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Subject: **ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: June 2011**  
Date: 7 June 2011 9:50:03 AM AEST  
To: ben@atoda.org.au  
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## ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: June 2011



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

### Drug Action Week 2011 Update

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

#### **Drug Action Week 2011**

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

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

#### **Launch of ACT Drug Action Week 2011**

ATODA in partnership with the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group will be hosting an ACT launch for DAW 2011. ACT ATOD services will have service information stalls at the Launch.

**Date:** Friday 17 June 2011

**Time:** 10:30am – 12:00pm

**Venue:** Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra City

**RSVP:** Essential, to [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au).

Download the [Launch Flyer](#). For more information about the Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT visit [www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au) or contact ATODA on [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

#### **ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events**

A calendar has been produced through the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group providing information on the activities that have been organised for Drug Action Week in the ACT. Hard copies of the calendar will be distributed to the ATOD, youth, mental health and community sectors and Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Download the [ACT DAW Calendar of Events](#).

For more information visit [www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au) or contact ATODA on [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

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

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT*

ATODA has been coordinating an ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group that has been involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week. The Planning Group is open to anyone in the ATOD and allied sectors. The final meeting of the Planning group in the lead up to Drug Action Week will be:

**Date:** 9 June 2011

**Time:** 9:30am – 11am

**Venue:** ATODA Office (350 Antill Street Watson)

For more information please contact Ben Frommel on (02) 6255 4070 or [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au).

### **4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference: Not If, But How: Innovative and Evidence-based ATOD Policy and Programs in the ACT**

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

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

#### [4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference](#)

Information regarding the upcoming ACT ATOD Sector Conference.

#### [News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT](#)

Updates on Peak activities.

#### [ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy](#)

Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy.

#### [Working with Vulnerable People \(Background Checking\) Bill 2010](#)

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

#### [Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT](#)

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

#### [Drug Policies, Services and Programs in Prison](#)

Information and media relating to Drug Policies, Services and Programs in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

#### [Health Reform Update](#)

## Registrations Open: Fourth Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference – Not If, But How

The ACT ATOD Sector Conference aims to facilitate access to the latest evidence relating to best practice and seek to strengthen the capacity, skills and knowledge base of workers. The conference for 2011 is themed **Not If, But How: Innovative and Evidence-based ATOD Policy and Programs in the ACT**. The priority areas that will be discussed include: expanding access to naloxone; drug diversion; and a needle and syringe program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

Date: Thursday 23 June 2011

Time: 8:30am – 5:00pm

Venue: National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Parkes, ACT

Registration: Download the [Conference Registration Form](#). Please note places are limited.

For more information visit [www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au) or contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or [conference@atoda.org.au](mailto:conference@atoda.org.au).

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

### ACT ATOD Services Directory: Version 7

The ACT ATOD Services Directory aims to support workers to make referrals to ATOD services, increase cross and intra-sectoral knowledge and foster collaborations. It also aims to better communicate the diverse range of services and programs in the Sector. Version 7 of the Directory has just been released and includes new information about additional services that provide ATOD specific programs and Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs) in the ACT. Visit <http://www.atoda.org.au/> to view the Directory.

### Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: May 2011

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

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

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

### ATODA's contact details are:

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

post: PO BOX 7187, Watson ACT 2602

visit: 350 Antill St., Watson ACT

phone: (02) 6255 4070

web: [www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au)

For more news from ATODA see the following items:

- Training and Assessment in the [ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section.
- The Drug Action Week Planning Group in the [Drug Action Week 2011 Update](#) section.
- Comorbidity Bus Tours in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- June - July 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- [Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT](#) section
- [Working with Vulnerable People Background Checking Bill 2010](#) section
- [4th Annual ATOD Sector Conference](#) Section.

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

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) for the ATOD sector, which aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional workforce. It also aims to ensure that all workers have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

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

Under the ACT ATOD MQS it is necessary for all relevant staff of ATOD services operated by ACT Health or ATOD organisations funded by ACT Health, to either possess the minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their agency to meet the minimum qualification within 3 years. The following classes will be held shortly for participants enrolled in the Remaining Units of the Certificate IV:

- June 2011 – Monday 6, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8

### Semester 2, 2011 Information Package

Semester 2, 2011 information and application package will be available in mid-June.

### MQS Policy Workshop

On 9 May 2011, a sector workshop was facilitated by Professor Ann Roche, National Centre for Training and Education on Addiction (NCETA), which looked at where the MQS has been and how it could further develop. If you'd like to be involved in its development or participate in the MQS Development and Implementation Committee please contact ATODA.

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

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

The *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010* was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly in August 2010, debate was deferred to 29 March 2011 where the Bill was agreed to in-principle. It is expected that debate will resume in August 2011.

### ATODA's position

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

### [New Roadside Drug Driving Road Testing Program in the ACT](#)

Information about the new program being implemented in the ACT.

### [National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week](#)

Information and media relating to National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

### [Pay Equity Case](#)

Information and media relating to the Community Sector Pay Equity Case.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### [Sector Development](#)

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

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

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

### [Interstate Conferences and Symposiums](#)

Information on interstate conferences relevant to the ATOD sector.

### [Policy Activities](#)

Information on key policy activities effecting the ATOD sector.

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

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

### [Media](#)

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

### [Consumer Participation](#)

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

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

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

### [Employment Opportunities](#)

Employment opportunities in the ACT ATOD sector.

## [Grants and Funding Opportunities](#)

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

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

ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC) have continued to engage in significant representation with the Minister for Community Services, the Minister for Health, the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, the Office of Regulatory Services and other stakeholders regarding concerns and to collaboratively developing solutions. For copies of ATODA's responses please contact Carrie Fowle on [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

### Consultations

#### 1. Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines

The Community Services Directorate is continue to consult key stakeholders on the development of the draft Risk Assessment Guidelines, which will be an instrument under the legislation once enacted. Download [the draft guidelines here](#).

#### 2. Draft Regulations

The Community Services Directorate in consulting stakeholder on the draft regulations as an instrument under the Bill. Comments are due by **17 June 2011**. Download [the draft regulations here](#).

#### 3. Tool to Assist Stakeholders to Implement the Bill

The Community Services Directorate has been conducting consultations with stakeholder to develop a tool to implement the requirements of the proposed legislation.

ATODA has been engaged in the consultative process. If you would like to provide comment either contact ATODA or provide written comments to [workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au](mailto:workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au)

### About the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System (WWVPCS)

For further information about the proposed system see:

- The Bill (at 26 August 2010) [www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db\\_39278/current/pdf/db\\_39278.pdf](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_39278/current/pdf/db_39278.pdf) (Note: the Bill with amendments has not yet been made available on the ACT Legislation Register)
- About the checking system, including the policy paper, visit [www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc).
- Or email Community Services Directorate on [workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au](mailto:workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au)

### Where to from here?

- ATODA and MHCC ACT will be meeting with Minister Burch in July to continue to identify issues and potential solutions regarding the Bill;
- Stakeholder are encouraged to submit case studies to ATODA;
- Stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to ATODA's submissions and / or to engage in consultative processes.

## Expanding Naloxone availability in the ACT

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

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

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

The purpose of the Committee is to provide expert guidance and support to key stakeholders to develop a program to expand naloxone availability in the ACT. A Working Group of the Committee, lead by the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA), is in the process of developing the program design for ethics approval with the aim of having a program up and running in September 2011. For more information please contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au).

### Naloxone: ACT Conference Session

In response to requests from the stakeholders, a session of the 4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference on 23 June, will be dedicated to discussing naloxone. Associate Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute, will lead a session which will include a local panel of experts discussing local developments.

