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ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: February 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

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ATODA Budget Submission

ATODA submitted its first submission to the ACT Budget consultation process in December 2010. The submission focuses on six ACT ATOD funding priorities, including:

1. Reducing and preventing opioid overdose-related harms through increasing access to naloxone;
2. Preventing and reducing the transmission and infection of blood-borne viruses (e.g. HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and B) through conducting a needle and syringe program trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
3. Supporting a viable ATOD sector and workforce by implementing the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*;
4. Supporting quality improvement in healthcare through consumer participation;
5. Reducing tobacco-related harms through promoting healthy workplaces; and
6. Improving our support for people experiencing comorbid ATOD and mental health issues through implementing key actions within the ACT Comorbidity Strategy.

For more information download [ATODA's Budget Submission](#).

A guide to reviewing and developing alcohol, tobacco and other drug resources for young people - launched!

Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) in partnership with ATODA and the ACT ATOD Sector

Access to accurate, credible information is a fundamental aspect of all drug prevention and intervention strategies. This guide aims to assist ATOD services to review existing ATOD resources for young people or plan and develop new resources ensuring they are of high quality and relevant to the target audience. The guide includes a resource review checklist and resource development guidelines.

The guide was launched at the APSAD conference 2010 and has received positive feedback. The sector should be acknowledged for driving the development and resourcing of this guide, which was part of the broader Review of ATOD Written Materials for Young People in the ACT. A workshop on how to use the tool is scheduled for March 2011.

Download the [Guide to reviewing and developing ATOD resources for young people](#).

ACT ATOD Sector Forum: February 2011

[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.

[ACT Naloxone Trial](#)

Information and media relating to the wider distribution of naloxone and a proposed trial in the ACT.

[Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre](#)

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

This forum will focus on the housing and homelessness sector and its relationship with the alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) sector in the ACT. Key questions that will be explored include:

- How does the housing and homelessness sector in the ACT work?
- What changes have taken place?
- Who are our key contacts?

Date: Thursday 24 February 2011

Time: 9:30am - 11:30am

Venue: TBC

Guest Speakers: TBC

Cost: Free

Food: Morning Tea will be provided

RSVP: Essential

For more information or to RSVP contact Ben Frommel, ATODA, on (02) 6255 4070 or ben@atoda.org.au.

Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: January 2011

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

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project (the 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 ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

Download the [Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: January 2011](#).

For further information please contact Dr Justin Barker, ATODA, on justin@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Comorbidity Bus Tour Pilot Project Update

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

Thanks to everyone who completed the Comorbidity Bus Tour Stakeholder and Member Survey. We received a great response with valuable feedback.

The Comorbidity Bus Tours will be continuing monthly until June 2011 on a cost recovery basis, or until funding for the bus tours is secured. Reducing the cost of the bus tours remains a priority for the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, the Youth Coalition of the ACT, and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, which was reflected in each organisations budget submission.

For further information on the Comorbidity Bus Tour Pilot Project, contact Katrina Campion, Youth Coalition of the ACT, on (02) 6247 3540 or katrina@youthcoalition.net.

ATODA would like to extend its best wishes and support for those experiencing and recovering from the natural disasters across Australia.

For those who will work with people affected by this natural disaster, Of Substance magazine has produced an article that may be of assistance. To view the article visit http://ofsubstance.org.au/images/archive/pdf/ofsubstance_2010_1.pdf.

For more news from ATODA see the following items:

- ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy in the [ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section.
- The Drug Action Week Planning Group in the [Drug Action Week 2011 Update](#) section.
- Comorbidity Bus Tour C in the [Training and Professional Development in the ACT](#) section.
- February - March 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.

ATODA's Contact Details are:

email: info@atoda.org.au

post: PO BOX 7187 Watson ACT 2602

visit: 350 Antill St., Watson ACT

phone: (02) 6255 4070

web: www.atoda.org.au (in development) www.aodsector.org.au (in transition)

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy

Applications Close Soon: ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Information Package - Semester 1, 2011

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

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

National Health Reform Update

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

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.

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.

ACT Carers Charter

Information on the ACT Carers Charter discussion paper and ATODA's submission.

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.

Employment Opportunities

the minimum qualification.

An information pack has been developed that provides more information on:

- The ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy and Project
- Funding available through the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Project
- Changes to the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy
- Funded Training and Assessment Opportunities for Semester 1, 2011
- Information for Government, Non Government and Allied Sectors
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Relevant Application Forms including those to undertake the remaining units of the Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drug Work and Senior First Aid.

Download a copy of the [information package](#). The closing date for applications is **Friday 18 February 2011**. For further information or to register for the training, please contact the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Minimum Qualification Implementation and Development Committee

The Committee will be convened in February to review applications, discuss policy implications, participant feedback, and developing a workshop to progress the Minimum Qualification Strategy as part of the broader ACT ATOD Sector Workforce Development Strategy. For further information, or to get involved, contact: For further information or to register for the training, please contact the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, on 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 and is expected to be debated in February 2011. ATODA supports appropriate and rigorous risk management practices to protect children and vulnerable adults, and acknowledges that social policy reform in this area is inevitably a balancing act.

Under the current proposed checking system, the objective of protecting vulnerable service users unnecessarily conflicts with the objectives of encouraging and maintaining diverse and experienced workforces. This is of particular concern given the recovery or peer-led support orientation of both the alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) and mental health sectors. The challenge for the proposed system is to ensure people are not penalised, in terms of their access to employment; for their past behaviour that bears little or no relevance to the risk they pose to the vulnerable people they may work with now or in the future.

ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC) have been engaging in significant representation with the Minister for Community Services, the Minister for Health, the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services and the Office of Regulatory Services.

About the WWVPCS

For further information about the system visit:

- The draft legislation: 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/wwwvpc.

Consultation on Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines

Office of Regulatory Services (ORS) & Department of Disability Housing and Community Services (DHCS) As part of the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*, draft risk assessment guidelines have been developed as an instrument under the Bill. The guidelines will not be made until after the Bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Download the [draft guidelines](#). DHCS is seeking written feedback on the draft guidelines, to workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au by **11 February 2011**.

ATODA and the MHCC have provided verbal feedback and will be making a written submission.

ATOD and Mental Health Sectors Support to Implement the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

The ATODA submission to the 2011/2012 ACT Budget, included calling for targeted resources for the ATOD sector to implement the Bill.

Download the [ATODA Budget Submission](#).

For more information contact Carrie Fowlie on (02) 6255 4070 or carrie@atoda.org.au.

ACT Naloxone Trial

There has been growing support and significant developments nationally and in the ACT regarding progressing Australia's first naloxone trial in the ACT, including support from the ACT Minister for Health, ACT Ambulance Service, ATOD Sector, General Practitioners and nurses, consumers and user groups, and carers and families.

Employment opportunities in the ACT ATOD sector.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

Why have a naloxone trial?

Naloxone hydrochlorine (trade name Narcan®) is a pure opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of opioid overdose. It has no agonist properties, and in the absence of opioids naloxone exhibits little significant pharmacologic activity.

Overdose from the use of illicit opioids, particularly heroin, continues to account for most illicit drug-related deaths in Australia. However, a majority of overdoses involving heroin or diverted pharmaceutical opioids are preventable. Emergency responders such as paramedics and emergency room physicians have been using Naloxone since the 1970s to revive people who are suffering from an opioid overdose.

