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ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: November 2010



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

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ALL WELCOME - Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc. First Annual General Meeting

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc (ATODA) became incorporated earlier this year. Over this time the Interim Board has worked diligently over the past eight months to establish what is now a fully-staffed, thriving organisation. The agenda includes modifications to the constitution.

Members, stakeholders and supporters are invited to attend ATODA's first Annual General Meeting on:

Date: Thursday 4 November 2010

Time: 9:30am - 10:30am

Venue: 350 Antill St., Watson (ATODA office)

RSVP: Essential to info@atoda.org.au

Morning tea will be provided. For further information, an agenda, or a copy of the proposed modified constitution please contact Carrie Fowle, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au.

2nd Annual Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Awards Ceremony

The 2nd annual ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Awards will be kindly presented by:

Ms Katy Gallagher, MLA *Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Health*

The ceremony will also include presentation of certificates to recognise the workers who participated in the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy in 2010.

Date: 8 December 2010

Time: 10am - 12pm

Venue: Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra City *RSVP:* Essential. Please contact awards@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

The Awards are proudly supported by ACT Health.

Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT.

About the Project

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project (the Project) aims to increase awareness, and support the implementation, of workplace tobacco management policies and reduce the impact of smoking behaviours for the staff in nine programs within the mental health, ATOD, and youth sectors.

The Project is funded by ACT Health and the research component has received ethics approval from ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee. The Project is a collaboration between the Alcohol Tobacco And Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA), as the lead agency for the Project, in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, and the Youth Coalition of the ACT.

Project Developments

All nine participating pilot sites have been recruited from the ATOD, mental health and youth sector. Each site has completed the organisational assessment and begun completing in the initial staff surveys.

Preliminary findings from the staff survey indicate that just fewer than 50% of the staff are current smokers, 23% ex-smokers and 27% non-smokers. These findings support the anecdotal evidence regarding smoking rates in the mental health, youth, and alcohol and other drug sectors being higher than the general community where daily smoking rates are below 15%. However, just fewer than 90% of the current smokers involved in the Project are actively thinking about reducing their tobacco consumption.

Although the Project is in its early stages of implementation, its introduction to workplaces has seen a rise in the profile of tobacco as an

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

Updates on Peak activities.

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

Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy.

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

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

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

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

[Naloxone](#)

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

[Medically Supervised Injecting Centre \(MSIC\)](#)

Media related to the passed legislation removing reference to the trial status of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre.

[ACT Budget 2011/2012](#)

Information about the 2011/2012 ACT Budget Consultation processes.

[National Health Reform Update](#)

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

issue. This increased interest reflects the significance that tobacco has within these sectors and the broader community as the leading cause of preventable disease and death.

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

For more news from ATODA see the following items:

- ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy in the [ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section.
- Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010 in the [Working with Vulnerable People \(Background Checking\) Bill 2010](#) section.
- Comorbidity Bus Tours in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.
- November – December 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar in the [Training and Professional Development](#) section.

ATODA's Contact Details are:

email: info@atoda.org.au
post: PO BOX 7187 Watson ACT 2602
visit: 350 Antill St., Watson ACT
phone: (02) 6255 4070
web: www.atoda.org.au (in development) www.aodsector.org.au (in transition)

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy

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. The ACT ATOD MQS aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional ATOD workforce in the ACT. It also aims to ensure that all ATOD workers in the ACT have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

Under the 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 4 Core Competencies:

- November 2010 - Monday 15, Tuesday 16, Wednesday 17
- December 2010 - Monday 6, Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8

For further information please contact the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Senior First Aid Training

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ATODA is offering Senior First Aid training for workers who have undertaken the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy in 2009 - 2010 and do not currently have Senior First Aid qualifications. Details are as follows:

Date: 25 November 2010
Time: 8:30am - 5:30pm
Venue: St John Ambulance ACT Office, 14 Thesiger Court, Deakin ACT
Cost: Free
RSVP: Essential, please notify ATODA on info@atoda.org.au by **10 November 2010**.
Note: The training requires 4 -5 hours of study prior to attending the full day session.

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

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT have continued to work collaboratively to raise the significant concerns of both sectors of the potentially significant unintended negative consequences of the proposed checking system.

Some joint activities have included:

- A consultative and information forum was held for the sectors 28 October (Finding Solutions:For the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug and Mental Health Workforces regarding the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*)
- Concerns raised with the Minister for Health
- Concerns raised with the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014 Implementation and Evaluation Group
- Concerns raised with the ACT Greens
- Concerns raised with the Canberra Liberals
- Concerns raised with ACT Health
- Drafted proposals regarding the sectors' support needs
- Development of a background paper for stakeholders for the forum

Concerns regarding the WWVPCS

MHCC ACT and ATODA acknowledge that social policy reform in this area is inevitably a balancing act. However, under the currently proposed checking system, the objective of protecting vulnerable service users may be unnecessarily in conflict with the objectives of encouraging a diverse and experienced community sector workforce – and could risk crippling our workforce.

The challenge for the proposed legislation is to ensure people are not penalised, in terms of their access to employment, for their past behaviour that bears little or no relevance to the risk they pose to the vulnerable people they may work with now or in the future.

ATODA and MHCC ACT have significant concerns regarding the Bill. The intentions underlying the WWVPCS have the broad support of the sectors, but we remain concerned that some aspects of the proposed system may affect the viability of the community ATOD and mental health workforces, organisations and sectors.

As the proposed checking system is the first in Australia to extend to people working with adult clients it is important the ACT Government use all the consultative mechanisms available to it to ensure it is the most effective way to move forward and has the support of the stakeholders to which it applies. It is particularly important to ensure engagement of those it may unintentionally negatively affect.

The ATODA and mental health peaks, workers, organisations and employers are essential partners to ensure the success of the WWVPCS. We would like to collaboratively and constructively work with ACT Government to ensure that this legislation meets its objectives and does not have unintended consequences on the people it is seeking to protect.

We acknowledge that we, and other stakeholders, will have opportunities to shape the implementation of the Bill (i.e. once the legislation is

[ACT Health Restructure](#)

Information about the proposed restructure within ACT Health.

[Sector Activities and Events](#)

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

[Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2010 Conference: 28 November - 1 December 2010](#)

Information and updates on the APSAD Conference 2010.

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

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

[Sector Development](#)

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

[Training and Professional Development](#)

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

[Interstate Conferences and Symposia](#)

Information on interstate conferences relevant to the ATOD sector.

[Policy Activities](#)

Information on key policy activities effecting the ATOD sector.

[Policy, Reports and Research](#)

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

[Media](#)

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

[Consumer Participation](#)

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

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

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

[Employment Opportunities](#)

Employment opportunities in the ACT ATOD sector.

[Grants and Funding Opportunities](#)

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

passed). However, we believe there could be fundamental problematic issues embedded within the Bill that won't be able to be addressed through tweaking the implementation.

We want to work with the ACT Government to protect vulnerable people, to support vulnerable people to access employment, and to support the community sector to be viable.

We would like to continue to have an open dialogue between the sectors and the ACT Government to ensure everyone has access to current and accurate information and the opportunity collaboratively problem solve.

We are committed to continue engaging with ACT Government and key stakeholders. For submission details or further information please contact:

- Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, ATODA on carrie@atoda.org.au
- Brooke McKail, Executive Officer, MHCC on brooke.mckail@mhccact.org.au

About the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System (WWVPCS)

Excerpt below is adapted from A Working with Vulnerable People Checking System for the ACT Policy Position produced by ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services August 2010 <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc>

The ACT Government is seeking to establish a centralised background checking and risk assessment system for people working with vulnerable people to reduce the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect – the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System.

