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ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: March 2011



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

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ACT ATOD Services Directory: Version 6

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

Download the [ACT ATOD Services Directory: Version 6](#).

ATODA Submission to the ACT Carers Charter

ATODA made a submission on the ACT Carers Charter Discussion paper, which focused on caring as it related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. For a copy of the submission [click here](#).

Workshop: How to use the Guide to Reviewing and Developing Written Materials for Young People

ATODA and Australian Drug Foundation

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

To support stakeholders to engage with this resource we invite you to participate in a workshop we are hosting in partnership with the Australian Drug Foundation on how to use the Guide. This workshop will be held as an ACT Youth Week activity. The workshop details are:

Date: Thursday 31 March 2011

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Venue: Training Room 2, ACT Health, 1 Moore Street, Canberra City

RSVP: Essential to info@atoda.org.au - please note that limited places are available.

Download the [Guide](#).

For more information contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or info@atoda.org.au.

Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: February 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: February 2011](#).

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

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

Updates on Peak activities.

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

Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy.

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

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

[Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT](#)

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

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

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

[National Health Reform Update](#)

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

ATODA Executive Officer Appointed

22 February 2011

ATODA President, Ms Anne Kirwan, announced today the appointment of Ms Carrie Fowlie as the Executive Officer of ATODA....

"Ms. Fowlie held the position of Interim Executive Officer from 1 July 2010 when ATODA began operation. Ms. Fowlie's leadership in establishing and building ATODA over its first seven months of operation has exceeded the expectations of members and stakeholders." Said Ms Kirwan....

"ATODA is now well placed to represent the sector to promote health through the prevention and reduction of harms associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues.".....

"This appointment is an important step in the positioning of ATODA for the next phase of its development. I am very confident that Carrie will continue to successfully lead ATODA to realise its potential," Ms Kirwan said....

Download the full [media release](#).

For more news from ATODA see the following items:

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

ATODA's Contact Details are:

email: info@atoda.org.au

post: PO BOX 7187 Watson ACT 2602

visit: 350 Antill St., Watson ACT

phone: (02) 6255 4070

web: www.atoda.org.au

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy

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

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:

- March 2011 - Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9
- April 2011 - Monday 4, Tuesday 5, Wednesday 6
- May 2011 – Monday 2, Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4
- June 2011 – Monday 6, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8

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

Senior First Aid Training

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ATODA is offering Senior First Aid training for workers who have undertaken the ATOD MQS and do not currently have Senior First Aid qualifications. Details are as follows:

Date: 23 March 2011

Time: 8:30am - 5:30pm

Venue: St John Ambulance ACT Office, 14 Thesiger Court, Deakin ACT

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential, please notify ATODA on info@atoda.org.au by **9 March 2011**.

Note: The training requires 4 -5 hours of study prior to attending the full day session.

For further information contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or info@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 and it is understood that the debate has been deferred to March 2011 (see Hansard, p.59 <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2011/pdfs/P110215.pdf>).

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.

Submission to the Working With Vulnerable People Checking System (WWVPCS) Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines

[Council of Australian Governments \(COAG\)](#)

An update on information and decisions coming from COAG in February 2011.

[ACT Health Restructure](#)

Information about the proposed restructure within ACT Health.

[Drug Action Week 2011 Update](#)

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

[Sector Activities and Events](#)

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

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

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

[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 and MHCCACT

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

About the WWVPCS

For further information about the proposed system visit:

- The draft legislation: www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_39278/current/pdf/db_39278.pdf
- About the checking system, including the policy paper, visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc.

For more information download the [Working With Vulnerable People Checking System \(WWVPCS\) Update February 2011 Bulletin](#).

Expanding Naloxone availability in the ACT

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

Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT (ENAACT) Committee

The Committee held its first meeting on 16 February and will meet again on 15 March. The Committee is seeking to collectively progress work to develop an implementation trial of expanding naloxone availability in the ACT. For more information please contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or carrie@atoda.org.au.

The case for the wider distribution of naloxone in Australia

Associate Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute and Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute (December 2010)

Long history as safe, reliable and effective medication

For over 40 years naloxone has been used in medicine to reverse the effects of heroin and other opioids. In this capacity it has been shown to be safe, reliable and effective. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist. It does not produce any intoxication and has no effect on people who don't have opioids in their system. In Australia, as elsewhere, naloxone is widely used in hospital emergency departments and most ambulance services as a key response to opioid overdose.

Case for wider distribution of naloxone to reduce overdose deaths and harm

In 1992 Professor John Strang from Kings College London argued for the wider distribution of naloxone to those who come into contact with people who inject drugs in order to help prevent overdose mortality and morbidity. This argument was subsequently endorsed by Australian researchers and academics from the mid 1990s. In 2009, the case for the wider distribution of naloxone was reiterated on the basis of findings emerging from (primarily 'peer') naloxone distribution programs running overseas.

The argument for the wider distribution of naloxone stems from findings that show that:

- People who inject drugs commonly experience overdose
- Overdoses are often witnessed by people who can respond
- Peers, family members and others can successfully respond to assist in the management of overdoses among people who inject drugs
- Peers and family members are keen to respond to overdoses if they occur

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the paper.

Recent Naloxone References

Below are some recent naloxone references, compiled by Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute - most are available from the National Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS) at the Alcohol and Other Drug Council of Australia: <http://ndsis.adca.org.au>.

Enteen, L., Bauer, J., McLean, R., Wheeler, E., Hurliaux, E., Kral, A., et al. (2010). Overdose Prevention and Naloxone Prescription for Opioid Users in San Francisco. *Journal of Urban Health*, 1-11.

Mayet, S., Manning, V., Williams, A., Loaring, J., & Strang, J. (2010). Impact of training for healthcare professionals on how to manage an opioid overdose with naloxone: Effective, but dissemination is challenging. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *In Press, Corrected Proof*.

Sherman, S. G., Gann, D. S., Tobin, K. E., Latkin, C. A., Welsh, C., & Bielenon, P. (2009). "The life they save may be mine": Diffusion of overdose prevention information from a city sponsored programme. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 20, 137-142.