For further information see the [4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference](#) section.

## Drug Policies, Services and Programs in Prison

Significant developments have occurred in May regarding drug policies, services and programs in the ACT's prison, the Alexander Maconochie Centre, following the recent release of the:

- Burnet Report 'Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services and Their Subsequent Effects on Prisoners and Staff Within The Alexander Maconochie Centre' (<http://health.act.gov.au/publications/reports/burnet-institute-report>); and
- Knowledge Consulting Report 'Report of the Independent Review of Operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre' ([http://www.justice.act.gov.au/resources/attachments/Report\\_of\\_Independent\\_Review\\_of\\_AMC\\_12\\_March\\_2011.pdf](http://www.justice.act.gov.au/resources/attachments/Report_of_Independent_Review_of_AMC_12_March_2011.pdf))

### Workshop on Programs and Services for the AMC Population: Assessing the Needs and Filling the Gaps

ATODA, Health Directorate, and Justice and Community Safety Directorate

It is opportune time to proactively bring together relevant stakeholders and services to discuss the needs of detainees and matching these with alcohol and drug treatment and support services. Therefore on 25 May, a well attended workshop was held at the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, the purpose of which was to provide an opportunity for health service providers and workers to contribute ideas to ATOD program planning and service delivery in the Alexander Maconochie Centre. A summary of the workshop will be available in late June.

### Developing a model for the NSP in the AMC

Mr Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Association of Australia and former ACT Health Minister has been

tasked by the current Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher, to engage with stakeholders to identify a model for an NSP in the AMC. Discussions and consultations are currently taking place across the ACT and Mr Moore will be visiting some European NSPs in prisons in June.

#### **NSP in the AMC: ACT Conference Session**

In response to requests from the stakeholders, a session of the 4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference on 23 June, will be dedicated to discussing possible models, issues, barriers and opportunities to implement an NSP in the AMC. The Public Health Association of Australia will lead a session with participants. For further information see the [4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference](#) section.

#### **Prison Issues Update – April 2011**

*Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)*

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

#### **Guards unite against jail needle exchange**

*5 May 2011*

*Canberra Times*

Canberra's prison officers have recruited 10,000 of their colleagues from around the nation to fight against a needle exchange in the territory's jail.

The national leadership of the prison officers industry body came to Canberra yesterday in a show of support for the local prison officers' union, the CPSU, and its continuing opposition to a needle syringe program in Canberra's jail, the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

But the man charged with evaluating a trial of the program at the centre, former health minister Michael Moore, said he remained confident that he could negotiate with the guards and their representatives...

Mr Moore said his task was still in its early days but that he was as concerned with the health of prison guards as with the wellbeing of prisoners...

Mr Moore said he was keen to talk with the prison guards and their union...

Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/guards-unite-against-jail-needle-exchange/2153638.aspx?storypage=0> to view the full article.

## Health Reform Update

### **How to keep updated regarding national health reform**

*Australian Government*

The *YourHealth* website has established a subscription services for stakeholders to remain informed of news related to health reform. To subscribe, or for more information visit

<http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/stakeholder-form>.

### **National Health Reform Update: June 2011**

*Australian Government*

This update provides a snapshot of some of the key national health reform activities to date. Over the next six months, important initiatives will be operational, including the first fifteen Medicare Locals, a new after-hours telephone based service and a new front end for aged care services. A new national agreement on health reform is also to be signed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in July 2011.

Visit <http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/update-20110524> for more information.

### **Informing the design and implementation of National and Local Lead Clinicians Groups (LCGs)**

*Australian Government*

Lead Clinicians Groups (LCGs) were announced in May 2010 to complement the National Health and Hospital Network Reforms. The initiative seeks to recognise the role of clinical leadership and expertise to inform delivery of safe and higher quality care, consistent with evidence based clinical practices and service delivery. As the next step in the consultation process is now available. This paper aims to balance the diverse range of views raised by stakeholders throughout the consultation process. If you have any feedback on the Commonwealth position paper for Lead Clinicians Groups, please provide it to [leadcliniciansgroups@health.gov.au](mailto:leadcliniciansgroups@health.gov.au) by 17 June 2011. For more information visit

<http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/consultation-for-lead-clinicians-groups>

### **What about ATOD and health reform?**

As health reform progresses, there remains a lack of clarity regarding how ATOD and mental health treatment will fit within the range of reforms. While it is clear that reform activities to date will impact on our sector (for example, the establishment of Medicare Locals and the tender for a GP Superclinic in the ACT), there has been little information regarding specific details of how our services fit. ATODA continues to monitor reform processes and advocate for ATOD issues to be central to discussions regarding reform. ATODA is participating in several ways, including through membership of the ACT Primary Healthcare Coalition which is chaired by the ACT Division of General Practice. If you would like to discuss this further please contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au).

### **National Health Reform Full Steam Ahead**

*3 June 2011*

*The Hon Nicola Roxon MP*

It's full steam ahead for national health reform in the lead-up to the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) finalisation of the national health reform agreement next month.

Releasing the Government's report card on national health reform implementation today, Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said the vast majority of the Government's health reform initiatives are well and truly on track.

Of 56 specific health measures, 15 have been implemented and 26 are on track. Twelve measures have been modified – largely as a result of the COAG Heads of Agreement in February. Three measures have been delayed...

An updated implementation report will be released after the new national health reform agreement is signed by COAG...

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr114.htm> to view the full media release.

### **Win for your health: Federal Health Reform for ACT primary care**

*ACT Division of General Practice (ACTDGP)*

ACT Division of General Practice (ACTDGP) has successfully applied to be one of the first Medicare Locals established under the Commonwealth Government's Health Reform agenda.

"The establishment of an ACT Medicare Local as one of the first Medicare Locals offers general practitioners and the wider primary health care workforce a unique opportunity to really drive the health reform agenda in the ACT," said ACTDGP President,

Dr Rashmi Sharma...

"We will be expanding our focus to include the whole primary health care sector in the ACT from 1 July 2011. We are ready to enhance primary health care, which can lower rates of hospitalisation and minimise health inequalities, leading to better health outcomes for all Canberrans," said Dr Sharma...

Visit <http://www.actdgp.asn.au/> to view the full media release.

## New Roadside Drug Driving Testing Program in the ACT

### About ACT Roadside Drug Driving Testing

#### What about drug driving?

The ACT Legislative Assembly passed new laws to permit roadside drug testing of motorists for the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine and ecstasy. Police are now conducting random drug testing operations in the ACT.

#### What is the process for drug testing?

Drug testing is a three-step process. The first step is an oral fluid (saliva) screening test, usually conducted at the roadside using a disposable testing device.

1. If this test is positive, you will be required to provide a sample of saliva for analysis. This sample will be divided into two parts.
2. One part will be analysed immediately by an oral fluid analysis instrument and the other part will be sent to a laboratory for confirmatory analysis.
3. If the laboratory analysis confirms that a drug is present, you will be prosecuted for a drug driving offence.
4. If you cannot provide enough oral fluid for analysis, you may be required to give a blood sample for analysis.

#### What are the penalties for drug driving?

1. The maximum penalty for drug driving is a fine of 10 penalty units for a first offence, or 25 penalty units and up to 3 months imprisonment for a repeat offender.
2. A court can also order a period of licence disqualification.
3. It is an offence to leave the test area before testing is complete and it is also an offence to refuse a drug test.

For further information contact the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate or visit:

[http://www.tams.act.gov.au/move/roads/road\\_safety/safer\\_people\\_and\\_safer\\_behaviours/drink](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/move/roads/road_safety/safer_people_and_safer_behaviours/drink)

### **ATODA: Drug Driving**

ATODA made several submissions regarding the development of the drug driving legislation, which can be accessed from the policy section at [www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au).