The purpose of the Bill is to reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable people by establishing a mandatory background checking and risk assessment system for people working with vulnerable people in the ACT.

The scheme is based on the premise that there are similarities in the risk of harm faced by children and vulnerable adults – the ACT proposes to extend the checking system to include people working with vulnerable adults.

Under the new scheme the ACT Government will set minimum and compulsory checking standards and will apply a consistent risk assessment framework and decision making process. Employees and volunteers would be able to move between organisations without being rechecked.

The Department of Disability Housing and Community Services (DHCS) has been leading the development of the Bill and the associated policy.

The WWVPCS legislation was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly on 26 August 2010. It is understood that the debate of the legislation has again been delayed until December. For further information see:

- The Hansard (proof) transcript can be accessed from: www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2010/pdfs/P100826.pdf
- The draft legislation can be accessed from: www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_39278/current/pdf/db_39278.pdf
- For further information about the checking system, including the policy paper, visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc.

Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre

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

Needle and Syringe Program Trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre Proposal

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is currently drafting a proposal that will form part of its 2011/2012 ACT Budget Submission to conduct a trial (including a feasibility study) of a needle and syringe program (NSP) in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) with the aim of preventing and reducing Blood-Borne Virus Transmission.

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

ACT urged to trial first jail needle exchange

25 October 2010

The Canberra Times

A drug harm minimisation group will push for the territory to be the first jurisdiction in Australia to trial a prison needle exchange in a report to be issued today....

The ACT Government is expected to review the issue at the end of the year. ACT Health Minister and Acting Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, said the report would be considered as part of the review....

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope has previously said he is more inclined to support the idea in the wake of the NSW Government's decision to formalise the Kings Cross injecting room....

Mr Ryan said the territory was the nation's best candidate for a trial....

Download the [full article](#).

With conviction: the case for controlled needle and syringe programs in Australian prisons

Anex

This paper by the Harm Minimisation in Prisons Committee (HMPC), formed by Anex presents a case for the reasons why community health is threatened by the high rates of drug injecting and sharing of unsterile needles in prisons. The paper proposes that Australians concerned with community health should support clinical trials of NSPs in prison with the purpose of examining how the intervention should be best implemented.

Anex (2010), *With conviction: the case for controlled needle and syringe programs in Australian Prisons*. Anex, Melbourne, Australia.

Naloxone

There have been significant developments nationally and in the ACT regarding progressing Australia's first naloxone trial for potential opioid overdose witnesses. The Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) has been leading the sector in calling for the initiative, which has been supported by recent representations by Anex and an ACT visit by Dr Sarz Maxwell, Chicago Recovery Alliance.

ACT Naloxone Trial Proposal

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) has drafted a proposal that will form part of its 2011/2012 ACT Budget Submission to conduct a program that aim of reducing and preventing opioid overdoses in the ACT, which includes a naloxone trial.

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

Push for Heroin overdose drug

24 October 2010

The Canberra Times

A Heroin overdose medicine could be given directly to drug users and their families in a bid to intervene early and avoid fatal overdoses under a new proposal.
The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association, a peak body representing organisations in the alcohol and drug sector, has put forward a proposal for a two-year trial of peer-administered naloxone.....
Download the [full article](#).

The needle and the damage done

24 October 2010

The Canberra Times

Canberra groups want to follow a Chicago lead with a drug to counteract heroin overdoses.....

Naloxone an opioid antagonist which reverses the effects of an opiate overdose, is no new wonder drug. Emergency departments and paramedics in Australia and overseas have used the drug to treat overdoses for decades. For the past 10 years, however, organisations like Maxwell's Chicago Recovery Alliance have been taking a more radical approach to naloxone dispensation....prescribing the treatment to "potential overdose witnesses" – drug users and their friends or family....

Download the [full article](#).

Lifesavers: a position paper on access to Naloxone Hydrochloride for potential opioid overdose witnesses

Anex

This paper outlines Anex's position on the availability of Naloxone (used to reverse the effects of opioid intoxication) and provides six recommendations to increase the availability to potential overdose witnesses.

Anex (2010), *Lifesavers: a position paper on access to Naloxone Hydrochloride for potential opioid overdose witnesses*. Anex, Melbourne, Australia.

Naloxone 101: Anex Bulletin Volume 9 Issue 1, October 2010

Anex

The Anex Bulletin is the Australian Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) sector's quarterly magazine and highlights new information, research findings and emerging issues for harm reduction workers. This issue of the magazine provides information on Naloxone and its role in reviving people who are suffering from an opioid overdose.

To view the magazine visit http://www.anex.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/ANEX_bulletin_vol9_1.pdf.

Call for public access to overdose treatment

25 October 2010

ABC News

Groups dealing with narcotics users and their families are pushing for greater public access to a drug that can reverse overdoses.

Naloxone is a drug that reverses overdoses of opiates like heroin, methadone or oxycodone.

A conference in Melbourne today will hear that hundreds of people in Chicago have saved lives by administering the medication, which only medical professionals are allowed to access in Australia.....

In Australia, it is only used by doctors and paramedics, but the Anex drug harm minimisation group wants to change that.

To view the full article visit www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/25/3046948.htm.

Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)

ATODA would like to congratulate the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre for the passing of the legislation removing the reference to trial status.

MSIC bill passed by NSW parliament

27 October 2010

Ms Carmel Tebbutt, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, NSW Parliament

Legislation removing reference to the trial status of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre at Kings Cross (MSIC) has been officially passed by the NSW Parliament, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Carmel Tebbutt said today (27 October)....

"Evaluations have shown the Centre successfully reduced drug overdoses and deaths, provided a gateway to treatment and counselling and reduced instances of public injecting. I would like to congratulate and thank the staff at the Centre for their commitment and the important work they do....

The Centre arose from the 1999 Drug Summit and has operated at Kings Cross since May 2001. It is run by Uniting Care NSW. The Centre's operation is funded from confiscated proceeds of crime. No funding is diverted from treatment programs. The Centre monitors on-site injecting of drugs, and provides emergency help when needed, as well as medical advice, support and counselling services.

ACT Budget 2011/2012

About the ACT Budget

The Executive (the Chief Minister and other Ministers) are responsible for developing and managing the budget for the ACT. The Treasurer delivers the ACT Budget each year in May. The ACT Budget reflects the Government's priorities and provides the Assembly and the community with details of the Government's expected revenue and expenditure.

For further information about the budget process see the ACT Legislative Assembly's factsheet (http://www.legassembly.act.gov.au/downloads/Fact_09.pdf)

ACT Budget Consultation and Submissions

Annually, the community is invited to provide input into the ACT Budget development process through providing submissions to Treasury.

Many peak bodies and other stakeholders contribute to this process through engaging with their membership, allied stakeholders and reviewing key strategies and evidence to develop their submissions.

ATODA's Budget Consultation Process

ATODA is developing its first budget submission. The consultation process includes:

- Regular agenda items discussed since August with the ATODA Board, ACT ATOD Chief Executive Officers / Executive Directors Group; ACT ATOD Workers Group; ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group; and the General Practice Working Group;
- Consultation forum in September – focusing on progressing some key areas within the ACT ATOD Strategy 2010 – 2014;
- Consultation in October;
- Consultation in conjunction with ACTCOSS at the ACT ATOD CEO/EDs meeting in November; and
- Regular meetings and discussions with members and stakeholders.

ATODA's Budget Submission

ATODA is focusing its budget submission on some key proposals and initiatives coming out of the sector, such as a naloxone trial; an NSP in prisons trial; a consumer participation project; and sector support regarding the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*.