Tobin, K. E., Sherman, S. G., Beilenson, P., Welsh, C., & Latkin, C. A. (2009). Evaluation of the Staying Alive programme: Training injection drug users to properly administer naloxone and save lives. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 20, 131-136.

Wermeling, D. P. (2010). Opioid harm reduction strategies: Focus on expanded access to intranasal naloxone. *Pharmacotherapy*, 30(7), 627-631.

ACT Naloxone Trial Proposal

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

ATODA submission to the 2011/2012 ACT Budget, included conducting a program with the aim of reducing and preventing opioid overdoses in the ACT, which includes a naloxone trial. Download the [ATODA Budget Submission](#). For more information contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or carrie@atoda.org.au.

Distributing Naloxone ... because dead addicts NEVER recover

Dr Sarx Maxwell, Chicago Recovery Alliance

Presentation at the Australian Drug Conference 25 – 26 October 2010

<http://www.australiandrugconference.org.au/presentations/Sarz%20Maxwell.pdf>

Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre

A Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) trial in the ACT prison continues to be an area of discussion and development.

NSPs enhance OH&S in Prisons

Drug use occurs in prisons despite the strict prohibitionist approach that is taken. In Australia, prison needle and syringe supply is currently unregulated and uncontrolled. Prison officers risk sustaining needlestick injuries when conducting searches of inmates, cells and other areas, thereby risking bloodborne virus infections, such as HIV and hepatitis C. As such, there is a need to explore whether a regulated needle and syringe program (NSP) in Australian prisons could contribute to a safer workplace. International experience has shown that regulated prison NSPs do contribute to institutional safety, and that they do not result in syringes being used as weapons. The introduction of prison-regulated and controlled NSPs would be consistent with efforts to comply with OHS principles, as well as the approved standards for corrections in Australia.

For more information read: Ryan J, Voon D, Kirwan A, Levy M, Sutton. (2010) Prisons, needles and OHS. *Journal of Health Safety and Environment*. 2010;26(1): pp. 63-72.

<http://www.ydhf.org.au/data/Journal%20Article%20on%20Prison%20NSP%20John%20Ryan.pdf>

Using dialogue to develop a trial of an NSP in the AMC

In its submission to the ACT Budget ATODA called for a trial to be conducted ([click here](#) to access the submission). The trial needs to commence with mutually-respectful dialogue between interested parties so as to identify an implementation model that will be widely supported, as well as one that is shown (from international experience) to be likely to have beneficial outcomes for prison staff, inmates and the broader community. This means that the early phases of the project will enable stakeholders to be part of a process of determining the scope, context, barriers, opportunities, review of the evidence (including what models have worked in other jurisdictions) and resources required to implement a model appropriate to local circumstances. It would also identify progress and outcome indicators.

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

Show your support for an NSP Trial in the AMC

Anex

A number of prominent individuals and organisations have put their support behind a trial of a NSP in Prisons. You too can lend your support. Visit: <http://www.anex.org.au/lendsupport/>

Clean needles in our jail will prevent Hepatitis C

8 February 2011, Canberra Times.

Download the [full article](#).

Prison Issues Update

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

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

National Health Reform Update

How to keep updated regarding 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.qov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/stakeholder-form>.

What about ATOD and health reform?

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

As health reform progresses, there remains a lack of clarity regarding how ATOD prevention and treatment will fit within the range of reforms. ATODA will continue to monitor reform processes and advocate for ATOD issues to be central to discussions regarding reform, including engaging in the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's Federal Council. If you would like to discuss this further please contact ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or info@atoda.org.au.

A better deal for patients

13 February 2011

Prime Minister, Minister for Health

Today's new deal on health delivers national health reform that will last, built on a genuine partnership between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories.

The Gillard Government will invest a guaranteed extra \$19.8 billion in public hospitals – matched by tough national standards to make sure that money goes straight to hospitals and straight to patients.

And because this is a genuine national deal, every person in Australia will benefit, no matter where they live.

What that all adds up to is a better deal for patients.

- More money, more beds, more local control and more transparency
- Less bureaucracy, less waste and less waiting.

Under the new deal:

- The Federal Government will step up to permanently pay 50 per cent of the growth in hospital costs.
- This will be done in two stages, increasing to 45 per cent in 2014-15 and to 50 per cent in 2017-18.
- Once this kicks in, the States and the Commonwealth will share future funding growth in a 50/50 partnership.
- The States and Territories will receive \$16.4 billion in extra hospital funding between 2014-15 and 2019-20 under

the new structural funding arrangements and \$3.4 billion for extra emergency departments, elective surgery and 1300 sub acute hospital beds in the next four years....

To view the full media release visit <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/better-deal-patients-0>.

Applications for ACT GP Super Clinic and Medicare Local Invited

Department of Health and Ageing

GP Super Clinics and Medicare Locals are central to the Australian Governments Health Reform Agenda. Invitations to apply for an ACT GP Super Clinic and Medicare Local are now invited. For further information on the ACT GP Super Clinic visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/grantITA2581011> and for information on Medicare Locals visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/grantITA2481011>.

Unique Opportunity to Improve Health Care in the ACT

22 February 2011

ACT Division of General Practice

Today the ACT Division of General Practice (ACTDGP) was invited by the Federal Government to apply to become a 'Medicare Local'.

ACTDGP President Dr Rashmi Sharma says becoming a Medical Local will enhance the provision of primary health care in the ACT.

"ACT Medicare Local will provide additional support to General Practitioners (GPs) and many other health professionals who provide primary health care in our local community," said Dr Sharma

The focus of primary health care is health promotion, disease prevention, and early diagnosis and treatment of illness, disease or disability....

The ACT Medicare Local will have strong links to general practice, allied health services, Local Hospital Networks and Canberra communities.

Download the [full media release](#).

Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

COAG is the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia, comprising the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA). For more information visit: www.coag.gov.au

COAG Reform Council Newsletter: February 2011

COAG Reform Council

This newsletter provides information on the release of the COAG Reform Council's second annual progress report urging COAG to address 10 reforms at risk.

