 2011**

ACT Health funded ATOD services are invited to participate in a discussion of the current MQS policy, which came into effect on 1 July 2010, and to develop strategies to further strengthen it. The National Centre Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) will facilitate the discussion.

For further information, including background papers, or to RSVP please contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au).

#### **MQS Training and Assessment Date (Semester 1, 2011)**

Under the ACT ATOD MQS it is necessary for all relevant staff of ATOD services operated by ACT Health or ATOD organisations funded by ACT Health, 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 the Remaining Units of the Certificate IV:

- April 2011 - Monday 4, Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6
- May 2011 – Monday 2, Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4
- June 2011 – Monday 6, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8

For further information please contact ATODA on [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

### **Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010**

The *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly in August 2010, debate was deferred to 29 March where the Bill was agreed to in-principle. The discussion is available from the ACT Legislative Assembly website either via Hansard (<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/welcome.htm>) or *Daily on Demand* ([http://on-demand.parliament.act.gov.au/speeches/on\\_item/3437](http://on-demand.parliament.act.gov.au/speeches/on_item/3437)).

#### **ATODA's position**

ATODA supports the intentions of the Bill ("to protect vulnerable people"), however we believe the Bill is a blunt legal instrument that includes broad powers that are disproportionate to the ends of protecting vulnerable adults from harm and could have a disproportionate impact on the ATOD sector. ATODA supports appropriate and rigorous risk management practices to protect vulnerable adults, and acknowledges that social policy reform in this area is inevitably a balancing act.

ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC) have continued to engage in significant representation with the Minister for Community Services, the Minister for Health, the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, the Office of Regulatory Services and other stakeholders regarding concerns and to collaboratively developing solutions. ATODA's position is summarised in the letter to Minister Burch (9 March 2011)

#### **[ACT Health Restructure](#)**

Information about the proposed restructure within ACT Health.

#### **[Drug Action Week 2011 Update](#)**

Update on activities related to Drug Action Week 2011 in the ACT.

#### **[Sector Activities and Events](#)**

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

#### **[News from the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Executive Directors' Group](#)**

Information from the EDs' group that is relevant to the ATOD sector and Workers.

#### **[News from the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Workers Group](#)**

Information from the Workers group that is relevant to the ATOD sector.

#### **[2011 International Women's Day Awards](#)**

Information about the recipients of the 2011 International Women's Day Awards.

#### **[Sector Development](#)**

Information on networks, resources, websites, fact sheets and tools for Workers.

#### **[Training and Professional Development in the ACT](#)**

Training for the ATOD 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 ATOD sector.

#### **[Policy Activities](#)**

Information on key policy activities effecting the ATOD sector.

#### **[Policy, Reports and Research](#)**

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

#### **[Media](#)**

Media Releases and news items relevant to the ACT ATOD sector.

#### **[Consumer Participation](#)**

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

#### **[Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors](#)**

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

#### **[National Youth Week in the ACT : 1 - 10 April 2011](#)**

Information and key activities for National Youth Week in the ACT.

below.

### **Follow Up Submission to the Working With Vulnerable People Checking System (WWVPCS) Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines (2 March 2011)**

*ATODA and MHCCACT*

ATODA and MHCCACT met with the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS) and the Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) to discuss the Bill and the draft risk assessment guidelines and subsequently provided written comment. Download the [submission](#). For more information contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au).

### **Summary of Problems and Solutions for the ATOD and Mental Health Sectors regarding the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010 (9 March 2011)**

*ATODA and MHCCACT*

ATODA and MHCCACT wrote to Ms Joy Burch MLA, Minister for Community Services summarising the discussions over the last nine months regarding the Bill. Download the [letter](#). For more information contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au).

### **Consultation: Revised Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines**

*Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)*

DHCS is seeking feedback from participants on the draft Guidelines, including any particular case studies that you may wish to provide as a component of the response. If you would like to provide comment on the Guidelines, please provide these in writing to [workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au](mailto:workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au) preferably by **6 May 2011**.

ATODA will be making a submission to the guidelines, to provide input please email [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au).

### **Expert Panel to be Established**

On 24 March 2011, the Minister for Children and Young People announced an amendment to the Bill to establish a panel of experts which would provide greater industry knowledge to the decision-making process. The purpose of the panel is to provide greater expertise to determine the risk level of an applicant with lived experience who applies to work with vulnerable people. This amendment is a positive response to the concerns raised by the sector and had been called for in ATODA and MHCC ACT submissions.

For further information regarding the panel, [click here](#) to see Minister Burch's media release.

### **Tougher screening laws for some workers**

*24 March 2011*

*Noel Towell, Canberra Times*

Convicted criminals hoping to work with children and vulnerable adults will have to pass the scrutiny of an expert panel, under a deal struck this week between the ACT Government and the community sector. Download the [full article](#).

### **About the WWVPCS**

For further information about the proposed system:

- The draft legislation: [www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db\\_39278/current/pdf/db\\_39278.pdf](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_39278/current/pdf/db_39278.pdf)
- About the checking system, including the policy paper, visit [www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc).
- Or email DHCS on [workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au](mailto:workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au)

## **Expanding Naloxone availability in the ACT**

Broad support continues to build for action, and a program is being proposed, to expand the availability of Naloxone (Narcan ©) in the ACT. The purpose of expanding Naloxone availability is to further reduce and prevent death, disability, and injury from opioid overdoses through provision of training and resources to opioid users and their friends and family members who could be potential overdose witnesses. The program aims to:

- increase effectiveness of interventions in opioid overdose management;
- provide comprehensive overdose management training to potential overdose witnesses;
- provide naloxone under prescription to potential overdose victims; and
- reduce opioid overdoses through overdose prevention education.

### **Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT (ENAACT) Committee**

The Committee held its second meeting on 15 March 2011. The purpose of the Committee is to provide expert guidance and support to key stakeholders to develop a program to expand Naloxone availability in the ACT. For more information please contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au).

### **Making Naloxone available to potential overdose witnesses: evidence and policy opportunities**

*Simon Lenton, PhD MPsych(clin), National Drug Research Institute*

The second annual Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) Symposium was held on Friday, March 18th in Sydney. Professor Simon Lenton presented on naloxone and highlighted some of the work taking place in the ACT. For further information regarding the symposium visit [www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au](http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au). To view Professor Lenton's presentation [click here](#).

### **Naloxone References**

Compiled by Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute. Two most recent references include:

McAuley, A. (2011). The impact of drug-related death on staff who have experienced it as part of their caseload: An exploratory study. *Journal of Substance Use*, 16(1), 68-78.

N-ALIVE team. (2011). *Prison-based Naloxone-on-release pilot randomised controlled prevention trial Summary V1.4, 1.2.11*. London.

Also see:

## **Employment Opportunities**

Employment opportunities in the ACT ATOD sector.

## **Grants and Funding Opportunities**

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

Mayet, S, Manning, V, Williams, A, Loaring, J & Strang, J 2011, 'Impact of training for healthcare professionals on how to manage an opioid overdose with naloxone: effective, but dissemination is challenging', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 9-15.

See the [Policy, Reports, Research](#) section for a summary of this article.

Note: most references are available from the National Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS) at the Alcohol and Other Drug Council of Australia: <http://ndsis.adca.org.au>.

## Needle and Syringe Program in Prison

Needle and Syringe Programs have been one of the major public health success stories in Australia. However, some people are still uncertain about their role. The two booklets below, published by the Department of Health and Ageing, provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about Needle and Syringe Programs.

Needle and syringe programs: Your questions answered (download booklet here [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/65ADCBE7E2BBC18BCA25764F007B2375/\\$File/ques.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/65ADCBE7E2BBC18BCA25764F007B2375/$File/ques.pdf))

Needle and syringe programs: A review of the evidence (download booklet here [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/BF779AA5E45815C6CA25712400081717/\\$File/review.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/BF779AA5E45815C6CA25712400081717/$File/review.pdf))

### Notable Australian's Support a Trial NSP in Prisons

Many notable Australian's have lent their support for a trial NSP in prisons, including:

- Dr Sepehr Shakib, Director, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Royal Adelaide Hospital
- Professor Cindy Shannon, Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland
- Air Vice-Marshal Bruce Short AM, former Australian Defence Force Surgeon General.
- Emeritus Professor Richard Smallwood AO, University of Melbourne
- Professor Robert Stable, Vice Chancellor and President, Bond University
- Professor Carla Treloar, Deputy Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, University of New South Wales
- Associate Professor Janelle Stirling, Aboriginal Health, University of Sydney
- Professor Mark von Itzstein, Director, Institute of Glycomics
- Emeritus Professor Ian W Webster, University of New South Wales
- Professor Jason White, Head, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Division of Health Sciences, University of South Australia
- Dr Alex Wodak, Director, Alcohol and Drug Services, St Vincents Hospital
- Dr Helen Watchirs OAM, ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner
- Dr Marion Woods, Senior Specialist Infectious Diseases and Director of Advanced Training RACP, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

For further names, details or to add your name visit <http://www.anex.org.au/prisons-supporters/>

### Prison Issues Update – February 2011

*Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)*

The ANCD produces a monthly update containing media articles, research, material, and policy from Australia and overseas related to ATOD and prison issues. For more information or to subscribe to the Prison Issues Update contact Adam Bode on [adam@ancd.org.au](mailto:adam@ancd.org.au).

