

From: "Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT" <info@atoda.org.au>  
Subject: **ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: May 2011**  
Date: 5 May 2011 10:08:03 AM AEST  
To: ben@atoda.org.au  
Reply-To: info@atoda.org.au

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

#### **Sector Consultative Workshop Series**

This workshop series aims to provide an opportunity for the ACT ATOD sector to collaboratively engage with further developing and implementing some priority sector issues. Findings from the workshop will be feed into key sector advisory and governance structures including the ACT ATOD Strategy Evaluation Group; the ACT ATOD Executive Directors and Workers Groups; the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT. The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (a national centre of AOD excellence) will facilitate parts of the workshop series.

**Date:** Friday 6 May 2011

**Time:** 8:45am - 4:30pm (individual session times are outlined below and in the attachment)

1. **9am - 10:45am** | Workshop 1: Progressing the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy
2. **11:15am - 1:15pm** | Workshop 2: Developing the ACT ATOD Workforce Development Strategy
3. **2pm - 4:30pm** | Progressing Priorities within the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 - 2014

**Venue:** Training Room 1, 1 Moore Street, Canberra City (ACT Health Building).

**Food:** Morning Tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

**RSVP:** Essential by **Thursday 28 April**, to [office@atoda.org.au](mailto:office@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070. Individuals must RSVP for each workshop individually.

Download the [Flyer](#) for further information about the consultative workshop series.

#### **Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: April 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: April 2011](#) or contact Steve on [tobacco@atoda.org.au](mailto:tobacco@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

#### **Workplace Tobacco Management Survey - still open!**

The first follow up survey for the project commenced in March and is still open as we require more people to complete it. Data is collected using an online survey which is completed both by individuals and organisations participating in the Project. Please note, these surveys are only for individuals from agencies participating in the Project, being: Ted Noffs Foundation ACT, WIREDD, Karralika Inc, STEPS, The Rainbow and PHaMS, Youth Coalition of the ACT, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, and ATODA.

**A) Workplace Tobacco Management Survey for individuals:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8J68LBT>

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

[Updates on Peak activities.](#)

#### [ACT Budget 2011/2012](#)

Information about the ACT Budget 2011/2012 and the community sector response to it.

#### [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.

#### [Needle and Syringe Program in Prison](#)

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

This survey is for all staff: smokers, non-smokers and ex-smokers, and you can complete it even if you didn't fill in the first survey 3 month ago. If people have any trouble remembering their participation ID please contact Steve at ATODA ([steve@atoda.org.au](mailto:steve@atoda.org.au) or 6255 4070) for assistance.

**B) Survey for organisations:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZNZQJ5M>

This survey needs to be completed by the pilot site key contact on behalf of the organisation.

For more news from ATODA see the following items:

- Training and Assessment in the [ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section.
- ACT Budget 2011/2012 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.
- April - May 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 in the [4th Annual ATOD Sector Conference](#) section.
- World No Tobacco Day 2011 in the [Tobacco: Developments](#) section.

**ATODA's contact details are:**

email: [info@atoda.org.au](mailto:info@atoda.org.au)  
post: PO BOX 7187, Watson ACT 2602  
visit: 350 Antill St., Watson ACT  
phone: (02) 6255 4070  
web: [www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au)

## ACT Budget 2011 / 2012

### About the 2011 – 2012 ACT Budget and the process

The 2011-12 ACT Budget was released on Tuesday 3 May 2011 by Katy Gallagher MLA, Treasurer of the Australian Capital Territory.

The annual Budget is the Government's key policy statement and financial plan for the upcoming financial year and forward estimates period for the Territory and its agencies. To find out more about the Budget and its processes see *Readers Guide to the Budget* available from: [www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget\\_2011/html/guide.htm](http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2011/html/guide.htm)

All ACT Government Budget media releases can be accessed from [www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget\\_2011/html/press.htm](http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2011/html/press.htm)

### ATODA Budget Analysis

ATODA acknowledges the challenging budgetary constraints experienced by the ACT Government and that the limited resources the ACT community has to spend must be spent wisely. ATODA acknowledges that much of the 'drug budget' is hidden within large and complex areas of the budget such as hospitals, policing and justice.

ATODA strongly supports the ACT Government's commitment to evidence based drug policies, as stated in the *ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014*. This is why ATODA is disappointed that the major ATOD initiative funded through the Budget (implementing a roadside drug driving testing program at over \$4 million over 4 years across Health and Justice Directorates) is not an evidence based initiative. Whereas, there are a myriad of evidence and needs based ATOD programs that could have been funded with this recurrent investment.

ATODA is also concerned that following the Burnet review funding has not been allocated to implement health reforms (including ATOD reforms) in the Alexander Maconochie Centre, despite funding being allocated to implement other justice reform measures including the Knowledge Consulting and the Bimberi reviews. ATODA acknowledges that the ACT Government's final response to the Burnet report is not due until approximately late June; however, not allocating resources to progress these urgent issues come 1 July 2011 represents a significant and missed opportunity.

ATODA acknowledges the announcement of a 3.4% community sector funding indexation rate, which is important to ensure non-government ATOD services are viable and sustainable within the context of ever increasing costs.

Download the full [ATODA Budget Analysis](#).

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

### ATODA Media Releases

#### ACT Budget Misses Opportunities: \$4 million for what?

4 May 2011

ATODA

...“ATODA acknowledges the challenging budgetary constraints of the ACT Government and therefore the limited resources the ACT community has to spend must be spent wisely,” said Carrie Fowle, Executive Officer.

“ATODA strongly supports the ACT Government's commitment to evidence based drug policies, as stated in the *ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014*.”

“This is why ATODA is disappointed that the major ATOD initiative funded through the Budget, to implement a roadside drug driving testing program at over \$4 million over 4 years, doesn't have the evidence base to warrant the investment.”...

Download the [full media release](#).

### ATODA Budget submission

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

1. Reducing and preventing opioid overdose-related harms through increasing access to naloxone;
2. Preventing and reducing the transmission and infection of blood-borne viruses (e.g. HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and B) through conducting a needle and syringe program trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre;

### [Australian National Council on Drugs \(ANCD\) New Membership Announced](#)

Information and media relating to the announcement of the ANCD Membership.

### [National Improved Services Initiative](#)

Information relating to the National Improved Services Initiative.

### [Health Reform Update](#)

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

### [Tobacco: Developments](#)

Information about developments in the sector related to tobacco.

### [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.

### [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 affecting the ATOD sector.

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

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

3. Supporting a viable ATOD sector and workforce by implementing the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*;
4. Supporting quality improvement in healthcare through consumer participation;
5. Reducing tobacco-related harms through promoting healthy workplaces; and
6. Improving our support for people experiencing comorbid ATOD and mental health issues through implementing key actions within the ACT Comorbidity Strategy.

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

## ACTCOSS Budget Response

### Budget Snapshot

The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) has prepared a Budget Snapshot that provides a summary paper outlining selected Budget initiatives for the community sector. Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/index.html> to view the budget snapshot.

### Modest or Shy?

3 May 2011

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The ACT Government's Budget for 2011-12 has been described as modest, however the community sector is concerned that the Government has been too shy with its support for the community sector and Canberra's most vulnerable.

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/publications/mediareleases/2011/MR1103.pdf> to view the full media release.

### The correcting of Corrections...?

4 May 2011

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The ACT Government's Budget for 2011-12 goes some way to addressing the concerns around the delivery of correctional services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, but questions remain about early intervention and community support...

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/publications/mediareleases/2011/MR1104.pdf> to view the full media release.

Visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/index.html> for more information or contact Roslyn Dundas on (02) 6202 7200.

## Youth Coalition of the ACT Budget Response

The Youth Coalition of the ACT has released its ACT Budget 2011-2012 Analysis. The analysis is divided into three parts including:

- Part 1: Overview and Media Releases
- Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives
- Part 3: Capital Initiatives

Visit <http://www.youthcoalition.net/> to view the budget analysis or contact Emma Robertson on (02) 6247 3540 for more information.