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

Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy not retained

14 February 2011

COAG

This communiqué outlines key points of discussion/decision-making from the COAG meeting held in Canberra on 13 February 2011. In particular there are implications for the ATOD Sector, as it involves the abolition of 17 Ministerial Councils - including the Ministerial Council on Drugs Strategy (MCDS) which will not be retained as a standing formal committee. Nonetheless, its members may continue to meet as required. It is not clear as yet as to the implications of this change for the operations of the National Drug Strategy, nor for the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs. For more information on the Ministerial Council Reforms download the [Communiqué](#) and its [Attachment C](#).

Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy Communiqué

25 February 2010

Ministers responsible for illegal and legal drugs has their last meeting in Perth to tackle some of the big issues facing governments and the community with regard to the harms caused by drugs and alcohol. The meeting was chaired by Helen Morton, Western Australian Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services, and was attended by representatives from all states and territories and the New Zealand government.

Some of the issues discussed included:

- National Drug Strategy 2010 - 2015, which will be posted on the National Drug Strategy website by 11 March 2011 with hard copies available soon after.
- Harmful alcohol use, including requesting the Australian National Preventative Health Agency to closely monitor these issues and recommend further action as appropriate.
- Misuses of pharmaceutical drugs, including approved additional funding for the development of the National Pharmaceutical Misuse Strategy and approving funding for the development of National Clinical Guidelines and Policy on Opioid Substitution Treatment.
- Future oversight of the National Drug Strategy, including noting that COAG had agreed on 13 February 2011 that the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy should not continue as a Council of COAG beyond 30 June 2011. Ministers emphasised an ongoing commitment to the work covered by the MCDS and discussed future governance arrangements to ensure it remained a high priority. Ministers agreed that for the future, the officials-level Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs should continue its work of coordinating Commonwealth, State and Territory efforts to implement the National Drug Strategy, and that relevant Ministers would meet on occasions when Ministerial -level policy decisions and direction were required.

For more information download the [communiqué](#).

ACT Health Restructure

The ACT Health restructure progresses with an expected launch date in late March 2011. The name of the new directorate under which ATOD services will be delivered is called Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services. For further information please contact ACT Health on proposedstructure@act.gov.au.

Drug Action Week 2011 Update

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

Drug Action Week 2011

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

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

Invitation to the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group Meeting

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

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

Date: 14 April 2011

Time: 9:30am – 11am

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

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

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

Registrations now open for Drug Action Week 2011

Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

The Drug Action Week (DAW) 2011 website is now live for the registration of alcohol and drug (AOD) events to celebrate the efforts of frontline workers, and to make communities more aware of the dangers from excessive consumption of alcohol and use of other licit/ illicit drugs...

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ADCA, Mr David Templeman, said that one of the aims for 2011 was to surpass the 2010 record of 665 events, and hopefully reach the 700 mark for events across metropolitan and rural Australia..... "We would like to recognise the organisers and participants from DAW 2010, and encourage them to submit photographs or their comments from last year to enable us to display them on the DAW website," Mr Templeman said. "Contributions should be sent to DAW Project Officer, Nick Hermes, at nick.hermes@adca.org.au."

Visit <http://www.drugactionweek.org.au> to view the full media release.

Sector Activities and Events

Outreach Lunch Programs

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

The program aims to promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles along with distributing information and education around alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The program will run weekly in different locations around Canberra targeting ATOD affected clients.

Date: Wednesdays Weekly

Time: 11 – 1pm

Venue: Various

For more information contact Selina Walker on Selina@gugan-gulwan.com.au or (02) 6231 9555.

'Kids in Focus' Program – Official Launch

Barnardos Canberra

Barnardos Canberra is officially launching the new 'Kids in Focus' program which aims to work with families/carers where there is substance misuse by providing intergrated, long term and intensive support to vulnerable families and children at risk.

Date: Wednesday 9 March 2011

Time: 1pm

Venue: Reception Room, Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra City.

RSVP: Essential by **7 March 2011**

For more information or to RSVP contact Meg Fitzgerald on mfitzgerald@barnardos.org.au or (02) 6228 9541.

Nominations Open: National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2011

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

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

Details of the awards ceremony are as follows:

Date: 24 June 2011

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

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

For further information visit www.drugawards.org.au or contact the event manager on 0415 561 243 or info@drugawards.org.au.

GROGWatch Program: Taking Referrals

CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn

This program offers support for young people aged 12 - 24 years who are at risk of drinking at harmful levels. The program has an outreach program Youth Support Worker available Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings to meet with Young people to provide support, education and intervention to address problematic behaviours and issues associated with alcohol use. The Outreach support worker can be contacted Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings on 0451 680 692 or (02) 6163 3711. The program manager can be contacted Monday to Thursday for enquiries and referrals on (02) 6163 7628 or grogwatch@catholiccare.cg.org.au.

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

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.

Fresh Start Smoking Cessation Courses

AIDS Action Council ACT

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

Dates: 3 March 2011, 7 April 2011, 5 May 2011 and 2 June 2011

Cost: Free

Download the [Flyer](#).

For more information or to make a booking visit http://www.aidsaction.org.au/content/community_development/quit-smoking.php.

International Women's Day Breakfast

ACT Women's Services Network

This breakfast celebrates 100 years of International Women's Day, and will feature the following guest speaker Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner and Commissioner responsible for Age Discrimination. Other guests include her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Ms Joy Burch MLA, and Dr Helen Watchirs.

Date: Tuesday 8 March 2011

Time: 7.15 - 9am

Venue: Kamberra Wine Company, Devine Room, Corner Northbourne Ave and Flemington Rd, Lyneham

Cost: \$30 community, \$50 government / corporate

RSVP: Essential, by Friday 4 March 2011

Visit <http://www.ywca-canberra.org.au/> for more information.

Nominations Open: ACT Social Work Awards 2011

Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)

These awards are designed to recognise and celebrate the contribution of social workers working in the ACT and region.

Nominations are sought from individual social workers, and can be made in one or more of the following categories:

Social Worker of the Year, ACT and Region, Outstanding newcomer to the profession, Outstanding service to the profession, and Outstanding contribution to work with diverse individuals/communities.