ATODA is also currently engaging with ACT Policing and the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate regarding the new program.

## National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week

National Sorry Day is held annually on 26 May to reflect on the grief and trauma experienced by members of the Stolen Generations and committing to an ongoing journey of healing.

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

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is an annual celebration from 27 May - 3 June and is a time for all Australians to reflect on our shared histories, contributions and achievements. The week is framed by two key events in Australia's history which provide strong symbols of the aspirations for reconciliation. May 27 marks the anniversary of Australia's most successful referendum in 1967 that saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census. On 3 June, 1992, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Indigenous people had a special relationship to the land that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for Indigenous land rights called Native Title.

Visit <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/get-involved/national-reconciliation-week> for more information.

### **Reconciliation Action Plans**

#### *Reconciliation Australia*

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a tool to help organisations to build positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The RAP program aims to turn "good intentions into action" by encouraging and supporting organizations to engage within their sphere of influence in the national effort to close the 17-year gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and other Australians. Visit <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/reconciliation-action-plans/what-is-a-rap> for more information on developing a RAP including a toolkit.

### **It's time to talk recognition**

13 April 2011

#### *Reconciliation Australia*

Reconciliation Australia Chief Executive Leah Armstrong is calling on the Australian public to join a national conversation about recognition in the lead up to National Reconciliation Week (27 May– 3 June). The theme for this year's National Reconciliation Week is 'Let's Talk Recognition' and a range of activities will be held around the country during this time that focus on the value of recognition.

"Recognition comes in all sorts of ways, and means different things to different people, but everyone likes it when they get it," Ms Armstrong said...

"And it is important to start the conversation now about the value of recognition for us all and why it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in particular..."

"Events like National Reconciliation Week can provide a focus for all Australians to reflect on reconciliation, learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures—and strengthen the relationships..."

Visit <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/latest/it-s-time-to-talk-recognition> to view the full media release.

### **National Sorry Day**

26 May 2011

#### *Jenny Macklin MP and Warren Snowdon MP*

Australians are today marking National Sorry Day in communities across the country, reflecting on the grief and trauma experienced by members of the Stolen Generations and committing to an ongoing journey of healing.

The Australian Government recognises that for members of the Stolen Generations, healing is a continuing process that requires ongoing support and understanding.

In this year's budget the Government provided a further investment of \$54.4 million over five years to continue counselling, family tracing and reunion services for members of the Stolen Generations under the Bringing Them Home and Link Up programs... Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-vr11-ws-ws022.htm> to view the full media release.

*In the lead up to NAIDOC Week don't forget to put in nominations for....*

#### **Canberra and District NAIDOC Awards 2011**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

ACTCOSS is sponsoring the Canberra & District NAIDOC Award for the Canberra & District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Sector Worker of the Year, and is currently accepting nominations. The award aims to recognise an individual who, through their work in the community sector, has supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/> for more information and the nomination package. Nominations must be received at ACTCOSS by **Monday 20 June 2011**.



## **Pay Equity Case**

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### **Equal Pay Case**

*Australian Services Union (ASU)*

On 16 May 2011, Fair Work Australia ruled that the Equal Pay Case has proved that social and community services workers in the not-for-profit sector are underpaid; in part due to gender. The ASU will now lodge further evidence towards identifying to what level these workers should be compensated for the gender pay gap, which will be submitted by 10 June 2011. They are also holding rallies all over Australia on 8 June in support of the Equal Pay Campaign, with the Canberra rally occurring at 12pm outside the Legislative Assembly.

Visit <http://www.asu.asn.au/> for more information.

### **ASU wins ruling on equal pay**

*The Age*

*16 May 2011*

A historic decision on equal pay for tens of thousands of workers in the non-government community sector has ruled that gender has played an "important" role in the low wages that the mostly female workforce receives...

In a victory for the Australian Services Union, the workplace tribunal ruled that for employees in the sector, "there is not equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal or comparable value by comparison with workers in state and local government employment"....

Visit <http://www.theage.com.au/national/women-paid-less-tribunal-finds-20110516-1ep4z.html> for more information.

### **Equal Pay Decision Validates Claim of Underpaid Community Workers**

*Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)*

*16 May 2011*

The Australian Council of Social Service welcomes Fair Work Australia's decision today that community sector workers do not receive equal remuneration for work of equal or comparable value in comparison with state and local government employees, adding that it validates the claim of workers in this crucial sector...

Visit

[http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/Equal\\_pay\\_decision\\_validates\\_claim\\_of\\_underpaid\\_community\\_workers\\_ACOSS](http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/Equal_pay_decision_validates_claim_of_underpaid_community_workers_ACOSS) to view the full media release.

### **ACT Government welcomes fair work Australia findings**

*17 May 2011*

*Joy Burch MLA*

ACT Minister for Community Services Joy Burch has welcomed the interim decision by Fair Work Australia on the Equal Remuneration Case considering an increase to the Social, Community and Disability Services (SACS) Award.

In a landmark decision handed down yesterday, the wage tribunal found that workers in the community sector in Australia, who are predominately women, are generally remunerated at a level below that of employees of state and local government who perform similar work. Fair Work Australia said it needed more information to determine the extent to which the gap is gender based, and invited further submissions from parties.

Ms Burch said the finding was consistent with the ACT Government's submission to Fair Work, which supported a pay increase to the community sector....

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10727&m=138> to view the full media release.

### **Pay Equity – National Day of Action**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

ACTCOSS and the broader COSS network support the ASU's National Day of Action on 8 June 2011. In Canberra we will rally outside the Legislative Assembly at 12 noon on Wednesday 8 June, and then March to Gary Humphries' office. Given the positive decision that was recently handed down, it is important for community organisations to continue our campaign in support of the case and to ensure that funding of the outcome is appropriately met.

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



## **Sector Activities and Events**

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### **Directions for your Mental Health - A Guide to Alcohol, Other Drugs and Your Mental Health Launch**

*DIRECTIONS ACT*

This Launch will provide participants with an opportunity to find out about the new resource and what it has to offer clients with Comorbidity issues.

*Date:* Wednesday 8 June 2011

*Time:* 10am – 12pm

*Venue:* 1 Bradley Street, Woden

*RSVP:* Essential, to Ineke Wylde on (02) 6122 8000

For more information download [the flyer](#) or contact Ineke Wylde on (02) 6122 8000.

### **Health Promotion Breakfast Forum**

*ACT Health Promotion Branch*

This forum will provide participants with an opportunity to hear the outcomes of the 2011 Australian Health Promotion Association 20th National Conference; from representatives in the ACT who were sponsored to attend.

*Date:* Wednesday 8 June 2011

Time: 7.15 - 9.30am  
Venue: Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla  
Cost: Free  
RSVP: Essential

For more information or to RSVP contact JoonLi Choo on (02) 6205 3837 or [JoonLi.Choo@act.gov.au](mailto:JoonLi.Choo@act.gov.au).

#### **National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2011**

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

The National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2011 aim to celebrate Australian achievements to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use and harm. Details of the awards ceremony and gala dinner are as follows:

Date: Friday 24 June 2011  
Time: 6:30pm  
Venue: Four Seasons Hotel, George Street, Sydney  
Cost: \$60

RSVP: Essential, visit <http://www.drugawards.org.au/bookings/index.html>

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

#### **HIV Today**

*AIDS Action Council ACT*

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

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

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

*Cancer Council ACT*

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

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

#### **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.

Date: 2 June 2011  
Cost: Free

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

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

*Reclink Australia Inc.*

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

Date: Thursday 23 June 2011  
Time: 10:45am warm up for an 11am start. The event concludes at 1pm.  
Venue: HMAS Canberra - Memorial, Lake Burley Griffin (Adjacent to the Carillion)  
Food: A light lunch will be provided.  
RSVP: Essential, contact Mark on 0412 342 929 or [mark.ransome@reclink.org](mailto:mark.ransome@reclink.org) by COB Friday prior to the event to register. Registered participants will receive a certificate recording their individual time.