## Mental Health Community Coalition ACT Budget Response

### Mental Health focus remains on crisis care, not early intervention

3 May 2011

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

Community mental health sector peak body, the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT) was pleased with the ACT Government's continued commitment to increasing funding for mental health services and the 50/50 split of growth funding between the community and public mental health systems...

Visit

[http://www.mhccact.org.au/cms/media/user\\_uploads/media\\_releases/MHCC%20ACT%20Budget%202011%20Media%20Release.pdf](http://www.mhccact.org.au/cms/media/user_uploads/media_releases/MHCC%20ACT%20Budget%202011%20Media%20Release.pdf) to view the full media release.

Visit <http://www.mhccact.org.au/cms/index.php> for more information or contact Brooke McKail on (02) 6249 7756.

## 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.

### Workshop: Progressing the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy

ACT Health funded ATOD services are invited to participate in a discussion of the current MQS policy, which came into effect on 1 July 2010, and to develop strategies to further strengthen it. Senior staff of the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) will facilitate the discussion on 6 May 2011. See the [News from ATODA](#) section for further information.

### 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:

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

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

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

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

## 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's position

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

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

### Consultation: Revised Draft Risk Assessment Guidelines

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

DHCS is seeking feedback from participants on the draft Guidelines, including any particular case studies that you may wish to provide as a component of the response.

If you would like to provide comment on the Guidelines, please provide these in writing to [workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au](mailto:workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au) preferably by **6 May 2011**.

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

### About the WWVPCS

For further information about the proposed system:

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

## Expanding Naloxone availability in the ACT

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

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

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

The Committee held its third meeting on 19 April 2011, this time with a focus on the clinical aspects of a naloxone program. The purpose of the Committee is to provide expert guidance and support to key stakeholders to develop a program to expand naloxone availability in the ACT. For more information please contact Carrie Fowle on (02) 6255 4070 or [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au).

### Stopping overdose, peer-based distribution of Naloxone

*Open Society Foundations*

This public health fact sheet provides information on the role that naloxone has and can play in overdose resuscitation. Topics covered include the risk of overdose for drug users, naloxone as an opioid overdose antidote, examples of effective naloxone administration training programs, the correlation between naloxone distribution and reduced mortality and the role naloxone can play as a bridge to other services and increased self-efficacy.

Download the [Public Health](#) factsheet.

## Drug Policies, Services and Programs in Prison

Significant developments have occurred in April regarding drug policies, services and programs in the ACT's prison, the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

### What does the Knowledge Consulting report say about drugs and drug services at the AMC?

On 5 April the ACT Government released the report of the independent review of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) conducted by a team led by Keith Hamburger AM. The review covered almost all areas of the operations of the prison, is 331 pages long (plus appendices), and includes hundreds of findings and recommendations. Some of these cover substance abuse issues at the prison, including 'drugs of addiction' and 'hepatitis C treatment'. It supports the idea of an NSP trial in the prison (pp. 162-6) but cautions that significant barriers exist to its implementation. The ACT Government has responded to one of its findings by commissioning the Public Health Association of Australia (Michael Moore, CEO) to consult widely and propose a model for an NSP trial that will be acceptable to key stakeholders.

The ACT Government stated in its media release that 'The [Hamburger] report identifies a number of areas that are performing well in the AMC, but also identifies a range of areas where there are issues where improvements are needed'. One of the Report's recommendations is 'That ACT Corrective Services and AMC management review all elements of AMC's illicit drug policies and procedures having regard to the elements of an effective drug strategy as outlined in this Report' (p. 283).

Knowledge Consulting 2011, *Independent review of operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, ACT Corrective Services*, [www.justice.act.gov.au/publication/view/1438](http://www.justice.act.gov.au/publication/view/1438). Large file warning: 3 MB.

### What has the Burnet review said about the ATOD problems and services at the AMC?

The report of the external review of drug problems and services at the AMC, conducted by researchers from the Burnet Institute's Centre for Population Health, has been released, along with the ACT Government's Interim Responses. The 197 page review is comprehensive, and provides valuable details relating to most aspects of drugs, drug-related harms, and drug services in the prison. The ACT Government has accepted some of its recommendations and is investigating others. The report recommends (among other things) that 'A consolidated strategic and policy framework should be developed specifically for the AMC to provide consistent, coordinated and clear governance and service provision guidance regarding drug-related policy and services'.

As with the Knowledge Consulting review, the report deals with drug use in the prison and the NSP trial proposal (pp. 145-9). It found that there is 'Broad support to explore various models of NSP implementation and operation'.

Stoove, M & Kirwan, A 2011, *External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre*, Burnet Institute, Melbourne, [www.health.act.gov.au/publications/reports/burnet-institute-report](http://www.health.act.gov.au/publications/reports/burnet-institute-report).

### **ATODA Comments on ACT Government's Interim Response to the Burnet Report**

ATODA has been liaising with stakeholders to provide comments to the ACT Government on its interim response to the Burnet Report. For further information please contact Carrie Fowlie, ATODA, [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au) or Kathryn Sequoia, ACT Health, on [kathryn.sequoia@act.gov.au](mailto:kathryn.sequoia@act.gov.au) or (02) 6205 0863 by **Monday 16 May 2011**

### **Workshop: Programs & Services for those detained in AMC**

#### **Assessing the needs and matching AOD treatment and support services**

ATODA, ACT Health & ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety

The purpose of this workshop is 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. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 25 May 2011. For further information please contact Carrie Fowlie, ATODA, [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au) or Kathryn Sequoia, ACT Health, on [kathryn.sequoia@act.gov.au](mailto:kathryn.sequoia@act.gov.au) or (02) 6205 0863 by **Monday 16 May 2011**

### **Claims of drug racket in ACT jail**

2 April 2011

*Canberra Times*

Some guards at the territory's jail are mixed up in drug-running rackets, bypassing the prison's security systems to supply narcotics to inmates, according to a secret ACT Government report.

The report describes an environment at the Alexander Maconochie Centre where an array of illegal narcotics is easy for inmates to obtain and where some prison officers are smuggling illegal drugs and supplying them to dealers among the prisoner population...

The report states that nearly half of respondents to a survey on the availability of drugs at the AMC said they were "easy" or "very easy" to obtain, with amphetamines and marijuana the substances most often cited...

Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/claims-of-drug-racket-in-act-jail/2121979.aspx?storypage=0> to view the full article.

### **Claims methadone 'pushed' at jail**

2 April 2011

*Canberra Times*

Health authorities at Canberra's jail are "pushing" methadone on to prisoners who do not want or need the drug, a government report says.

And the authors of the report say the approach to testing the territory's prisoners for blood-borne diseases is problematic. Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/claims-methadone-pushed-at-jail/2122625.aspx?storypage=0> to view the full article.

### **Government tables AMC review reports**

5 April 2011

*Simon Corbell MLA (Media Release)*

A forensic review of the first 12 months of operations of the ACT's prison, the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), has concluded that the AMC compares favourably with other prisons in terms of serious incidents during the post commissioning period, Attorney General, Simon Corbell, announced today.

ACT Attorney General Simon Corbell today tabled two reports into operations at the AMC. The first provides a comprehensive independent review of operations at the AMC covering the 12 month period of 1 June 2009 to 31 May 2010, while the second report covers governance matters relating to advice provided to Government on the drug testing of detainees on admission to the AMC...

"To tackle these issues today I am announcing the formation of a taskforce, to be led by the new Executive Director of ACT Corrective Services, to advise the Government on an appropriate response to the report and then oversee implementation of the Government's response..."

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10611&m=53> to view the full media release.

### **Prison falls well short of lofty aims**

5 April 2011

*Canberra Times*

...Maconochie's is a tough act to follow...Even before the damning findings of the Burnet Institute's evaluation were issued this week, we had learned that officers had failed to screen most inmates for drugs, and that at least one prisoner had been infected with hepatitis C while in jail. However, the institute alleges even worse failings: ineffective drug testing, staff connivance in drug trafficking, limited training and counselling services, and a lack of mental-health care...

Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/editorial/general/prison-falls-well-short-of-lofty-aims/2123918.aspx?storypage=0> to view the editorial.

### **Prisoners at risk over methadone administration: report**

6 April 2011

*Canberra Times*

The Alexander Maconochie Centre is placing prisoners at high risk of injury or death by failing to safely administer methadone, an independent review of the prison has found...

Download the [full article](#).

### **ACT Government marks World Health Day: By demonstrating evidence-based drug policy**

7 April 2011

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

...ATODA commends the ACT Government for the commissioning and public release of the *External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre* report by the Burnet Institute," said Executive Officer, Ms Carrie Fowlie...

"ATODA welcomes the ACT Government's preliminary response to the report and looks forward to working with the ACT Government and other stakeholders to contribute to the final response..."

"The ACT Government's commitment to establish a consolidated strategic policy framework to provide clear governance for drug related policy and services in the prison is essential."

"ATODA was a member of the Evaluation Advisory Group, which provided advice to the independent evaluators. The openness and inclusiveness of this group, co-chaired by ACT Health and the Department of Justice and Community Safety, was commendable and represents the partnership approach required to continue for change."

"Today being World Health Day, it is timely for us to remember that prisoners are members of our families and our community. Their health and wellbeing is everyone's health and wellbeing."

Download the [full media release](#).

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

A Needle Syringe Program in the AMC continues to be a matter of discussion amongst stakeholders across the ACT, particularly with the release this month of the Burnet and Knowledge Consulting Reports.

### Notable Australians Support a Trial NSP in Prisons

The Hon. Bill Hayden AC and Mrs Janet Holmes a Court AC have added their names to the list of notable Australians who have lent their support for a trial NSP in prisons, including:

- Dr Sepehr Shakib, Director, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Royal Adelaide Hospital
- Professor Cindy Shannon, Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland
- Air Vice-Marshal Bruce Short AM, former Australian Defence Force Surgeon General.
- Emeritus Professor Richard Smallwood AO, University of Melbourne
- Professor Robert Stable, Vice Chancellor and President, Bond University
- Professor Carla Treloar, Deputy Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, University of New South Wales
- Associate Professor Janelle Stirling, Aboriginal Health, University of Sydney
- Professor Mark von Itzstein, Director, Institute of Glycomics
- Emeritus Professor Ian W Webster, University of New South Wales
- Professor Jason White, Head, School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Division of Health Sciences, University of South Australia
- Dr Alex Wodak, Director, Alcohol and Drug Services, St Vincents Hospital
- Dr Helen Watchirs OAM, ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner
- Dr Marion Woods, Senior Specialist Infectious Diseases and Director of Advanced Training RACP, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- The Hon. Bill Hayden AC, Governor General of Australia 1989-1996
- Mrs Janet Holmes a Court AC, Australian business woman

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

### Prison Issues Update - March 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@anecd.org.au](mailto:adam@anecd.org.au).

### Legislative and Policy Barriers to Needle & Syringe Programs and Injecting Equipment Access for People Who Inject Drugs

*The Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)*

AIVL developed a position paper released in the second half of 2010 which provided 'a national overview of the legislative and policy barriers which currently restrict access to Needle & Syringe Programs (NSPs)'. The paper makes recommendations for addressing barriers including 'All States and Territories implement NSP in prison in line with available evidence and as part of a comprehensive approach to BBV prevention and harm reduction among prisoners'.

Visit [www.aivl.org.au/files/29057-AIVL-book-text\\_FA.pdf](http://www.aivl.org.au/files/29057-AIVL-book-text_FA.pdf) to view the paper.

### Politicians to exchange sharp words over jail program

*5 April 2011*

*Canberra Times*

The political battle over a needle exchange program at the territory's jail will erupt again today after a government report called for a trial of the scheme.

The recommendation by the Burnet Institute of Melbourne will put pressure on the Government to make a decision on the vexed question of needles at the Alexander Maconochie Centre with the Canberra Liberals calling for zero tolerance...

Health Minister Katy Gallagher said yesterday that introducing a scheme in the short term would lead to a revolt by guards at the jail who had opposed any move towards a needle and syringe program...

But she said the Government remained positive on the idea of such a program and that the issue would not go away.

Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/politicians-to-exchange-sharp-words-over-jail-program/2123893.aspx?storypage=0> to view the full article.

### Burnet Report tabled: more work to be done

*7 April 2011*

*Katy Gallagher MLA (Media Release)*

The Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, has today tabled an independent report into evaluation of drug policies and services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, accompanied by the ACT Government's interim response to the report in the ACT Legislative Assembly...

The Burnet report makes 69 separate recommendations. In its interim response which is provided to Members of the Assembly today, the Government has agreed to 10 of the recommendations; agreed in part to 1 recommendation; agreed in principle to 27 of the recommendations; and noted 31 recommendations. There are no recommendations which the Government has rejected outright.

As part of its interim response, the Government has agreed to undertake further work on trialling a needle and syringe program (NSP) at the AMC. This will include looking at potential models, how they work within the prison setting, barriers to implementation and how to overcome them.

"I have asked former MLA and ACT Health Minister Mr Michael Moore, currently CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), to undertake this next stage of work," Ms Gallagher announced...

The Government will now undertake consultation on the interim response and aims to table its final response to the Burnet Report by 30 June 2011...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10614&m=52> to view the full media release.

### Needle trial support

*12 April 2011*

*The Canberra Chronicle*

The ACT Government has agreed to undertake work on trialling a needle and syringe program inside the Alexander Maconochie Centre. This was one of the recommendations put forward by the Burnet Institute in its report of the drug policies and services inside the prison...

Download the [full article](#).

### Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) New Membership Announced

#### Prime Minister, The Hon Julia Gillard's Message

"Tackling drug and alcohol abuse is an enduring challenge that requires a concerted and ongoing effort by all stakeholders involved. The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD), as the Government's principal advisory body, is in the unique position of working with the Australian Government and in cooperation with law enforcement, the health and social welfare sectors and the community sector to identify and address the complex challenges of licit and illicit drug use." To read more visit <http://www.anecd.org.au/about-anecd/the-prime-minister-hon-julia-gillards-message.html>

**Australian National Council on Drugs**

15 April 2011

*Prime Minister (Media Release)*

"The Federal Government today announced the new membership of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD). Prime Minister Julia Gillard welcomed the addition of several new members to the ANCD who will bring fresh perspectives on ways to reduce harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse.

They will join a number of experienced members of the ANCD - which will continue to be chaired by Dr John Herron.

The ANCD has played a crucial role as the Australian Government's principal advisory body on drug and alcohol misuse since its establishment in 1998.

Members of the ANCD come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have experience in areas covering law enforcement, the health and social welfare sectors and the community sector.

The ANCD brings a broad, whole-of-society perspective to drug and alcohol issues.

It has helped inform the development of several Government strategies and campaigns which have succeeded in reducing the rate of drug and alcohol misuse.

The Prime Minister said ANCD members, past and present, have made a valuable contribution in tackling the issues behind drug and alcohol misuse.

The Council's membership will next be reviewed in 2014."

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/australian-national-council-drugs>

#### **About the ANCD and the new members**

For information about the purpose, membership and the previous work of the ANCD visit their website

<http://www.ancd.org.au/about-ancd/the-prime-ministers-2011-announcement.html>

#### **ATODA's Executive Officer new member of ANCD**

16 April 2011

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (Media Release)*

"ATODA would like to congratulate the individuals who have been appointed by the Prime Minister Julia Gillard to the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)," said President, Ms Anne Kirwan.

"We are thrilled that Carrie Fowle, ATODA's Executive Officer, has been appointed as one of those members."

"Carrie's appointment can only strengthen the ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector and ATODA, both of which seek to prevent and reduce drug related harms in the Canberra community."

Click here to read the **full media release**.