Nominations close **8 March 2011**.

The Awards Ceremony will be held on **15 March 2011**.

For further information visit <http://actsocialworkawards.weebly.com/>.

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

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

- People who inject drugs and hepatitis C;
- Adopting the *Guide to Developing and Reviewing ATOD Written Materials* as sector policy;
- Ongoing concerns regarding the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010;
- Identifying national priorities to feed into the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's Federal Council meeting; and,
- NGO TGP and ISI funding extensions

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

Sector Development

Update to the Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2011

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

The DPMP Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2011 has been updated for the period 1985 until 31 December

2010. The timeline provides a list of key drug policy events that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and December 2010. Events are listed by jurisdiction, at the national and state/territory level.
Visit <http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/dpmpweb.nsf/page/Drug+Policy+Timeline> to view the timeline.

Vienna Declaration

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

The Vienna Declaration is a statement seeking to improve community health and safety by calling for the incorporation of scientific evidence into illicit drug policies. Organisations, scientists, health practitioners and the general public are invited to endorse the document in order to bring the issues it raises to the attention of governments and international agencies, and to illustrate that drug policy reform is a matter of urgent international significance.

For more information and to read and sign the declaration visit www.viennadeclaration.com/index.html.

Campaign: Drug Law Reform

GetUp!

GetUp! hosts an online forum for people to contribute suggestions regarding campaigns ideas for GetUp! to advocate for. A campaign suggestion entitled, 'drug law reform – drugs are implicated in most of our costly social problems, crime, corruption etc.' has been posted to the forum by Brian and Marion McConnell from Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (FFDLR).

To support and vote for the drug law reform campaign suggestion visit <http://suggest.getup.org.au/forums/60819-campaign-ideas/suggestions/1067729-drug-law-reform-drugs-are-implicated-in-most-of-?ref=title>.

First Point Report and Networking Request

First Point

First Point is the central intake service for the housing and homelessness sector in the ACT. They have released their performance report for the November to December 2010 period. In addition, they will be moving to the Central Access Point in Belconnen in April; and are seeking connections with out-posted workers to collaborate closely on a daily basis. Specifically; they are looking for one worker from each housing and homelessness service to spend one day per month at First Point to share learnings and improve coordination.

Download the [report](#).

For more information, contact (02) 6123 4000 or eo@connectionsact.org.au.

New ACTCOSS Office Location

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS has moved from Phillip to a new office, at the Weston Community Hub, 2/6 Gritten Street, Weston, ACT, 2611. Their phone and fax services may be interrupted, however emails will be working throughout the transition.

To contact ACTCOSS email actcooss@actcooss.org.au.

Training and Professional Development in the ACT

Comorbidity Bus Tour B

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

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

Tour B, will visit the following services*:

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

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

Date: Wednesday 13 April 2011

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

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

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

February – March 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar

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

The February to March 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar is now available. The Training Calendar is produced bimonthly as a partnership between the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT, and provides training and professional development opportunities for workers in the alcohol and other drug, youth, mental health, family support and community sectors.

Download the [February – March 2011 Training Calendar](#).

AOD Training Day

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

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

Date: Friday 4 March 2011
Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm
Venue: Main Conference Room, Downer Business Park, 2 Bradfield St, Downer, ACT
Cost: Free
RSVP: Essential by 1 March 2011

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

Young People and Alcohol and Other Drug Use Workshop

Youth Coalition of the ACT

A one-day workshop targeted at youth workers who want to increase their knowledge, understanding and skills when working with young people with alcohol and other drug issues. The workshop will be facilitated by Annie Bleeker, National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) and will explore issues such as:

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

Date: Friday 25 March 2011
Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm
Venue: 46 Cliaanthus St. O'Connor (Youth Coalition office)
Cost: \$100 for Youth Coalition members, \$120 for non-members
Food: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided
RSVP: Essential, by Wednesday 16 March 2011 - limited places available.

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

What about me? Children and young people living with parental substance misuse

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

This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to identify experiences of children, young people and their parents, associated risk and protective factors, possible roles and responsibilities in service provision, specialist agencies and programs available in the ACT, and how services can work together.

Date: Thursday 17 March 2010
Time: 9am - 4.30pm
Venue: TBC
Cost: Free

Download the [Flyer](#) for more information or contact Sally Markham on (02) 6207 1344 or Bridget Dillon on (02) 6205 1110.

Human Rights Commission Training and Professional Development Opportunities

ACT Human Rights Commission (HRC)

The HRC has released their February – June 2011 Training Calendar, and have a number of training and professional development opportunities available to community sector workers and services. These include: Human Rights in the Community Sector, Introduction to Health Records and Privacy, Sexual Harassment and Discriminatory Bullying, Introduction to the Discrimination Act, and Human Rights for ACT Agencies.

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

Modern Award Program Workshop

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

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

Date: Thursday 3 March 2011
Time: 9:30am – 1pm
Venue: Fair Work Ombudsman, Level 11, 208 Bunda St and Corner Akuna St.
Cost: Free (Places are limited to one delegate per organisation)
Registration: Essential, visit <http://acoss.org.au/events/view/713/> to register.

For more information visit <https://s.eventarc.com/event/view/1929/tickets/modern-award-program-canberra>.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

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

Date: Thursday 10 March 2011
Time: 10am – 3:30pm
Venue: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach
Cost: \$54 ACTCOSS Members, \$63 Non-Members, \$75 Corporate/Government

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

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop aims to provide participants with a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in

Australia, improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explore ways that organisations might improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people.

Date: Thursday 17 March 2011

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

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

Cost: \$54 homelessness services, \$162 ACTCOSS members, \$198 non-members, \$239 corporate / government.

Download the [Flyer](#).

For more information contact Lisa Wells on (02) 6202 7200 or 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)

DHCS have released their training dates for the free workshop Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect for February - June

2011. The workshop aims to provide information on relevant legislation, expand on understandings of child abuse and

neglect, discuss responses to disclosures of abuse, and discuss the dilemmas and processes around making reports.