For further information or to provide input please contact Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

ATODA has engaged with the ACT Council of Social Service's budget consultation processes, to ensure ATOD sector priorities (such as sector viability, housing and homelessness, etc) are provided a broader forum. Please see details below.

ATOD Sector Priorities – Budget Consultation

ACT Council of Social Service and ATODA

Date: Tuesday 16 November

Time: 9:30am – 10:30am

Venue: 350 Antill St. Watson (ATODA Office)

Note: The consultation will take place as part of the monthly ATOD CEO/EDs Group.

Contact: Carol Mead, Chair, ACT ATOD CEO/EDs Group on carolm@directionsact.com or (02) 6122 8000.

Budget Consultation – Corrections, Human Rights and Alcohol and Other Drugs

ACT Council of Social Service

Date: Monday 15 November

Time: 2:30 – 4pm

Venue: ACTCOSS Meeting Room, Level 1, 67 Townshend St Phillip

Contact: actcoss@actcoss.org.au or (02) 6202 7222

Other Budget Consultations

A range of peak bodies and organisations will be conducting consultations in November. For further details please contact each organisation, some key contact could include:

ACT Council of Social Service

Key contact: Megan Munro, Policy and Development Officer (ATOD portfolio)

Contact details: (02) 6202 7222 or megan.munro@actcoss.org.au or www.actcoss.org.au

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

Key contact: Simon Viereck, Policy and Sector Development Manager (comorbidity portfolio)

Contact details: (02) 6249 7756 or simon.viereck@mhccact.org.au or www.mhccact.org.au

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Key contact: Jarrah Robbins, Policy and Development Officer (ATOD portfolio)

Contact details: (02) 6247 3540 or jarrah@youthcoalition.net or www.youthcoalition.net

Treasurer launches 2011-12 ACT Budget consultation

22 October 2010

Katy Gallagher MLA

ACT Treasurer, Katy Gallagher MLA, is inviting business, unions, community groups and individuals to get involved in the 2011-12 ACT Budget consultation process.

"I encourage everyone to share their views and suggestions on budget expenditure and capital priorities, savings and efficiency measures that may be considered by the Government in framing the 2011/12 Budget," Ms Gallagher said.

The Treasurer today released the 2011-12 ACT Budget consultation paper to start the process of community conversation.....

"I welcome input from the community on how they would like to see their money spent and their ideas for achieving the additional savings to return the budget to surplus," said Ms Gallagher.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10067&m=52> to view the full media release.

More information, submission process, and closing date

The ACT budget consultation paper can be found at www.treasury.act.gov.au/budgetconsultation

Submissions close on **17 December 2010** and can be submitted directly through the website, emailed to budgetconsultation@act.gov.au or posted to:

ACT Budget Consultation

Department of Treasury

GPO Box 158

Canberra ACT 2601.

National Health Reform Update

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

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

For further information about the health reforms including updates and resources visit

<http://yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>.

Commonwealth / State / Territory Agreements

The agreement between the Commonwealth / State / Territory Governments can be accessed from:

http://www.coag.gov.au/coag_meeting_outcomes/2010-04-19/docs/NHHN_Agreement.pdf. It includes **Future work and transition** (pg 26):

B34. The Commonwealth and States commit to undertaking further work to consider the following services, either for transfer to the Commonwealth or for strong national reform efforts with current roles and responsibilities: with a recommendation to be put to **COAG in December 2010**:

- community health promotion and population health programs including preventive health, in order to determine how to maximise the value of the new National Health and Hospitals Network and National Preventive Health Agency;
- **drug and alcohol treatment services**;
- child and maternal health services; and
- community palliative care; and
- for inclusion as part of the overall mental health report back to COAG in 2011:
- specialist community mental health services, for people with severe mental illness.

A fuller description, the red book 'A National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future – Delivering better health and better hospitals' is here: <http://yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/content/report-redbook>

Australian Government's implementation of blueprint 'Roadmap to Reform'

On 7 July 2010, the Australian Government released its health reform implementation blueprint 'Roadmap to Reform': media release <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-vr10-nr-nr140.htm> and report.

The media release highlights specific items - some of the ATOD relevant ones are bolded below. The implementation plan clearly shows what is already happening, and the delivery dates for other initiatives. This work includes:

Health reforms that are already underway:

- Hospitals – extra funding to take the pressure off our stretched emergency departments and to deliver more elective surgery procedures has already started to flow.
- Better safety and quality standards – legislation has been introduced into Parliament.
- E-health – passed the key legislation giving unique health identifiers to all Australians.
- Better GP facilities – GPs can now apply for up to \$500,000 to improve patient facilities.

Health reforms that are underway include:

- Commencing this year, 1,316 sub-acute beds will be established to provide approximately 24,900 additional services over four years for people needing care for mental health issues, rehabilitation and terminal illnesses.
- Funding starts flowing to double the number of *headspace* mental health facilities.
- Starting this year, an additional 11,700 services will be provided over two years by mental health care nurses
- Additional telephone-based counseling for alcohol problems.
- Innovative programs to tackle binge drinking begin.
- Local Hospital Network and Medicare Local boundaries decided.

January 2011:

- Four Hour Emergency Department treatment target for high needs patients starts.

July 2011:

- Any person, anywhere in Australia can pick up the phone to an after-hours GP telephone service – any time of the day or night.
- Establishment of the first Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks dedicated to improving local health services.
- Network of aged-care 'one-stop shops' commence.
- Health system moves to a sustainable funding base, as the Commonwealth becomes the dominant funder of hospitals, and takes full policy and funding responsibility for primary and aged care.

Implementation Plan

The new National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement combines reforms to the financing of the Australian health and hospital system with major changes to the governance arrangements between the Commonwealth and the states and territories to delivery health and hospital services.

A *National Health and Hospitals Network for Australia's Future Delivering the Reforms* document can be accessed from: [http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourHealth/publishing.nsf/Content/DeliveringTheReforms/\\$FILE/DeliveringTheReforms.pdf](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourHealth/publishing.nsf/Content/DeliveringTheReforms/$FILE/DeliveringTheReforms.pdf)

Some key areas for consideration include: 2.6 (pg. 25), Stream 7 – Prevention (pg. 45); 'Further work' (pg 52).

Next Steps Taken to Establish Medicare Locals

29 October 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

The Gillard Government is getting on with the job of reforming our health and hospital system and today took the important next step in establishing a network of primary health care organisations – Medicare Locals – by releasing a discussion paper on their planned roles, functions and governance.

Medicare Locals will have strong links to local communities, health professionals – including GPs, practice nurses and allied health professionals – and service providers enabling them to respond more effectively to the needs of local communities....

They will provide more co-ordinated care, improve access to services and drive integration between GPs, hospitals, allied health, mental health and aged care.

The Government's discussion paper and information on how to respond to the discussion paper is available at www.yourhealth.gov.au. Submissions must be received by 15 November 2010.

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-vr10-nr-nr164.htm> to view the full media release.

ACT Health Restructure

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

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

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

Sector Activities and Events

GROGWatch Program

CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn

This program is aimed at young people aged between 12-24 years of age who have been brought to the attention of the ACT Police and ACT Ambulance services as well as other AOD services due to Binge drinking behaviours.

The program has a Youth Outreach worker who will work on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings to provide and intervention to young binge drinkers referred by ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance services as well as other AOD services with the goal of increasing awareness, problem recognition and willingness to change, through education and outreach support.

For more information please contact CatholicCare on (02) 6163 3711 or (02) 6163 7600 (Business Hours) or grogwatch@catholiccare.cg.org.au.