### **National Improved Services Initiative**

#### **Release of National Improved Services Initiative (ISI) Forum Outcomes Report: Thank you to all ACT ATOD services involved!**

Following the successful National ISI Forum in October 2010, a report regarding the outcomes of the Forum has now been released. The report was commissioned and supported by the ACT ATOD State and Territory Peaks (or equivalent) including ATODA.

This report seeks to include information on two main areas:

- The forum itself, and participants feedback; and
- The Improved Services Initiative and reflections from participants (including recommendations for consideration by DoHA and other key stakeholders).

The report will now help guide the work of ATODA in engaging in conversations regarding the future of the Initiative. Thank you to the ACT services that participated in the forum and contributed to this important report.

The ACT ATOD Sector includes five agencies that are recipients of the ISI funding, who receive coordinated support from ATODA, including:

- Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
- CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- DIRECTIONS ACT
- Ted Noffs Foundation ACT

For more information on the Initiative, the report or ACT activities please contact Amanda Bode, ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or [amanda@atoda.org.au](mailto:amanda@atoda.org.au).



### **Health Reform Update**

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

*Australian Government*

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

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

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

As health reform progresses, there remains a lack of clarity regarding how ATOD 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).

#### **Enhancing Health of the ACT as a Medicare Local**

*ACT Division of General Practice (ACTDGP)*

The ACT Division of General Practice has today submitted its application to become the ACT Medicare Local, under the Commonwealth Government's national health reform agenda. ACTDGP is confident the establishment of an ACT Medicare Local will enhance primary healthcare in the ACT, through:

- The facilitation of allied health care and other support for people with chronic conditions. Working closely with local health

care professionals to ensure services are integrated so patients can easily access the services they need. Working to ensure the availability of after hours services in the ACT.

- Identifying groups of people missing out on GP and primary health care or services that a local area needs, and respond to those gaps by better targeting services. Working with Local Hospital Networks to assist with the transition of patients out of hospital and, if required, into aged care.
- Delivering health promotion and preventive health programs to communities with identified risk factors.

ACTDGP President Dr Rashmi Sharma said the application is a significant step forward in unifying primary health care in the ACT, and looks forward to bridging service gaps experienced by our patients.

"The main goal of the ACT Medicare Local is to bring together primary health care professionals and organisations to deliver quality services to the ACT population," Dr Sharma said.

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

#### **e-Health Records Blueprint released as National Health Reform continues to deliver**

12 April 2011

*The Hon Nicola Roxon, Minister for Health and Ageing (Media Release)*

A national blueprint for the development of e-health records ready for their 1 July 2012 launch, helping Australians to better manage their own healthcare, has been released today. Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said the release of the blueprint was a major step forward for national health reform and the development of personally controlled electronic health records (PCEHR).

"E-health is one of the critical elements of the Gillard Government's efforts to modernise our health system through national health reform," Minister Roxon said.

"E-health records will drive safer, more efficient and better quality healthcare for Australians.

"Patients will no longer have to remember every immunisation, every medical test, every prescription as they move from doctor to doctor.

"This national blueprint, and the consultation and development that will follow, will help to develop e-health records for all Australians who want one from 1 July 2012."

To view the full media release visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr066.htm>.

#### **More Patients to Benefit From New GP Facilities**

16 April 2011

*The Hon Catherine King MP (Media Release)*

Many more patients around Australia can expect a boost in the services provided by their local GP practice thanks to a new round of primary care infrastructure grants that open for application this weekend...

"These grants will help local doctors to expand the services they offer to their communities.

"About 200 grants will be available through this \$52.5 million grant round and I encourage GPs from around the country to apply." The primary care infrastructure grants are part of the Government's 2010-11 Budget commitment of \$370.2 million over three years to improve primary health care infrastructure. The commitment includes up to \$233 million for additional GP Super Clinics.

To view the full media release visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ck-ck012.htm>.

#### **ACT doctors apply for Medicare Locals**

6 April 2011

*ABC News*

ACT Doctors have applied to establish a Medicare Locals (ML) group under the Federal Government's health reform program.

The ACT Division of General Practice submitted the paperwork on 5 April 2011, the closing date for applications.

The Federal Government has allocated a total of \$477 million over four years to establish the national Medicare Locals network to replace the existing divisions of general practice.

The first group of Medicare Locals is expected to begin from 1 July...

Visit <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/04/06/3184053.htm> to view the full media release.

## **Tobacco: Developments**

### **World No Tobacco Day Symposium**

*Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) in partnership with ACT Health, Mental Health Community Coalition, Youth Coalition of the ACT and supported by the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy Evaluation Group - Tobacco Working Group and the Workplace Tobacco Management Project Advisory Committee*

Stakeholders are invited to participate in a symposium to mark this day and will include representatives from:

- Centre for Public Health, University of Canberra
- Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control, Melbourne University
- National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Medical Service
- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT
- Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
- ACT Cancer Council
- ACT Division of General Practice
- ACT Health
- Aids Action Council

The symposium will provide a full day workers from the non-government and government sectors to engage in discussions about how we can work together to further develop and implement tobacco management strategies in our work, services and sectors - including how to make use of nicotine replacement therapy with our clients.

*Date:* Tuesday 31 May 2011

*Time:* 9am - 4:30pm (registration from 8:45am)

*Venue:* Griffith Community Hall, Stuart St, Griffith ACT

*Cost:* Free - funded through the Workplace Tobacco Management Project which is funded by ACT Health

*Registration Essential:* Contact Steve Byrne, ATODA on (02) 6255 4070 or [tobacco@atoda.org.au](mailto:tobacco@atoda.org.au)

Click here for [the flyer](#).

### **Historic tobacco plain packaging will hasten end of smoking in Australia**

*Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) and Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) (Media Release)*

The introduction of plain packaging for tobacco is a historic move that will make a crucial contribution to reducing smoking in

Australia, according to two of the leading public health organisations.

President of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) and Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) spokesperson, Professor Mike Daube has welcomed the Government's plans to make cigarette packs as unattractive as possible, with the world's strongest legislation...

"Cigarettes still kill 15,000 Australians each year - and five million people a year around the world. The very strength of the tobacco industry's opposition shows that they know how effective plain packaging will be."...

Visit <http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/MediaRelease>

[TOBACCOPLAINPACKAGINGWILLHASTENENDOFSMOKINGINAUSTRALIA.pdf](#) to view the full media release.

#### **World's Toughest Anti-Smoking Laws Released**

7 April 2011

*The Hon Nicola Roxon MP (Media Release)*

The world's toughest laws on tobacco promotion moved a step closer today with the release of the Australian Government's proposed design and legislation for plain packaging.

The Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, said plain packaging is the latest step in the Government's fight to reduce the toll on families from smoking related deaths...

"This plain packaging legislation is a world first and sends a clear message that the glamour is gone - cigarette packs will now only show the death and disease that can come from smoking..."

"The legislation will restrict tobacco industry logos, brand imagery, colours and promotional text appearing on packs..."

The Government plans the legislation to commence on 1 January 2012, with all products on sale required to comply with the new laws within six months.

"There will be 60 days for public comments on the Exposure Draft legislation," Ms Roxon said. "I will then be introducing the *Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill 2011* during the winter sitting," said Ms Roxon...

For more information visit <http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/content/plainpack-tobacco>.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr064.htm> to view the full media release.

#### **Minister welcomes plain packaging for tobacco**

7 April 2011

*Katy Gallagher MLA (Media Release)*

Health Minister Katy Gallagher today welcomed moves by the Federal Government to mandate plain packaging of tobacco products, designed to make smoking less attractive to young people.

"I congratulate Ms Roxon on the release of the exposure draft of the legislation today. Those people who start smoking during their teenage years face the most difficulty trying to kick the habit later in life so de-normalising smoking in the minds of young people is essential," Ms Gallagher said...

The Federal Government reforms propose featuring a graphic health warning on 75% of the front of the packet and 90% of the back of the packet. The pack would be a drab olive colour and would not show any logos. All brand names would be in the same font.