## Australia's new National Drug Strategy 2010 - 2015

Australia's new *National Drug Strategy 2010 – 2015* was released on 11 March 2011. The strategy's aim is to build safe and healthy communities by minimising alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related health, social and economic harms among individuals, families and communities. To view the strategy visit <http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/nds2015>.

### What's in Australia's new National Drug Strategy?

David McDonald, social scientist and consultant to ATODA, preliminary assessment of the new strategy is provided below.

'The new Strategy has a number of strengths, particularly:

- Maintaining the harm minimisation approach that has characterised the NDS since its inception. The idea is to attain a balanced approach between drug demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction, referred to as the 'Three pillars' approach.
- Adopting the recommendations of the evaluation of the previous phase of the NDS...to establish a structure and process to develop and operate a National Drug Research & Data Strategy...
- Establishing a working group to develop a National Workforce Development Strategy for the ATOD field, a long-overdue initiative.
- Modifying the governance arrangements to have new standing committees advising the IGCD on alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs and pharmaceutical drug misuse.
- Establishing a working group to develop a new ATOD strategy covering Aboriginal & TSI people.
- Returning to the approach taken in an earlier phase of the NDS of establishing a set of performance indicators, though those selected are a poor choice. The recommendations of the NDS evaluation in this regards have apparently been overlooked or rejected.'

He draws attention to a number of missed opportunities, and concludes 'Overall, my assessment is that this phase of the NDS, if implemented as per the document released today, will be an improvement on the previous one. Those responsible for developing it are to be commended for their achievements'.

Visit David McDonald's blog [socialresearch.com.au/news.html](http://socialresearch.com.au/news.html) for further details.

## Health Reform Update

---

### How to keep updated regarding national health reform

#### *Australian Government*

The *YourHealth* website has established a subscription services for stakeholders to remain informed of news related to health reform. To subscribe, or for more information visit <http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/stakeholder-form>.

### What about ATOD and health reform?

As health reform progresses, there remains a lack of clarity regarding how ATOD treatment will fit within the range of reforms. ATODA continues to monitor reform processes and advocate for ATOD issues to be central to discussions regarding reform. ATODA is participating in several ways, including through membership of the ACT Primary Healthcare Coalition which is chaired by the ACT Division of General Practice. If you would like to discuss this further please contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au).

### Medicare Local in the ACT

#### *ACT Division of General Practice (ACTDGP)*

The ACTDGP was recently invited by the Commonwealth Government to apply to become a Medicare Local. Over the next two years, funding provided to regional primary health care organisations as Medicare Locals will replace the contribution made by the Commonwealth Government to the current Divisions of General Practice Program. Medicare Locals will retain, and expand, the functions and activities currently undertaken by the Divisions of General Practice - including general practice support and delivery of programs. They will be independent entities governed by a skills-based Board and will have strong links to the community and health professionals.

Medicare Locals will be responsible for making it easier for patients and service providers to navigate health care systems and will support health professionals to provide more co-ordinated care, while maintaining the vital role that general practice plays in the primary health care sector.

In the ACT the Medicare Local geographic boundary will mirror that of the new Local Hospital Network providing significant opportunities to develop synergies between the two structures, and to build on the good work already underway between the Division and ACT Health.

For more information visit [http://www.actdgp.asn.au/page/About\\_Us/Medicare\\_Local\\_Information/](http://www.actdgp.asn.au/page/About_Us/Medicare_Local_Information/).

### Draft Primary Health Care Strategy seeks Public Consultation

11 March 2011

*Katy Gallagher, MLA*

ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA today announced the release of the draft ACT Primary Health Care Strategy, for public consultation. "The ACT Primary Health Care Strategy aims to be a visionary document that reflects the thinking of the ACT community in relation to their needs and priorities for primary health care," said the Minister. "The previous ACT Primary Health Care Strategy 2006-2009 was effective in developing the foundations to ensure primary health care activities in the future are interprofessional, collaborative and coordinated. The new Strategy will build on the successes of the previous, and set the future direction for primary health care.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10530&m=52> to view the full media release or <http://health.act.gov.au/consumer-information/community-consultation/act-primary-health-care-strategy-2011-2014> information about the consultation process. Consultation closes **22 April 2011**.

ATODA will be making a submission to the strategy. If you would like to contribute to please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

### Plans unveiled for new community health centres in Gungahlin and Belconnen

11 March 2011

*Katy Gallagher, MLA*

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, today released the preliminary sketch plans for the new community health centres at Gungahlin and Belconnen and invited community feedback over the next four weeks...

"These new health centres will provide a range of health services for all ages, including counselling, screening, treatment, therapy, community support, education, and group programs. They have been designed to deliver a comprehensive range of services to a growing population in an integrated, community-friendly facility," Ms Gallagher said...

Copies of the plans can be downloaded from the ACT Health website at [www.health.act.gov.au/yhop](http://www.health.act.gov.au/yhop) and comments emailed to [yourhealthpriority@act.gov.au](mailto:yourhealthpriority@act.gov.au) by Monday, 4 April 2011...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10534&m=52> to view the full media release.

ATODA will be contributing to these processes – if you'd like to contribute to please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

## ACT Health Restructure

---

The ACT Health restructure was launched in March 2011. The name of the new directorate under which ATOD services will be delivered is called Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services. ATODA would like to congratulate Ms Katrina Brascher for her appointment as the new head of the directorate.

Visit <http://health.act.gov.au/about-us/organisation-chart> to view ACT Health's new organisational chart. For further information please contact ACT Health on [healthact@act.gov.au](mailto:healthact@act.gov.au).

## Drug Action Week 2011 Update

---

This section provides an update on key information leading up to Drug Action Week 2011.

### **Drug Action Week 2011**

*Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)*

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) has announced that the theme for Drug Action Week (DAW) 2011 will be "Looking After YOUR Mind!". Drug Action Week 2011 will run from Sunday, 19 June through to Saturday, 25 June. ADCA is calling on organisations to get involved by registering an event on the DAW website [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au).

### **Invitation to the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group Meeting**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT*

Drug Action Week is a national week of activities to raise awareness about alcohol and other drug issues and to promote the achievements of those who work to reduce drug related harm. ATODA will be coordinating an ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group that will be involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week. The Planning Group is open to anyone in the ATOD and allied sectors.

*Date:* 14 April 2011

*Time:* 9:30am – 11am

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

*RSVP:* Essential, to Ben Frommel on [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070

If you are not able to attend the meetings, you can still participate in the group through being signed up to the mailing list, informing the group of planned activities to go on the ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events and raising items for discussion. If you are interested in participating in the group in this way please contact Ben Frommel on 6255 4070 or [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au).

## **Sector Activities and Events**

---

### **Nominations Open: National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2011**

*Ted Noffs Foundation, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) and Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)*

Nominations are currently open for the National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2011 that aim to celebrate Australian achievements to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use and harm. Nominations are being accepted for the following categories: [Prime Minister's Award](#), [Excellence in Prevention and Community Education](#), [Excellence in Treatment and Support](#), [Excellence in Research](#), [Excellence in Services for Young People](#), [Excellence in Law Enforcement](#), [Excellence in Alcohol and Other Drug Media Reporting](#), [Excellence in School Drug Education](#) and [Excellence in Creating Healthy Sporting Communities](#). Nominations are also open for the Honour Roll that acknowledges and publicly recognises the exceptional work done by people who have worked tirelessly in the ATOD sector over a number of years.

Details of the awards ceremony are as follows:

*Date:* 24 June 2011

*Venue:* The Sebel and Citigate Hotel, King George Square, Brisbane

Nominations for the 2011 Awards close **5pm, Friday 1 April, 2011**.

For further information visit [www.drugawards.org.au](http://www.drugawards.org.au) or contact the event manager on 0415 561 243 or [info@drugawards.org.au](mailto:info@drugawards.org.au).

### **HIV Today**

*AIDS Action Council ACT*

HIV Today is an initiative of the AIDS Action Council ACT and is targeted at human service providers (community, public or private agencies). HIV Today is a presentation providing up to date, accurate information and resource materials about HIV and the lives of those living with HIV today. The presentation can be tailored specifically to suit the agency's needs.

For further information or to book a presentation contact Nada Ratcliffe on (02) 6257 2855 or [nada@aidsaction.org.au](mailto:nada@aidsaction.org.au).

### **Fresh Start Smoking Cessation Courses**

*AIDS Action Council ACT*

The AIDS Action Council of the ACT is offering smoking cessation programs for the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Sex and Gender diverse communities and also specific courses for HIV positive people. The program is based on the 'Fresh Start' course developed by the Victorian Cancer Council and will be conducted by trained course leaders. The course runs for 4 weeks with weekly 2 hour sessions.

*Dates:* 7 April 2011, 5 May 2011 and 2 June 2011

*Cost:* Free

For more information or to make a booking visit [http://www.aidsaction.org.au/content/community\\_development/quit-smoking.php](http://www.aidsaction.org.au/content/community_development/quit-smoking.php).