The next workshop will be held on 24 March 2011.

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

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Drug Policy Modelling Program Research Symposium

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

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

Date: 18 March 2011

Time: 10am – 5pm

Venue: The Sebel, Surry Hills, NSW

Cost: Free

Download the [DPMP Symposium Flyer](#).

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

The Inaugural Medicine in Addiction Conference

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

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

Date: 18 – 20 March 2011

Venue: Citiclub Hotel, 113 Queen St, Melbourne

Cost: \$550

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

Reconnexion National Anxiety and Depression Conference 2011

Reconnexion

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

Date: 6 – 7 April 2011

Venue: Hilton on the Park, corner of Wellington Parade and Clarendon Street, East Melbourne

Cost: \$445 early bird

Registration: Early bird closes **28 February 2011**

Download the [Conference Flyer](#).

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

The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People 2011

Generation Next

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

Date: 8 April 2011

Time: 9am – 5pm

Venue: The Playhouse, Canberra Theatre Centre, 180 London Circuit, Canberra.

Cost: \$180 super early bird

Registration: Super early bird closes **1 March 2011**.

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

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

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

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

Date: 11 – 15 April 2011

Venue: CQ Functions, 113 Queen St, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Cost: \$590 KBS member, \$700 KBS non member

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

6th International Conference on Drugs and Young People

Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)

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

Date: 2 – 4 May 2011

Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre

Cost: \$690 early bird

Registration: Early bird closes **31 March 2011**. Visit http://www.adf.org.au/images/stories/DYP6_rego_flyer.pdf to access the registration form.

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

Therapeutic Communities (TCs) Today – No Closed Doors

Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)

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

Date: 30 May – 3 June

Venue: The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Western Australia

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

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

2011 Australian Winter School

Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)

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

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

Venue: Goldcoast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Australia

Cost: \$450 early bird

Registration: Early bird closes 12 May 2011, visit http://www.winterschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=30 to register.

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

Policy Activities

Invitation for Public Submissions to the Review of Bimberi

ACT Human Rights Commission

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussion Paper: Towards a Diversionary Framework for the ACT

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

DHCS is seeking feedback on a Discussion Paper which provides information on the youth criminal justice system in the ACT including drug diversion programs. The Discussion Paper provides an overview of issues affecting diversion of

young people, the legislative and policy context in the ACT, experiences in other jurisdictions, and a literature review of diversionary practices and models. Public consultations will be held during March and April; and written comments are also invited.

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

ATODA will be developing a submission with a specific focus on drug diversion - to participate in the submission's development or for more information please contact info@atoda.org.au.

Homelessness National Quality Framework

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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

Visit http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/homelessness/national_quality_framework/Pages/default.aspx for more information or contact 1800 300 125 or homelessness.quality@fahcsia.gov.au.

Policy, Reports and Research

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

How effective is drug law enforcement in reducing the trade in illicit drugs?

Author's abstract: "This article investigates the links between drug law enforcement initiatives designed to reduce the availability of illicit drugs, and the illicit drug problem in Australia. Of particular interest are supply-reduction initiatives designed to locate and eradicate the production of illicit drugs in 'source' countries; the interdiction of drugs at the border; and attempts to disrupt the distribution of drugs at the community or street level. The examples provided illustrate that rather than reducing or deterring the trade in illicit drugs, many supply-reduction initiatives, when 'successful', create conditions that are favourable to the operation and expansion of the trade. This suggests that drug law enforcement is not the 'solution' to the drug problem, but part of the problem. The initiatives and effects outlined will be situated and discussed within the concepts of success and failure, power and resistance, and constitutive dialects."

Bennett, C 2010, 'Drug law enforcement: a study in the interplay of power and resistance', *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, vol. 22, no. 1, pp. 117-36.

How accurate are media reports of the value of cannabis seizures by police?

Author's abstract: '*Introduction and aims:* The news media is often touted as an important, yet inaccurate source of information about drug issues for the general public. This paper investigates the accuracy of reporting in the Australian media regarding the value of cannabis seizures made by the police.'

Design and methods: A sample of Australian newspaper articles, which featured both a direct estimate of the value of a cannabis seizure and the number of plants seized, were examined. The reported values from these articles were then compared with a range of estimates made using data on cannabis plant yield and price, taken from research literature.

Results: Fifteen articles were examined, referring to fourteen different seizures. The reported value of cannabis seizures in this sample of articles was highly inflated when compared with the authors' estimated value. The reported newspaper values of seizures were between 1.8 and 11.9 times higher than our middle estimate.

Discussion and conclusions: The most likely reason for the wide difference between the reported and estimated value of these seizures is the possible variability in cannabis plant yield. Whatever the reason for the discrepancy between the reported values and our estimates, greater transparency surrounding the valuations of cannabis seizures would help to better determine the true impacts of law enforcement interventions on this illicit drug supply chain.'

Matthew-Simmons, F, Shanahan, M & Ritter, A 2011, 'Reported value of cannabis seizures in Australian newspapers: are they accurate?' *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 21-5.

What are the latest statistics on drug treatment services in the ACT?

AIHW has published the ACT findings from the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for the 2008-09 year, as follows. In the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in 2008-09, 10 publicly funded alcohol and other drug treatment agencies provided 3,750 treatment episodes.

The median age of persons receiving treatment for their own drug use increased slightly to 31 years, from 30 years in 2007-08. For people seeking treatment in relation to someone else's drug use, the median age increased from 43 years in 2007-08 to 48 years in 2008-09.

Alcohol was the most common principal drug of concern in 2008-09 (54%), accounting for a larger proportion of episodes compared with the previous year. Other principal drugs of concern included heroin, which dropped 5 percentage points to 15%, while treatment for cannabis (16%) and amphetamines (9%) remained at similar levels to the previous year.

The most common form of treatment was counselling, comprising 30% of treatment episodes, which was less than the national proportion (37%). Withdrawal management remained at 21% of treatment episodes, being 5 percentage points greater than the national proportion. There was a slight decrease in the proportion of assessment only treatment episodes (from almost 19% in 2007-08 to 16% in 2008-09).