Evidence suggests that in a majority of opioid overdose situations other people are present, creating considerable scope for intervention to prevent death by overdose.

Naloxone has been available over-the-counter from pharmacies in Italy since 1995 and therefore available for peer administration. Accumulating international evidence since 2000 suggests the provision of naloxone to opioid users, their peers and family members can occur with few, if any, adverse effects.

For further information read Anex's paper [Lifesavers: a position paper on access to Naloxone Hydrochloride for potential opioid overdose witnesses](#) or download [ATODA's Budget Submission](#).

ACT Naloxone Trial Committee

The Committee, established to drive a naloxone trial proposal in the ACT, will be convening in February. For more information please contact Carrie Fowlie on (02) 6255 4070 or carrie@atoda.org.au.

ACT Naloxone Trial Proposal

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

ATODA submission to the 2011/2012 ACT Budget, included conducting a program with the aim of reducing and preventing opioid overdoses in the ACT, which includes a naloxone trial. Download the [ATODA Budget Submission](#).

For more information contact Carrie Fowlie on (02) 6255 4070 or carrie@atoda.org.au.



Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre

A Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) trial in the ACT prison continues to be an area of discussion and development. Some recent ACT media and related items are provided below.

Health groups call for Needle & Syringe Program in ACT prison

4 January 2011

Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) and ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) and the ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre are calling on the ACT Government to introduce a needle and syringe program (NSP) in the Alexander Maconochie Centre in 2011. Both health groups believe the introduction of an NSP in the gaol would have far-reaching public health benefits for the broader community....

"Unfortunately, research worldwide has consistently shown that despite the best efforts to ensure that drugs do not get into prisons, small amounts will slip through the cracks in the system and it is important that contingency plans are in place to deal with this. Many other countries have managed to implement successful NSPs in prisons and the ACT Government should be supported to do the same in 2011," said Ms Walker.

Download the [full media release](#).

Fight looms on jail needle plan

5 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Stanhope supports needle program

6 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Needle exchange program needed

6 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

In jail, no one deserves a sentence with hepatitis C

7 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Injecting hope into our prisons

7 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

At the sharp end, it's the inmates' welfare the counts

8 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Need for needles

9 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

The benefits and safety of syringe programs are clear

11 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Needle Exchange

12 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Prison needle exchange programs raise health, safety levels

12 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Seselja must clarify the liberals position on the 'small problem' of HIV and Hep C

12 January 2011,

Jon Stanhope, MLA (Media Release)

The leader of the Canberra Liberals must clarify his party's position on the 'small problem' of the issue of the transfer of HIV and Hepatitis C, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said today.

"Zed Seselja must say whether he supports the statements attributed to his shadow minister for health and shadow minister for corrections, Jeremy Hanson, that the transfer of HIV and Hepatitis C is a 'small problem'," Mr Stanhope said....

Mr Stanhope said they displayed a gross insensitivity towards the issue of transference of the diseases....

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10344&m=51> to view the full media release.

Needles in prison

13 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Needles no answer

14 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

With Conviction

14 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Letter to the editor: Jail drugs plea

18 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Letter to the editor

18 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Jail drug program is vital for ACT

19 January 2011, *Canberra Times*.

Download the [full article](#).

Trial NSP in Prisons supporters

Anex

A number of prominent individuals and organisations have put their support behind a trial of a NSP in Prisons.

Visit <http://www.anex.org.au/prisons-supporters/> to view the list.

Prison Issues Update

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.

National needle and syringe programs strategic framework 2010-2014

Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government

This framework sets policy directions and identifies program goals to assist governments and administrators planning the future development of needle and syringe programs.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/needle-frame> to view the framework.

Needle and Syringe Program Trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre Proposal

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ATODA submitted a proposal as part of its 2011/2012 ACT Budget Submission to conduct a trial of a needle and syringe program (NSP) in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) with the aim of preventing and reducing blood-borne virus transmission. Download the [ATODA Submission](#). For more information on the proposal contact Carrie Fowlie on (02) 6255 4070 or carrie@atoda.org.au.

National Health Reform Update

The Australian Government is delivering health reform aimed at improving and modernising Australia's health system. This is being led by the Department of Health and Ageing (www.health.gov.au). The reform will involve the largest changes to the health, hospitals and aged care systems since the introduction of Medicare. The reforms will total \$7.4 billion dollars over 5 years and will aim to:

- Improve hospitals
- Facilitate better access to GP and primary health care services
- Train more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals
- Support aged care
- Invest in prevention
- Help those with mental illness
- Modernise the Australian health system

For further information about the health reforms including updates and resources visit <http://yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>.

ATODA is a member of the ACT Primary Health Care Coalition and is engaged in these discussions.

Significant step in health reform

23 December 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon today announced that an important milestone in health reform had been achieved with six States and Territories reaching agreement with the Commonwealth on the boundaries for Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals....

"Local Hospital Networks and Medicare Locals are the structures that will ensure that the primary - GP and community health services - and hospital parts of the system will work more closely, making it much easier for patients to navigate through the health system....

"The boundaries for Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks have been agreed following a process of community and government consultation," said Ms Roxon....

An initial group of 15 Medicare Locals will begin operating in July 2011, with the remainder starting in mid-2012....

Maps of the Medicare Local boundaries and Local Hospital Network boundaries are available at www.yourhealth.gov.au

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr210.htm> to view the full media release.

ACT Health Restructure

ACT Health engaged with ACT Health employees to discuss the proposed re-structure of the organisation, which includes creating a new division of which the current Alcohol and Drug Program, Mental Health ACT, and Corrections Health would be part.

ATODA has supported discussions to occur within the sector, met with ACT Health representatives and wrote a submission outlining some key areas for consideration. For a copy of the submission or for further information please contact Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

It is anticipated that there will be an announcement in early 2011 regarding the restructure. For further information about the restructure please contact ACT Health on proposedstructure@act.gov.au. *Please note that consultations have now closed.*

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.

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: 24 February 2011

Time: 11:45 am - 12:45 pm

Venue: TBC

RSVP: Essential, to Ben Frommel on 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.

Sector Activities and Events

New 'Kids in Focus' Program

Barnardos Canberra

Barnardos Canberra has launched a new program called 'Kids in Focus' that targets parents/ carers with AOD issues. The program will work intensively with families in the early stages and then reduce support as the parents develop and sustain their ability to parent effectively. There is capacity for parents to leave and re-enter the Program depending on their involvement with other services including AOD services. The Kids in Focus program will look to collaborate with other services, including specialist AOD services, to provide a wrap-around case management system if this is needed for the families.

For more information contact Meg Fitzgerald on (02) 62289500 or mfitzgerald@barnardos.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: 17 January 2011, 3 February 2011, 3 March 2011, 7 April 2011, 5 May 2011 and 2 June 2011

Cost: Free

Download the [Flyer](#).

For more information or to make a booking visit

http://www.aidsaction.org.au/content/community_development/quit-smoking.php.

FebFast Charity Campaign

FebFast

FebFast is a national health and charity campaign to raise awareness and educate Australians about their personal alcohol consumption. The campaign challenges individuals to live February alcohol free. In doing so, the campaign aims to raise money for organisations that support young people with ATOD issues.