"The *'Health Status of Young People in the ACT'* report published this month shows the incidence of smoking in young people continues to decline. I am confident that initiatives which graphically show the dangers of smoking will encourage further reduction," Ms Gallagher said...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10613&m=52> to view the full media release.

#### **Young people urged to own their health and avoid tobacco**

2 April 2011

*Katy Gallagher MLA (Media Release)*

Tobacco kills around 15,000 Australians each year and the majority of these deaths occur in people who started smoking before the age of 18 years, the Health Minister said today. "Those people who start smoking during their teenage years face the most difficulty trying to kick the habit later in life. Young people need to know these facts, and must be supported to make the decision to not start smoking," the Minister said.

"Today marks the beginning of National Youth Week, with the theme of 'Own It', and I'm pleased to join in re-enforcing this message..."

"The 2008 ACT Secondary School Alcohol and Drug Survey released in January this year indicate some positive trends occurring in the ACT. One quarter of all students surveyed were reported to have smoked at least once in their lifetime. This is significantly lower than in 2005 when a third of students were reported to have smoke at least once in their lifetime..."

For more information about saying no to tobacco, please visit <http://www.oxygen.org.au/> or visit <http://www.health.act.gov.au/>

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10604&m=52> to view the full media release.

#### **Illicit substance use and smoking decreasing in ACT young people**

1 April 2011

*Katy Gallagher MLA (Media Release)*

The 'Health Status of Young People in the ACT' report, released today, shows the use of illicit substances by young people continues to decrease, Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA today reported.

"I am particularly pleased to see a continued decline in the reported use of illicit substances and the incidences of smoking in young people," the Minister said.

The report, an initiative of the ACT Health Chief Health Officer, provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of people aged from 12 to 25 years across a number of key national indicators...

"I am very pleased with these results, however I recognise the importance of responding to areas of concern. Alcohol consumption remains stable in the 12-17 year old age group but remains a concern in those aged 18-25. Nutrition, levels of physical activity and sun-protective behaviours also require improvement..."

The 'Health Status of Young People in the ACT' publication is available from the ACT Health website at

[www.health.act.gov.au/publications](http://www.health.act.gov.au/publications).

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10601&m=52> to view the full media release.

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

*Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government*

In April 2011 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 a Consultation Paper (outlining the Government's approach to implementing plain packaging, the response to design testing and an explanation of the key provisions of the exposure draft of the Bill) have been released for public comment for a period of 60 days

Visit <http://yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/plainpack-tobacco> for more information or to access the consultation paper and exposure draft of the Bill.

Submissions are due by 5pm, 6 June 2011.

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).

### **Submitting activities for the Drug Action Week Calendar of Events**

ATODA is compiling a Calendar of ACT events for Drug Action Week 2011. The Calendar is distributed to a wide range of stakeholders and is also promoted through the ATODA Website and eBulletin. The deadline for contributions to this calendar is **Thursday 5 May 2011**. As part of this process ATODA submits a bulk merchandise order to Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) on behalf of services registered on the ACT Calendar. If you would like to submit your activity to the ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events please email [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au) and specify the following details:

1. Date of activity
2. Time of activity
3. Your Service/ Organisation
4. Title and brief description of activity
5. Venue/ Location of activity
6. Contact Person including their phone number and email

### **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 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)

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

### **ACT Drug Action Week to be launched by ACT Health Minister**

Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Minister for Health, has again generously agreed to launch ACT Drug Action Week at the ACT Legislative Assembly. The launch will be held in the morning of Friday 17 June - mark the date in your diary! The launch will mark the first year since ATODA's launch. Flyers will be distributed soon. For further information contact [daw@atoda.org.au](mailto:daw@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

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

ATODA, in collaboration with the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group and the ACT ATOD sector, will be hosting the 4th Annual ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Sector Conference on Thursday 23 June 2011 as part of Drug Action Week.

ACT ATOD services are delivered in an ever-changing policy environment. The release of the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 - 2014 last year provided us with a strong foundation on which to improve our response to ATOD issues in our community. But where has progress been made, and where are we heading over the next 12 months?

In light of the significant changes occurring in and around the ATOD sector in recent months, the conference seeks to explore four areas of priority work:

- Drug policies and programs in the AMC
- Drug Diversion
- Expanding access to Naloxone
- Needles Syringe Program in the AMC.

In discussing the implications for our policy and practice, we will explore innovative ideas for moving forward and determining how our sector will be the driver for change.

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

## **Sector Activities and Events**

### **Current Research and future directions of alcohol and other drug research - National Drug Research Institute**

*National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)*

This event will provide an overview of specific examples of work being conducted by NDRI in key areas. The event will also consist of round-table discussions with NDRI research staff during which participants will be able to explore areas of particular interest

*Date:* Thursday 5 May 2011

*Time:* 10am - 3pm

*Venue:* The Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden ACT

*RSVP:* Essential to (08) 9266 1600 or [ndri@curtin.edu.au](mailto:ndri@curtin.edu.au)

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

### **Australian Perspectives from the 2011 International Harm Reduction Conference, Beirut**

*Anex*

This forum will feature a panel who will report on key items raised at the International Harm Reduction Conference. The Conference was themed 'Building capacity, redressing neglect'. John Ryan (CEO, Anex) will MC the forum. Speakers include

Annie Madden (Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League), Nicolette Burrows (Scarlet Alliance/ NSW Users and AIDS Association) and Kelly Eng (Anex).

*Date:* 26 May 2011

*Time:* 10am - 1pm (registrations from 9:30am)

*Venue:* Canberra Hospital, Building 1, Level 7 Auditorium, Yamba Drive, Garran

*Registration:* Visit [http://www.anex.org.au/register\\_lhra/](http://www.anex.org.au/register_lhra/) to register.

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

### **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 are as follows:

*Date:* Friday 24 June 2011

*Time:* 6:30pm

*Venue:* Four Seasons Hotel, 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).

### **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:* 5 May 2011 and 2 June 2011

*Cost:* Free

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

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

*Cancer Council ACT*

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

For more information or to make a booking contact (02) 6257 9999 or [tobaccocontrol@actcancer.org](mailto:tobaccocontrol@actcancer.org) or visit

<http://www.actcancer.org/quit-smoking/cessation-courses.aspx>.

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

*Reclink Australia Inc.*

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

*Dates:* Thursday 26 May and Thursday 23 June 2011

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

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

*Food:* A light lunch will be provided.

*RSVP:* Essential, contact Mark on 0412 342 929 or [mark.ransome@reclink.org](mailto:mark.ransome@reclink.org) by COB Friday prior to the event to register.

Registered participants will receive a certificate recording their individual time.

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

### **Candle Lighting Ceremony**

*Domestic Violence Crisis Service ACT and supported by ACT Domestic Violence Prevention Council*

This candle lighting ceremony marks the National Day of Remembrance for those who have died because of Family and Domestic Violence and those that are left behind.

*Date:* Wednesday 4 May 2011

*Time:* 5:45pm

*Venue:* Garema Place, Civic

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

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

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

- Responding to the ACT Government's Interim Response to the Burnet Report;
- Participating in a workshop on 25 May to progress ATOD policies and programs in the AMC;
- Discussed the draft ACT ATOD Workforce Remuneration and Qualification Profile;
- Discussed the sector consultation workshop on 6 May to discuss the MQS, develop a Workforce Development Strategy and

- progress priority areas in the ACT ATOD Strategy;
- Discussed NSP services in the Tuggeranong area;
- Discussed developments regarding the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System; and
- Provided service updates.

The Group acknowledged and thanked Phil Lawler, CEO, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT/Karralika Programs Inc for his contributions to the ACT sector over the years and wished him well in his new endeavors as CEO, CatholicCare Wilcannia, NSW.