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

What data are available about substance use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 2011 publication on substance use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 'brings together national data on substance use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide a comprehensive picture of smoking, alcohol and illicit substance consumption patterns and how these have changed over time...[and] includes data on the links between substance use and health, and the use of alcohol and other drug treatment services by Indigenous Australia'.

It reveals that 'Smoking rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians remain high, but recent data show

that there has been some decline. In 2008, approximately half the Indigenous adults (49.9%) were current smokers—more than double the rate of non-Indigenous people who smoked'. In relation to alcohol consumption, 'Compared with non-Indigenous Australians, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians abstain from both alcohol use and binge drinking. The 2008 data show that...nearly three in ten (29%) Indigenous Australians did not drink in the last 12 months—almost double the rate of non-Indigenous Australians (15%)'. With regard to illicit substance use, 'About a quarter (23%) of Indigenous Australians had recently used an illicit substance while just over four in ten (43%) reported that they had used at least one illicit substance in their lifetime'.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare 2011, *Substance use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*, AIHW cat. no. IHW 40, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11503>.

Is it possible to establish and sustain alcohol screening and brief intervention approaches in healthcare facilities?

Author's abstract: '*Issues:* Alcohol screening and brief intervention approaches (SBI) are strongly supported by evidence, but few health-care facilities have successfully introduced and sustained routine SBI.

Approach: This paper describes the first 2 years of implementing SBI in an Australian rural general hospital. The SBI project aims were to universally screen presentations to Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW), to provide brief interventions to people screening at medium risk of harm from drinking and enhanced referral for persons screening at high risk.

Key findings: In 2007 and 2008, the NHW SBI project conducted 11,079 screens for alcohol use disorders using the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Screening Test screening tool. Eighty-five per cent of persons screened at low risk of alcohol-related problems, 11% at medium risk and 4% at high risk.

Implications: Policy and planning bodies and hospital management's support and the appointment of a dedicated project worker are critical to successful SBI implementation.

Conclusion: It is possible to establish a SBI service in a rural general hospital setting. The NHW SBI project broadened the focus from treatment of persons with severe dependency to detection, early intervention and prevention for the larger, more easily treated, cohort of persons drinking at hazardous/harmful but non-dependent levels. The challenge for any organisation is to maintain routine SBI deployment over the long term.

Fahy, P, Croton, G & Voogt, S 2011, 'Embedding routine alcohol screening and brief interventions in a rural general hospital', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 47-54.

Is there a link between cannabis use and psychotic illness?

Researchers analysed studies 'comparing the age at onset of psychosis in cohorts of patients who use substances with age at onset of psychosis in non-substance-using patients'. They found that 'the age at onset of psychosis for cannabis users was 2.70 years younger...than for nonusers; for those with broadly defined substance use, the age at onset of psychosis was 2.00 years younger...than for nonusers. Alcohol use was not associated with a significantly earlier age at onset of psychosis'. Their conclusion was that 'The results of meta-analysis provide evidence for a relationship between cannabis use and earlier onset of psychotic illness, and they support the hypothesis that cannabis use plays a causal role in the development of psychosis in some patients. The results suggest the need for renewed warnings about the potentially harmful effects of cannabis'.

Large, M, Sharma, S, Compton, MT, Slade, T & Nielssen, O 2011, 'Cannabis use and earlier onset of psychosis: a systematic meta-analysis', *Archives of General Psychiatry*, vol. Published online February 7, 2011: doi:10.1001/archgenpsychiatry.2011.5.

What is the cost to the community of cannabis use?

Author's abstract: 'This research...is part of a larger project estimating the costs and benefits related to cannabis policies. This monograph provides first time estimates of health care costs related to cannabis use in NSW. The research provides an estimate of overall health costs for one year (2006/07) of \$16.9 million AUD (range - \$16.4 to \$22.0 million). This expenditure is both State and Commonwealth and is comprised of 40.1% on direct cannabis treatment (including withdrawal management, counselling, hospital treatment, GP consultations and residential rehabilitation) and 59.9% on treating other cannabis related health consequences (road traffic accidents, low birth weight newborns and psychotic disorders/schizophrenia).

Data limitations meant that the research was challenging and many assumptions were necessary, but the monograph provides a valuable insight into the current health care burden of cannabis use and will be a useful tool for those conducting evaluations of cannabis treatment programs or for those engaged in drug policy research.'

Ngui, R & Shanahan, M 2010, *Cannabis use disorder treatment and associated health care costs in New South Wales, 2007*, Drug Policy Modelling Program Monograph Series no. 20, Drug Policy Modelling Program, Sydney, NSW, <http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/page/Monographs>.

What is the relative treatment effectiveness of methadone & buprenorphine maintenance?

This two-year UK study investigated the effectiveness of methadone versus buprenorphine maintenance treatment in practical, real-world treatment setting, and patients' beliefs about these drugs. 'A total of 361 opiate-dependent individuals...received rapid titration then flexible dosing with methadone or buprenorphine; 227 patients chose methadone (63%) and 134 buprenorphine (37%). Participants choosing methadone had more severe substance abuse and psychiatric and physical problems but were more likely to remain in treatment. Survival analysis [a statistical technique] indicated those prescribed methadone were over twice as likely to be retained...However, those retained on buprenorphine were more likely to suppress illicit opiate use...and achieve detoxification. Buprenorphine may also recruit more individuals to treatment because 28% of those choosing buprenorphine (10% of the total sample) stated they would not have accessed treatment with methadone.'

Pinto, H, Maskrey, V, Swift, L, Rumball, D, Wagle, A & Holland, R 2010, 'The SUMMIT trial: a field comparison of buprenorphine versus methadone maintenance treatment', *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, vol. 39, no. 4, pp. 340-52.

What data are available about prevention and treatment resources for substance use disorders world-wide?

The WHO Atlas on Substance Use which was launched in December 2010 'provides for the first time comparable global information on the availability of a range of resources required for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders by drawing together information from 147 countries that represent 88% of the world population'.