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

## Sector Development

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#### **Tips and Tricks for New Players – Third Edition**

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

Tips and tricks for new players is a guide to becoming familiar with the alcohol and other drugs sector in Australia. This is the third edition of the guide and provides organisation lists, definitions and a section on professional development and research. Tips and Tricks for New Players can be accessed online and hard copies are also available on request from ATODA or ADCA directly. Visit [http://adca.org.au/ndsis/uploaded\\_files/fck/file/Tips%20and%20Tricks%203rd%20ed\\_.pdf](http://adca.org.au/ndsis/uploaded_files/fck/file/Tips%20and%20Tricks%203rd%20ed_.pdf) to download the guide.

#### **Ask a Librarian Service**

*National Drug Sector Information Service (NDSIS), Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)*

This service assists to find information about ATOD research, policy, treatment or the ATOD sector. The service is available to anyone working in the ATOD sector and is able to provide a list of references on a requested topic free of charge. Full text items are free for ADCA members and can be accessed at a small charge for non-members.

Visit <http://ndsis.adca.org.au/> to access the service.

#### **Of Substance Magazine Online Newsletter**

*Of Substance Magazine*

This online newsletter provides updated news and events from the Australian ATOD sector. Sections include news, opinions, resources and practice examples of people and agencies that are providing high-quality service to people who experience problems with their substance use. The inaugural edition features articles on financial counselling in ATOD programs, the future of non-government treatment services, finding ATOD information online and an interview with Professor Michael Farrell (the new

Director of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre).

Visit [http://www.ofsubstance.org.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=169&Itemid=227](http://www.ofsubstance.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=169&Itemid=227) to view the newsletter.

#### **Local Government Alcohol and Drugs Info Net**

*Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy*

This website aims to build and enhance the capacity of local councils to reduce the harm of drugs and alcohol in their communities through providing information on national, state and local policy and programming developments.

Visit <http://www.lgadin.gov.au> to view the website.

#### **New DrugInfo Website**

*Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)*

The ADF has recently launched a newly updated DrugInfo website that provides: drug facts and information, links to publications, professional development information and an email and phone information service. The website also features an email alert service that provides fortnightly alerts on quality assured, evidence-based information relating to alcohol and other drugs.

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

#### **2011/12 Federal Budget Summary**

*Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)*

This summary provides an overview of the Federal Budget initiatives announced that are relevant to the ATOD and allied sectors.

To view the summary visit <http://enews.vaada.org.au/news/2011/05/11/federal-budget-summary>.

#### **Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA)**

*Australian Government*

The Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) is a new agency that was established on 1 January 2011. ANPHA's aims to be the catalyst for strategic partnerships, including the provision of technical advice and assistance to all levels of government and in all sectors, to promote health and reduce health risk and inequalities. Part of the Agency's role is to implement the National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health with smoking and excessive alcohol use amongst its initial priorities.

Visit <http://www.anpha.gov.au/internet/anpha/publishing.nsf/Content/home-1> for more information.

#### **Invitation to Display Information at Volunteering ACT**

*Volunteering ACT*

Volunteering ACT is currently inviting services to drop-off information services to display in their reception area. The office is located at 55 Chandler Street, Belconnen.

For more information contact (02) 6251 4060.

### **Training and Professional Development in the ACT**

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#### **June – July 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 June to July 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 [June - July 2011 Training Calendar](#).

#### **International programme in Addiction Studies**

*University of Adelaide, King's College London and Virginia Commonwealth University*

The International Programme in Addiction Studies (IPAS) is an online programme offered jointly by the University of Adelaide (Australia), King's College London (UK) and Virginia Commonwealth University (USA). Successful students will receive a degree of Master of Science in Addiction Studies. The programme is appropriate for recent graduates and professionals working in a range of fields such as health, law enforcement, policy and education.

Applications close on 1 July 2011 to commence in August 2011.

Visit <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/addiction/> for more information.

#### **Mental Health Connect Training**

Mental Health Connect aims to offer knowledge and skills to help community workers better understand and support people with mental health issues.

*Date:* 7 – 8 June 2011

*Time:* 9am – 4pm

*Venue:* Security and Safety Training Academy (SaSTA), Fyshwick

*Cost:* \$180 members, \$240 non-members, \$300 government

*Registration:* Essential

For more information or to obtain a registration pack contact the Mental Health Community Coalition on [admin@mhccact.org.au](mailto:admin@mhccact.org.au) or (02) 6249 7756.

#### **ACTCOSS Training and Professional Development**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

ACTCOSS has three upcoming training opportunities:

##### **Building Better Boards Series - Financial Obligations: Wednesday 8 June 2011**

This workshop provides people on boards with a basic understanding of the role of the board in relation to financial managements, financial reports, and financial statements.

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html> for more information or contact Lisa Wells on (02) 6202 7200 or [lisa@actcoss.org.au](mailto:lisa@actcoss.org.au).

##### **Building Better Boards Series - Legal Obligations: Wednesday 15 June 2011**

This workshop introduces participants to the basic legal obligations relevant to community sector organisations.

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html> for more information or contact Lisa Wells on (02) 6202 7200 or [lisa@actcoss.org.au](mailto:lisa@actcoss.org.au).

##### **1 Day Appreciation of Torres Strait Culture Awareness Training: Friday 26 August 2011**

This training aims to assist participants in developing a better understanding of the cultural perspectives of Torres Strait Islander people in Australia.

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/secdevel/seminars.html> for more information or contact Lisa Wells on (02) 6202 7200 or [lisa@actcoss.org.au](mailto:lisa@actcoss.org.au).

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

Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)  
These workshops held throughout the year aim to provide information on relevant legislation, expand on understandings of child abuse and neglect, discuss responses to disclosures of abuse, and discuss the dilemmas and processes around making reports. The next workshop will be held on **8 June 2011**.  
Download the [workshop summary](#) for more information and to view all the upcoming dates.

#### **Emotional Intelligence Workshop for Women**

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

This workshop explores the elements of emotional intelligence and how to apply them to negotiations.

*Dates:* 9 – 10 June 2011

*Time:* 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

*Venue:* Women's Information and Referral Centre, Ground Floor, London Court, 13 London Cct, Canberra City

*Cost:* \$100

*Registration:* Essential

For more information contact WIRC on (02) 6205 0303 or [wirc@act.gov.au](mailto:wirc@act.gov.au)

#### **Conference: Putting Men's Health on the Agenda**

*Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCCACT), OzHelp, Menslink and Supportlink*

This conference is the first in a series of four annual conferences exploring the topic of men's health and wellbeing needs and putting it on the agenda in the work organisations and individuals do.

*Date:* 15 June 2011

*Time:* 9am – 5pm

*Venue:* Eastlake Football Club, 3 Oxley Street, Canberra ACT

*Cost:* \$40

*Registration:* Essential

For more information contact OzHelp on (02) 6251 4166 or [ocs@ozhelp.org.au](mailto:ocs@ozhelp.org.au).

#### **Domestic Violence Awareness**

*ACT Family Law Pathways Network (FLPN) and ACT Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC)*

This free training is to be held bi-annually, for service providers who work with clients who have been affected by domestic violence. The next workshop will be on **Thursday 16 June 2011**.