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

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

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Workers Group (the Workers Group) is involved in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the ACT ATOD drug sector in the ACT. The Workers Group includes representatives of all ACT Health funded ATOD services and also has additional roles in issue identification and plays an essential role in the ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drug sectors governance. Key summary points from the April meeting include the Group:

- Developing a work and monitoring plan that will outline the key areas of work it undertakes.
- Looking into organising Human Rights and National Centre for Cannabis Prevention and Information training for the ATOD sector for the second half of 2011.
- Developing a webpage on the ATODA website that will include information about the group and it's activities, key summary points from meetings and a contact list of representatives.
- Engaging with the Citizens Advice Bureau around updating ATOD service profiles in the CONTACT directory and providing feedback on the ATOD keywords used.
- Engaging in discussions around exploring the establishment of a youth drug court in the ACT.

To provide feedback to the Group or to flag issues for discussion please contact your agency's representative on the Group or the secretariat, ATODA, on [ben@atoda.org.au](mailto:ben@atoda.org.au) or (02) 6255 4070.

## Sector Development

### Annual Alcohol Poll

*Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation (AER) Foundation Ltd*

The AER Foundation has launched its Annual Alcohol Poll: *Community Attitudes and Behaviours*. The poll focuses on gauging Australians' perceptions and awareness of alcohol-related issues, their drinking behaviours and assessing their level of support for a range of alcohol policy reform strategies.

Visit <http://www.aerf.com.au/showcase/main.aspx> for more information or to view the report and findings PowerPoint.

### DrugInfo Newsletter: Seeking Contributions

*DrugInfo*

DrugInfo is seeking contributions for it's upcoming newsletters. The next three newsletters will focus on:

- Heroin and other opioids
- Older people and AOD
- Information and communication technologies and reducing AOD related harm.

Articles can be a couple of hundred words in length and articles that provide examples of research being put into practice are particularly sought after.

The deadline for submission of an article is **Monday 23 May 2011**.

For further information contact Sarah Jaggard on [sarah.jaggard@adf.org.au](mailto:sarah.jaggard@adf.org.au).

### NDARC Drug Trends April Bulletins

*National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)*

NDARC has released the April 2011 editions of the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Bulletins. Topics are as follows:

- **IDRS:** Eleven years of cocaine trends among people who inject drugs in Sydney: price, purity and availability 2000-2010
- **IDRS Supplement:** Estimating trends in the prevalence of drug use over time amongst regular injecting drug use
- **EDRS:** Has ecstasy peaked? A look at the Australian ecstasy market over the past eight years

Visit <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Bulletins> for more information or to access the bulletins.

### 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.

The International AIDS Conference in 2012 is being held in Washington DC, the birthplace of the War on Drugs, and is a key opportunity to send a strong message regarding drug policy reform. In the lead up to this conference, organisations and individuals are encouraged to increase efforts to educate and inform others about the need for drug policy reform. For ideas about this see: <http://www.viennadeclaration.com/2011/04/the-organizing-tool-kit/>.

For more information and to read and sign the declaration visit [www.viennadeclaration.com/index.html](http://www.viennadeclaration.com/index.html).

### CentreLines April 2011

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

CentreLines is a quarterly newsletter published alternately by NDRI and NDARC and is funded by the National Drug Strategy. The newsletter discusses current topics of interest to the drug and alcohol field along with recent projects and publications. The April 2011 edition is themed 'Pathologising young adults who use alcohol and other drugs...again: In search of an alternative view'.

Visit <http://ndri.curtin.edu.au/local/docs/pdf/centrelines/ndri033.pdf> to view the April edition of CentreLines.

### Free jobs website for the AOD sector

*Of Substance* magazine

*Of Substance* magazine, the national magazine on alcohol, tobacco & other drugs, has developed a jobs website which specifically

focuses on the health, welfare and community sectors. The site allows health and community services employers to list ads free-of-charge for up to 30 days. Jobs of Substance is supported by promotion in *Of Substance* magazine, which has a readership of around 35,000 people.

To place an ad, visit [www.jobsofsubstance.com.au](http://www.jobsofsubstance.com.au).

For more information contact Georgie Hamilton on (02) 9018 8767 or [George@ancd.org.au](mailto:George@ancd.org.au).

#### **National Drugs Campaign Update: April 2011**

*Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government*

This update provides information about the progress of the National Drugs Campaign including campaign resources that have been developed and campaign related events.

Download the [April Update](#).

#### **The Law Report: Twenty years on from Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report**

*ABC Radio National*

This program discusses the situation 20 years on from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, highlighting increased numbers of Aboriginal people in jail. The program also discusses solutions for improvement over the next 20 years.

Visit <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lawreport/stories/2011/3194772.htm> to listen to the program or download the transcript.

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

---

See also *World No Tobacco Day Symposium* under [Tobacco: Developments](#)

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

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

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

Download the [April - May 2011 Training Calendar](#).

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

*Resilient Individuals, Communities and Organisations (RICO)*

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

*Dates:* 18 May 2011

*Time:* 9am - 5pm

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

*Cost:* \$165

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

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

*ACT Human Rights Commission (HRC)*

The HRC has released their April - June 2011 Training Calendar, and have a number of training and professional development opportunities available to community sector workers and services. These include: Workplace Contact/Harassment Officer Training, Introduction to Health Records and Privacy, Introduction to the Discrimination Act, and Human Rights for ACT Agencies. The next workshop is [Disability Discrimination](#), being held on **19 May 2011**.

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

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

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

DHCS have released their training dates for the free workshop Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect for April - June 2011. The workshop aims to provide information on relevant legislation, expand on understandings of child abuse and neglect, discuss responses to disclosures of abuse, and discuss the dilemmas and processes around making reports. The next workshop will be held on **5 May 2011**.

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

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

*Resilient Individuals, Communities and Organisations (RICO)*

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

*Dates:* 13 & 20 May 2011

*Time:* 9am - 5pm

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

*Cost:* \$330

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

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

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

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

*Date:* Friday 6 May 2011

*Time:* 9:30am - 4:30pm

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

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

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

#### **Workshop: How to include people with chronic disease in community activity**

*Australian National University and Canberra Institute of Technology*

This workshop aims to increase the community and fitness sector's awareness of chronic disease and its impacts so that people living with chronic diseases can be supported to participate in community activities.

*Date:* Friday 20 May 2011

*Time:* 9:30am - 3:30pm (registration available from 9:15am)

*Venue:* CIT Fit & Well, A Block, Bruce Campus of CIT

*RSVP:* Essential by 10 May 2011, to [susan.holburn@cit.act.edu.au](mailto:susan.holburn@cit.act.edu.au)

For more information contact Susan Holburn on (02) 6207 4303 or [susan.holburn@cit.act.edu.au](mailto:susan.holburn@cit.act.edu.au).

### Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

---

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

*Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)*

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

*Date:* 2 - 4 May 2011

*Venue:* Melbourne Convention Centre

*Cost:* \$790

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 problems. 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](mailto:conference@atca.com.au).

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

*Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)*

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

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

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

*Cost:* \$450 early bird

*Registration:* Early bird closes 12 May 2011, visit [http://www.winterschool.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=30](http://www.winterschool.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=30) to register.

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

#### **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**.

Call for abstracts close **23 May 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, Kuala Lumpur

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

*Registration:* Early bird closes **31 May 2011**.

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

Call for abstracts close **15 May 2011**.

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

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

*Australian College of Mental Health Nurses*

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

Date: 27 - 28 May 2011 (a pre-conference workshop will be held on 26 May 2011)

Venue: Rydges Capital Hill, Cnr Canberra Avenue and National Circuit, Forrest ACT

Cost: \$370

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

## Policy Activities

---

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

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

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

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

Submissions close on **Friday 27 May 2011**.

An ACT Consultation on the development of the strategy has also been arranged. Details are as follows:

Date: Thursday 5 May 2011

Time: 9:15am - 12:15pm

Venue: Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden (Corrina Room 3)

RSVP: Essential to [kathryn.sequoia@act.gov.au](mailto:kathryn.sequoia@act.gov.au)

Download the [Flyer](#) for the ACT Consultation.