The Atlas covers levels of government funding, staffing, policies, legislation and information, measures that meet health

needs for people with substance use disorders, and gaps and challenges.

The key findings of the Atlas were summarised in the media release for the launch. 'Many more people suffer from alcohol use disorders compared to drug use disorders, and both types are more common in men than women. Alcohol causes the highest demand for treatment of substance use disorders in most WHO regions bar the Region of the Americas, where treatment demand is mainly for cocaine use disorders. Alcohol kills every year 35 people and illicit drugs kill four people per every 100,000 people. Two-thirds of countries have a government unit or official responsible for treating substance use disorders, and under 50% have a specific budget for treating such disorders. In Africa, out-of-pocket payments are the main funding method for treating alcohol and drug use disorders. Africa is also the only WHO region with the fewest countries with substance abuse policies.

World Health Organization 2010, *Atlas on substance use (2010): resources for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders*, WHO, http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/publications/Media/en/index.html.

Closing the Gap Publications

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

The AIHW has recently released new reports relating to 'Closing the Gap' issues; including: *Anti-Tobacco Programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*; *Reducing alcohol and other drug related harm*; *Teacher and School Leader Quality and Sustainability*; and *Closing the School Completion Gap for Indigenous Students*. Visit <http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/publications/index.cfm> for more information.

Measuring the effectiveness of drug law enforcement

Australian Institute of Criminology

This paper discusses the outlines the challenges of measuring the impacts of drug law enforcement, not only in terms of how much work they do (the seizures and arrests) but how well they do it (the community impacts). The paper summarises the findings from a national project that sought to test the feasibility of a model performance measurement framework for Australian Drug Law Enforcement agencies and to provide advice on its national implementation. Visit <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi406.aspx> to view the full paper.

Media

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

Minister Thanks Outgoing Corrections Director

31 January 2011

Simon Corbell, MLA

Attorney General, Simon Corbell has today thanked outgoing Executive Director of ACT Corrective Services, James Ryan who is moving on after 14 years with the ACT Public Service.

"The Territory has benefited from the depth of knowledge that Mr Ryan has brought to this position as well as the advice and leadership he has shown in his areas of responsibility since 1997," Mr Corbell said....

Barry Folpp will act in the position of Executive Director ACT Corrective Services pending completion of longer-term recruitment to the position.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10408> to view the full media release.

Porter Opens \$3.3 Million Community Hub

4 February 2011

Mary Porter, MLA

Today, Ms Mary Porter MLA, Member for Ginninderra, officially opened a \$3.3 million facility in Holt that will accommodate six community organisations. "The Holt Community Hub and Neighbourhood Hall provides co-location opportunities for complementary organisations, with a focus on mixed community and health based services," Ms Porter said. "The Holt facility is the second of four Regional Community Hubs to be completed."...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10432> to view the full media release.

Progress on Indigenous health equality planning and partnership welcomed

9 February 2011

Close the Gap Campaign, Oxfam Australia

Prime Minister Julia Gillard's announcement that she will work with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples was welcomed by the Close the Gap Campaign today.

Close the Gap Campaign Co-Chair Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda also welcomed Minister Warren Snowdon and Minister Nicola Roxon's agreement to begin developing a long term national plan to close the gap in Indigenous life expectancy by 2030....

Mr Gooda said the Prime Minister's recognition of the importance of working with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and the Close the Gap Steering Committee was a vital step to achieving Indigenous health equality within a generation.....

Visit <http://www.oxfam.org.au/media/releases/campaigns-and-advocacy?p=3881> to view the full media release.

Bail reforms to help address supreme court backlog

15 February 2011

Simon Corbell, MLA

The first of several Government reforms to the ACT justice system to free up Supreme Court resources passed through the Legislative Assembly today, Attorney General, Simon Corbell announced.

"Those applying for bail can now apply twice in the Magistrates Court without having to establish a change in circumstances," Mr Corbell said.

"Also in most cases, accused people must use their two applications for bail and make a first application to review a bail decision in the Magistrates Court before being able to apply to the Supreme Court for bail

"The Government has announced a suite of reforms to address the backlog in the Supreme Court, and this is the first of several legislative proposals."....

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10465&m=53> to view the full media release.

Hawke review calls for ACT public service to become single department, to better serve our city-state

15 February 2011

Jon Stanhope, MLA

A major independent review of the ACT Public Service has recommended it be restructured as a single department, to

reflect the city-state nature of the ACT and to allow for greater coordination between areas of the bureaucracy. A number of "Directorates" would sit within the single department, but all would ultimately report to a single Chief Executive. The single department would allow the public service to better reflect whole-of-government priorities and work as a single agency....

The Hawke review can be found in full at <http://www.actpsreview.act.gov.au/home>.
Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10466> to view the full media release.

Members sought for preventive health advisory council

16 February 2011

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

Individuals with expertise in preventive health are invited to express their interest in joining a new national advisory council to tackle chronic disease.

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon today encouraged those with preventive health expertise to register their interest in joining the Advisory Council of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency....

The agency, which began on 1 January of this year, is an independent statutory authority created to lead the fight against preventable diseases through preventive health initiatives targeting obesity, along with alcohol, tobacco and other substance abuse....

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr020.htm> to view the full media release.

Chief minister opens mental health conference

17 February 2011

Jon Stanhope, MLA

The ACT Government has overseen an increase in mental health funding of almost 200% since it came to power, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope told the opening of the inaugural Mental Health Community Coalition ACT Conference today.

"The ACT Government understands implicitly the importance of addressing mental health issues which is why since we came into Government we have increased funding for this sector by almost 200% to \$81.3 million," Mr Stanhope said.

The Mental Health Community Coalition ACT was founded in 2004 and is the peak body representing the not-for-profit community mental health sector in the Territory. The ACT Government is the coalition's main funder.

The conference is looking at the best ways to develop and strengthen partnerships within the mental health sector, an aim which Mr Stanhope said the Government fully supported....

"The ACT Government appreciates the work carried out by the mental health sector both by the Government clinical services areas and by the not-for-profit mental health sector," Mr Stanhope said.