Comorbidity Interagency Day

CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn in partnership with the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn in partnership with the ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT is inviting all Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health services in Canberra to attend their Comorbidity Interagency Day to promote awareness of services in the ACT region. This year's theme will be consumers and carers. A free sausage sizzle will be provided.

Date: Friday 10 December 2010

Time: 12pm – 2pm

Venue: Blackfriars Fountain Garden, 127 Philip Ave Watson ACT

RSVP: Essential by 1 December 2010

For more information or to RSVP download the [Comorbidity Interagency Day Flyer](#) or contact Laura Ingham on (02) 6163 7622.

ACT Public Health Forum 2010 - The Diversity of Public Health in the ACT

ACT Health, Australian National University, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Australian Health Promotion Association, Public Health Association Australia

This Forum will bring together a range of stakeholders working in public health including public health physicians, GPs, policy makers, public health administrators, practice nurses, allied professionals, NGOs, academics, students and other interested stakeholders. The forum will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the diversity of public health in the ACT and showcase their work, share ideas and network. Professional colleges can seek CME points for the event. The Forum will be formally opened by the ACT Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA at 8:30am.

Date: Thursday 4 November 2010

Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Venue: Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden

Registration: Essential

Download the [Forum Flyer](#).

For more information contact Natalia Thomas on (02) 6285 2373 or project@phaa.net.au.

ACT Council of Social Service Diversity Ball and ACT Community Sector Awards Presentation

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS is hosting a diversity ball to celebrate the ACT community sector and acknowledge the achievements of ACT community sector organisations and individuals through the presentation of the ACT Community Sector Awards.

Date: Friday 5 November 2010

Time: 7pm

Venue: CIT Restaurant, 1st Floor of K Block, Reid Campus, Constitution Avenue, Reid

Cost: \$80 for ACTCOSS members, \$100 for non-members

Registration: Essential

For more information or to order a ticket visit <http://www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/conference2010/DiversityBall2010.pdf>.

Quit Smoking 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.

Dates: 6 November 2010

Time: 11am

Cost: Free

Download the [Flyer](#).

For more information contact Marcus on (02) 6257 2855 or marcus@aidsaction.org.au.

Post normal reconciliation - Using science to reframe the reconciliation agenda

The National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University College of Law, Reconciliation Australia and The National Film and Sound Archive

In Australia, 'normal' reconciliation builds mutually respectful relationships that provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the opportunity to contribute to Australian society equally as fellow Australians. Expanding the term and application of reconciliation is required to go beyond the 'normal' due to the increased number of environmental, global monetary and political uncertainties in our global and regional contexts. The lecture will be presented by Dr Kerry Arabena.

Date: Thursday 11 November 2010

Time: 5:30pm start followed by a reception and a performance by the Zenadh Kes Mari Torres Strait Island Dance Group from 6.30-7.30pm

Venue: Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, ACT

RSVP: Essential by 8 November 2010 to rsvp.reconciliation@anu.edu.au

For more information visit <http://law.anu.edu.au/coast/events/indigenous/reconcil2010.pdf>.

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

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

- Participation in and consumer sponsorship to attend the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) Conference;
- Ongoing concerns regarding the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*;
- Minimum Qualification Strategy, including Senior First Aid Training;
- Workforce Remuneration and Qualification Profile;
- Proposed ACT Health Restructure; and
- Agency updates.

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

Sector Development

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

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

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

The October 2010 Bulletins topics are:

IDRS: An overview of the 2010 IDRS: Injecting Drug User survey key findings
EDRS: An overview of the 2010 EDRS: the regular ecstasy users survey findings

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

Prison Issues Update – October 2010

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

The October 2010 Prison Issues Update (PIU) is a monthly email update for persons working in the substance use in prisons field and provides a summary of recent developments in prison policy, media articles, and recently released research from Australia and overseas. For more information or to sign up to receive this update contact Adam Bode on adam@ancd.org.au.

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

University of New South Wales

The Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse is a national organisation, providing high quality information about domestic and family violence issues and practice. The primary goal of the Clearinghouse is to prevent domestic and family violence through disseminating information and research, and facilitating discussion. The Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse has released a new Special Collection on child protection and domestic violence.

For more information about the clearinghouse or to view the special collection visit <http://www.adfvc.unsw.edu.au/home.html>.

CONTACT 2010/2011

Citizens Advice Bureau ACT

CONTACT is Canberra's community information directory with up to 2,400 non-profit and community organisations listed. The new 2010/2011 edition is now available, for \$16.50.

Visit <http://www.citizensadvice.org.au/content/view/15/27/> for more information or contact (02) 6248 7988.

Australian Community Sector Survey

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The seventh Australian Community Sector Survey is now open. The Survey is an annual national survey collecting data about the non-government, non-profit community services and welfare sector. The survey provides a snapshot of how disadvantaged Australians are faring, and highlights to government and media the issues facing community services.

Visit <http://www.acoss.org.au/communitysectorsurvey> to complete the survey.

The survey closes on **3 December 2010**.

For more information contact Corinne at ACOSS on (02) 9310 6202 or corinne.dobson@acoss.org.au.

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2010 Conference: 28 November - 1 December 2010

Building on the Capital – Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

The Conference will focus on innovative treatment, prevention, law enforcement and policy in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The Conference will feature both Australian and International speakers and will also highlight Canberra-based issues and achievements.

Date: 28 November – 1 December 2010

Venue: National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra ACT

Cost: \$800 member, \$900 non-member

For further information or to register for the Conference visit www.apsadconference.com.au/.

Training and Professional Development

November – December 2010 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 November to December 2010 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 [November – December 2010 Training Calendar](#).

Senior First Aid Training

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

See the [ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section.

Comorbidity Bus Tour A

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

The Youth Coalition of the ACT, ATODA and the MHCC ACT are recommending sector bus tours as a pilot project. The aim of the Comorbidity Bus Tours are to increase the capacity of frontline workers to support people experiencing co-occurring alcohol, tobacco and other drug and mental health issues (comorbidity).

Tour A, will visit the following services*:

- Step Up Step Down Program, Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria
- Karralika Therapeutic Community Program, ADFACT
- Althea Wellness Clinic, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Psychiatric Services Unit, Mental Health ACT
- Opioid Treatment Service and Withdrawal Unit, ADP
- Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
- Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare
- The Rainbow, Mental Health Foundation
- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

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

Date: Wednesday 3 November 2010

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

Download the [Flyer](#).

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

What About Me? Children and Young People Living with Parental Substance Misuse

Disability, Housing and Community Services; and ACT Health

This workshop reflects on the experiences of children, young people and their parents when substance misuse is present; and offers participants the opportunity to identify associated risk and protective factors, possible roles and responsibilities in service provision, specialist agencies and programs available in the ACT and how services can work together.

Date: Thursday 4 November 2010

Time: 8.45am - 4.30pm

Venue: Therapy ACT, Cnr Weingarth and Blackwood Tce, Holder

Cost: Free

For more information contact Sally Markham on (02) 6207 1344 or Maureen Scott on (02) 6205 1312.

The 8th Dangerous Consumptions Colloquium

Australian National University

The Dangerous Consumptions Colloquium is a forum for the presentation and discussion of research on contemporary consumption. In past years presentations have explored alcohol, illicit drugs, gambling, sex, food, blood, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, celebrity magazines and pleasure from a social research perspective. Presentations on these or other forms of 'dangerous consumption' are welcome.

Date: 2 - 3 December 2010

Venue: School of Sociology, Australian National University

Cost: \$80 - \$100 (TBC)

For further information contact Dan Woodman on dan.woodman@anu.edu.au or (02) 6125 4120.