### **Smoking Cessation Courses/ Seminars**

*Cancer Council ACT*

The Cancer Council ACT is able to run smoking cessation courses/seminars for organisations. There are two courses available including: the Quit Fresh Start Course (run over 8x1hr sessions) which provides participants with knowledge, skills and strategies to overcome smoking addiction and the shorter (90 minute) Quit Seminar for people interested in quitting smoking or supporting someone who is.

For more information or to make a booking contact (02) 6257 9999 or [tobaccocontrol@actcancer.org](mailto:tobaccocontrol@actcancer.org) or visit <http://www.actcancer.org/quit-smoking/cessation-courses.aspx>.

### **Bridge to Bridge – Run Roll or Walks: March – June 2011**

#### RecLink Australia Inc.

RecLink Australia Inc. supported by Australian Red Cross, DIRECTIONS ACT and the Healthy Communities Initiative, ACT Health invite all ACT community based support organisations and relevant departments to participate in the Bridge to Bridge – Run, Roll or Walks.

**Dates:** Thursday 28 April, Thursday 26 May and Thursday 23 June 2011

**Time:** 10:45am warm up for an 11am start. The event concludes at 1pm.

**Venue:** HMAS Canberra - Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin (Adjacent to the Carillion)

**Food:** A light lunch will be provided.

**RSVP:** Essential, contact Mark on 0412 342 929 or [mark.ransome@reclink.org](mailto:mark.ransome@reclink.org) by COB Friday prior to the event to register. Registered participants will receive a certificate recording their individual time.

Visit [www.reclink.org](http://www.reclink.org) for more information on the events.

### News from the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Executive Directors' Group

---

The ACT ATOD Executive Directors' Group met in March to progress a range of sector-wide initiatives including:

- AODTS – National Minimum Data Set;
- ATOD telephone counselling in the ACT;
- New accredited comorbidity training in the ACT;
- Drug Action Week
- Ongoing concerns regarding the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010;
- Strengthening and contributing to national representation;
- Improving and expanding ATOD service access; and
- Service information sharing.

For further information please contact Carol Mead, Chair, [carolm@directionsact.com](mailto:carolm@directionsact.com) or (02) 6122 8000.

### News from the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Workers Group

---

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Workers Group (the Workers Group) is involved in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the ACT ATOD drug sector in the ACT. The Workers Group includes representatives of all ACT Health funded ATOD services and also has additional roles in issue identification and plays an essential role in the ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drug sectors governance. To provide feedback to the group or to flag issues for discussion please contact your agency's representative on the group or the secretariat, ATODA, on [ben@atoda.org.au](mailto:ben@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

### 2011 International Women's Day Awards

---

ATODA would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2011 International Women's Day Awards. The ACT International Women's Day Awards are presented by the ACT Minister for Women and recognise the outstanding achievements of women in our community. Award recipients included:

- Darlene Cox
- Sarah Corrigan
- Bea Evans
- Maria Luz Gonzalez
- Sandi Plummer
- Marluce Silva Peters
- Caroline Stacey
- Petronella Wensing
- The Women's Centre for Health Matters Inc

Further information about each of the award recipients is available at [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/international\\_womens\\_day](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/international_womens_day).

#### Local Women Recognised in Women's Day Awards

7 March 2011

Joy Burch, MLA

A rugby referee, a community health advocate, a psychologist and a theatre director are among the recipients of this year's International Women's Day Awards for the ACT. ACT Minister for Women Joy Burch presented the awards at a ceremony this morning, coinciding with this week's International Women's Day celebrations in Canberra.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10521> to view the full media release.

### Sector Development

---

#### Of Substance Magazine: March 2011

*Of Substance Magazine*

*Of Substance Magazine* reports on the latest Australian and international news and research related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The March edition of *Of Substance Magazine* has been released and contains articles on a range of topics including: women in prison, AA and NA, Suicide and AOD, justice reinvestment and an interview with Annie Madden from the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL).

To view the Magazine visit [http://www.ofsubstance.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=140:latest-issue&catid=45](http://www.ofsubstance.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=140:latest-issue&catid=45).

#### New Monograph - An Assessment of Illicit Drug Policy in Australia (1985-2010): Themes and Trends

*Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP), National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)*

This monograph, produced by the Drug Policy Modelling Program, reviews drug policy in Australia from 1985 – 2010. The monograph examines the development of Australia's drug strategies and then compares this approach to that of

other countries. It also provides an analysis of trends and patterns of drug use and harms in Australia and considers what may account for these changing patterns, including the role of government intervention.

Visit [http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/resources/monograph1.pdf/\\$file/DPMP+MONO+21.pdf](http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/resources/monograph1.pdf/$file/DPMP+MONO+21.pdf) to view the monograph.

#### **No Bars Website Launched**

*Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA) in partnership with Community Restorative Centre (CRC)*

NO BARS is an education and information resource package consisting of web and print based resources and a flexible training package for non government drug and alcohol services in NSW working with clients who have contact with the criminal justice system. The website includes information about the criminal justice system, working with criminal justice clients and a number of other useful resources.

Visit <http://www.nobars.org.au/> to view the website.

#### **Case Note Survey**

*Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre and Eastern Health*

This survey looks to examine the use of case notes in AOD services. AOD clinicians are encouraged to share their experiences through completing the survey on the way in which case notes are written and managed. The findings of the project will be released in mid-2011 and aim to assist in improving clinical practice and client outcomes. The anonymous online survey will take approximately 20 – 30 minutes to complete.

For more information or to undertake the survey visit [http://www.turningpoint.org.au/Media-Centre/Latest\\_News/Calling-all-AOD-workers.aspx](http://www.turningpoint.org.au/Media-Centre/Latest_News/Calling-all-AOD-workers.aspx).

#### **Allies for Recovery: Information and support options for families living with mental illness and alcohol & drug use in Tasmania**

*School of Sociology & Social Work, University of Tasmania, and the Salvation Army Bridge Program*

This resource provides information and support for families who are supporting recovery from co-occurring mental illness and substance misuse. This resource was developed by the University of Tasmania in collaboration with the Salvation Army Bridge Program as part of the Comorbidity Improved Services Initiative (ISI) that aims to build the capacity and improve the ability of services to support people with co-occurring mental illness and substance misuse (comorbidity) and their significant others.

For more information or to access the information package and other related resources visit [www.utas.edu.au/sociology/CRU/cru.html](http://www.utas.edu.au/sociology/CRU/cru.html).

#### **School Fundraising and Alcohol**

*Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)*

A letter has been written from Dr John Herron, Chairman of the ANCD to all school principals (public, independent and private) urging them to not permit the use, sale or promotion of alcohol products in school fundraising activities.

For more information or to view the letter visit <http://www.ancd.org.au/>. The ANCD has also released a paper on the issue of alcohol and school fundraising that can be accessed at <http://www.ancd.org.au/images/PDF/Positionpapers/schoolfundraisingalcohol.pdf>.

#### **First Time at Court Video**

*Legal Aid ACT*

Legal Aid ACT has developed a video to educate first-time offenders about court processes, which is available on their website. The video uses a case study of a young driving offender, from when he is summonsed, through to sentencing, with significant points being explained through narration and text blocks.

Visit <http://www.legalaidact.org.au/firsttimeatcourt/> for more information.

#### **Newsletter - Legal Aid ACT Matters February 2011**

*Legal Aid ACT*

This newsletter provides an overview of recent activities, resources and upcoming events from Legal Aid ACT. The newsletter includes an article about a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Legal Aid ACT and DIRECTIONS ACT, for Legal Aid ACT to provide regular legal information and clinical advice sessions to DIRECTIONS' clients.

Visit <http://www.legalaidact.org.au/pdf/newsletters3.pdf> to view the newsletter.

#### **Community Calendar for Women**

*Women's Information and Referral Centre (WiRC)*

This Calendar is produced biannually and provides information on courses for women, education and training, groups, workshops and events in the ACT Community.

Visit [www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/community\\_calendar\\_for\\_women](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/community_calendar_for_women) to view the calendar.

#### **Managing Risk in Community Services**

*School of Social Sciences*

This report presents an extensive study of the way in which risk management policies have been interpreted and translated into practice by Victorian community-based services in Victoria. How do service providers and professionals adopt and adapt risk management in the context of their service goals and ideals, and what impact does this have on clients, patients and carers? Twenty-four Victorian community-based services and 6 carer advocacy/support organisations from the disability, mental health and aged care sectors participated in the project, with interviews conducted with CEOs and senior executives, program managers and team leaders, frontline workers, clients and family carers.

Visit <http://www.apo.org.au/research/managing-risk-community-services> for more information.

#### **Working Together to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect**

*Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)*

The new approach is being developed under the auspices of the Common Approach to Assessment, Referral and Support (CAARS) Taskforce, which was established by ARACY and the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs in 2009. The CAARS project is one of the 12 National Priorities planned during the initial three year period of the COAG National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020: Protecting Children is Everyone's Business.

Visit <http://www.apo.org.au/research/working-together-prevent-child-abuse-and-neglect> for more information.