Download the [flyer](#) for more information.

#### **Trauma and Dialectical Behavior Therapy**

*OzHelp*

This workshop will be presented by Dr Sandi Plummer and will provide theoretical underpinnings and practical skills for working with trauma using Dialectical Behavior Therapy.

*Dates:* 14 - 15 July 2011

*Time:* 9:30am - 4:30pm on both days

*Venue:* Details provided upon registration (course will be held in the ACT)

*Food:* Morning and Afternoon Tea will be provided

*Cost:* \$ 360 (a 10% discount is available for group booking of 5 or more)

*Registration:* Essential by **30 June 2011**

For more information contact OzHelp Community Services team on (02) 6251 4166 or [ocs@ozhelp.org.au](mailto:ocs@ozhelp.org.au).

### Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

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#### **2011 Australian Winter School**

*Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)*

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

*Date:* 9 – 10 June 2011 (A workshop will also be held on 8 June 2011)

*Venue:* Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Australia

*Cost:* \$500

*Registration:* Visit <http://www.winterschool.info/images/stories/Winterschool/2011%20aws%20reg%20form.pdf> to register.

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

#### **Policy Symposium - NSPs In Prisons: Why? How? When?**

*NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)*

This symposium aims to discuss the issues that surround needle and syringe programs in prisons and features: Nicole Wiggins (Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy), Gino Vumbaca (Australian National Council on Drugs), Dr Kate Dolan (National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre) and Jeffrey Wegener (NUAA).

*Date:* 9 June 2011

*Venue:* Albion Street Centre Theatre, 349 Crown Street, Surry Hills

*Cost:* Free

*RSVP:* Essential, places are limited.

Download the [Flyer](#).

For more information contact Janne Searle on 8354 7300 or [jannes@nuaa.org.au](mailto:jannes@nuaa.org.au).

#### **Inter-departmental Substance Abuse Research Group (ISARG) symposium**

*University of Sydney*

This event features leading drug and alcohol research conducted within the Discipline of Addiction Medicine at the University of Sydney. The Discipline's research includes basic science, clinical science, epidemiology and public health.

*Date:* Wednesday 15 June 2011

*Venue:* The Darlington Centre, City Road, University of Sydney

*Cost:* \$120

*Registration:* **Registration closes on Wednesday 8 June 2011.**

For more information visit <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/addiction/conference/>.

#### **Trauma Informed Care and Practice: Meeting the Challenge Conference 2011**

*Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) in partnership with Collaborating partners include Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA), the Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) and the Private Mental Health Consumer Carer Network Australia (PMHCCN)*

This Conference will focus on how people working across a diversity of human services (including the ATOD sector) can embrace the principles of trauma-informed care within recovery-oriented practice.

*Date:* 23 – 24 June 2011

*Venue:* Four Points by Sheraton, Sydney

*Cost:* \$380 MHCC member, \$440 standard

*Registration:* Essential

Visit <http://www.mhcc.org.au/resources/trauma-informed-care-and-practice.aspx> for more information.

#### **Oceania Tobacco Control Conference 2011**

*Cancer Council Australia*

This conference is themed 'Burying the habit: Moving to a tobacco free future'. A number of workshops will also be held on Monday 17 October 2011, preceding the conference.

*Date:* 18 – 20 October 2011

*Venue:* Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

*Cost:* \$495 (early bird)

*Registration:* Early bird closes **18 July 2011**.

Visit <http://www.oceaniatc2011.org/> for more information.

#### **International Federation of Non-Government Organisations (For the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse) Conference**

*Australian National Council on Drugs co-hosted by PEMADAM*

This conference aims to provide a forum for decision makers and professionals to gain an understanding of NGO issues and needs in relation to addressing alcohol and other drug use and associated harm, with a particular focus on the Asian and Pacific regions.

*Date:* 8 – 11 November 2011

*Venue:* Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

*Cost:* Varies, between US\$100 - US\$350.

For more information visit <http://www.ifngoconference.org/index.php>.

#### **Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) 2011 Conference**

*Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)*

This Conference will provide insights into neuroscience, interventions, policy innovations and emerging challenges for the ATOD sector. The Conference will feature both Australian and International speakers.

*Date:* 13 – 16 November

*Venue:* Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania

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

*Registration:* Early bird closes **9 September 2011**.

For further information on the Conference visit <http://www.apsadconference.com.au/>.

#### **International Harm Reduction Conference 2012 Cancelled**

*Harm Reduction International*

The 2012 International Harm Reduction Conference set to take place in Adelaide has been cancelled. Harm Reduction International regrets any inconvenience caused to partners and delegates. Harm Reduction International will be planning its next conference to take place in 2013.

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

#### **Beyond 2012: Leading the Way to Action**

*National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)*

This Conference aims to highlight how the sector is able to lead the way to action in addressing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and its associated harms among Indigenous Australians.

*Date:* 6 - 8 June 2012

*Venue:* Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, Western Australia

Call for Papers and online registration will be available from June 2011.

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

### Policy Activities

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#### **Public consultation on plain packaging of tobacco products**

*Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government*

In April 2010 the Australian Government announced that, in a world first, all tobacco products sold in Australia would be required to be sold in plain packaging by 1 July 2012. The exposure draft of the Bill and the Consultation Paper has been released for public comment. The Consultation Paper outlines the Government's approach to implementing plain packaging, its response to design testing and targeted consultations, and provides an explanation of the key provisions of the exposure draft *Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill 2010*.

Visit <http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/plainpack-tobacco> for more information.

Submissions are due by **5.00pm, 6 June 2011**.

See also [Working with Vulnerable People \(Background Checking\) Bill 2010](#) section.

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

#### **What resources are available to assist workers to treat clients with traumatic brain injury as well as substance abuse disorders?**

A recent issue in the *Substance Abuse Treatment Advisory* series published by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides guidance for the treatment of people with traumatic brain injury (TBI), a condition that is a common substance abuse comorbidity. It advises that 'Substance abuse treatment counselors need to be aware that [traumatic brain injury] may be a health condition affecting their clients. Through observation and questioning, counselors can try to identify clients whose functioning is affected by TBI and who may require special strategies in their treatment for [substance use disorders]. Counselors also can incorporate these important facts into relapse prevention messages for all clients: that substance abuse increases the likelihood of a first or recurrent TBI and that TBI compounds the brain function problems caused by substance abuse'.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment 2010, 'Treating clients with traumatic brain injury', *Substance Abuse Treatment Advisory*, vol. 9, no. 2, [http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4591?WT\\_ac=EB\\_20110414\\_SMA10-4591](http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4591?WT_ac=EB_20110414_SMA10-4591).

#### **Can community prevention programs reduce adolescent drug and alcohol use and delinquency?**

A 2009 article by Hawkins et al. published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* reported on a randomised trial that aimed to test 'whether the Communities That Care (CTC) prevention system reduces adolescent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and delinquent behavior communitywide'. A commentary on this research by Sharon Reynolds is featured in the current issue of *NIDA Notes*. She reports that the CTC program 'provides training and materials to help communities organize coalitions; identify risks for youth drug use and delinquency; as well as protective factors in the community; choose interventions with proven effectiveness; and implement the interventions with fidelity. Communities in Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, and Australia, as well as the United States, have adopted CTC.'

The study involved fifth-grade students in 24 small towns in the US. They responded to questionnaires annually until they were in grade 8. 'The results of the grade 8 student interviews revealed that since seventh grade, youths in the CTC communities were 32 percent less likely than those in the control towns to have begun using alcohol, 33 percent less likely to have smoked a first cigarette, and 33 percent less likely to have initiated use of smokeless tobacco...[they] were also 25 percent less likely to have committed their first delinquent act between grades 7 and 8'.