Funds raised will go to a number of services across Australia, including Ted Noffs in the ACT.

For more information visit www.febfast.com.au.

Third anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations

Reconciliation Australia (RA)

Sunday 13 February 2011 marks the third anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations. There are a number of activities organizations and individuals can undertake to remember the significant day.

For more information visit www.reconciliation.org.au.

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

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

- Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) Conference feedback;
- Ongoing concerns regarding the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010; and,
- NGO TGP and ISI funding extensions

The Group did not meet in January. For further information please contact Carol Mead, Chair, carolm@directionsact.com or (02) 6122 8000.

Sector Development

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) December Bulletins

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

Separate bulletins for the IDRS and EDRS projects are produced throughout the year as a means of providing information on interesting aspects of project results in a more accessible format. They also contain more detailed analyses and information on a particular topic of interest. The December 2010 Bulletins topics are:

- IDRS: The health and wellbeing of a group of Tasmanian regular injecting drug users
- EDRS: Mephedrone use among regular ecstasy consumers in Australia

Visit <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Bulletins> to download the bulletins.

A sector workshop was held on 28 January to discuss the implications for the findings and support the further development of the initiative in the ACT.

National Improved Services Initiative Newsletter - Summer Edition 2010

Australian State and Territory ATOD peak organisations

The National Improved Services Initiative provided funding to over 140 agencies across Australia, including 5 in the ACT to build the capacity of their services to assist them to better identify and treat comorbid substance abuse disorders and mental illness. The creation of the Newsletter is part of ongoing collaboration between the Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations, who have been funded to support the grant recipients as part of the Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships (CSSSP) Project.

The newsletter provides an opportunity for grant recipients to promote the work they are doing under the Improved Services Initiative, the support being provided under the CSSSP Project, and to find out more about related initiatives.

Download the [National Improved Services Initiative Newsletter](#).

To provide feedback or for more information contact Amanda Bode on (02) 6255 4070 or info@atoda.org.au.

New Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League Website

Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

This website provides access to information for people who inject drugs, people on pharmacotherapies, people working in the ATOD sector, policy makers, researchers and other interested stakeholders. Key features of the new website include sections on: current issues, the AIVL newsletter, AIVL resources, AIVL policy and position papers and ways to support AIVL's work.

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

Your Shout - Educational Resource about Alcohol for Young People

Australian Drug Foundation

Your Shout is an educational resource about alcohol, by young people. It features a range of young Australians and health experts discussing the way they feel about alcohol and how it affects their physical, mental and social wellbeing. This resource includes a DVD and classroom activities that are structured to fit within a standard class period or can be viewed in chapters across four periods.

Visit <http://www.adf.org.au/your-shout> for more information.

CentreLines December 2010

National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) and National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

CentreLines is a quarterly newsletter published alternately by NDRI and NDARC and is funded by the National Drug Strategy. The newsletter discusses current topics of interest to the drug and alcohol field along with recent projects and publications. The December edition is themed alcohol consumption in Australia: revealing an accurate picture.

Visit <http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/pdf/centrelines/ndri032.pdf> to view the December edition of CentreLines.

PhD Opportunity at the National Centre in HIV Social Research

University of New South Wales

The National Centre in HIV Social Research is offering a 3 year PhD scholarship looking at the area of harm reduction service provision. The project will involve a mixed-method (qualitative and quantitative) approach examining a broad range of NSP service delivery models.

The scholarship is for a maximum of 3 years at a rate of \$25,000 per annum (tax exempt) and is open to Australian citizens or permanent residents. The candidate should be available to begin study in session 1 2011. The minimum academic qualification required is a degree with Honours 2(i) or equivalent.

Applications for the scholarship close 4 February 2011. For more information contact Professor Carla Treloar on c.treloar@unsw.edu.au or Dr Limin Mao on limin.mao@unsw.edu.au.

Indigenous Official Visitor Appointment 2011

ACT Government

Tracey Whetnall has been appointed as an Indigenous Official Visitor for a period commencing on 17 January 2011 and ending on 16 January 2012.

Visit <http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/2011-3/current/pdf/2011-3.pdf> for more information.

Autumn Edition of Update: Community Gender Matters

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS are seeking submissions for the Autumn edition of their quarterly newsletter *Update*, which will focus on the theme 'Community Gender Matters'.

For more information contact Suzanne Richardson on (02) 6202 7235 or suzanne.richardson@actcoss.org.au.

Submissions are due by **Monday 14 February 2011**.

Community Services Student Placements

University of Canberra (UC)

UC is currently inviting applications from community services for student placements from the Community Education, Community Counselling, Community and/or Health Development streams (both undergraduate and postgraduate) to begin in March 2011. Services are encouraged to contact UC to discuss potential projects or work experience opportunities.

For more information contact Irmgard Heiner on (02) 6201 5312 or irmgard.heiner@canberra.edu.au.

Training and Professional Development in the ACT

Comorbidity Bus Tour C

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA), in partnership with the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the 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 C. 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 C, will visit the following services*:

- Ted Noffs Foundation
- STEPS Program
- headspace ACT
- The Cottage, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Gagan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Sobering Up Shelter
- Court Alcohol and Drug Assessment Service, Alcohol and Drug Program
- Needle and Syringe Vending Machine
- Junction Youth Health Service
- Youth Coalition of the ACT

*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 16 February 2011

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

Download the [Comorbidity Bus Tour C Flyer](#).

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

AOD Training Day

Barnardos Kids In Focus (KiF) and Family Drug Support (FDS)

This training day is provided for workers who are dealing with clients who have alcohol or substance misuse issues.

Date: Friday 4 March 2011

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Venue: Main Conference Room, Downer Business Park, 2 Bradfield St, Downer, ACT

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential by 1 March 2011

For more information or to RSVP phone (02) 6228 9500 or 0447 286 236.

Leading the Change: Mental Health Community Coalition ACT inaugural conference 2011

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)

This Conference aims to bring 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 can be achieved. Presentations will focus on how the sector can influence change both locally and nationally and showcase existing innovative models and programs.

Date: February 17 - 18, 2011

Venue: Australian National University, Canberra

Cost: \$210 Government/corporate, \$180 community org non member, \$150 community org member, \$50 consumer/carers

Registration: Essential, download the [registration form](#).

For more information visit www.mhccact.org.au or contact MHCC ACT on (02) 6249 7756 or conference@mhccact.org.au.

February - March 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 February to March 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 [February - March 2011 Training Calendar](#).

Modern Award Program Workshop

ACT Council of Social Service, Australian Council of Social Service and Jobs Australia

The Modern Award Program seeks to provide information and support to community sector employees in transitioning to the modern award, and includes the development of written materials and the delivery of workshops across the country by Jobs Australia. Written materials will be developed providing information on key conditions set by the *Social Community Home Care and Disability Services Award 2010* and how it compares with the previous award. The following workshop will be held in the ACT:

Date: Thursday 3 March 2011

Time: 9:30am - 1pm

Venue: Fair Work Ombudsman, Level 11, 208 Bunda St and Corner Akuna St.

Cost: Free (Places are limited to one delegate per organisation)

Registration: Essential, visit <http://acoss.org.au/events/view/713/> to register.