## Training and Professional Development in the ACT

---

### **4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference – SAVE THE DATE!**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)*

For the 4th year in a row the ACT ATOD sector will host its annual conference. This is a great opportunity for the sector and allied stakeholders to engage with the evidence; explore and gain greater understanding of implications for our policy and practice in the ACT; and provide networking opportunities.

*Date:* Thursday 24 June 2011

*Time:* 9am – 5pm

*Venue:* National Library of Australia

Further details, including a conference program and registration will be available soon. For more information contact ATODA (02) 6255 4070 or [conference@atoda.org.au](mailto:conference@atoda.org.au).

### **Subsidised Accredited Comorbidity Training for ACT Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug (ATOD) and Mental Health Workers**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) and Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)*

ATODA and MHCC ACT are seeking expressions of interest from ATOD and Mental Health workers to participate in accredited comorbidity training.

Workers who successfully undertake the training will receive a statement of attainment in 2 or more of the following:

- Working effectively in mental health settings (for ATOD workers)
- Working effectively with the alcohol and other sector (for mental health workers); and,
- Providing interventions to meet the needs of consumers with mental health and alcohol and other drug issues (all participants).

These units will be assessed and statements of attainment will be awarded at a Certificate IV Level (Australian Qualification Framework). The cost of this training have been subsidised by ACT Health, ATODA and MHCC ACT.

Download the [Information Package](#).

For more information contact Amanda Bode on (02) 6255 4070 or [amanda@atoda.org.au](mailto:amanda@atoda.org.au).

### **World No Tobacco Day – Service Planning and Workshops – SAVE THE DATE!**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)*

Who else is delivering tobacco interventions in the ACT? How do we work together? How does the new NRT on the PBS work? What does the literature tell us about tobacco and our clients? Find out this and much more as part of some exciting World No Tobacco Day events.

*Date:* Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 May 2011

Further details will be available soon, for more information contact ATODA (02) 6255 4070 or [tobacco@atoda.org.au](mailto:tobacco@atoda.org.au).

### **Comorbidity Bus Tour B**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA), Youth Coalition of the ACT, Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC ACT)*

ATODA in partnership with the Youth Coalition of the ACT and MHCC ACT invite you to undertake the Comorbidity Bus Tour B. The aim of the Comorbidity Bus Tours is to increase the capacity of frontline workers to support people experiencing co-occurring alcohol, tobacco and other drug and mental health issues (comorbidity).

Tour B, will visit the following services\*:

- Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre, Mental Health ACT;
- Arcadia House, DIRECTIONS ACT;
- Calvary Inpatient Unit, Ward 2N, Calvary Hospital;
- Step Up Step Down Program, Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria;
- Counselling, Treatment and Diversion Services, Alcohol and Drug Program;
- Needle and Syringe Vending Machine, ACT Health;
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA);
- ACT Mental Health Consumers Network;
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT; and,
- Women's Information, Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIREDD)

\*Some services may change. Workers from the ATOD, mental health and youth sectors, who work directly with clients, are eligible to attend. Workers from allied services who work with people experiencing comorbidity are also eligible to attend.

*Date:* Wednesday 13 April 2011

*Cost:* \$130 ATODA, MHCC ACT or Youth Coalition members or stakeholder services, \$140 NGO, \$150 Government

Download the [Comorbidity Bus Tour B Flyer](#) and [Registration Form](#).

For more information contact Katrina on (02) 6247 3540 or [katrina@youthcoalition.net](mailto:katrina@youthcoalition.net)

### **April – May 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT*

The April to May 2011 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, the Mental Health Community Coalition 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 [April – May 2011 Training Calendar](#).

### **Guardianship and Power of Attorney Seminar**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

This seminar will explore the role of the Public Advocate's Office, Guardianship, including issues of capacity and substitute decision-making, and Enduring Powers of Attorney.

*Date:* Wednesday 6 April 2011

*Time:* 9:30am – 12:30pm

*Venue:* The Meeting Room, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach

*Cost:* \$54 HACC services/ACTCOSS members, \$63 Non-members, \$75 Government/Corporate

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/Guardianship-Apr11.pdf> for more information or to register.

### **Front Office/Receptionist Training**

*Resilient Individuals, Communities and Organisations (RICO)*

This course aimed at Receptionists and Front Office staff aims to provide participants with an understanding of the skills and dynamics of effective communication and listening. It also aims to provide knowledge, skills and strategies to understand and respond effectively to people face to face or on the phone who may be: angry, threatening, demanding or upset; have a mental illness; are intoxicated or in crisis.

*Dates:* 6 April 2011 (Course 1) and 18 May 2011 (Course 2)

*Time:* 9am – 5pm

*Venue:* Om Shanti Training Rooms, 2a Barker St Griffith

*Cost:* \$165

For more information or to register contact Gloria Claessen on 0421 159 400 or Marie Bennett on 0412 631 643 or email [training@rico.com.au](mailto:training@rico.com.au).

### **Human Rights Commission Training and Professional Development Opportunities**

*ACT Human Rights Commission (HRC)*

The HRC has released their April – June 2011 Training Calendar, and have a number of training and professional development opportunities available to community sector workers and services. These include: Workplace Contact/Harassment Officer Training, Introduction to Health Records and Privacy, Introduction to the Discrimination Act, and Human Rights for ACT Agencies. The next workshop is [Workplace Contact/Harassment Officer Training](#), being held on **7 April 2011**.

Visit [www.hrc.act.gov.au/content.php/category.view/id/77](http://www.hrc.act.gov.au/content.php/category.view/id/77) for more information.

### **Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect**

*Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)*

DHCS have released their training dates for the free workshop Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect for April - June 2011. The workshop aims to provide information on relevant legislation, expand on understandings of child abuse and neglect, discuss responses to disclosures of abuse, and discuss the dilemmas and processes around making reports. The next workshop will be held on **7 April 2011**.

Download the [workshop summary](#) for more information and to view all the upcoming dates.

### **The Fundamentals of Working Cross-Culturally**

*Companion House*

This training session looks at the cultural assumptions that can be built into service delivery and suggests practical ways to make services more inclusive.

*Date:* Friday 8 April 2011

*Time:* 9.30am - 4.30pm

*Venue:* Cook Neighbourhood Hall, 41 Templeton St, Cook

*Cost:* \$90 (government / business) \$40 (community organisation)

For more information contact Glenn Flanagan on (02) 6251 4550 or [glenn.flanagan@companionhouse.org.au](mailto:glenn.flanagan@companionhouse.org.au).

### **Emergency Recovery and the Role of the Community Sector**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

Practitioners in emergency recovery will present on their work and partnerships in the community sector.

*Date:* Monday 11 April 2011

*Time:* 10am – 1pm

*Venue:* Upstairs meeting room, Weston Community Hub, 2/6 Gritten St, Weston, ACT

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

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/EmergencyRecovery-Apr11.pdf> for more information or to register.

### **The Listening Helper (Accidental Counsellor v.II)**

*Resilient Individuals, Communities and Organisations (RICO)*

This course, appropriate for community workers and human services professionals, aims to provide participants with a range of skills to work effectively with people who are distressed, angry, confused or in crisis. This course is an updated and revised version of the 'Accidental Counsellor' and is developed for people who find themselves in situations where good listening, empathetic communication or basic counselling skills are required.

*Dates:* 11 - 12 April 2011 (Course 1) and 13 & 20 May 2011 (Course 2)

*Time:* 9am – 5pm

*Venue:* Om Shanti Training Rooms, 2a Barker St Griffith

*Cost:* \$330

For more information or to register contact Gloria Claessen on 0421 159 400 or Marie Bennett on 0412 631 643 or email [training@rico.com.au](mailto:training@rico.com.au).

### **1 Day Appreciation of Torres Strait Culture Awareness Training**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

This one-day training for both Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers aims to assist participants in developing a better understanding of the cultural perspectives of Torres Strait people in Australia. The training will explore ways for organisations to develop a better understanding of some key issues such as culture, kinship and community, and assists participants in developing and improving a range of cross-cultural communication skills.

*Date:* Friday 15 April 2011

*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

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/TSCulturalTraining-Apr11.pdf> for more information or to register.

### **Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

This workshop gives participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia, and aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and ways that organisations might improve their practice.

*Date:* Friday 6 May 2011

*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

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/ACHH-May11.pdf> for more information or to register.

## **Interstate Conferences and Symposiums**

---

### **37th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society (KBS)**

*Kettil Bruun Society hosted by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre and the Burnet Institute*

The primary purpose of the symposium is to provide a forum where researchers involved in studies on alcohol can exchange ideas about their ongoing research. The scope of the symposium includes studies of determinants and consequences of drinking, drinking practices, attitudes and the social and institutional responses to drinking related harms.

*Date:* 11 – 15 April 2011

*Venue:* CQ Functions, 113 Queen St, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

*Cost:* \$590 KBS member, \$700 KBS non member

For more information or to register for the symposium visit <http://www.kbs2011.theconferencemanager.com.au/> or contact the conference manager at [info@theconferencemanager.com.au](mailto:info@theconferencemanager.com.au).