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

### **ATODA Submission to the Towards a Diversionary Framework in the ACT**

ATODA worked with stakeholders participate in a series of consultations regarding developing a diversionary framework for young people in the ACT, with a focus on ATOD issue. [Click here to read the submission](#).

### **Homelessness National Quality Framework**

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

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

Written submissions close **Friday 13 May 2011**.

Visit <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/housing/progserv/>

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

## Policy, Reports and Research

---

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>. See also [the Drug Policies, Services and Programs in the AMC Section](#).

### **How has illicit drug policy in Australia changed over the past 25 years and how has this affected drug use and harms?**

The 21st publication in the Drug Policy Modelling Program monograph series 'reviews drug policy in Australia from 1985 to 2010...[examining] the development of Australia's drug strategies and...[comparing] this approach to that of other countries. It provides an analysis of trends and patterns of drug use and harms in Australia and considers what may account for these changing patterns, including the role of government intervention'.

The authors conclude that 'there are many influences on drug use, and successful government intervention is but one'. They find evidence that 'Australia has done comparatively well in implementing policy which is known to be evidence based and effective... compared to other countries it appears that Australia has better balanced law enforcement with treatment measures...[with] half of the opioid dependent population in opioid pharmacotherapy maintenance. Australia also appears to have one of the highest cannabis treatment rates in the world'. However 'After "leading the way" for some decades as advocates for harm minimisation, it appears that Australia is now standing still on the international stage...This can be seen across a number of drug policy domains including decriminalisation of drug use/possession, heroin maintenance, provision of peer-administered naloxone, supervised injecting facilities, better prison-based treatments and needle syringe program coverage'.

Ritter, A, Lancaster, K, Grech, K & Reuter, P 2011, *An assessment of illicit drug policy in Australia (1985-2010): themes and trends*, DPMP Monograph Series no. 21, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney, [www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/page/Monographs](http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/page/Monographs).

### **Is heroin maintenance treatment becoming more accepted and widespread?**

In a comprehensive review of the scientific literature, a Swiss researcher writes that the prescription of 'pharmaceutical morphine

as a substitute for street heroin started in USA and was abolished on the basis of prohibitionist legislation', with methadone prescription 'nowadays considered to be a cornerstone in the management of opiate dependence and for the prevention of HIV/AIDS in opiate injectors. [However] Since 1975, the concept of heroin maintenance treatment...[has been] re-activated in order to reach out to treatment-resistant heroin addicts. Research projects were performed in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Canada and in England, another one is planned in Belgium. Based on the unanimously positive outcomes, heroin maintenance has become routine treatment for otherwise untreatable heroin addicts in Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany and England, and Denmark has set up heroin maintenance without new research trials'.

Uchtenhagen, AA 2011, 'Heroin maintenance treatment: from idea to research to practice', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 30, no. 2, pp. 130-7.

#### **Is it possible for heroin users to improve their health status, and even cease heroin use, without entering formal treatment?**

Queensland researchers 'recruited 69 non-treatment-seeking heroin users with no treatment history' and assessed their 'Heroin use, management strategies, treatment attitudes, and risk behaviors'. The researchers state that 'One of the challenges in considering optimal interventions for heroin users is that much of the treatment literature presupposes that formal treatment services are the major route out of dependence. However, many individuals discontinue substance use without assistance...Although some of our sample may eventually seek treatment, it is likely that some participants within the current study will cease drug use without formal assistance. The majority of our sample reported using a strategy to control heroin use. Additionally, many substance users out of the treatment system report relying on friends and family for support...and research indicates that factors such as social supports can enhance success of natural recovery.'

Dean, AJ, Saunders, JB & Bell, J 2011, 'Heroin use, dependence, and attitudes to treatment in non-treatment-seeking heroin users: a pilot study', *Substance Use and Misuse*, vol. 46, no. 4, pp. 417-25.

#### **How harmful is the use of cocaine and amphetamines during pregnancy?**

A recent editorial in the *Journal of Addictive Diseases* sets out to debunk what the authors call the myths that 'drugs cause birth defects and that women who use drugs are unfit to be parents'. Their focus is on amphetamines and cocaine. The authors argue that research demonstrates that 'prenatal methamphetamine exposure does not seem associated with any consistent increase in congenital anomalies above the background 3% population risk' and 'there is no evidence that maternal addiction is worse on family structure than other mental illnesses'.

Terplan, M & Wright, T 2011, 'The effects of cocaine and amphetamine use during pregnancy on the newborn: myth versus reality', *Journal of Addictive Diseases*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 1-5.

#### **Are traumatic experiences linked to substance abuse in later life?**

Researchers examined the relationship between childhood trauma, substance use and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in a sample of urban primary care patients recruited from waiting rooms at a hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. (This population is important as most studies of the associations of PTSD and substance abuse have been conducted on veteran and drug treatment populations.) They found that 'In this highly traumatized population, high rates of lifetime dependence on various substances were found (39% alcohol, 34.1% cocaine, 6.2% heroin/opiates, and 44.8% marijuana). The level of substance use, particularly cocaine, strongly correlated with levels of childhood physical, sexual, and emotional abuse as well as current PTSD symptoms. In particular, there was a significant additive effect of number of types of childhood trauma experienced with history of cocaine dependence in predicting current PTSD symptoms, and this effect was independent of exposure to adult trauma'. They concluded that the data showed 'strong links between childhood traumatization and SUDs, and their joint associations with PTSD outcome. They suggest that enhanced awareness of PTSD and substance abuse comorbidity in high-risk, impoverished populations is critical to understanding the mechanisms of substance addiction as well as in improving prevention and treatment'.

Khoury, L, Tang, YL, Bradley, B, Cubells, JF & Ressler, KJ 2010, 'Substance use, childhood traumatic experience, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder in an urban civilian population', *Depression and Anxiety*, vol. 27, no. 12, pp. 1077-86.

#### **Does combining benzodiazepines and alcohol contribute to unsafe driving?**

A study that examined the relationship between the combination of alcohol and benzodiazepines and the risk of committing an unsafe driver action found that 'Drivers who tested positive for intermediate- and long-acting benzodiazepines in combination with alcohol had significantly greater odds of a UDA [unsafe driver action, e.g. weaving] compared to those under the influence of alcohol alone...[while] The odds of a UDA with short-acting benzodiazepines combined with alcohol were no different than for alcohol alone'.

Maxwell, HG, Dubois, S, Weaver, B & Bedard, M 2010, 'The additive effects of alcohol and benzodiazepines on driving', *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, vol. 101, no. 5, pp. 353-7.

#### **Will improved testing methods lead to better diagnosis of HCV?**

'The availability of a highly accurate, rapid, point-of-care test for hepatitis C virus (HCV) may be useful in addressing the problem of under-diagnosis of HCV, by increasing opportunities for testing outside of traditional clinical settings. A new HCV rapid test device (OraQuick® HCV Rapid Antibody Test), approved recently in Europe for use with venous blood, fingerstick blood, serum, plasma, or oral fluid was evaluated in a multi-center study and performance compared to established laboratory-based tests for detection of HCV. The HCV rapid test was evaluated in prospective testing of subjects with signs and/or symptoms of hepatitis, or who were at risk for hepatitis C using all 5 specimen types'. The evaluation demonstrated that the new test 'appears suitable as an aid in the diagnosis of HCV infection and may increase testing opportunities due to its simplicity and flexibility to use multiple specimen types, including fingerstick blood and oral fluid'.

Lee, SR et al. 2011, 'Evaluation of a new, rapid test for detecting HCV infection, suitable for use with blood or oral fluid', *Journal of Virological Methods*, vol. 172, no. 1-2, pp. 27-31.

#### **Has Australia anything to teach other countries in relation to harm reduction from petrol sniffing in Indigenous communities?**

A review of interventions aimed at the problems of volatile substance misuse (VSM), including petrol sniffing in Australian Indigenous communities, has identified five areas where the authors believe 'there is strong potential for future activity...to prevent VSM [volatile substance misuse] and associated harms'. These are: strengthening the treatment evidence base; integrating policing with welfare responses; engaging people in meaningful alternatives to VSM; finding a place for harm reduction; and building on successes in petrol product modification. The authors state that 'Australia provides arguably a more comprehensive response to VSM prevention, intervention and treatment than is available in any country other than Canada'.