Reynolds, S 2011, 'Prevention program averts initiation of alcohol and tobacco use', *NIDA Notes*, vol. 23, no. 4, pp. 1, 12-3, [http://www.nida.nih.gov/NIDA\\_notes/NNvol23N4/Prevention.html](http://www.nida.nih.gov/NIDA_notes/NNvol23N4/Prevention.html).

The article upon which she comments is Hawkins, JD, Oesterle, S, Brown, EC, Arthur, MW, Abbott, RD, Fagan, AA & Catalano, RF 2009, 'Results of a type 2 translational research trial to prevent adolescent drug use and delinquency: a test of Communities That Care', *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, vol. 163, no. 9, pp. 789-98.

#### **What is the effect of drug law enforcement on drug market violence?**

Researchers based in Canada conducted a systematic review of the scientific literature to examine the impacts of drug law enforcement on drug market violence. They concluded that 'an increase in drug law enforcement interventions to disrupt drug markets is unlikely to reduce drug market violence. Instead, from an evidence-based public policy perspective and based on several decades of available data, the existing scientific evidence suggests drug law enforcement contributes to gun violence and high homicide rates and that increasingly sophisticated methods of disrupting organizations involved in drug distribution could paradoxically increase violence. In this context, and since drug prohibition has not achieved its stated goals of reducing drug supply, alternative regulatory models for drug control will be required if drug market violence is to be substantially reduced'.

Their research is discussed at *Findings*, the online repository of assessments of the ATOD evidence-base: [http://findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=Werb\\_D\\_6.txt](http://findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=Werb_D_6.txt). The *Findings* assessment draws attention to the limitations of this review.

Werb, D, Rowell, G, Guyatt, G, Kerr, T, Montaner, J & Wood, E 2011, 'Effect of drug law enforcement on drug market violence: a systematic review', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 22, no. 2, pp. 87-94.

#### **Is this goodbye to alcohol and other drug dependence?**

Back in the early 1980s decisions were made to drop the term 'addiction' from the official taxonomies of health conditions, and to replace it with the constructs of 'dependence' and 'abuse'. This occurred because 'addiction' was seen as a pejorative term, and was being used with so many different meanings that it had become a barrier to clear communication. (We are currently in a similar position in Australia with the term 'binge drinking'.) These changes were introduced to the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and the World Health Organization's International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) taxonomies. In recent years work has been undertaken to revise the DSM, including its substance use disorders chapter. The proposed changes are detailed, with their justifications, online at <http://www.dsm5.org/ProposedRevisions/Pages/Substance-RelatedDisorders.aspx>.

A series of articles in the May 2011 issue of *Addiction* covers this topic, highlighting how controversial it is in our sector. The situation has been summarised by O'Brien as follows: 'The term "dependence", while used in past decades to refer to uncontrolled drug-seeking behavior, has an alternative meaning--the physiological adaptation that occurs when medications acting on the central nervous system are ingested with rebound when the medication is abruptly discontinued. These dual meanings have led to confusion and may have propagated current clinical practices related to under-treatment of pain, as physicians fear creating an "addiction" by prescribing opioids. In part to address this problem, a change proposed for DSM-V is to alter the chapter name to "Addiction and Related Disorders", which will include disordered gambling. The specific substance use disorders may be referred to as "alcohol use" or "opioid use" disorders. The criteria for the disorders are likely to remain similar [to the current criteria], with the exception of removal of the "committing illegal acts" criterion and addition of a "craving" criterion. The other major change relates to the elimination of the abuse/dependence dichotomy, given the lack of data supporting an intermediate stage. These changes are anticipated to improve clarification and diagnosis and treatment of substance use and related disorders.'

O'Brien, C 2011, 'Addiction and dependence in DSM-V', *Addiction*, vol. 106, no. 5, pp. 866-7.

#### **Does ecstasy use result in cognitive impairment?**

Researchers in the US assessed 'neurocognitive performance in 52 ecstasy users and 59 closely matched non-users in a study designed to minimize potentially confounding variables'. They chose participants with minimal use of drugs other than ecstasy who were members of the all-night-dancing subculture. Their findings were that there were 'few consistent differences between ecstasy users and non-users on wide-ranging measures of verbal and visuospatial memory, verbal fluency, attention, processing speed, manipulative dexterity and executive cortical functions... Overall, differences between non-users and heavy users were sufficiently modest on most cognitive measures that we could exclude a large effect of ecstasy'.

They conclude that 'In a study designed to minimize limitations found in many prior investigations, we failed to demonstrate marked residual cognitive effects in ecstasy users. This finding contrasts with many previous findings-including our own-and emphasizes the need for continued caution in interpreting field studies of cognitive function in illicit ecstasy users'.

Halpern, JH, Sherwood, AR, Hudson, JI, Gruber, S, Kozin, D & Pope, HG, Jr. 2011, 'Residual neurocognitive features of long-term ecstasy users with minimal exposure to other drugs', *Addiction*, vol. 106, no. 4, pp. 777-86.

#### **How effective are the NSW Government's cannabis cautioning schemes?**

Cannabis cautioning schemes aim 'to divert minor cannabis offenders from the criminal justice system and assist them face their drug problems...Over the last ten years the NSW Police Force...has used cautioning to divert over 39,000 minor cannabis offenders from the courts, saving at least \$20 million in court costs. People cautioned for minor cannabis offences are also less likely to reoffend than those dealt with by the courts'.

The NSW Audit Office conducted a performance audit to assess 'whether cautioning diverts people from the courts and helps reduce their cannabis use. The audit revealed that 'Adults are more likely to be cautioned for minor cannabis offences today than when cautioning was introduced ten years ago. However this is not the case for young offenders who are more likely to be charged today...Cautioning may help people think about the consequences of their cannabis use. However few people seek help to reduce it with only 1.6 per cent of offenders contacting the drug helpline under the adult cautioning scheme'. In addition the audit found that 'cautioning rates vary significantly between Police commands'. The audit makes several recommendations for action by the NSW Police Force in conjunction with NSW Health to increase cautioning rates, particularly for young offenders and in some police regions.

Auditor-General, NSW 2011, *New South Wales Auditor-General's report, performance audit: the effectiveness of cautioning for minor cannabis offences*, NSW Police Force, NSW Health, Office of the NSW Auditor-General, Sydney, [http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/publications/reports/performance/2011/cannabis\\_offences/cannabis\\_offences\\_contents.htm](http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/publications/reports/performance/2011/cannabis_offences/cannabis_offences_contents.htm).

#### **Reducing alcohol and other drug related harm among Indigenous peoples: what do we know and what works?**

This Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Resource Sheet summarises available information about harmful use of alcohol and other drugs among Indigenous peoples, and describes several strategies to address the problems.

Gray, D & Wilkes, E 2010, *Reducing alcohol and other drug related harm*, Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Resource Sheet no. 3, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Australian Institute of Family Studies, Canberra & Melbourne, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/publications>.

#### **What can be done to reduce alcohol related harm around licensed premises?**

A review of 15 evaluation studies into 'the effectiveness of interventions in and around licensed premises that aimed to reduce severe intoxication and disorder' included interventions in North America, Australia, Sweden and Canada. The interventions included 'responsible beverage service training...', 'server violence prevention training...', 'enhanced enforcement of licensing regulations...', 'multi-level interventions...', 'licensee accords...' and a 'risk-focused consultation'. The researchers found that 'The evidence that interventions in the [night time environment] can reduce intoxication and disorder is limited'. They concluded that 'Server training courses that are designed to reduce disorder have some potential, although there is a lack of evidence to support their use to reduce intoxication and the evidence base is weak'.