### **6th International Conference on Drugs and Young People**

*Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)*

The Conference is dedicated to exploring the impact of drug use on young people and how youth related drug problems can be responded to by various human service fields. The theme for the conference is "Making the Connections" which aims to reflect the issues of: understanding the complexity and interaction of factors which influence and impact on young people lives; the opportunity for diverse sectors to meet and exchange knowledge and expertise; and translating research into practice.

*Date:* 2 – 4 May 2011

*Venue:* Melbourne Convention Centre

*Cost:* \$790

Download the [Conference Program](#).

For more information visit <http://www.adf.org.au/in-the-community/6th-international-drugs-and-young-people-conference-2>.

### **Therapeutic Communities (TCs) Today – No Closed Doors**

*Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)*

This conference will explore the theme of no closed doors through best practice treatment or appropriate referral. Key topic areas include: comorbidity, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, corrective services, families and children and innovative treatment. ATCA also has awards presented at the conference to individuals and/or organisations that have provided dedicated and innovative leadership, to enhance the Therapeutic Community model of treatment for alcohol and other drug issues. Nominations for the awards close **1 April 2011**.

*Date:* 30 May – 3 June

*Venue:* The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia

*Cost:* \$500 member, \$550 non member

Download the [Conference Flyer](#).

For more information visit <http://www.atca.com.au/home.htm> or contact the Conference Organisers on [conference@atca.com.au](mailto:conference@atca.com.au).

### **2011 Australian Winter School**

*Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)*

This winter school is themed 'Concurrent Disorders – Current Discourses' and aims to increase the knowledge and professional skills of attendees, present recent research and discuss its relevance to those working in the alcohol and other drugs field.

*Date:* 9 – 10 June 2011 (A workshop will also be held on 8 June 2011)  
*Venue:* Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Australia  
*Cost:* \$450 early bird  
*Registration:* Early bird closes 12 May 2011, visit [http://www.winterschool.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=30](http://www.winterschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=30) to register.

For more information visit <http://www.winterschool.info/>.

### **Reconnexion National Anxiety and Depression Conference 2011**

*Reconnexion*

This conference aims to bring together psychologists, social workers, counsellors, and practitioners in the mental health and drug and alcohol fields and is themed 'the puzzle of wellbeing: an integrated approach to psychological health.'

*Date:* 6 – 7 April 2011  
*Venue:* Hilton on the Park, corner of Wellington Parade and Clarendon Street, East Melbourne  
*Cost:* \$495

Download the [Conference Brochure](#).

For more information or to register visit <http://www.reconnexion.org.au/conference/w1/i1011584/>.

### **The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People 2011**

*Generation Next*

This conference aims to provide participants with practical information, knowledge and skills to approach the common issues impacting the wellbeing of young people.

*Date:* 8 April 2011  
*Time:* 9am – 5pm  
*Venue:* The Playhouse, Canberra Theatre Centre, 180 London Circuit, Canberra.  
*Cost:* \$220

Download the [Conference Brochure](#).

For more information or to register visit <http://www.generationnext.com.au/events/11-04-08-canberra.html>.

### **Mental Health Nurses in Primary Care: Exhibiting, Owning and Evaluating our Practice**

*Australian College of Mental Health Nurses*

This conference aims to present information about the broad scope of practice for Mental Health Nursing, what currently exists and likely future directions.

*Date:* 27 – 28 May 2011 (a pre-conference workshop will be held on 26 May 2011)  
*Venue:* Rydges Capital Hill, Cnr Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest ACT  
*Cost:* \$370

For more information visit <http://www.acmhn.org/component/content/article/1-latest-news/281-primary-mental-health-care-conference.html>.

## **Policy Activities**

---

### **National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee's online consultation**

*National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)*

NIDAC is seeking views about possible interventions and resources that can help address alcohol problems and their harms in Indigenous communities around Australia. The consultation is in the form of an electronic survey and takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The results of the consultation survey will be used to provide specific policy advice to governments and other bodies about measures to address the harms caused by alcohol in Indigenous Communities.

For further information about the survey or to take part visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LR3SB8X>.  
The survey closes on **Friday 29 April 2011**.

*ATODA will be contributing to this process, please get in contact with us (on [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070) if we can support your engagement.*

### **Consultation on the National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy (NPDMS)**

*National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)*

Pharmaceutical drug misuse is an emerging issue of significant concern. Increasing trends in the misuse of prescription and over the counter drugs (especially, but not only, opioids) have been accompanied by an escalating number of adverse outcomes including deaths, Emergency Department presentations, and dependence, as well as increased drug trafficking. The NPDMS is being developed at the request of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) and funded through the MCDS Cost Shared Funding Model. This work is being undertaken by a consortium led by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) at Flinders University. Interested parties are invited to make submissions to the consultation process.

For further information on the consultation and the strategy, including the discussion paper and associated literature review visit [http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/projects/new\\_projects.html](http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/projects/new_projects.html).  
Submissions close on **Friday 27 May 2011**.

*ATODA will be contributing to these consultations, if you would like to be part of ATODA's contribution please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070*

### **Options for Regulation of Unregistered Health Practitioners**

*Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC)*

In November 2010, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) agreed that a national consultation should be undertaken to consider whether there is a need for strengthened regulatory protections for consumers who use the services of unregistered health practitioners.

A new national registration scheme for health practitioners, the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, commenced operation on 1 July 2010 (<http://www.ahwo.gov.au/natreg.asp>). Practitioners from ten health professions are now registered nationally and may practice in any State or Territory. A further four professions are scheduled to enter the National Scheme from 1 July 2012. National Boards have been set up, one for each regulated profession, with extensive powers to protect the public. However, these powers do not extend to practitioners in health professions and occupations where registration is not a prerequisite for practice (referred to as unregistered health practitioners). These systems may affect the ACT ATOD sector in a range of ways, particularly as the workforce is diverse and has a range of qualifications and backgrounds.

ATODA participated in a consultation on 29 March and will continue engagement, if you would like to contribute please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

#### **Invitation for Public Submissions to the Review of Bimberi**

##### *ACT Human Rights Commission*

The Children & Young People Commissioner and the Human Rights & Discrimination Commissioner have commenced a Review of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. The Review will take place over the next 6 months, and the Commissioners have been asked to present a report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by 30 June 2011.

Submissions for the review are currently being invited from the following individuals and organisations:

- Young people currently living in Bimberi or involved with Community Youth Justice.
- Young people who had contact with Bimberi or Community Youth Justice in the past.
- Parents, carers, family members and advocates for these young people.
- Workers employed in Bimberi and Community Youth Justice.
- Workers and volunteers in the government and community sectors.

Download the [information sheet](#) that outlines the review process and ways in which information can be contributed to the review.

Download the [information flyer](#) designed for young people, that provides information on how they can contribute to the review.

For more information contact the Bimberi Review Team on (02) 6205 2890 or [bimberi.review@act.gov.au](mailto:bimberi.review@act.gov.au). Submissions are due by **Friday 15 April 2011**.

In addition, three drop-in clinics for community members to discuss the review will be held around Canberra:

- Friday 1 April 2011: Griffin Centre, Genge St, Civic, 1 - 5pm;
- Tuesday 5 April 2011: Tuggeranong Community Centre, 245 Cowlshaw St, Greenway, 9am - 1pm; and,
- Saturday 9 April 2011: Belconnen Community Service, 26 Chandler St, Belconnen, 10am - 12pm.

For more information contact the Bimberi Review Team on (02) 6205 2890 or [bimberi.review@act.gov.au](mailto:bimberi.review@act.gov.au).

ATODA will be contributing to the review's consultations, if you would like to be part of ATODA's contribution please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

#### **Discussion Paper: Towards a Diversionary Framework for the ACT**

##### *Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), ACT Government*

DHCS is seeking feedback on a Discussion Paper which provides information on the youth criminal justice system in the ACT. The Discussion Paper provides an overview of issues affecting diversion of young people, the legislative and policy context in the ACT, experiences in other jurisdictions, and a literature review of diversionary practices and models. Public consultations will be held during March and April; and written comments are also invited.

Visit <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/> for more information or contact (02) 6205 6882 or [diversionaryframework@act.gov.au](mailto:diversionaryframework@act.gov.au). Submissions are due by **Friday 15 April 2011**.

ATODA supported ATOD services to participate in a consultation on 17 March and continues to contribute, if you would like to be part of ATODA's contribution please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

#### **Homelessness National Quality Framework**

##### *Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*

All Australian State and Territory Governments are working with people experiencing homelessness and the organisations that deliver services to them to develop a National Quality Framework. The Framework aims to achieve better outcomes for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by improving the quality and integration of services they receive. An online survey about the framework is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LCF27DC>. Written submissions close **Friday 13 May 2011**.

Visit [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/national\\_quality\\_framework/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/national_quality_framework/Pages/default.aspx) for more information or contact 1800 300 125 or [homelessness.quality@fahcsia.gov.au](mailto:homelessness.quality@fahcsia.gov.au).

## **Policy, Reports and Research**

Compiled by David McDonald, social scientist and consultant to ATODA. 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>.