For more information download the [Workshop Flyer](#).

Working Ethically: Professional Boundaries

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The three hour workshop will be presented by Train4Life will cover areas including: duty of care, confidentiality, organisational rights, confidentiality, clients' rights, workers' rights, working ethically, personal values, practicing reflection and policy, procedure and protocol.

Date: Tuesday 15 February 2011

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm

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

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

Registration: Essential by Friday 4 February 2011

Download the [Training Flyer](#).

For more information or to register contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

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

Date: Thursday 10 March 2011

Time: 10am - 3:30pm

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

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

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/RTS-Mar11.pdf for more information or to register.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Transitions: People, Policy, Practice

Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)

This Conference is themed *Transitions: people, policy, practice* and will focus on the transitions and movements within the alcohol and other drug (AOD) field looking towards 2020. The conference will bring together those working directly in the AOD field along with those in related sectors including prevention, health promotion, harm reduction, justice, child and family services and mental health.

Date: 17 - 18 February 2011

Venue: Jasper Hotel - 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Cost: \$440 member, \$460 non-member

Download the [Conference Program](#).

For more information or to register for the conference visit <http://conference.vaada.org.au/>.

Challenges and Innovations

Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA)

This conference will bring together CEOs, program and project managers, researchers, policy makers and front line workers responsible for implementing the National Drug Strategy in Queensland.

Date: 28 February - 1 March 2011

Venue: 433 on Logan Conference & Banqueting Centre, 433 Logan Road, Brisbane, Queensland
Cost: Early bird - \$260 member and \$200 additional delegates, \$350 non member
Registration: Early bird closes 7 February 2011.

Download the [Conference Flyer](#).

For more information or to register visit http://www.qnada.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=437.

Drug Policy Modelling Program Research Symposium

Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP), University of New South Wales

This symposium will involve presentations on drug policy research from the DPMP and is relevant for those engaged in evidence informed policy development, including researchers, policy analysts/makers and service providers.

Date: 18 March 2011

Time: 10am - 5pm

Venue: The Sebel, Surry Hills, NSW

Cost: Free

Download the [DPMP Symposium Flyer](#).

For more information or to register contact Coleen Faes on colleen.faes@unsw.edu.au.

The Inaugural Medicine in Addiction Conference

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)

This conference aims to provide insight into the issues of addiction and dependency in a range of clinical settings, and will include a number of keynote presentations and a debate.

Date: 18 - 20 March 2011

Venue: Citiclub Hotel, 113 Queen St, Melbourne

Cost: \$550

Download the [Inaugural Medicine in Addiction Conference Flyer](#).

For more information or to register visit <http://www.ranzcp.org/mia2011>.

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: \$480.00 KBS member, \$550.00 KBS non member - early bird

Registration: Early bird closes **11 February 2011**

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.

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: \$690 early bird

Registration: Early bird closes **31 March 2011**. Visit

http://www.adf.org.au/images/stories/DYP6_rego_flyer.pdf to access the registration form.

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.

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.

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: Goldcoast 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 to register.

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

Policy Activities

Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines: Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)

These draft Risk Assessment Guidelines will operate as an instrument under the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010; and have been informed by the community roundtable held by Ms Joy Burch MLA on 29 September 2010. Written feedback is now invited on the draft Guidelines.

Download [the guidelines](#) for more information or contact Jean Thomson on (02) 6205 8329 or workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au.

Submissions are due by **Friday 11 February 2011**.

Scoping Study for a National Not-for-Profit Regulator

Australian Government

The Assistant Treasurer has released a Consultation Paper as part of a scoping study for a National Not-for-Profit Regulator. The Paper seeks feedback on the goals of national regulation, the scope of national regulation, and the functions and forms of a national regulator.

Visit <http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?NavId=037&ContentID=1934> for more information or contact NFPReform@treasury.gov.au.

Submissions are due by **Friday 25 February 2011**.

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. Submissions are due by **Friday 15 April 2011**.

Australia's new National Human Rights Action Plan

Australian Government

In late 2010, the Federal Government released a Human Rights Framework in which it proposed to develop a new National Human Rights Action Plan. The Action Plan will allow Australia to consider its strengths and address our shortcomings in observing human rights. The Attorney General's Department has since released a background paper to the development of the Action Plan and called for comments. The time frame for the process is as follows:

- Comments on the Background Paper due - 11 February 2011
- Draft Action Plan and Baseline Study to be released - April 2011
- Attorney General /Minister for Foreign Affairs NGO forum - May/June 2011

- Public comments on the draft Action Plan and Baseline Study due - August 2011
- Release of final Action Plan and Baseline Study - December 2011

Links to relevant documents can be found below:

- Background paper to the National Human Rights Action Plan https://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_NationalHumanRightsActionPlan?open&query=national%20human%20rights%20action%20plan
- National Human Rights Framework <http://www.ag.gov.au/humanrightsframework>
- National Human Rights Consultation <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/>

Review of the ACT Social Compact

Joint Community Government Reference Group (JCGRG)

The JCGRG, which includes representation from ACT Government Departments and the community services sector, is reviewing the ACT Social Compact, which is a statement of understanding about the relationship between the ACT Government and the community sector. They are inviting workers and services to complete a short survey on awareness and use of the Social Compact.

Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSVF7YY> to complete the survey.

For more information download the [ACT Social Compact](#).



ACT Carers Charter

In the ACT, the term 'carer' encompasses a diversity of individuals and groups performing a caring role, in diverse circumstances and include people caring for friends and relatives with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness or substance use, Kinship Carers including grandparents providing informal care for dependent family members, and Foster Carers. The ACT has recently called for submissions on the draft *ACT Carers Charter* (visit http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/162752/ACT_Carers_Charter_Discussion_Paper.pdf to view the paper). Note: submissions have now closed.

ATODA Submission

ATODA will be made a submission on the ACT Carers Charter Discussion paper, which was focused on caring as it related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. For a copy of the submission or further information please contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.



Policy, Reports and Research

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

What resources are available to help non government drug and alcohol services with policy development and quality improvement?

The NSW Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies Policy Toolkit is 'a resource designed to guide non government drug and alcohol services to develop and review operational policy documents and support their formal quality improvement program. The resource provides practical policy development templates related to governance and leadership, administration and support, and service delivery'.

Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NSW) 2010, *NADA Policy Toolkit*, NADA, http://www.nada.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=236&Itemid=44.

Would it be feasible to ban tobacco provision to people born in or after 2000 as a way to reduce smoking?

Researchers based in Singapore have proposed a ban on the provisions of tobacco to people born in or after 2000 as 'a feasible next step in reducing tobacco consumption'. They state 'Although it is widely appreciated that, if submitted now, tobacco products would fail to be approved by health authorities, by historical accident they are generally treated as legal products for adults. Largely because of the addictive nature of the product, an immediate ban is perceived as unacceptably harsh...[however] A survey conducted in Singapore reveals strong community support for the initiative, of more than 70% overall, including 60% among smokers interviewed'.

Khoo, D, Chiam, Y, Ng, P, Berrick, AJ & Koong, HN 2010, 'Phasing-out tobacco: proposal to deny access to tobacco for those born from 2000', *Tobacco Control*, vol. 19, no. 5, pp. 355-60, <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/19/5/355.full>.