Building on the Capital – Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

See [APSAD 2010 Conference section](#) for further details.

Human Rights Commission Training and Professional Development Opportunities

ACT Human Rights Commission (HRC)

The HRC has released their July - November Training Calendar, and have a number of training and professional development opportunities available to community sector workers and services. These include: [Discriminatory Harassment and Bullying](#) and [Disability Discrimination](#). Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/content.php/category.view/id/77 for more information.

Defining diversity – ACTCOSS Conference 2010

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The ACT Council of Social Service Biennial Conference aims to provide attendants with an opportunity to engage in leadership development, discuss innovative ideas and practices, and network with colleagues to share ideas and experiences. The theme of the conference is defining diversity and how the community sector can lead the development of social change through diversity and equality.

Date: 4 – 5 November

Venue: K Block, Canberra Institute of Technology, Reid Campus,

Constitution Avenue, Reid, ACT

Cost: ACTCOSS members \$260, Non-members \$300

Registration: Essential

Visit <http://www.actcross.org.au/flyer/conference2010/Program-2010-10-01.pdf> to view the Conference Program.

For more information or to register for the conference visit <http://www.actcross.org.au/flyer/conference2010/DefiningDiversity-ConferenceRegistration.pdf> or contact ACTCOSS on (02) 6202 7200.

Bullying: Prevention and Management

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This seminar will assist managers and supervisors of community service organisations in prevention and management of bullying in the workplace.

Date: Monday 15 November 2010

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

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

Cost: \$212 ACTCOSS members, \$276 Non-members, \$322 Government/Corporate

Food: Lunch and refreshments provided

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

Accidental Counsellor

Lifeline Canberra

This program has been developed for people who find themselves in situations where counselling or empathetic communication is required; and aims to provide participants with a range of skills to work effectively with clients where counselling or empathetic communication is required.

Date: 16 and 17 November 2010

Venue: Lifeline Canberra

Cost: \$330

For more information contact (02) 6247 0655 or training@act.lifeline.org.au.

Raising the Standard

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop aims to assist workers and services to implement quality improvement in their organisations.

Date: Thursday 18 November 2010

Time: 10am – 3:30pm

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

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

Food: Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided.

Registration: Essential by **11 November 2010**

Visit <http://www.actcross.org.au/flyer/RTS-Nov10.pdf> to view the flyer.

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

Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing: Short Course

ACT Health and VicHealth

This course is designed to increase the skills and capacity of workers in diverse sectors to undertake successful mental health promotion activities. It provides resources and models to enhance evidence based project planning, implementation and evaluation of activities in the

area of mental health promotion.

Date: Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 November 2010
Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm
Venue: Training Room 1 and 2, Level 1 Moore St, Canberra City
Cost: Free

For more information contact Johann Sheehan on johann.sheehan@act.gov.au.

5th Annual Practice Talking Conference 2010

Department of Disability, Housing, and Community Services (DHCS), in partnership with Australian Catholic University (ACU)
The Conference is themed "Seeds of change: growing practice" and is an opportunity for front line workers/practitioners who work with children, youth, adults, families and communities to share their practice ideas, knowledge, experience and skills with each other.

Date: Tuesday, 30 November 2010
Venue: Australian Catholic University

For further information contact the conference organisers on practice_talking@act.gov.au or (02) 6207 7336 or visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/practice_talking.

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

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)
This Conference aims to bring together community sector workers, consumers, carers and Government representatives to discuss the vision for a consumer focused and integrated mental health and wellbeing sector and to share ideas on how this can be achieved. Presentations will focus on how the sector can influence change both locally and nationally and showcase existing innovative models and programs.

Date: February 17 – 18, 2011
Venue: Australian National University, Canberra
Cost: \$210 Government/corporate, \$180 community org non member, \$150 community org member, \$50 consumer/carer
Registration: Essential, download the [registration form](#).

Download the [Conference Flyer](#).

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

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

2010 Creating Synergy Drug and Alcohol Conference

Creating Synergy and New South Wales Health
The Conference will provide a forum for government and non-government alcohol and other drug researchers, practitioners and policy makers to discuss the evidence and models for family inclusive approaches to alcohol and other drug interventions. The Conference theme is Family and Carers.

Date: 3 – 5 November 2010
Venue: University of Wollongong
Cost: \$475 (including pre conference workshop on 3 November)

For further information or to register for the conference visit www.creatingsynergy.org.au/.

Inaugural National Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Conference

Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Research Unit (IPDRU), Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales
The conference aims to address the following three questions:

- What might we now do to create a more just and reconciled society?
- How might we create new opportunities to transform the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people?
- What are the implications for policy making in this contested space?

Date: 18 – 19 November 2010
Venue: University of New South Wales
Cost: \$500

For further information or to register visit <http://nipdc.arts.unsw.edu.au/> or contact the conference organisers on nipdc@unsw.edu.au or (02) 9385 7588.

Outside In: Research into Practice Conference

Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) and Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA)
This conference will explore the evidence base and what works relating to clients with co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol issues. The conference will also report on a number of research projects conducted by universities and research institutions in collaboration with community organisations working on the ground and examine the success of these projects in the context of capacity building for the mental health and AOD sectors.

Date: 6 - 7 December 2010
Venue: Novotel Manly Pacific, 55 North Steyne , Manly, NSW
Cost: \$265 Members, \$330 non members, \$220 concession
Registration: Essential by 26 November 2010

Download the [registration flyer](#).

For further information or to register for the conference visit http://www.nada.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=37.

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

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

Date: 11 – 15 April 2011
Venue: CQ Functions, 113 Queen St, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Cost: \$480.00 KBS member, \$550.00 KBS non member – early bird
Registration: Early bird closes **11 February 2011**

Call for abstracts close **14 December 2010**.

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

manager at info@theconferencemanager.com.au.

6th International Conference on Drugs and Young People

Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)

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

Date: 2 – 4 May 2011

Venue: Melbourne Convention Centre

Call for abstracts close **5pm, Friday 12 November 2010**

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

Policy Activities

Consultation open on alcohol-free community sponsorship fund

Australian Government

As part of its National Binge Drinking Strategy, the Australian Government is seeking input from the community on how to remove links between alcohol and community sporting and cultural activities that young people are involved in.

The paper is available at www.alcohol.gov.au.

Submissions are due by **19 November 2010**.

Inquiry into the Future Ownership and Management Arrangements of the Calvary Public Hospital

Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services, ACT Legislative Assembly

On 19 August 2010 the Minister for Health proposed a number of items relating to the future management of Calvary Public Hospital; including that the ACT Government builds a new acute public hospital on the northside of Canberra. They are seeking written submissions that provide feedback on the proposed options, and identify and evaluate further options.

Visit <http://www.legassembly.act.gov.au/committees/index1.asp?committee=115&inquiry=982> for more information or contact Ms Grace Concannon on (02) 6205 0129 or grace.concannon@parliament.act.gov.au.

Submissions are due by **26 November 2010**.

Discussion Paper: Maximising Potential - Improving Life Transitions for Young People in Care

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

This Discussion Paper seeks to provide an opportunity for community and government stakeholders to input into the realignment of service models within the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, for vulnerable young people and young people transitioning to independent living.

Download the [discussion paper](#) for more information.

Submissions are due by **30 November 2010**.

Strengthening our Support of Young People Transitioning Out of Care: A New Framework

Meredith Hunter MLA, ACT Greens

This discussion paper aims to raise ideas and proposals about models, strategies and practices that may be employed to ensure that young people transitioning out of care are given sufficient support as they move beyond the care system into adulthood.

Visit <http://act.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Hunter-Transitioning-out-of-care-Oct-2010.pdf> to view the discussion paper.