"Their consistent striving to better the mental health sector and commitment to work in partnership to achieve the best outcomes for mental health consumers and their carers is what puts the ACT at the front in mental health care."

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10473> to view the full media release.

ACOSS applauds Government restoration of national rental affordability scheme

17 February 2011

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The Australian Council of Social Service today hailed the Federal Government's decision to reverse its planned wind back of the crucial National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS).

"We had described the proposed cuts as ill-considered, short-sighted, and a grave setback for tens of thousands of people who desperately need affordable housing. In contrast, today's decision is sensible, considered, and must be applauded," said ACOSS CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie.

"This will provide a big boost in confidence to housing groups and the industry for an important program designed to increase private investment in low-rent housing at a time of growing affordable housing stress."....

Visit

http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/ACOSS_applauds_Government_restoration_of_National_Rental_Affordability_Scheme to view the full media release.

Review of Corrective Services Governance

Simon Corbell, MLA

23 February 2011

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, today announced Mr Keith Hamburger AM, has been commissioned to undertake a review of the governance and accountability procedures in ACT Corrective Services. Mr Hamburger's review will compliment the work he is finalising in relation to his one year review of operation at the AMC," Mr Corbell said. "I have requested this review following advice to me from Corrective Services that they have not adhered to stated policy and procedures in relation to drug testing of prisoners on admission to the AMC.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10488> to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

ACT Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers

Mental Health ACT, ACT Health

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA has released for public comment the draft ACT Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers as an important step towards publically recognising the rights of those affected by mental illness. The ACT Charter of Rights for Mental Health Consumers is a Statement of Rights intended to enhance the quality of services and promote a rights based approach to mental health service delivery. It is also a guide for mental health consumers, their family and carers and service providers.

Visit <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10010771&pid=1297056555> for more information or contact Therese Foster on (02) 6205 1178.

The consultation period closes **Tuesday 22 March 2011**.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

The ACT Healthy Young People Survey

LeeJenn Health Consultants

ACT Health are reviewing health services for young people aged 12 - 25 years in the ACT, and have employed LeeJenn Health Consultants to undertake this task. This 5 - 10 minute survey is for young people aged 12 - 25 years, and seeks

to obtain information on the health issues that are important to young people.
Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com.au/s/acthealthyyoungpeople> for more information.
A survey has also been developed for parents or carers of young people aged 12 - 25 years, living in the ACT.
Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com.au/s/acthealthyyoungpeopleparentsurvey> for more information.
A survey has also been developed to seek the views of service providers, organisations and other stakeholders working with young people.
Visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com.au/s/HealthyYPOnlinefeedback> for more information.

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

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

Call for Contributions: Calendar of Events

Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition of the ACT is current compiling a calendar of events to advertise activities, events, performances, sporting functions, forums, exhibitions, expos, projects and more that will be occurring during National Youth Week 2011 in the ACT. To submit an event to the Calendar, visit <http://www.youthcoalition.net/projects-partnerships/national-youth-week.html> for more information.

Submissions to the Calendar close **Thursday 17 March 2011**.

Key Events

The following key events are occurring during Youth Week 2011:

Annual Youth Week Expo

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

Date: Friday 1 April 2011

Time: 2pm – 7pm

Venue: Garema Place

RSVP: Expressions of interest to host a stall must be submitted by **Tuesday 1 March 2011**.

Expo at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre: Tuesday 5 April 2011

This annual expo provides an opportunity for youth services to visit and engage with young people and workers within Bimberi.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day: Wednesday 6 April 2011

This year, Youth Homelessness Matters Day will be held at the National Gallery of Australia (NGA). The NGA will be working with young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to develop artworks, that will be on display.

Youth InterACT Conference: Friday 8 April 2011

This annual conference is held by the ACT Government for young people aged 12 - 25 years in the ACT, at the Ainslie Arts Centre.

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

Employment Opportunities

Expression of interest - Executive Member on the ATODA Board Position: Treasurer (Voluntary Position)

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

Expressions of interest are sought from professional representatives with accountancy qualifications from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc (ATODA) membership to take up the position of Treasurer on the ATODA Board. Please [click here](#) for further information about the position and [here](#) for further information about the ATODA Board. Expressions of interest can be emailed to Carrie Fowlie, Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or further information can be obtained by telephoning (02) 6255 4070.

The closing date for expressions of interest is **Friday 4 March 2011**.

Researchers / Research Assistants / Consultants – Casual Pool

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

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

Grants and Funding Opportunities

ACT Women's Grants Program 2010 - 2011

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

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

Two funding streams are available: Capacity Building Projects provide up to \$5,000 to strengthen the capacity and

effectiveness of community organisations. Special Projects provides up to \$25,000 to advance the objectives and priorities of the ACT Women's Plan, by contributing to public policy, service development, or the research base on gender equality.

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

Applications close **Monday 7 March 2011**.

2011/12 Health Promotion Sponsorship Funding Round

ACT Health

This sponsorship funding is for organisations to create and promote healthy environments through addressing key priority health areas including; physical activity, healthy eating, smoking reduction and water as the drink of choice. There are three levels of sponsorship funding available including a: \$30,000 Sponsorship, \$20,000 Sponsorship and \$10,000 Sponsorship.

Visit <http://acthealth.smartgrants.com.au/sponsorship> for more information or contact the ACT Health promotion Grants program on (02) 6205 1325 or hpgrants@act.gov.au.

Applications close **Monday 4 April 2011**.

2011/12 Workplace Health Promotion Capacity Building Funding Round

ACT Health

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

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

Applications close **Monday 4 April 2011**.

Scholarships for Not for Profits

Australian Scholarship Foundation (ASF)

The ASF is dedicated to providing scholarships to enable managers and financial officers of charitable organizations to enhance and improve their skills in managing their organizations. The ASF has over \$1 million of scholarships from major universities and private education providers across Australia, available for Not for Profit employees. The scholarships available may fill a gap identified by ACT ATOD Workers in accessing management level training.

Download a [Summary of the Scholarships](#).

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

Our Wellness Foundation Grants

Our Wellness Foundation

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

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

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

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

Become a member of ATODA

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

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

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