How valid is the traditional threshold theory of tobacco/nicotine dependence?

Two important articles have recently been published in the Harm Reduction Journal. The first emphatically supports the traditional view that young people need to smoke a large number of cigarettes to become 'addicted' to them, the approach taken in the DSM & ICD diagnostic authorities. The second roundly refutes this, presenting a solid body of evidence refuting the threshold theory and arguing that neither the DSM nor ICD approaches to tobacco/nicotine dependence have any foundation in empirical research.

Dar, R & Frenk, H 2010, 'Can one puff really make an adolescent addicted to nicotine? A critical review of the literature', *Harm Reduction Journal*, vol. 7, p. 28. Full text free online <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/7/1/28>.

DiFranza, JR 2010, 'Thwarting science by protecting the received wisdom on tobacco addiction from the scientific method', *Harm Reduction Journal*, vol. 7, p. 26. Full text free online <http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/content/7/1/26>.

What does the research tell us about fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD)?

The November-December 2010 issue of the journal *Alcohol* is a special issue on 'Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: Diagnosis and Intervention' which includes several articles on various aspects of the topic. The editor comments 'Perhaps the most compelling theme of this special issue is the need for better means for early identification of at-risk alcohol exposure or phenotypic markers that can predict the varying neurodevelopmental trajectories of FASD...Not only can these measures be used to develop more effective diagnosis and intervention but can also facilitate prevention efforts by identifying at-risk pregnancies earlier to provide targeted opportunities to help reduce alcohol abuse during pregnancy'.

Goodlett, CR 2010, 'Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: new perspectives on diagnosis and intervention', *Alcohol*, vol. 44, no. 7-8, pp. 579-82, Full text free online <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0741-8329/PIIS0741832910001680.pdf>, <http://www.alcoholjournal.org>.

What are the long-term trends in Australian alcohol consumption?

For many years ABS data has indicated that Australia's per capita consumption of alcohol has been steady at around 10 litres per head. A recent revision of the alcohol contents of beverages has been applied to the trend data. ABS is now reporting, in an entirely new data series, that Australia's per capita consumption of alcohol rose sharply from around 9.3 litres in the early-1960s to a peak of around 13 litres in the mid-1970s. It fell steadily to around 9.8 litres in the mid-1990s and has risen steadily from then to the current level of around 10.4 litres. This increase parallels the lifting of restrictions on the availability of alcoholic beverages and partially accounts for the increasing incidence of alcohol-related harms observed over the decade.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, *Apparent consumption of alcohol: extended time series, 1944-45 to 2008-09*, cat. no. 4307.0.55.002, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4307.0.55.002.

Further details, albeit over a shorter time period, may be seen in Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010, *Drinking patterns in Australia, 2001-2007*, cat. no. PHE 133, AIHW, Canberra, <http://aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11895>.

How effective is legally coerced drug treatment for drug offenders?

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research has published a Bulletin which discusses the policy and ethical implications raised by legally coercing drug offenders into drug treatment in the community, and providing compulsory treatment within the prison system. The authors conclude that 'The most plausible argument for legally coercing drug offenders to enter drug treatment is that it is a more effective and less expensive option than imprisonment in reducing drug use and crime. The most ethically defensible form of such coercion is the use of imprisonment as an incentive for treatment entry, and the fear of return to prison as a reason for complying with drug treatment in the community. Offenders should still have a choice as to whether they take up the treatment offer, and, if they choose to do so, they should have a choice of treatment, rather than being compelled to enter a particular form of treatment... There is a good case for providing voluntary, prison-based drug treatment for recidivist offenders who cannot be treated in community-based programs...[however] The evidence for the effectiveness of compulsory prison-based drug treatment is weak'.

Hall, W & Lucke, J 2010, *Legally coerced treatment for drug using offenders: ethical and policy issues*, Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 144, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, [http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB144.pdf/\\$file/CJB144.pdf](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB144.pdf/$file/CJB144.pdf).

What is the evidence for the effectiveness of therapeutic communities?

An analysis of research evidence from North America has found that 'The weight of the research evidence from all sources is compelling in supporting the hypothesis that the TC [therapeutic community] is an effective and cost-effective treatment for certain subgroups of substance abusers'.

De Leon, G 2010, 'Is the therapeutic community an evidence-based treatment? What the evidence says', *Therapeutic Communities*, vol. 31, no. 2.

Does increasing the rate of arrests for drug use result in fewer people injecting illegal drugs?

US research has found that 'Deterrence-based approaches to reducing drug use seem not to reduce IDU prevalence'. The researchers studied data on drug-related arrest rates and the prevalence of injection drug use in 95 large urban areas over a twenty year period. They found that 'Changes in hard drug arrest rates did not predict changes in IDU population rates. These results are inconsistent with criminal deterrence theory and raise questions about whether arresting people for hard drug use contributes to public health'.

Friedman, SR, Pouget, ER, Chatterjee, S, Cleland, CM, Tempalski, B, Brady, JE & Cooper, HLF 2011 'Drug arrests and injection drug deterrence', *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 101, no. 2, pp. 344-9.

What are the pros and cons of drug-driving laws?

Tasmanian researchers have examined a range of issues associated with the drug-driving laws recently introduced in Australia. While acknowledging that the laws infringe on civil liberties, the researchers express the view that 'credible evidence of impairment caused by drug types is sufficient to conclude that the drug-driving laws promote road safety'. They also discuss 'the apparent interrelationships between drug-driving, drug-dependency and unemployment', and suggest ways that 'risks to the employability of convicted drug drivers could be mitigated'.

Prichard, J, Matthews, A, Bruno, R, Rayment, K & James, H 2010, 'Detouring civil liberties? Drug-driving laws in Australia', *Griffith Law Review*, vol. 19, no. 2, pp. 330-49.

How effective are school-based prevention programs in reducing teenage cannabis use?

Researchers from the Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse have analysed 15 studies on the effectiveness of school-based prevention programming in reducing cannabis use among young people aged 12 to 19 years. They found that these programs had a positive impact on reducing students' cannabis use, and 'programs incorporating elements of several prevention models were significantly more effective than were those based on only a social influence model'. Longer programs, and those that were 'facilitated by individuals other than teachers in an interactive manner also yielded stronger effects'.

Porath-Waller, AJ, Beasley, E & Beirness, DJ 2010, 'A meta-analytic review of school-based prevention for cannabis use', *Health Education and Behavior*, vol. 37, no. 5, pp. 709-23.

Could Australian governments' spending on drug abuse be used more effectively?

In a Commentary in the latest issue of *Drug and Alcohol Review*, the author points out that 'A notable feature of Australian drug policy is the limited public and professional attention given to the financial costs of drug abuse and to the levels and patterns of government expenditures incurred in preventing and responding to this'. He draws on the work of Collins and Lapsley which documents the social costs of drug abuse in Australia and gives estimates of governments' drug budgets: revenue and expenditures. 'They show that, in 2004-2005, Australian governments expended at least \$5288 million on drug abuse, with 50% of the expenditure directed to preventing and dealing with alcohol-related problems, 45% to illicit drugs and just 5% to tobacco. Some 60% of the expenditure was directed at drug crime and 37% at health interventions'. The author states that 'This pattern of resource allocation does not adequately reflect an evidence-informed policy orientation in that it largely fails to focus on the drug types that are the sources of the most harm (tobacco and alcohol rather than illicit drugs), and the sectors for which we have the strongest evidence of the cost-effectiveness of the available interventions (treatment and harm reduction rather than legislation and law enforcement)'.