Submissions are due by **30 November 2010**.

Draft Community Engagement Guide

ACT Government

The ACT Government has announced a new community engagement protocol that aims to improve the way the ACT Government engages with the Canberra community. Individuals and organisations are invited to provide feedback on the draft protocol.

Visit http://www.communityengagement.act.gov.au/engagements/cmd/current/draft_community_engagement_guide for more information or contact (02) 6207 6137 or communicationsandengagement@act.gov.au.

Submissions are due by **2 December 2010**.

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT will be making a submission on the draft community engagement guide. For more information contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

See also the [ACT Budget 2011/2012](#) section.

ACT Carers Charter Consultation

In the ACT, the term 'Carer' encompasses a diversity of individuals and groups performing a caring role. The proposed Charter defines a Carer as "a person who provides unpaid primary care to someone else who is dependent on the person for ongoing care and assistance".

This definition is consistent with the ACT *Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006* and includes people who provide informal care and support to friends and relatives with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness, or substance abuse, as well as Grandparents, Kinship Carers or Foster Carers who provide a caring role to children and young people.

ACT Carers Charter Discussion Paper

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

This discussion paper provides background information on a proposed *ACT Carers Charter* (the Charter). The Charter seeks to draw on the experiences of other States and Territories while responding to the unique characteristics of Carers living in the ACT.

While the ACT has a range of policies and legislation that support Carers, an *ACT Carers Charter* (the Charter) would provide further recognition for Carers and renew existing commitments to support Carers in our community. This would be achieved by creating a set of standards that are accessible and easy to understand and by providing Carers with the opportunity to be involved in decisions that impact upon their role in our community.

Visit http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/162752/ACT_Carers_Charter_Discussion_Paper.pdf to view the paper.

Submissions or comments are due by **Friday 3 December 2010**.

ATODA Carers Charter Submission

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT will be making a submission on the ACT Carers Charter Discussion paper, which will have a specific focus on caring as it related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Stakeholders are encouraged to engage with ATODA on the development of the submission.

For more information please contact Amanda Bode on amanda@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

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>.

Would drug prevention programs for young people be more effective if they aimed to reduce harm rather than use?

Reviewers have evaluated the effectiveness of programs aimed at the prevention of substance abuse by young people. They found that 'There is a range of prevention approaches for which there is evidence of effectiveness. Some are classroom-based; some focus upon parenting; some have substantial whole-of-school and community elements; and some target risk and protective factors in early childhood. All, however, are based substantially on the social influence model. ...On balance, there is consistent evidence that social influence prevention programmes do have a small, positive effect on drug use, but this then raises the question as to whether harm, rather than use, would be the more worthwhile target for prevention. Prevention that seeks to reduce harm has been demonstrably effective, but has found little support in some jurisdictions'.

Midford, R 2010, 'Drug prevention programmes for young people: where have we been and where should we be going?' *Addiction*, vol. 105, no. 10, pp. 1688-95.

Could the mainstream media be used to influence youth attitudes to and demand for illicit drugs?

The Drug Policy Modelling Program Monograph Series no. 19 'examines two major aspects of news media [mainstream print news and current affairs]: media production – as denoted by patterns and trends in Australian news media reporting on illicit drugs – and media effects – as denoted by impacts on youth attitudes to illicit drug use'. It reports on a study which included 'a retrospective content analysis of newspaper articles on illicit drugs published between 2003 and 2008; an online survey on the impacts of media portrayals on youth attitudes to illicit drug use; and focus groups with youth'. The authors state that the study 'provides evidence that what the news media says about illicit drugs can influence youth attitudes to illicit drugs. This indicates that what is perceived as newsworthy, how it is discussed, and who is cited can all contribute to (or work against) youth receptivity to the messages and the likelihood of shaping their attitudes'.

The authors assert that the mainstream media 'is a tool that ought to be better understood and utilised alongside other preventative measures. The onus is now on the alcohol and other drug sector to recognise the potential power of news media and to increase resourcing capabilities to foster better and more frequent engagement with news media outlets.

Hughes, C, Spicer, B, Lancaster, K, Matthew-Simmons, F & Dillon, P 2010, *Media reporting on illicit drugs in Australia: trends and impacts on youth attitudes to illicit drug use*, Drug Policy Modelling Project Monograph Series no. 19, Drug Policy Modelling Program, Sydney, NSW, <http://www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/DPMPWeb.nsf/page/Monographs>.

Does a prison sentence deter adult offenders from reoffending?

The New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research recently published a bulletin that reports on a study of 'the effect of prison on re-offending among offenders convicted of either non-aggravated assault or burglary'. The researchers compared 'time to re-conviction among 96 matched pairs of convicted burglars and 406 matched pairs of offenders convicted of non-aggravated assault. One member of each pair received a prison sentence, while the other received some form of non-custodial sanction'. They found that 'Offenders who received a prison sentence were slightly more likely to re-offend than those who received a noncustodial penalty'. They concluded that 'There is no evidence that prison deters offenders convicted of burglary or non-aggravated assault. There is some evidence that prison increases the risk of offending amongst offenders convicted of non-aggravated assault'.

Weatherburn, D 2010, *The effect of prison on adult re-offending*, Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 143, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, [http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/cjb143.pdf/\\$file/cjb143.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/cjb143.pdf/$file/cjb143.pdf)

How effective is drug treatment in the long term?

In what is claimed to be 'an international first', a four year study of people in the UK who received treatment for drug dependency has found 'Strong evidence that suggests sustained recovery from addiction...for almost half of all the clients discharged from treatment during 2005-06. Around 46% neither came back into treatment, nor had a drug-related contact with the criminal justice system in the following four years. The majority (55%) of all clients who left treatment during 2005-06 did not return to treatment in the subsequent four years...Those treated for the most addictive substances were the hardest to treat and more likely to relapse. Problem drug users addicted to both heroin and crack cocaine in combination had the poorest long term outcomes. Conversely, those leaving treatment for cannabis and powder cocaine did best with 69% and 64% respectively not returning during the follow-up period or being identified as re-offending using drugs. Whether someone was discharged from treatment free of all illegal drugs or free of dependency made little difference to how likely they were to need further treatment or commit drug-related crimes.'

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (United Kingdom) 2010, *A long-term study of the outcomes of drug users leaving treatment*, UK National Health Service, National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, London, http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/outcomes_of_drug_users_leaving_treatment2010.pdf.

How can AOD treatment agencies make use of routinely-collected client data?

The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) Bulletin Series no. 11 describes an evaluation of the *FYRST STOP Youth Cannabis Clinic* which 'provides an example of how substance use treatment agencies can utilise routinely collected data'. *FYRST STOP* 'was designed to provide accessible, holistic treatment and support for young people in Western Sydney through the provision of a range of services including individual counselling, group support and access to medical services'. The evaluators found that 'Overall, the data suggests that *FYRST STOP* is effective in both assisting clients to reduce their cannabis use and address a number of related issues in their lives'.

The authors point out that 'Alcohol and other drug treatment agencies routinely collect a large range of client data upon intake, during treatment and upon treatment cessation. The usefulness of such data is often underestimated and generally under-utilised during treatment planning and while preparing funding applications. When relevant data is routinely collected in a standardised manner, it can not only serve as a rich source of evidence demonstrating quality and efficacy of a treatment service, but also as a way of identifying how and where a service can be improved'.

Simpson, M, Howard, J, Rodas, A & Kalmark, D 2010, *FYRST STOP Youth Cannabis Clinic: evaluation using routinely collected data*, NCPIC Bulletin Series no. 11, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney, <http://ncpic.org.au/ncpic/publications/bulletins/>.