Brennan, I, Moore, SC, Byrne, E & Murphy, S 2011, 'Interventions for disorder and severe intoxication in and around licensed premises, 1989-2009', *Addiction*, vol. 106, no. 4, pp. 706-13.

#### **Does plain packaging draw attention to health warnings on cigarette packets?**

Research in the United Kingdom aimed to assess the impact of plain packaging on visual attention towards health warning information on cigarette packs. The results of the research 'suggest that among non-smokers and weekly (i.e. light, non-established) cigarette smokers, plain packaging increases visual attention towards health warning information and away from brand information. This effect is not observed among daily (i.e. established) cigarette smokers...This may be because daily smokers are more likely to have habituated to health warnings, through repeated exposure and gradual desensitization, or because brand information is particularly salient in this group. Plain packaging may therefore increase the salience of health warnings, particularly among non-smokers and light, non-established smokers, and could therefore be effective in reducing the uptake of cigarette smoking'.

The researchers conclude that 'it is plausible that increased visual attention towards health warning information may increase the impact of this information and lead to a reduction in the likelihood of smoking initiation (among non-smokers) and an increase in the likelihood of smoking cessation (among light smokers). Secondly, the lack of effect in established smokers may obviate concerns raised by the tobacco industry that their target market of established smokers will be unable to discriminate brand information on plain packs'.

Munafò, MR, Roberts, N, Bauld, L & Leonards, U 2011, 'Plain packaging increases visual attention to health warnings on cigarette packs in non-smokers and weekly smokers but not daily smokers', *Addiction*, Early View 14 March 2011.

#### **Anti-tobacco programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: what do we know and what works?**

This Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Resource Sheet summarises available information about anti-tobacco programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and discusses the effectiveness of current approaches.

Ivers, R 2011, *Anti-tobacco programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*, Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Resource Sheet no. 4, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Australian Institute of Family Studies, Canberra & Melbourne, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/publications/>.

#### **Are smoking cessation interventions helpful for people from disadvantaged groups?**

Australian researchers conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis 'to assess the methodological quality and effectiveness of behavioural smoking cessation interventions targeted at six disadvantaged groups; the homeless, prisoners, indigenous populations, at risk youth, individuals with low socio-economic status, and individuals with a mental illness'. They found that there was 'a significant increase in cessation for behavioural support interventions targeted at low income female smokers at short term follow up...', and behavioural support interventions targeted at individuals with a mental illness at long term follow-up'. They concluded that 'The use of behavioural smoking cessation interventions for some socially disadvantaged groups appears promising, however overall findings are inconsistent. Further research is needed to establish the most effective interventions for vulnerable high risk groups'.

Bryant, J, Bonevski, B, Paul, C, McElduff, P & Attia, J 2011, 'A systematic review and meta-analysis of the effectiveness of behavioural smoking cessation interventions in selected disadvantaged groups', *Addiction*, Postprint.

#### **What can be done to reduce tobacco smoking among prisoners and to reduce the related harms?**

The National Summit on Tobacco Smoking in Prisons, which was held in Canberra in August 2010, aimed 'to reach a broad consensus on how best to tackle the high rates of tobacco smoking amongst prisoners and to identify the best ways forward to reduce harms caused by tobacco in custodial settings'.

It produced several recommendations including 'Create and maintain smoke-free areas moving towards having all indoor areas in prison declared smoke-free', 'Efforts to reduce the prevalence of smoking among prisoners need to be linked to wider health promotion and prevention activities in the community' and 'Greater smoking cessation support for prisoners including free access

to nicotine replacement therapy'

An Action Plan was developed which includes forming a national working group to provide ongoing oversight of this area'. Please contact ATODA an [office@atoda.org.au](mailto:office@atoda.org.au) to obtain a pdf copy of this report.

Butler, T & Stevens, C 2011, *National Summit on Tobacco Smoking in Prisons: report on the Summit*, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, WA.

#### **What do we know about injecting drug use and associated harms among Aboriginal Australians?**

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD), concerned that Aboriginal people who inject drugs is a relatively small, but significant, sub-population, commissioned Anex and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to conduct a project entitled *Injecting Drug Use and Associated Harms among Aboriginal Australians*. The report of the project was released in late April

It concludes that 'providing choice and improving options for individuals must be the ultimate goals in a functioning health system. Barriers to choice and options for access to health services can increase dependence on a person's level of disadvantage and vulnerability. The findings of this project support this premise and outline a range of issues that impact on the ability of Aboriginal people who inject drugs to access quality and timely prevention, treatment and harm reduction services, when and where they need them. These issues are in part structural, through policy and funding mechanisms, but are also embedded in practice. This in turn affects the ability of services to effectively meet the needs of their communities.

'This report highlights the need for greater investment in the prevention, treatment and harm reduction sector so that those most disadvantaged in our community are not further disadvantaged by an ineffective system.'

Kratzmann, M, Mitchell, E, Ware, J, Banach, L, Ward, J & Ryan, J 2011, *Injecting drug use and associated harms among Aboriginal Australians*, ANCD Research Paper no. 22, Australian National Council on Drugs, Canberra, <http://www.ancd.org.au/publications-and-reports/research-papers.html>.

## Media

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### **20pc of ACT drug users survived overdose**

3 May 2011

Canberra Times

Almost one in five injecting drug users in the ACT survived heroin overdoses last year, new research shows.

A report by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre also found that 32 per cent of injecting drug users had taken non-fatal overdoses of drugs other than heroin...

Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/health/20pc-of-act-drug-users-survived-overdose/2150748.aspx> to view the full article.

### **Launch of community space for ACT's Trans and Intersex community**

6 May 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, today launched the first community space for the ACT's trans and intersex support and advocacy group, A Gender Agenda. She was joined by Dr Helen Watchirs from the ACT Human Rights Commission who launched the write-up of the first ever report on the ACT trans community.

"Members of Canberra's trans and intersex community face barriers to appropriate, respectful health and well-being related services that meet their needs, and rates of depression in trans and intersex people are greater than within the general population," Ms Gallagher said.

"The effect of discrimination on self-esteem and mental health can be devastating."

"A Gender Agenda is significantly contributing to reducing the stigma and overcoming these barriers by creating opportunities and environments conducive to positive health and well-being through the strength of peer support."...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10710&m=52> to view the full media release.

### **Minister presents nursing and midwifery excellence awards**

11 May 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher today congratulated the winners of the ACT Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards and thanked the ACT's nursing staff for the efforts they put in every day.

This year the Nurse of the Year was awarded to Kerry Crawford from Mental Health ACT and the Midwife of the Year was awarded to Jane Debaecker from Calvary...

"I would like to take this opportunity to offer my personal congratulations to the winners, and my thanks to all our nurses and midwives. It is vitally important that we recognise the value of their work in our community," she concluded...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10717&m=52> to view the full media release.

### **Minister says 'thank you' to volunteers**

12 May 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA

"National Volunteer Week is an opportunity for me to thank the 300-plus volunteers working with patients and staff across a number of ACT Health's faculties," Ms Gallagher said.

"It's also an opportunity to raise the profile of volunteering within the community, and provide people with information on ways they can become involved and contribute."...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10718&m=52> to view the full media release.

### **Attorney General appoints two new special magistrates**

13 May 2011

Simon Corbell MLA

ACT Attorney General, Simon Corbell, today announced the appointment of two new Special Magistrates to the ACT Magistrates Court.

"Today I am pleased to announce that Mr Graeme Lunney SC and Mr Christopher Chenoweth OAM will both take up three year appointments in the ACT Magistrates Court," Mr Corbell said.