McDonald, D 2011, 'Australian governments' spending on preventing and responding to drug abuse should target the main sources of drug-related harm and the most cost-effective interventions', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 96-100.

Recently-released National Drug Strategy reports

(Note: although the first three are dated 2009 they were released in January 2011.)

White, V & Smith, G 2009, *Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2008: report*, Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, Cancer Control Research Institute, The Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne, <http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/Publishing.nsf/content/school08>.

Urbis 2009, *Evaluation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan 2003-2009 (CAP): final report*, Department of Health and Ageing, Drug Strategy Branch, Canberra, <http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/indigenous-drug-strategy-lp>.

Urbis 2009, *National Drug Strategy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan: background paper*, Department of Health and Ageing, Drug Strategy Branch, Canberra, <http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/publishing.nsf/Content/indigenous-drug-strategy-lp>.

Victorian Department of Human Services 2010, *National Needle and Syringe Program National Strategic Framework 2010-2014*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/needle-frame>.

The latest National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) drug treatment data

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2008-09: report on the National Minimum Data Set*, Drug Treatment Series no. 10, cat. no. HSE 92, AIHW, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11500>.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011, *Alcohol and other drug treatment services in the Australian Capital Territory 2008-09: findings from the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)*, cat. no. HSE 96, AIHW, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/12644>.

Highlights:

- In the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in 2008 - 09, 10 publicly funded alcohol and other drug

treatment agencies provided 3,750 treatment episodes.

- The median age of persons receiving treatment for their own drug use increased slightly to 31 years, from 30 years in 2007 - 08. For people seeking treatment in relation to someone else's drug use, the median age increased from 43 years in 2007 - 08 to 48 years in 2008 - 09.
- Alcohol was the most common principal drug of concern in 2008 - 09 (54%), accounting for a larger proportion of episodes compared with the previous year. Other principal drugs of concern included heroin, which dropped 5 percentage points to 15%, while treatment for cannabis (16%) and amphetamines (9%) remained at similar levels to the previous year.
- The most common form of treatment was counselling, comprising 30% of treatment episodes, which was less than the national proportion (37%). Withdrawal management remained at 21% of treatment episodes, being 5% greater than the national proportion [error, should be 30%]. There was a slight decrease in the proportion of assessment only treatment episodes (from almost 19% in 2007 - 08 to 16% in 2008 - 09).

Supplementary tables are available at same URL.

New National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) reports

These are obtainable from National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA):

<http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/>.

- *The Role of VET [vocational education and training] in Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Development*
- *For Kids' Sake, A Family Sensitive Policy and Practice Toolkit*
- *The Social Context of Alcohol Use in Australia*
- *From Ideal to Reality: Cultural Contradictions and Young People's Drinking*
- *Alcohol Use in the Australian Workforce: Prevalence, Patterns, & Implications*
- *Drug Use in the Australian Workforce: Prevalence, Patterns, & Implications*

National Women's Health Policy

Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government

The Government's *National Women's Health Policy 2010* aims to continue to improve the health and wellbeing of all women in Australia, especially those at greatest risk for poor health.

The policy's two key priorities are:

- Maintaining and developing health services and prevention programs to treat and avoid disease through targeting health issues that will have the greatest impact over the next two decades; and
- Aiming to address health inequities through broader reforms addressing the social determinants of health.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national%20womens%20health-1> to view the policy.

Issues for the safety and wellbeing of children in families with multiple and complex problems: The co-occurrence of domestic violence, parental substance misuse, and mental health problems

Australian Institute of Family Services, National Child Protection Clearinghouse

This paper explores the co-occurrence of domestic violence, parental mental health problems and parental substance misuse. It discusses these problems in the context of disadvantage and social exclusion, considering their causes and consequences. It also provides an overview of the literature and theory for working with families with multiple and complex problems.

Visit <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/issues/issues33/index.html> to view the full report.

Media

Please note that media items are also available throughout this ebulletin

How should we deal with drugs?

ABC Radio

27 January 2011

This podcast explores the question 'is there anything wrong with aiming to be a drug free society?' The podcast features drug law reformer Dr Ethan Nadelmann who opposes prohibitionist policies and urges governments to decriminalise some drugs, including cannabis.

Download the [podcast](#) or visit <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/bigideas/> for more information.

ACT jail running close to capacity

6 December

Canberra Times

The ACT Government has admitted that surging numbers of prisoners may force it to build extra cell capacity at the territory's new jail, just 20 months after it opened.

The \$128million Alexander Maconochie Centre at Hume was promoted as a 300-bed facility when it was being planned and built, but prison authorities have told a Legislative Assembly committee that capacity was stretched last month when the number of inmates reached 230.

Corrections ACT chief executive James Ryan told the Standing Committee on Justice and Community

Safety last month that the jail's current operational capacity was no more than 250...
The prison chief's political boss, Attorney-General Simon Corbell, who also attended the committee hearing, said that building additional accommodation was an option on the table.
Mr Ryan said more space could be found in the jail's low-security cottage units by moving the Therapeutic Community, a number of prisoners in a drug and alcohol recovery program, to other accommodation...
Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/act-jail-running-close-to-capacity/2017162.aspx> to view the full article.

Party safe this summer

6 December 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

Festival-goers will be targeted this summer as part of the Gillard Government's National Drugs Campaign to combat illicit drug use.

The latest phase of the National Drugs Campaign will be promoted through the popular *In the Mix* website, the go-to site for the summer music festival program.

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon today urged those attending summer music festivals to party safely....

"The latest phase of the campaign increases the focus on information and education about the risks and harms of ecstasy use," Ms Roxon said.

The campaign will also continue to cover other amphetamine-type stimulants including ice and cannabis....

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr199.htm> to view the full media release.

ACT alcohol and other drug awards

8 December 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA today presented the awards at the Second Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards Ceremony....

"I am very pleased to take part in the recognition of people in the AOD sector who are committed to harm minimisation principles that assist all members of our community who attend AOD treatment services in the ACT," Ms Gallagher said....

The sector has provided valuable input through the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and individual organisations, to key initiatives this year including:

- The finalisation and release of the ACT's Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010- 2014;
- legislative amendments and changes resulting from the review of the Liquor Act;
- legislative reforms in both the drink driving and drug driving areas;
- changes in relation to the introduction of the Working With Vulnerable People Checking system; and
- the Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services in the Alexander Maconochie Centre....

Award recipients:

- Myra Whitney, Excellence in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Work Award
- Fred Monaghan, Lifetime Achievements Award
- Nicole Wiggins, Outstanding Contributions Award

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10237> to view the full media release.

National workforce launched to tackle Indigenous smoking and improve health

8 December 2010

The Hon Warren Snowdon MP

In Canberra today, Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, launched a new workforce featuring 82 new positions to help reduce smoking and help improve nutrition and physical activity in Indigenous communities across the country.

The new workforce has been rolled out in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the ACT since July....

The initiative is being funded through the Australian Government's Indigenous Chronic Disease Package....