Maclean, SJ & d'Abbs, PH 2011, 'Five challenges for volatile substance misuse policy and intervention in Australia', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 30, no. 2, pp. 223-7.

#### **Have you tried a jello shot?**

Researchers in United States 'investigated the extent of jello shot [alcohol-infused gelatine] consumption among underage youths. We conducted a pilot study among a nonrandom national sample of 108 drinkers, aged 16-20 years...The prevalence of past 30-day jello shot consumption among the 108 drinkers...was 21.4%, and among those who consumed jello shots, the percentage of

alcohol consumption attributable to jello shots averaged 14.5%. We concluded that jello shot use is prevalent among youths, representing a substantial proportion of their alcohol intake. Surveillance of youth alcohol use should include jello shot consumption.

How to make a jello shot recipe and video: <http://www.mahalo.com/how-to-make-a-jello-shot/>. (Note from editor: the pure alcohol content of the jello shots, using the suggested recipe, is 15.6% by volume.)

Binakonsky, J, Giga, N, Ross, C & Siegel, M 2011, 'Jello shot consumption among older adolescents: a pilot study of a newly identified public health problem', *Substance Use and Misuse*, vol. 46, no. 6, pp. 828-35.

#### **Injecting drug use and associated harms among Aboriginal Australians**

*Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) and the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)*

The report was prepared for the ANCD by Anex and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), and was commissioned to record a national picture in understanding the dimensions and characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injecting drug use and its associated harms, including gaps in knowledge, and identifying opportunities available to improve service responses.

Visit [http://www.ancd.org.au/images/PDF/Researchpapers/rp22\\_injecting\\_drug\\_use.pdf](http://www.ancd.org.au/images/PDF/Researchpapers/rp22_injecting_drug_use.pdf) to download the report.

#### **Media**

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

#### **Review of Liquor fees underway**

21 April 2011

Simon Corbell MLA

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, has invited the community and the liquor industry to have their say as part of the one year review into the Territory's new risk based liquor licensing fees.

"As part of the new liquor reform package that came into effect on December 1, 2010, the Government funded 10 new police officers and new regulatory officers to work proactively with liquor licensees at licensed premises and enforce the new liquor laws," Mr Corbell said...

Mr Corbell said the focus for the review will be on the risk-based fee structure, which licensed establishments pay based on the risks they pose to the community through the amount of alcohol sold and their trading hours...

"I invite and encourage anyone in the community, whether they be a licensee or general member of the community, to have their say in this important review," Mr Corbell said.

Details on how submissions can be made are available at <http://www.justice.act.gov.au/>, and the Office of Regulatory Services website at <http://www.ors.act.gov.au/>.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10649&m=53> to view the full media release.

#### **Homeless youths to receive wrap-around services at new Braddon development**

21 April 2011

Joy Burch MLA (Media Release)

Youths at risk in homelessness in the ACT will receive additional support to sustain a tenancy and reconnect with their education, training and employment opportunities under a new program to be delivered at an \$11.65 million social housing development in Braddon.

ACT Minister for Housing Joy Burch was today joined by Federal Member for Canberra Andrew Leigh to officially open a 42-unit social housing development in Braddon which will include 15 units for a new Youth Integrated Education and Accommodation Service, 18 for public housing, and the remaining nine will be transferred to CHC Affordable Housing to be used for rebated renters.

Ms Burch said the new youth service, to be delivered by Anglicare and Barnardos as the successful tenderers...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10642&m=138> to view the full media release.

#### **107 Submissions received on Northside Hospital Plans**

18 April 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA (Media Release)

Opinion from the community on public healthcare options in the Territory is mixed, though many favour a new acute or sub-acute hospital, Health Minister Katy Gallagher today said...

"A total of 107 submissions were received, from health stakeholder groups, including Calvary Health Care, unions and individual members of the community," Ms Gallagher said...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10636> to view the full media release.

#### **Assistance for patients with chronic disease only a phone call away**

16 April 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA (Media Release)

The ACT Health Chronic Disease Telephone Coaching Service is now fully operational and ready to receive referrals, ACT Minister for Health Katy Gallagher MLA announced today.

The service, which is tailored to patients with specific conditions including heart failure, coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or Type 2 Diabetes, is a significant step forward in supporting patients with chronic disease in the ACT.

"The service aims to help people with selected chronic diseases improve self-management of their condition, leading to improved quality of life and reducing the incidence of exacerbation and progression of their disease," the Health Minister said...

All patients are required to be referred by their health professional. For further information please visit [www.health.act.gov.au/telephonecoaching](http://www.health.act.gov.au/telephonecoaching), talk to a GP or call Community Health Intake on 02 6207 9977.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10629&m=52> to view the full media release.

#### **ACT lags behind in juvenile detention**

14 April 2011

Canberra Times

The ACT has high representations of indigenous juvenile detainees and the largest proportion of unsentenced juvenile detainees in the country, a new report reveals...

The report has highlighted indigenous over-representation and high proportions of unsentenced detainees in the ACT, both of which have been considered chronic problems with the territory's youth justice system...

Visit <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/act-lags-behind-in-juvenile-detention/2133758.aspx> to view the full article.

#### **Housing ACT to use vacant properties to house homeless**

29 March 2011

#### Joy Burch MLA (Media Release)

The ACT Government has made 12 vacant public housing properties available for crisis accommodation to assist families experiencing homelessness, with more properties to follow. ACT Minister for Housing Joy Burch said today that Housing ACT had widened the criteria for vacant stock eligible for its Transitional Housing Program to include properties that are guaranteed to be vacant for at least 6 weeks, rather than the previous threshold of 3 months...

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10587&m=138> to view the full media release.

## Consumer Participation

---

### Information Sheet: ACT Mental Health Consumer Training and Scholarship Scheme

#### ACT Health

ACT Health has contracted with CIT Solutions to provide a two phased approach to optimise the opportunities for mental health consumers to further their studies and subsequently their employment within the human services area. The first phase of the ACT Mental Health Consumer Training and Scholarship is the opportunity to obtain a Statement of Attainment. The second phase is funding that covers course fees only for study in one of the Certificate IV courses in the Community Services and Development Programs in the CIT Centre for Health, Community and Wellbeing. Anyone over the age of 17 years old who has a mental illness/disorder is eligible to apply to study for a Statement of Attainment.

Download the [Information Sheet](#) for more information including an application form.

## Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

---

### '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).

## Employment Opportunities

---

### Alcohol and Other Drugs Worker Casual Positions

#### DIRECTIONS ACT

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

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

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

### Researchers/Research Assistants/Consultants - Casual Pool

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

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals who would like to join the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT's (ATODA) pool of casual researchers/research assistants/consultants. Pay rates vary depending upon qualifications and duties and will be negotiated with the individual based on budgetary constraints. If you are interested in applying please download and complete the [expression of interest form](#) and submit it to Carrie 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

---

### 2011 Environment Grants

#### ACT Government

The ACT Environment Grants provide financial assistance for community-based environment projects that complement delivery of the Government's environmental priorities. Grants of up to \$25,000 are available and continuing funding has also been introduced for eligible projects with an upper limit of \$10,000 per project.

Visit <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/> for further information.

Applications close on **13 May 2011**.

### Regional Development Australia Grants

#### Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government, Australian Government

The Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) will fund projects that support the infrastructure needs, and will enhance the economic and community development, of Australia's regions. Not-for-profits are eligible to apply. All areas (including capital cities) are part of an RDAF catchment. Grants of between \$500,000 and \$25 million per project are available.

Visit <http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/rdaf.aspx> for further information.

Applications for round one close **13 May 2011**.

---

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

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

**Become a member of ATODA**

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

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

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

Powered by  
  
epimedia