#### **Do women prisoners who attend Alcoholics Anonymous have fewer alcohol-related problems after their release?**

A study involving women prisoners in Rhode Island, USA, found that 'Weekly or greater AA attendance was associated with reductions in negative drinking consequences...and frequency of drinking days...following incarceration'. The researchers concluded that 'Findings from this study suggest that AA is frequently utilized by hazardously drinking women following incarceration. Alcohol outcomes may be enhanced by AA attendance at a weekly or greater frequency is associated with better alcohol outcomes relative to lower levels of AA attendance'.

Schonbrun, YC, Strong, DR, Anderson, BJ, Caviness, CM, Brown, RA & Stein, MD 2011, 'Alcoholics Anonymous and

hazardously drinking women returning to the community after incarceration: predictors of attendance and outcome', *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 532-9.

#### **Would reducing the length of prison sentences and using police more effectively result in a reduction in crime?**

Researchers from the United States suggest that 'it is a realistic possibility that crime, prison costs, and imprisonment numbers can be reduced simultaneously if policy makers shift from a primary reliance on severity-based policies, mandating lengthy prison terms, to a more effective use of police to make the risks of crime clearer and the consequences of criminal activity faster and more certain'. They claim 'The marginal deterrent effect of increasing already lengthy prison sentences is modest at best... Increasing the visibility of the police by hiring more officers or allocating existing officers in ways that heighten the perceived risk of apprehension seems to have substantial marginal deterrent effects... The experience of imprisonment seems to be criminogenic'.

Durlauf, SN & Nagin, DS 2011, 'Imprisonment and crime: can both be reduced?' *Criminology and Public Policy*, vol. 10, no. 1, pp. 13-54.

#### **How can consumer participation in drug treatment services be fostered?**

The report of Phase Two of the Treatment Service Users Project, which was conducted by the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), demonstrates how difficult it is to recruit consumers into consumer representative roles in drug treatment services. This project implemented consumer participation demonstration projects in a variety of drug treatment settings in Australia. It followed the phase one research project which recommended a series of priority actions to support education and training in relation to consumer participation.

The report states that 'all demonstration projects experienced problems in achieving their stated outcomes...Staff and management explanations for this situation included a belief that services are over-stretched and under-resourced. Services also consistently acknowledged that they had underestimated the amount of work involved in implementing the demonstration projects'.

In the report, AIVL outlines the themes and lessons learnt from the projects, and attempts 'to interpret these in a way that supports the further development and sustainability of consumer participation in drug treatment settings'.

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) 2011, *Treatment Service Users Project: Phase Two final report*, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), Canberra, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/needle-tsu2>

#### **Is oral naltrexone more effective than other treatments for opioid dependence?**

An updated review recently published in the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* evaluated 'the effects of naltrexone maintenance treatment versus placebo or other treatments in preventing relapse in opioid addicts after detoxification'. It examined thirteen studies which in total involved almost 1200 participants. The reviewers concluded that 'oral naltrexone did not perform better than treatment with placebo or no pharmacological agent with respect to the number of participants re-incarcerated during the study period. If oral naltrexone is compared with other pharmacological treatments such as benzodiazepine and buprenorphine, no statistically significant difference was found... Consequently, maintenance therapy with naltrexone cannot yet be considered a treatment which has been scientifically proved to be superior to other kinds of treatment'.

Minozzi, S, Amato, L, Vecchi, S, Davoli, M, Kirchmayer, U & Verster, A 2011, 'Oral naltrexone maintenance treatment for opioid dependence', *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, no. 2, Art. no. CD001333, <http://www2.cochrane.org/reviews/en/ab001333.html>.

#### **How beneficial is it to provide training for healthcare professionals to manage opioid overdoses with naloxone (Narcan®)?**

An article in the *International Journal of Drug Policy* reports on a study of the effectiveness of providing training for clinicians in managing an opioid overdose and administering naloxone. It evaluated the 'cascade method' for disseminating training, and barriers to the implementation of training. The researchers found that while training clinicians on how to manage an opioid overdose and administer naloxone was effective, both clinicians and services saw obstacles to disseminating this training. They concluded that 'Drug policy changes and improvements to educational programmes for drug services would be important to ensure successful implementation of overdose training internationally'.

Mayet, S, Manning, V, Williams, A, Loaring, J & Strang, J 2011, 'Impact of training for healthcare professionals on how to manage an opioid overdose with naloxone: effective, but dissemination is challenging', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 9-15.

#### **How can we better support people with complex needs who are in prison?**

Professor Margaret Hamilton was Chair of the Multiple and Complex Needs Panel in Victoria during the implementation of the Multiple and Complex Needs Initiative (MACNI) in Victoria between 2004 and 2009. MACNI was a joint initiative of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Justice (Corrections).

Writing in *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, Professor Hamilton explained that 'The MACNI eligibility criteria included satisfaction of at least two of the four defined diagnostic criteria-mental disorder, drug and/or alcohol dependence, intellectual impairment and acquired brain injury-and being at risk to self or others, and that the person would derive benefit from involvement in the initiative...With regard to risky or very risky alcohol and other drug use/dependence, 59 people (76 per cent) of MACNI clients were identified with alcohol and/or drug misuse or dependence...The most common combination of co-occurring problems among the MACNI clients included mental disorders, and alcohol and drug dependence (present in 60 per cent); some of these with additional diagnoses or multi-morbidities'.

She reports that 'The results of the five year implementation phase of the MACNI suggest that it is likely to be those who are especially disadvantaged who might be better served with a different intensive approach to that usually on offer. People who had previously been deemed to require high security facilities have been managed in general community settings under the MACNI and...it is important to know that it can be done...[the MACNI client group] is a sub-group that shares many characteristics with citizens in prison. With the current projections of the growth of the prison population, perhaps it is time to invest in other services that endeavour to provide integration through professional and specific coordination in an effort to achieve less risky and more sustainable living and service

arrangements in the community for those with a complex mix of needs. The evidence from the initial efforts of the MACNI provides a hopeful alternative.

Hamilton, M 2010, 'People with complex needs and the criminal justice system', *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 307-24.

#### **How large is the illegal tobacco trade in Australia?**

Consulting firm Deloitte has recently published an estimate of the size and value of Australia's illicit tobacco trade. They suggest that 91% of the market is unbranded tobacco, with contraband and counterfeit products composing the balance. They estimate that '...the amount of illicit tobacco purchased in Australia in 2010 [was] approximately 2.7 million kilograms. The size of the illicit tobacco market, represented as a proportion of the licit tobacco market, in Australia for 2010 is estimated to be equivalent to 15.9 per cent of the licit tobacco market. The estimated 2.7 million kilograms of illicit tobacco consumed represents foregone tobacco excise revenue of approximately \$1.1 billion'. According to their figures, the proportion of the total tobacco market that the illegal products comprise is rising, being 6.4% in 2007, 12.3% in 2009 and 15.9% in 2010.

Deloitte 2011, *Illicit trade of tobacco in Australia: a report prepared for British American Tobacco Australia Limited, Philip Morris Limited and Imperial Tobacco Australia Limited*, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, n.p., [tinyurl.com/45e7akw](http://tinyurl.com/45e7akw).

#### **What is the effect of alcohol consumption on cardiovascular disease?**

A review and meta-analysis of studies on the associations between alcohol and cardiovascular disease mortality, coronary heart disease incidence and mortality, stroke incidence and mortality, and all cause mortality has confirmed the beneficial effects of moderate alcohol consumption. The researchers state that 'With respect to public health messages, there may now be an impetus to better communicate to the public that alcohol, in moderation, may have overall health benefits that outweigh the risks in selected subsets of patients'. This review took into account recent criticisms of research quality in this area presented in earlier issues of the eBulletin.

Ronksley, PE, Brien, SE, Turner, BJ, Mukamal, KJ & Ghali, WA 2011, 'Association of alcohol consumption with selected cardiovascular disease outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis', *BMJ: British Medical Journal*, vol. 342, no. early online 22Feb11, <http://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.d671>.

#### **Will it be possible in future to cure hepatitis C with two weeks' treatment with pills?**

'We are on the eve of a new era in hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment' according to David L Thomas in a commentary in the 30 October 2010 issue of *The Lancet*. He was referring to the results of research by Gane et al, also published in that issue.

The researchers 'assessed the safety, tolerability, and antiviral activity of an all-oral combination treatment with two experimental anti-HCV drugs...in patients with chronic HCV infection...Patients from six centres in New Zealand and Australia who were chronically infected with HCV genotype 1 received up to 13 days oral combination treatment...or placebo'. They state that 'This oral combination...holds promise as an interferon-free treatment for chronic HCV'.

Thomas comments 'such an approach could markedly expand testing, treatment uptake, and treatment effectiveness, similar to how the development of highly-active antiretroviral therapy led to expanded testing and treatment of HIV worldwide...it is worth noting that this curable infection with no natural non-human reservoir can be eliminated from any setting in which robust testing and treatment can be sustained'.

Thomas, DL 'Curing hepatitis C with pills: a step toward global control', *The Lancet*, vol. 376, no. 9751, pp. 1441-2.