ACT Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service	Tobacco Action Worker x 1
	Healthy Lifestyle Worker x 1

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws082.htm> to view the full media release.

Fight against cancer continues with new additions to the PBS

9 December 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

The Gillard Government today announced a huge boost to the fight against cancer and other life-threatening conditions with the listing of nicotine patches for low-income Australians...

From 1 February 2011, concession card holders will be able to access Nicotine transdermal patches (Nicorette®, Nicabate P® and Nicotinell®) under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) as part of a smoking cessation program....

"Supporting over 70,000 thousand Australians to kick the habit next year is another part of the Gillard Government's innovative anti-smoking approach, including world leading action to mandate plain

packaging on tobacco products."

The extension of the anti-smoking drug varenicline (Champix) will also assist smokers wanting to quit... Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr202.htm> to view the full media release.

Federal Government decision congratulated - nicotine replacement therapy for low income earners included on the PBS

9 December 2010

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

... "ATODA congratulates the Federal Government for decision to fund nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) through the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS). This will create incentives to encourage tobacco management strategies amongst socio- economically disadvantaged groups," said Carrie Fowle, Interim Executive Officer, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA).

"The ACT daily smoking rates have fallen from 18.4% in 2001 to 14.7% in 2007. This is great news."

"Unfortunately smoking continues to be our largest cause of preventable disease and death - and smoking is more common among disadvantaged groups compared to the general population."

"Therefore we need to promote strategies, such as that announced by the Federal Government today, to support population groups with a high prevalence of smoking."...

"Including NRT on the PBS is another step towards reducing smoking related harms in the Canberra community."...

Download the [full media release](#).

Reform council announced

22 December 2010

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP

Minister for Social Inclusion, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, has announced the members of the Australian Government's Not-for-Profit Sector Reform Council (the Council)....

The Council is made up of well-known figures from the not-for-profit sector. To help drive the Government's plans to reform the sector, the Council will examine the scope of a national one-stop-shop regulator, provide advice on streamlining tendering and contracting processes for Government-funded not-for-profits, consider bringing together of federal, state and territory laws on fundraising and support the implementation of the National Compact: working together.

Visit <http://www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Pages/reformcouncilannounced.aspx> to view the full media release.

Mental health expert advisory group established

23 December 2010

The Hon Mark Butler MP

Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler today announced that the Prime Minister has asked him to establish and chair a new Expert Advisory Group on Mental Health that will provide the Federal Government with advice on the important reforms needed in the mental health sector.

Mr Butler said that the creation of the new, time limited, specialist group would allow for targeted advice to be provided directly to the Australian Government on how to achieve the most coordinated, cost-effective and lasting reforms for our investment in mental health care.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-mb-mb081.htm> to view the full media release.

Citizens jury report on health services released

23 December 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, today welcomed the release of the *Citizens Jury on health priorities 2010- Report* by ACT Health Council....

In the report released today, the Jury raised their concerns about health care equity, particularly in the areas of indigenous health, people living in poverty and those suffering mental illness.

"The ACT Government appreciates this feedback and is pleased to note that we are already working on the areas of concern," Ms Gallagher said.

"For example, in February 2009, the ACT Government signed the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on 'Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes'."....

In addition, since 2008 the ACT Government has invested additional funding in the below areas to support people living with mental illness, particularly those in poverty and indigenous people:

- \$150,000 to enable Gagan Gulwan, the ACT's Youth Aboriginal Corporation, to employ a Social and Emotional Wellbeing Outreach Officer;

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10308&m=52> to view the full media release.

New directions for improving Women's health

29 December 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP and The Hon Kate Ellis MP

Ensuring women have access to the right health care at the right time is a key objective of the Gillard Government's National Women's Health Policy 2010 released today.

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon and Minister for the Status of Women Kate Ellis said that the National Women's Health Policy provides a comprehensive approach to the health needs of women and acknowledges that health needs vary across the population.

"This policy will prioritise preventing chronic disease among women and has a clear focus on maintaining and developing health services and prevention programs that target the greatest challenges to women's health over the next two decades," Ms Roxon said....

The policy is available at: www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/national_womens_health-1.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr211.htm> to view the full media release.

New health infrastructure on target

30 December 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

The first full year of major construction activity across our health system has many projects completed or commenced, Katy Gallagher, Health Minister said today.

In 2010 work commenced on projects worth over \$130 million, designed to cater for a growing population. "Canberrans enjoy one of the highest standards of health and healthcare in Australia, but our population is increasing and our community is getting older. More and more people are expected to access ACT health care services over the next 10 to 15 years," said Ms Gallagher.

More information is available at <http://www.health.act.gov.au/>

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10311&m=52> to view the full media release.

\$113m mental health boost to start 1 January

30 December 2010

The Hon Mark Butler MP

Hundreds of thousands of Australians with mental health problems will benefit from a \$113.2 million boost in treatment and services from 1 January 2011, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler said....

The initiatives commencing from 1 January include:

Mental Health First Aid training worth \$6.1 million to be provided for frontline community workers to better identify and respond to people at risk of suicide or who have attempted suicide.

Online mental health and counselling services will also be expanded with an investment of \$21.3 million to give people with mental health problems more ways to reach support services....

Workers with depression will be aided through an \$11 million boost in Government support for *beyondblue's* National Workplace Program....

Work will also start on developing a new \$60 million funding round under the National Suicide Prevention Program for community-led, grass roots suicide prevention activities targeted at high risk groups, such as Indigenous Australians, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, and people bereaved by suicide.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-mb-mb083.htm> to view the full media release.

Changes to law for specialist tobacconists

31 December 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, today reminded all specialist tobacconists to comply with the out of sight display requirements that specify they must remove their tobacco displays from 1 January 2011....

From 1 January 2010 tobacco displays in supermarkets, newsagents and petrol stations went out of sight. Specialist tobacconists were allowed an additional year to comply with the requirements.

"Tobacco remains the largest preventable cause of death in the ACT and Australia, with an estimated 15,551 Australians dying from tobacco related illnesses each year....

"The removal of tobacco displays has been an important step in reducing the cue to smoke, particularly in young people....

Further information is available at ACT Health www.health.act.gov.au/smokefree and the Office of Regulatory Services website, <http://www.ors.act.gov.au/>

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10312&m=52> to view the full media release.

New year's resolutions get a helping hand

5 January 2011

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

New Year's resolutions to get active, eat well and quit smoking will be promoted throughout the year and beyond by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, which was formally established on 1 January 2011....

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency will bring together some of the best expertise in Australia to gather, analyse and disseminate the latest evidence on ways to prevent chronic disease.

The agency will lead the fight against preventable diseases through preventive health initiatives targeting obesity, along with alcohol, tobacco and other substance abuse.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr002.htm> to view the full media release.

Latest national teen drug usage statistics released

18 January 2011

The Hon Mark Butler MP

The National Drug Strategy Monograph: Australian secondary school students' use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2008, has been released by the Acting Minister for Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

A copy of the 2008 report can be found at <http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au>.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb007.htm> to view the full media release

ACT students continue healthy trends

18 January 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

A recent survey has shown improvements in health behaviours of secondary students in the Territory, ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA today reported. "I am pleased to see a continued decline in the reported use of tobacco and illicit drugs, as well as fewer instances of sunburn over the previous summer," the Minister said. The Minister was speaking on the ACT Secondary Student Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) Survey report *ACT Secondary Student Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) Survey: results of the 2008 ACT Secondary Student Alcohol and Drug (ASSAD) Survey*, which is coordinated nationally by the Cancer Council Victoria and administered in the ACT by ACT Health....