Is treatment in a therapeutic community beneficial for substance dependent clients?

A study over the period 1997 to 2007 of 351 clients of the residential program of Odyssey House Victoria's Therapeutic Community (TC), which serves drug dependent clients, including those with co-occurring mental health problems compared their psychological health after 5 weeks in treatment and again after 4 months. The researchers concluded that 'treatment within the TC over this time span was associated with improved mental health. The present study suggests that residential rehabilitation's holistic approach provides a suitable treatment model for clients with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders'.

Polimeni, A-M, Moore, SM & Gruenert, S 2010, 'Mental health improvements of substance dependent clients after 4 months in a Therapeutic Community', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 29, no. 5, pp. 546-50.

Are people who first use alcohol and marijuana at an early age more likely to have substance use problems later in life?

A study of high school students in north eastern USA examined 'whether age of alcohol and marijuana use onset during adolescence predicted later substance use and related problems in several areas of psychosocial functioning among young adults. A total of 621 participants completed surveys regarding current substance use from 7th through 12th grades and also completed a survey as young adults (age 24) that included questions regarding the impact of alcohol and drug use on several areas of functioning'. The researchers found that 'earlier age of substance use onset was positively associated with weekly use of alcohol and marijuana during young adulthood, as well as substance-related occupational, relationship, and legal problems. The majority of young adults reporting problems due to alcohol or drug use had first reported alcohol and/or marijuana use before entering high school. For women, onset of substance use prior to high school was more strongly related to negative drug-related occupational outcomes than was concurrent weekly substance use as a young adult'.

Griffin, KW, Bang, H & Botvin, GJ 2010, 'Age of alcohol and marijuana use onset predicts weekly substance use and related psychosocial problems during young adulthood', *Journal of Substance Use*, vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 174-83.

What can parents do to reduce their teenage children's consumption of alcohol?

A review of the literature has identified a number of strategies that parents can use to reduce their adolescent's alcohol consumption. These include 'parental modelling, limiting availability of alcohol to the child, parental monitoring, parent-child relationship quality, parental involvement and general communication'. The researchers suggest that parents can use these strategies 'to implement new national guidelines regarding alcohol consumption by people under the age of 18'.

Ryan, SM, Jorm, AF & Lubman, DI 2010, 'Parenting factors associated with reduced adolescent alcohol use: a systematic review of longitudinal studies', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, vol. 44, no. 9, pp. 774-83.

What are the current trends in drug use in the USA?

The results of the USA 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate that the number of people who used marijuana for the first time increased in 2009, as did the number who used ecstasy for the first time. The first time use of prescription pain killers in 2009 was similar to the number in 2008. However the number of first time users of cocaine decreased in 2009.

Center for Substance Abuse Research 2010, *First time users of marijuana and ecstasy increase; number of new users of prescription pain relievers remains stable while new cocaine users continue to decrease*, Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland (USA), <http://www.cesar.umd.edu/cesar/cesarfax/vol19/19-39.pdf>, summarising Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration 2010, *Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health*, vol 1, Rockville, MD, <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov>.

Do people who use illicit drugs still face stigma and discrimination in the criminal justice system?

Associate Professor Carla Treloar from the National Centre in HIV Social Research at The University of New South Wales illustrates the continuing stigma against and persecution of people who are believed to use illicit drugs, in this case by a member of the NSW Police Force:

'In Hepatitis Awareness Week 2010, we conducted a study of hepatitis C knowledge. Participants were drawn from services known to attract clients with a high likelihood of having hepatitis C. Participants were provided with feedback on their answers and a dental health promotion pack (toothbrush, toothpaste and sugar free chewing gum in a zip-lock bag). The offer of a dental pack was well-received by participants. However, we were unaware of the sinister purpose to which this seemingly ordinary collection of household items would be put.

'One participant, Paul [not his real name], was stopped on the street by local police. That he was in possession of said toothbrush, etc, was cause for interrogation. Paul was accused of stealing the items from local outlets and was subject to a 12 hour exclusion from the local area. The man protested his innocence and told the officer that he had received the items at a local service for completing a research survey.

'We could hypothesise that this is a tale told by a person who is frequently intoxicated. Besides being grounded in stereotype, this hypothesis is nullified by the subsequent behaviour of the police officer. The officer attended the service and staff confirmed Paul's story. This was, of course, of no help to Paul as the exclusion order had already been issued' (p. 533).

The author goes on to draw out implications for researchers, people who use drugs, people who provide services, and members of police forces.

Treloar, C 2010, 'The proof is in the toothpaste: police ordered exclusion as a result of research participation', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34, no. 5, pp. 533-4.

What more can be done to reduce smoking in Australia?

'Effective tobacco control policies include price increases through taxes, restrictions on smoking in public and work places, adequately funded mass media campaigns, bans on advertising, health warnings on packages and cessation assistance. As these policies have been largely implemented in Australia, what next should the country do in tobacco control?...

'Ninety-one Australian tobacco control stakeholders took part in a web-based survey about the future of tobacco control policies...

'The policy deemed most important in decreasing smoking was to increase excise and customs duty by 30%. Other policies receiving high support included: funding mass media campaigns through tax hypothecation; introducing retail display bans; plain packaging of tobacco products; and banning smoking in outdoor dining areas. Reintroducing the sale of smokeless tobacco products received the least support... The release of the Australian 2009 National Preventative Health Taskforce's report presents an opportunity to translate these ideas into action.'

Freeman, B, Gartner, C, Hall, W & Chapman, S 2010, 'Forecasting future tobacco control policy: where to next?' *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34, no. 5, pp. 447-50.

Where should Australian governments' spending on preventing and responding to drug abuse be targeted?

'A notable feature of Australian drug policy is the limited public and professional attention given to the financial costs of drug abuse and to the levels and patterns of government expenditures incurred in preventing and responding to this. Since 1991, Collins and Lapsley have published scholarly reports documenting the social costs of drug abuse in Australia and their reports also contain estimates of governments' drug budgets: revenue and expenditures. They show that, in 2004-2005, Australian governments expended at least \$5,288 million on drug abuse, with 50% of the expenditure directed to preventing and dealing with alcohol-related problems, 45% to illicit drugs and just 5% to tobacco. Some 60% of the expenditure was directed at drug crime and 37% at health interventions. This pattern of resource allocation does not adequately reflect an evidence-informed policy orientation in that it largely fails to focus on the drug types that are the sources of the most harm (tobacco and alcohol rather than illicit drugs), and the sectors for which we have the strongest evidence of the cost-effectiveness of the available interventions (treatment and harm reduction rather than legislation and law enforcement). The 2010-2014 phase of Australia's National Drug Strategy should include incremental changes to the resource allocation mix, and not simply maintain the historical resource allocation formulae.'

McDonald, D 2010, 'Australian governments' spending on preventing and responding to drug abuse should target the main sources of drug-related harm and the most cost-effective interventions', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, early view online

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Report

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

This report provides an overview of the data collected in 2008-09 relating to services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Services include primary health services, substance use specific services and counselling services.

Visit <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11750> for more information.

Media

Health experts unite to back National Preventive Health Agency

29 September 2010

Alcohol Policy Coalition, Cancer Council Victoria, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, VicHealth, the Obesity Policy Coalition and Quit Victoria

The Australian Parliament is set to take an important step in the fight against the rising tide of disease caused by smoking, alcohol and obesity when the National Prevention Agency Bill is debated during this fortnight's Parliamentary sitting period.

The proposed national prevention agency was recommended by the National Preventative Health Taskforce and the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission to provide co-ordination and leadership in promoting the health of Australians....