"The appointment of the Special Magistrates will allow for the continued efficient operations in the Magistrates Court..."

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10721&m=53> to view the full media release.

### **Katy Gallagher MLA elected as ACT Chief Minister**

13 May 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA

Katy Gallagher MLA has today received the majority support of the Legislative Assembly to become the next Chief Minister of the ACT.

Ms Gallagher received the support of her Labor Colleagues and that of the four members of the Greens Party to lead the Government to the next ACT Legislative Assembly Election in October 2012.

In accepting the former Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope's nomination to the position, Ms Gallagher expressed her overwhelming

gratitude and thanks to her Colleagues for their support and trust in her ability to fill this role...  
"The Government will be focused on its priorities of delivering in health, education, tackling housing affordability and cost of living pressures, providing the most sustainable community that we can for our children and their children to enjoy, enhancing our transport systems and preparing Canberra for the celebration of our Centenary in 2013."...  
Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10724&m=52> to view the full media release.

#### **New Ministerial Arrangements**

17 May 2011

*Ms Katy Gallagher, MLA*

The Chief Minister, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, today announced new Ministerial Arrangements for the ACT Government following her election as Chief Minister by the Legislative Assembly.  
The Chief Minister will continue to hold the Health, Treasury and Industrial Relations Portfolios.  
Mr Andrew Barr MLA has been appointed Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, and Minister for Education and Training.  
The Chief Minister also stated that following the passage of the 2011-12 Budget through the Assembly, the Treasury portfolio will be transferred to the Deputy Chief Minister.  
Mr Simon Corbell MLA has been appointed Attorney-General, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development and Minister for Territory and Municipal Services.  
Ms Joy Burch MLA has been appointed Minister for Community Services, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Women, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for the Arts....  
Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10723&m=52> to view the full media release.

#### **Burch welcomes new members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elected body**

18 May 2011

*Joy Burch, MLA*

ACT Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Joy Burch today welcomed the announcement of the seven new members for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body for the ACT.  
The new members are Lynette Goodwin, William Hodges, Dianne Collins, Brendan Church, Rod Little, John Paul Janke and Roslyn Brown...  
"The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body is a key organisation for ensuring the views and needs of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders living in the ACT are properly heard by government," Ms Burch said...  
Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10730&m=138> to view the full media release.

#### **Chief Minister welcomes World No Tobacco Day**

31 May 2011

*Katy Gallagher, MLA*

The Chief Minister and Health Minister, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA today welcomed World No Tobacco Day and encouraged smokers to go 24 hours without tobacco...  
"Smoking continues to be one of Australia's largest preventable causes of death and disease, and over three million people still smoke at least weekly," Ms Gallagher said.  
"In the ACT, 15.9% of ACT residents aged 18 years and over are daily smokers (*Chief Health Officer's Report 2010*)."  
"Prevention of ill health remains a priority issue for this Government. Our tobacco reforms are working and changing attitudes towards smoking, and we will continue working to see the incidence of tobacco use in Canberra decline," Ms Gallagher said...  
Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php> to view the full media release.

### **Consumer Participation**

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#### **Straight from the Source**

*Association of Participating Service Users (APSU)*

This publication provides practical guidance for setting up consumer participation projects from experiences in the Victorian Alcohol and other Drug Sector. The guide is targeted at services and policymakers and is divided into three parts including: an overview of consumer participation in the AOD sector, a plan for organisations and practical examples of consumer participation.

Visit <http://apsuonline.org.au/index.php?page=publications> to view the publication.

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

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#### **'Live It Up' Project**

*Cancer Council ACT*

The Cancer Council ACT is currently running a project called the 'LIVE IT UP!' project that is aimed at disengaged, at-risk youth. The target areas of intervention are nutrition, physical activity and smoking cessation. The project runs a series of activities relevant to the ATOD sector, including:

1. Quit smoking courses;
2. Individual quit smoking counselling and provision of free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (gum, inhaler, patches);
3. Information seminars on smoking and its health effects;
4. Training for youth workers on nutrition and physical activity and smoking cessation; and
5. Quit smoking courses for youth workers.

For more information contact Bernadette Urack on (02) 6257 9999 or [bernadette.urack@actcancer.org](mailto:bernadette.urack@actcancer.org).

#### **April Issue of Youth Field Xpress**

*Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies*

Youth Field Xpress is a monthly eBulletin that compiles the latest research, events and news articles related to young people and the youth sector across Australia. The May issue includes a list of upcoming conferences, and an overview of Australian Budget initiatives affecting young people.

Visit [http://www.acys.info/yfx/issues/number\\_177](http://www.acys.info/yfx/issues/number_177) for more information.

### **Employment Opportunities**

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#### **Pharmacotherapy Support Coordinator**

*DIRECTIONS ACT*

*Part Time – 4 days per week*

The Pharmacotherapy Support Coordinator is a position which works with the Treatment Support Program to offer support and case management for people accessing treatment options in a collaborative way with a range of programs and services.

Visit <http://www.directionsact.com/employment> for the position description and selection criteria.  
For more information contact Laura Dawel on [laurad@directionsact.com](mailto:laurad@directionsact.com) or (02) 6122 8000.  
Applications close **Monday 6 June 2011**.

**Project Officer (12 month period with possibility of extension): Women in Prisons Crime Prevention Project**  
*Karralika Programs Inc*

This position requires the applicant to develop and implement a specific alcohol and other drug program for women within a Correctional facility which is underpinned by Therapeutic Community model principles. The program aims to assist in the reduction of recidivism and improve the transition of female prisoners back into the community after a period of incarceration. Download the [Position Description and Selection Criteria](#).  
For more information contact Pete Townsend on (02) 6207 0238 or [peter.t@karralika.org.au](mailto:peter.t@karralika.org.au).  
Applications close **18 June 2011**.

**Alcohol and Other Drugs Worker Casual Positions**

*DIRECTIONS ACT*

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

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

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

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

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

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

 **Grants and Funding Opportunities**

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**Volunteer Grants 2011**

*Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Australian Government*

These grants will provide funding of \$16 million to eligible not-for profit community organisations to assist their volunteers and encourage volunteering. Funding of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 is available to organisations to: purchase tangible equipment items, contribute to reimbursement costs of fuel or petrol, and contribute to training costs and background screening tests.

Visit [http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer\\_grants2011.aspx](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2011.aspx) for more information.

Applications are due by **8 June 2011**.

**2011 - 2012 ACT Multicultural Grants Program**

*ACT Government, Community Services Directorate*

These grants aim to enhance the ACT community through the development of innovative projects that contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony. A total of \$126,000 is available in the funding round.

For more information visit [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/multicultural/services/grants/act\\_multicultural\\_grants\\_program](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/multicultural/services/grants/act_multicultural_grants_program)

Applications are due by **1 July 2011**.

**ACT Women's Return to Work Grants Program**

*ACT Government, Community Services Directorate*

This program provides women returning to the paid workforce with financial assistance, information and resources to assist them to reach this goal. Individual grants of up to \$1,000 are available to women who have been absent from the workforce for more than 12 months due to care responsibilities, and who meet the program criteria.

Visit [http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/grants\\_and\\_scholarships#workgrants](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women/grants_and_scholarships#workgrants) for more information or contact the Women's Information and Referral Centre on [wirc@act.gov.au](mailto:wirc@act.gov.au) or (02) 6205 2885.

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

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

**Become a member of ATODA**

*ATODA welcomes organisations and individuals to become members. For further information about membership including the constitutional objects of ATODA, benefits of membership, membership fees and payment methods, please contact [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070 to request the membership application information package.*

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

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