"While I am pleased with these results I recognise the importance of watchfulness and recognising opportunities to respond to areas of concern. Drinking patterns in young people remain a concern....

The publication is available from the ACT Health website: www.health.act.gov.au

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10362&m=52> to view the full media release.

ACT mental health services leading the nation

28 January 2011

Jon Stanhope, MLA

The Report on Government Services 2011 released today shows that ACT mental health services are among the best in the country, said acting Health Minister Jon Stanhope.

"All of our specialised public mental health services completed an external review against National Standards for Mental Health Services and for the fourth year in a row, were assessed as meeting all standards," Mr Stanhope said....

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10388> to view the full media release.

ACT high achieving in Corrections

28 January 2011

Joy Burch, MLA

The ACT has one of Australia's leading correctional facilities with above average rates of prisoner education enrolment, prisoner employment and time out of cells, Acting Attorney General, Joy Burch said today....

- Educational program enrolment rates are at 92% in the ACT, which is significantly above the national average of 34.8%;
- Prisoner employment at the AMC is also above the national average with 92.3% of detainees taking part in activities like cooking, cleaning and maintenance compared to 76.1% across Australia;
- ACT prisoners have 14.1 hours of time out of cells per day compared to the national average of 11.4 hours;...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10400&m=138> to view the full media release.

Applications sought for new \$15m ACT GP Super Clinic

29 January 2011

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

The Australian Government has today issued an Invitation to Apply for parties to establish the proposed \$15 million ACT GP Super Clinic following a community consultation that was held on 20 December 2010....

Parties interested in applying for funding to establish the ACT GP Super Clinic should address the selection criteria outlined in the Invitation to Apply documentation, available on the department's Tenders and Grants web page at: www.health.gov.au/tenders. Applications close at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 15 March....

Further information is also available at: www.health.gov.au/gpsuperclinics

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr009.htm> to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Private Lives 2 survey - online survey of the health and wellbeing of GLBT Australians

GLHV, in partnership with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University Private Lives 2 is an online survey of the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) Australians and 2 aims to be the largest and most comprehensive assessment of the health of Australian GLBT communities to date. The first Private Lives survey was conducted in 2005 and Private Lives 2 will revisit many of the questions used in the original survey to see if and how things have changed for GLBT people. The survey will have a greater emphasis on GLBT mental health and depression and will include questions looking at the impact of social connection, including the use of the Internet, on GLBT people's wellbeing. The survey can be accessed at: www.privatelivesurvey.org.au

Flipside Contributions

Association of Participating Service Users (APSU)

Flipside is a publication of stories, poems and artwork produced by AOD service users. Flipside is currently calling for contributions for the next edition of the publication that will focus on housing as it relates to AOD issues. The author/artist will receive \$20 if the contribution is published in Flipside. For more information or to submit a contribution contact Miriam Clarke on mclarke@sharc.org.au or (03) 9573 1776.

Previous editions of Flipside can be found at <http://apsuonline.org.au/index.php?page=publications>.

Charting Health Impacts (CHI) Study - Living with Hepatitis C

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), La Trobe University

The ARCSHS is inviting people to take part in a national study on the health and social impacts of living with hepatitis C. The results of the study will inform the development of appropriate health policy, and provision of education, treatment, and support services for people affected by hepatitis C. The study will follow a group of people with hepatitis C over time. To join the study interested participants are invited to fill in an anonymous online survey, which will then be followed up in three to six months time to see how things have changed.

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

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

December Issue of Youth Field Xpress

Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

Youth Field Xpress is a free, monthly newsletter that collates articles and other information relating to young people, youth workers and services around Australia. The December issue includes information new articles from Youth Studies Australia including an article on alcohol-related harm and young people.

Visit http://www.acys.info/yfx/issues/number_172 to view the newsletter.

Adult and Teenaged Siblings of People with Mental Illness: Call for research study

Mental Illness Fellowship of Australia (MIFA)

MIFA is undertaking a study on the service and support needs of the siblings of people with mental illness. This study will provide support for developing guidelines for best practice of meeting the needs of siblings who have a brother or sister with mental illness.

For more information or to participate in the study contact Francesca Coniglio on

francesca.coniglio@sydney.edu.au.

Employment Opportunities

Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Support Workers

Arcadia House, DIRECTIONS ACT

Casual Positions, Various Shifts

These positions offer varied roles including assessments, admissions, group facilitation, client support and interaction, liaison with other agencies and administration and housekeeping duties.

Visit www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/arcadia140211.pdf for the position description and selection criteria.

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

Applications close **5pm Monday 14 February 2011**.

Assistant Director Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Coordinator Program

Department of Defence, Australian Government

Ongoing, Full Time Position, \$88,019 - \$99,285.

This position involves strategic thinking, policy development, leading a small team, but dynamic team of health care professionals and a passion for the provision of high quality care. The position requires registration as a health professional/ social worker and extensive post graduate experience in the area of drug and alcohol prevention and treatment in a community setting.

Visit <http://www.apsjobs.gov.au/SearchedNoticesView.aspx?Notices=10511943%3A1&mn=JobSearch> for the position description or to apply.

For more information contact Colonel Stephanie Hodson on (02) 6266 3830.

Applications close **Thursday 3 February 2011**.

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 Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or call (02) 6255 4070 for further information.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Portable long service leave scheme for the ACT community sector

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

The ACT Government is providing a one-off fund to support community organisations to transition to the new Portable Long Service Leave Scheme for the ACT Community Sector. Several community sector organisations have indicated to the ACT Government that they may require financial support while transitioning to the new Scheme. The ACT Government will offer one-off payments to a maximum amount of \$50,000 in the 2010-11 financial year, with organisations funded under an ACT Government Service Funding Agreement being eligible to apply.

Visit http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/data/assets/file/0004/159457/Transition_Fund_Application_Form.rtf for more information.
Applications close **Thursday 10 February 2011**.

Scholarships for Not for Profits

Australian Scholarships Foundation (ASF)

The ASF has over \$1 million of scholarships from major universities and private education providers across Australia, available for Not for Profit employees. Scholarships range from 1-day executive courses through to post graduate courses.

For more information visit <http://www.scholarships.org.au/>.

ACT Women's Grants Program 2010 - 2011

Office for Women, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

The ACT Women's Grants Program is an ACT Government initiative that aims to advance the objectives and priorities of the ACT Women's Plan 2010 - 2015, to improve the status and lives of women and girls in the ACT.

Two funding streams are available: Capacity Building Projects provide up to \$5,000 to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of community organisations. Special Projects provides up to \$25,000 to advance the objectives and priorities of the ACT Women's Plan, by contributing to public policy, service development, or the research base on gender equality.

Visit <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women> for more information or contact (02) 6207 2552 or women@act.gov.au.

Applications close **Monday 7 March 2011**.

Our Wellness Foundation Grants

Our Wellness Foundation

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

Individuals, community organisations, research institutions and health services are encouraged to apply.

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

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 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.

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