Gane, EJ, Roberts, SK, Stedman, CAM, Angus, PW, Ritchie, B, Elston, R, Ipe, D, Morcos, PN, Baher, L, Najera, I, Chu, T, Lopatin, U, Berrey, MM, Bradford, W, Laughlin, M, Shulman, NS & Smith, PF 2010, 'Oral combination therapy with a nucleoside polymerase inhibitor (RG7128) and danoprevir for chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 infection (INFORM-1): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, dose-escalation trial', *The Lancet*, vol. 376, no. 9751, pp. 1467-75.

#### **2010 Social Justice Report**

*Australian Human Rights Commission*

This Report was prepared by Mick Gooda, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner in accordance with Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth) (AHRC Act). The document provides a report regarding the enjoyment and exercise of human rights by Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islanders, and recommendations as to actions that should be taken to ensure the exercise and enjoyment of human rights by those persons.

Visit <http://www.apo.org.au/research/social-justice-report-2010> to view the report.

#### **Governing the city state: One ACT government - One ACT public service**

*ACT Government*

This Review, commissioned by the Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory examines the effectiveness, capacity and structure of the ACT Public Service .

Visit <http://www.apo.org.au/research/governing-city-state-one-act-government-one-act-public-service> to access the review.

For more information see the related Media Release in the [Media Section](#).

#### **Review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS-NMDS)**

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)*

The Review of the AODTS-NMDS was conducted by the AIHW and assessed the AODTS-NMDS as an information source for services policy; data gaps; and options for future development within the collection. The review was undertaken in four parts: a literature review; consultation with stakeholders in the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector, including policy makers, researchers and treatment agencies; analysis of the common themes between the literature review and the consultations; and reporting of the findings.

Visit <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=6442475609&tab=1> to access the Review.

ATODA will be participating in the National AODTS-NMDS Working Group on 7 April, if you would like to contribute to ATODA's representation please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

Please note that other media items are also available throughout this bulletin

### **Improved Services for Young People with Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Problems**

25 February 2011

*The Hon Mark Butler MP and the Hon Senator Kim Carr*

Young people aged 12 and over with comorbidity (co-existing mental health and alcohol and other drug conditions) will benefit from a project researching improved services and pathways of care in South Australia's northern suburbs.

The University of Adelaide has been awarded a \$275,820 Australian Research Council Linkage Projects grants for a project entitled 'Stopping the run-around: comorbidity action in the north' (CAN).

The project, which will be conducted in the Salisbury and Playford area, will examine difficulties clients with mental health, drug and alcohol conditions have accessing services.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb024.htm> to view the full media release.

### **Doctors targeted for over-prescribing narcotics**

6 March 2011

*The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP*

Minister for Human Services Tanya Plibersek today announced some 50 doctors will be investigated as part of a nationwide crackdown on inappropriate prescribing of narcotics.

Ms Plibersek said the crackdown will be carried out by Medicare Australia over the next three months following the detection of high levels of prescription writing for drugs such as OxyContin and OxyNorm...

Ms Plibersek said the 50 doctors being targeted had prescribed unusually high levels of drugs to patients under the age of 50 – patients less likely to require pain management...

The doctors we are looking at have written approximately 2,500 prescriptions for narcotics and benzodiazepines in the last 12 months..."

Visit [http://www.mhs.gov.au/media/media\\_releases/2011/03/6\\_march\\_2011\\_-\\_doctors\\_targeted\\_for\\_over\\_-\\_prescribing\\_narcotics.php](http://www.mhs.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/03/6_march_2011_-_doctors_targeted_for_over_-_prescribing_narcotics.php) to view the full media release.

### **Progress Made to 'Close The Gap' in Indigenous Health**

23 March 2011

*The Hon Warren Snowdon MP*

On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the National Close The Gap day, Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, met with some of the 355 additional health staff funded across Australia to help close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

At Parliament today Mr Snowdon congratulated the following health workers:

Winnunga Nimmitjiah Aboriginal Health Service (Canberra):

- Chanel Web - Tobacco Action Worker
- Ian Bateman - Healthy Lifestyle Worker

"Together they form part of a tobacco and healthy lifestyle team who are work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to raise awareness of the health impacts of tobacco smoking and chronic disease..."

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ws-ws008.htm> to view the full media release.

### **New leadership for ACT Corrective Services**

2 March 2011

*Simon Corbell, MLA*

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, announced the appointment of Bernadette O'Connor as Executive Director of ACT Corrective Services...

Ms O'Connor has held senior positions with Corrective Services New South Wales and the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice since 1994 and currently Regional Executive Director, South West Region, Corrective Services, NSW, a position she has held since 2009...

"The ACT is a unique correctional environment, with only one major correctional facility, and I am confident that Ms O'Connor is well placed to understand the specific issues facing ACT Corrective Services..."

Ms O'Connor will take up the position on 4 April, 2011.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10506&m=53> to view the full media release.

### **ACOSS Welcomes Consultative Process on Equal Pay for Community Sector Workers**

4 March 2011

*Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)*

The Australian Council of Social Service welcomes today's Federal Government announcement of a Community Sector Wages Group to assess the potential implications of pay increases for community sector workers across the country.

"This is a positive move by the Government as the process of implementation will be as important as the principle of equal pay itself," said ACOSS CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie. "The outcome we are looking to achieve is full funding by all governments, but how we get to that point is an important question and this process will work towards the answer..."

Visit [http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/ACOSS\\_welcomes\\_consultative\\_process\\_on\\_equal\\_pay\\_for\\_community\\_sector\\_workers](http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/ACOSS_welcomes_consultative_process_on_equal_pay_for_community_sector_workers) to view the full media release.

### **Nominations Sought for ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards**

4 March 2011

*Joy Burch, MLA*

ACT Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services Joy Burch is urging Canberrans to get their nominations in for the ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards. The awards recognise the contribution of volunteers across the ACT.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, and offers an exceptional opportunity to join a global effort to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism...

Nominations close **Friday 16 April 2011**.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10517> to view the full media release.

### **ACT Government looks to Support Youths in Care Beyond 18**

8 March 2011

Joy Burch, MLA

The ACT Government has given in-principle support to extend the age limit for supporting children in formal foster and kinship care arrangements beyond the age of 18, ACT Minister for Children and Young People Joy Burch announced today. Following an ACT Government discussion paper issued last year on transitioning out of care, Ms Burch today in the ACT Legislative Assembly delivered a speech in the ACT Legislative Assembly outlining the Government's response.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10524> to view the full media release

### **Community Leader named Citizen of the Year**

11 March 2011

Jon Stanhope, MLA

Community advocate and not-for-profit CEO, Maureen Cane, has been named the 2011 Canberra Citizen of the Year. Chief Minister Jon Stanhope made the announcement at a special ceremony today to coincide with Canberra's 98th birthday celebrations. In presenting the award to Ms Cane, Mr Stanhope said, "Her decade as Chief Executive Officer of Communities@Work has been marked by the organisation's success in providing valuable services to our community in the areas of disability support, aged care, and family services..."

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10536> to view the full media release.

Note: Ms Cane is a former CEO of Directions ACT.

### **Minister Congratulates Improved Access to Mental Health Hotlines**

11 March 2011

The Hon Mark Bartlett MP

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler today congratulated Vodafone Hutchinson Australia's decision to abolish call charges to a number of front line national suicide prevention hotlines - including Kids Helpline and Lifeline. Mr Butler said that Vodafone and 3 customers who wish to contact mental health services via their mobile phones will do so free of charge from next week.

"The decision by Vodafone and the 3 Network is a significant step towards encouraging those who might not call the hotlines due to the cost involved and remove the financial barrier that many people face..."

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb027.htm> to view the full media release.

### **Changes to ACT Public Service**

24 March 2011

Jon Stanhope, MLA

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope today announced that the ACT Government was to adopt the proposal recommended by Dr Allan Hawke AC to establish a single agency, of nine directorates as the administrative basis of the ACT Public Service...

"I am confident this new structure, and further changes resulting from the Hawke Review and still to be announced, will lead the change management and cultural changes required to embed a new way of working which is essential to the success of the new single agency model," Mr Stanhope added.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10577> to view the full media release.

## **Consumer Participation**

---

### **Making Naloxone available to potential overdose witnesses: evidence and policy opportunities**

Simon Lenton, PhD MP<sub>Psych(clin)</sub>, National Drug Research Institute

See the [Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT](#) for more information.

### **Report: Phase Two of the Treatment Service Users Project**

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

See the [Policy, Reports, Research Section](#) for more information.

### **Mental Health Peer Workforce Competency Development Project**

Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council (CS&HISC)

The CS&HISC is undertaking a project to develop competency standards for the Mental Health peer workforce (consumer workers and carer workers). A draft qualification for the Mental Health peer workforce has been developed for inclusion in the CHC08 Community Services Training Package. In addition, draft skill sets have been developed for managers and supervisors of this workforce and for consumer and carer peer companions. The CS&HISC recently released draft 2 of the framework on their website for feedback which can be given online. Submissions are due by **Thursday 21 April 2011**.

For an overview of the changes and the framework visit [https://www.cshisc.com.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=545&Itemid=162](https://www.cshisc.com.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=545&Itemid=162).