"The National Preventive Agency will have a major marketing focus. There is good evidence that social marketing is very effective and good value for money, particularly on education about tobacco, physical activity and fruit and vegetables..."

In total, the overall cost to the healthcare system associated with obesity, tobacco and the harmful use of alcohol is in the order of almost \$6 billion per year...

Their recommendations have highlighted the need for the agency to be capable of working effectively across many sectors, coordinating activities at national, state and local levels, informing government policy through the provision of strategic advice, and providing progress reports to the Australian community.

Visit

http://www.adf.org.au/images/stories/media_releases_2010/Health_experts_unite_to_back_National_Preventative_Health_Agency_290910.pdf to view the full media release.

ACT Health report shows achievements and challenges

5 October 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

The ACT Health Annual Report 2009-10 shows a year of major achievements, challenges and records for ACT Health...

"This report by ACT Health clearly indicates that 2009-10 was another busy year for our health system. Yet despite these demand pressures, ACT Health continues to meet these challenges and in many areas continues to improve against the targets." Ms Gallagher said...

The report can be found at www.health.act.gov.au/c/health

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10007&m=52&s=1> to view the full media release.

Step-Up/Step-Down facilities expand

14 October 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher announced this week that the ACT Government will develop two new Step-Up Step-Down services.

"A Step-Up/Step-Down residential facility for young people aged 18 to 25 years will be delivered to provide care for those experiencing sub-acute mental health symptoms. The service will provide support and care to young people to avert a hospital admission or for those who are not yet ready to return home after admission," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10031> to view the full media release.

Campaign launch for Alexander Maconochie Centre -100 books in 100 days

14 October 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

The Attorney General, Simon Corbell, in conjunction with the Law Students' Society of the Australian National University and Gillian Beaumont Legal, will today launch a campaign to raise money for additional books for the Alexander Maconochie Centre library. "The 'Books for All' campaign is an initiative of the prison's Official Visitor, Jeremy Boland and will raise money to purchase books for the prison's library."

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10032> to view the full media release.

Call for Nominations for the ACT Citizen of the Year 2011

19 October 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Acting Chief Minister Katy Gallagher has called on the ACT community to nominate outstanding Canberrans for the 2011 Canberra Citizen of the Year Award.

The award, which is presented by the Chief Minister each year during the Canberra Day celebrations, has previously been given to Jack Waterford, Matilda House and business leader John Mackay AM. Ms Gallagher said nominations were open to individuals and groups in any field, including the arts, education, community work and business.

Visit <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10046> to view the full media release.

Process commences for the next 28 GP super clinics

28 October 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon, MP

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said the Government today started the process of delivering 28 new GP Super Clinics to local communities around Australia, an extra \$233m investment in primary healthcare...

26 Clinics are currently either operational, offering early services or under construction around Australia.

These clinics will bring together general practitioners, practice nurses, visiting medical specialists, allied health professionals and other health care providers to deliver integrated multi-disciplinary, primary health care services aimed at addressing the health care needs and priorities of local communities. Importantly, clinics can play a role in training the next generation of health professionals...

Visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr163.htm> to view the full media release.

A local consultation process will occur in Canberra regarding the structure of a GP super clinic that will work for the region.

Please note that media items are also included in other areas of the ebulletin.

Consumer Participation

ATOD Consumer Participation Proposal

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

Consumer participation is a necessary component of any consumer focused ATOD service delivery model for three primary reasons:

- Active consumer participation leads to more accessible and effective health services;
- Effective consumer participation in quality improvement and service development activities leads to better targeting and uptake of services; and
- Effective consumer participation facilitates participation by those traditionally marginalised by mainstream health services and therefore improves health outcomes across the community.

Therefore ATODA is working with the sector to develop a proposal to conduct a consumer participation project in the ACT. Stakeholders are encouraged to contact Carrie Fowle, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Free Training for Youth Workers

Cancer Council ACT

As part of the Cancer Council ACT's Live it Up! project, free training is available to youth centres and youth organisations to assist workers in encouraging good nutrition and exercise habits amongst their clients. Training is being offered to any organisation who works with young people and will be delivered to staff at your organisation. Training can be in the form of a one-off information session, or a structured series of sessions to best meet your organisational needs. There will be no cost to your organisation and all training resources will be supplied by the Cancer Council ACT.

Visit www.actcancer.org/downloads/File/Live%20it%20up%20FLYER.pdf for more information or contact (02) 6257 9999 or bernadette.urack@actcancer.org.

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT Annual General Meeting and Consumer and Carer Caucus

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)

The MHCC ACT is holding its Annual General Meeting on 11 November 2010 and is also holding a Consumer and Carer Caucus that will take place prior to the Annual General Meeting on the same day.

Details for the Annual General meeting are as follows:

Date: Thursday 11 November 2010

Time: 4 - 6pm

Venue: Riley Hall, Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Ave, Canberra

RSVP: Essential by Monday 8 November 2010

Details for the Consumer and Carer Caucus are as follows:

Date: Thursday 11 November 2010
Time: 1:30 – 3:30pm
Venue: Room 7, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra
RSVP: Essential by Monday 8 November 2010

For further information or to RSVP for either event contact Rachel on (02) 6249 7756 or admin@mhccact.org.au.

Employment Opportunities

Child and Family Worker

Kids in Focus Program, Barnardos

Part Time Position (28 – 30 hours per week), Level 29 – SP9, Barnardos Enterprise Certified Agreement, \$44,337 to \$60,634 – pro rata according to part time hours.

Barnardos Australia is looking for a dedicated part time Child and Family Worker to join their Kids in Focus program in Canberra. Kids in Focus (KiF) is a new service, funded by FaHCSIA, that aims to improve outcomes for children who reside in families where there is substance misuse.

The worker will provide assessment, case management and outreach support to families dealing with substance misuse to elicit change and improve health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for the children in their care. The successful applicant will have significant demonstrated experience in counselling, casework, assessment and support with families, specifically with families where there are high needs and issues of AOD use.

For further information including a position description and selection criteria contact Alison Taylor on (02) 6228 9529 or ataylor@barnardos.org.au.

Applications close **5pm Wednesday 3 November 2010**.

Researchers / Research Assistants / Consultants – Casual Pool

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals who would like to join the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT's (ATODA) pool of casual researchers / research assistants / consultants. Pay rates vary depending upon qualifications and duties and will be negotiated with the individual based on budgetary constraints.

If you are interested in applying please download and complete the [expression of interest form](#) and submit it to Carrie Fowle, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or call (02) 6255 4070 for further information.

Please note that the casual pool will remain open until Friday 17 December 2010.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Our Wellness Foundation Grants

Our Wellness Foundation

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

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

IMB Community Foundation Funding

IMB Community Foundation

The IMB Community Foundation is currently accepting applications for projects that reflect their objectives, including enhancing the economic self-sufficiency of communities, generating economic, social, cultural, environmental, tourism and educational benefits for those communities. Although there is no maximum to the amount that organisations can apply for, the total funding pool is \$450,000.

Visit <http://www.imb.com.au/community-community-foundation-about-the-foundation.html> for more information.

Applications close **Thursday 14 December 2010**.

Becoming a Member of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is the peak body representing the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). As a peak body, a key role of the ATODA is to ensure that individuals affected by the harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and the organisations that support them, are well supported and represented in policy and program development and public discussion. To assist in achieving this, ATODA welcomes organisations and individuals to become members. For further information about membership including the constitutional objects of ATODA, benefits of membership, membership fees and payment methods, please contact info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070 to request the membership application information package.

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

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