For further information contact Simon Viereck (Mental Health Community Coalition ACT) on 6249 7756 or [simon.viereck@mhccact.org.au](mailto:simon.viereck@mhccact.org.au) or Vanessa Dayeh (CS&HISC) on (02) 9270 6616 or [vanessa.dayeh@cshisc.com.au](mailto:vanessa.dayeh@cshisc.com.au).

## **Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors**

---

### **March Issue of Youth Field Xpress**

Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

The monthly Youth Field Xpress compiles key articles, activities and opportunities that are occurring across in Australia in relation to young people aged 12 - 25 years and those who support them. The March edition includes an article about young people and alcohol and a feature and Dovetail an organisation that supports youth AOD services in Queensland to better respond to the needs of young people aged 12-25 years.

Visit <http://www.acys.info/yfx> for more information.

### **ehedspace Service for Young People**

ehedspace

ehedspace, the national youth mental health organisation, has launched ehedspace, which provides online support

and counselling 7 days a week, from 1 - 9pm for young people aged 12 - 25 years. Young people can send in an email, or chat online.

Visit <https://www.eheadspace.org.au/> for more information.

#### **Youth Suicide Prevention Position Statement**

*Suicide Prevention Australia*

Suicide Prevention Australia recently launched their Position Statement on Youth Suicide Prevention, which resulted from a collaboration between a number of organisations, including The Inspire Foundation, Youthbeyondblue, Twenty10, Lifeline and Headspace.

Visit <http://suicidepreventionaust.org/PositionStatements.aspx#section-26> for more information or to access the position statement.

#### **Presentations now available online - Leading the Change: Mental Health Community Coalition ACT inaugural conference 2011**

*Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)*

This Conference brought together community sector workers, consumers, carers and Government representatives to discuss the vision for a consumer focused and integrated mental health and wellbeing sector and to share ideas on how this could be achieved.

Keynote presentations from the conference can now be accessed at <http://www.mhccact.org.au/cms/index.php?page=Leading%20the%20Change>.

For more information about the conference visit [www.mhccact.org.au](http://www.mhccact.org.au).

#### **National Youth Week in the ACT: 1 - 10 April 2011**

---

National Youth Week is an annual, weeklong celebration of young people (aged 12–25) throughout Australia. It is a joint initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments. National Youth Week 2011 – Own it! will be held from 1 - 10 April 2011. Each year, all over Australia, events are planned and organised to celebrate and recognise the contribution of young people.

#### **Calendar of Events**

The Youth Coalition has compiled a calendar of events to advertise activities, events, performances, sporting functions, forums, exhibitions, expos, projects and more that will be occurring during National Youth Week 2011.

Download the **Calendar of Events**.

#### **Annual Youth Week Expo**

This annual Expo features young performers, artists and musicians; and provides services with the opportunity to hold stalls. This year, the Expo will feature the launch of Youth Week in the ACT, and the signing of the ACT Youth Commitment. Expressions of Interest to hold a stall are currently being invited from youth services, ATOD services, schools, youth-led organisations, community groups and information services.

*Date:* Friday 1 April 2011

*Time:* 2pm – 7pm

*Venue:* Garema Place

For more information about National Youth Week in the ACT, contact Anna Voronoff on (02) 6247 3540 or [youthweek@youthcoalition.net](mailto:youthweek@youthcoalition.net).

#### **Employment Opportunities**

---

##### **Alcohol and Other Drugs Worker Casual Positions**

*DIRECTIONS ACT*

These positions involve providing casual AOD worker support in programs and services within DIRECTIONS ACT which include the Needle and Syringe Program, Outreach and Promotions, Arcadia House and Administration and Reception.

Visit [http://www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/aod\\_casual.pdf](http://www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/aod_casual.pdf) for the position description and selection criteria.

For more information, contact Diedre Hobson on (02) 6122 8000 or [hr@directionsact.com](mailto:hr@directionsact.com).

##### **Researchers/Research Assistants/Consultants – Casual Pool**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)*

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals who would like to join the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT's (ATODA) pool of casual researchers/research assistants/consultants. Pay rates vary depending upon qualifications and duties and will be negotiated with the individual based on budgetary constraints. If you are interested in applying please download and complete the [expression of interest form](#) and submit it to Carrie Fowle, Executive Officer, on [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au) or call (02) 6255 4070 for further information.

##### **Standby Program (Team Leader)**

*SupportLink*

Full time position

This position delivers direct support to persons effected by a sudden death (suicides and motor vehicle fatalities) and also involves leading a small team.

For more information contact Heidi Campbell on 0416 568 653 or [employment@supportlink.com.au](mailto:employment@supportlink.com.au).

Applications close **11 April 2011**.

##### **Wellbeing Worker**

*SupportLink*

20 – 30 hours per week

This position has the primary function of supporting ACT ambulance staff members and their families with wellbeing services as well as assisting with some response to sudden deaths.

For more information contact Heidi Campbell on 0416 568 653 or [employment@supportlink.com.au](mailto:employment@supportlink.com.au).

Applications close **11 April 2011**.

## ACT Referral Coordinator

SupportLink

32 hours per week

This position assists Police, Ambulance staff and Support Agencies to use the SupportLink Referral Management System while coordinating support to people as required.

For more information contact Heidi Campbell on 0416 568 653 or [employment@supportlink.com.au](mailto:employment@supportlink.com.au).

Applications close **11 April 2011**.

## Vacancies Available – Comorbidity Action in the North (CAN) Research Project

Funded by the Australian Research Council

The Australian Research Council has funded the Comorbidity Action in the North (CAN) Research team to conduct research into improving services and pathways of care for people with comorbidity. The project will engage service providers and community groups, and forge multiple service methods designed to assist people aged 12 and over. Download an [article](#) for more information about the project. The project has a number of vacant positions including:

- Fulltime PhD Candidate position (download the [position description](#))
- Fulltime PhD Candidate position - Aboriginal (download the [position description](#))
- Research Project Coordinator (download the [Position advertisement](#) and [position description](#))

For further information contact Professor Charlotte de Crespigny on [charlotte.decrespigny@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:charlotte.decrespigny@adelaide.edu.au) or 0434 019 403.

Applications for the two PHD candidate positions close **15 April 2011**.

## Grants and Funding Opportunities

### 2011/12 Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding Round

ACT Health

This sponsorship funding is for organisations to create and promote healthy environments through addressing key priority health areas including; physical activity, healthy eating, smoking reduction and water as the drink of choice.

There are three levels of sponsorship funding available including a: \$30,000 Sponsorship, \$20,000 Sponsorship and \$10,000 Sponsorship. Visit <http://acthealth.smartgrants.com.au/sponsorship> for more information or contact the ACT Health promotion Grants program on (02) 6205 1325 or [hpgrants@act.gov.au](mailto:hpgrants@act.gov.au).

Applications close **Monday 4 April 2011**.

### 2011/12 Workplace Health Promotion Capacity Building Funding Round

ACT Health

The 2011/12 Workplace Health Promotion Capacity Building Funding Round aims to build the capacity of community based and not-for-profit organisations to refine or develop workplace health promotion programs and/or resources that are evidence based and meet the needs of ACT employees and employers. These workplace health promotion programs and resources must address at least one of the five modifiable lifestyle risk factors for chronic disease: poor nutrition; physical inactivity; overweight and obesity; smoking; and harmful and hazardous alcohol consumption. Up to \$20,000 is available for community and not for profit groups.

Visit <http://acthealth.smartgrants.com.au/workplace> for more information or contact the Health Promotions Branch on (02) 6205 7382 or [healthpromotion@act.gov.au](mailto:healthpromotion@act.gov.au).

Applications close **Monday 4 April 2011**.

### Grants Revised to Help More Women Re-Enter Workforce

16 March 2011

Joy Burch, MLA

The ACT Government has broadened the eligibility criteria for its Women's Return to Work Grants Program to allow more women in the community greater access to financial assistance as they re-enter the workforce. ACT Minister for Women Burch said she instructed the ACT Office for Women to expand the criteria to include women who have been out of the workforce for an extended period of time due to caring responsibilities. Previously only women with children under the age of 16 had been eligible...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10544> to view the full media release.

---

*The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is the newly established peak body representing the non-government and government alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) sector in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). ATODA seeks to promote health through the prevention and reduction of the harms associated with ATOD.*

*ATODA works collaboratively to provide expertise and leadership in the areas of social policy, sector and workforce development, research, coordination, partnerships, communication, information and resources. ATODA is an evidence informed organisation that is committed to the principles of public health, human rights and social justice.*

### **Become a member of ATODA**

*ATODA welcomes organisations and individuals to become members. 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](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070 to request the membership application information package.*

Views expressed in the ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT. Not all third-party events or information included in the eBulletin are endorsed by the ACT ATOD Sector or the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT. No responsibility is accepted by the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT or the editor for the accuracy of information contained in the eBulletin or the consequences of any person relying upon such information.

[Unsubscribe](#) | To contact us please email [ebulletin@atoda.org.au](mailto:ebulletin@atoda.org.au)

