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ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: October 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

Nominations are open for the 2nd Annual ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Awards

There are many exceptional people who work to promote health and prevent harms associated with alcohol tobacco and other drugs. The Second Annual ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Awards aim to recognise, promote and reward outstanding practice in the ATOD field in the ACT.

There are four award categories for 2010, which include:

1. Exemplary Practice Award

This award recognises exemplary alcohol, tobacco and other drug practice undertaken over the past 12 months in the ACT. The nominated area could be an initiative, model, partnership, innovation, quality improvement activity, evaluation, etc., which may have been developed, implemented or evaluated. The awarded practice would serve as an ideal model or standard that the sector would like to uphold. The winner will be deserving of commendation because of excellence in practice or service to the ACT community.

Note: The Exemplary Practice Award is for an aspect of practice, and as such an entire service or organisation is not eligible to apply for this award.

2. Excellence in Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Work Award

This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated excellence in non-clinical or clinical alcohol, tobacco and other drug work in the ACT. The individual will have demonstrated a strong commitment to embodying the principles of the Awards and to conducting their professional practice with empathy, skill and knowledge.

3. Lifetime Achievements Award

This award recognises an individual who over the span of their career has consistently demonstrated a commitment to evidenced- informed and socially-just approaches to promoting the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities affected by alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues. The individual will be regarded as a highly skilled, knowledgeable and experienced individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector in the ACT.

4. Outstanding Contributions Award

This award recognises the contributions of an individual who has worked to prevent or reduce the psychological, physical, social and/or economic harms caused by alcohol, tobacco and

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

[Updates on Peak activities](#)

[Minimum Qualification Strategy](#)

Information about the upcoming semester of the Minimum Qualification Strategy

[Sector Activities and Events](#)

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

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

Media excerpts on Jon Stanhope's comments about an NSP in the AMC.

[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 Executive Directors' Group](#)

other drugs in the ACT. The individual need not have worked in direct service delivery or specifically in the AOD sector, but will have over a considerable period of time worked to improve the health and well-being of people affected alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues.

Nomination Package

The 2nd Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards – 2010 Nomination Package includes information about the Awards, the Guidelines and Categories; Nomination Information; Information for Award Recipients; and the 2010 Nomination Form.

Download the [Nomination Package](#).

Submitting a nomination

A completed nomination form can be submitted by:

Email: awards@atoda.org.au

Post: PO Box 7187, Watson ACT 2602

In person: 350 Antill Street, Watson

Getting support and more information

If you would like more information or assistance please contact ATODA on awards@atoda.org.au or call (02) 6255 4070.

Nominations Close: 22 October 2010

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.

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

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc (ATODA)'s interim Board began in April 2010. The Interim Board has worked diligently over the past eight months to establish what is now a fully-staffed, thriving organisation. 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 please contact Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or call (02) 6255 4070.

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT have continued to work collaboratively to raise the concerns of both sector of the potentially significant unintended negative consequences of the proposed Working with Vulnerable People Checking System.

The 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.

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/wwwpc.

ATODA will continue to raise the significant concerns with the legislation, including viability of the workforce, employer discretion and the importance of ensuring that accessing treatment of support does not become a barrier to employment. For further information or for a copy of ATODA's submissions please contact Carrie Fowlie, Interim Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au.

Sector Forum: Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

Stakeholders are invited to attend a forum to explore the potential impacts of the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010 on our workforce. The forum will include an overview of the legislation; a series of case studies; a discussion of the potential impacts of the legislation on our workforces; and ways forward. The forum's details are:

Date: Wednesday 27 October

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Venue: Training Room, 1 Moore St., ACT Health Building

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 Symposiums

Information on interstate conferences relevant to the ATOD sector.

Policy Activities

Information on key policy activities effecting the ATOD sector.

Policy, Reports and Research

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

Media

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

Consumer Participation

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

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

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

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities in the ACT ATOD sector.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

RSVP: Essential, all welcome. Please email info@atoda.org.au or call (02) 6255 4070.

Note: Background information will be sent to participants prior to the forum.

Sector Forum: ATOD Sector Priorities for the ACT Budget

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

The ATOD sector and key stakeholders are invited to a final forum to discuss draft proposals for ATODA's submission to the ACT Budget.

Date: Monday 18 October

Time: 3pm – 5pm

Venue: 350 Antill St., Watson

RSVP: Essential, please contact Carrie Fowlie on carrie@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070 for further details.

ATODA Response to 'Vision Zero' ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011 – 2020

ATODA congratulated the ACT Government for its renewed commitment to road safety in the ACT in its response to the 'Vision Zero' ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011 – 2020 Discussion Paper, which focused on the impaired driving aspects of the proposed Strategy.

ATODA believes that the impaired driving aspects of the Strategy could be strengthened and drew attention to the fact that, within the ACT, there is extensive expertise in this field. As the peak body for the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector, ATODA stands ready to support the ACT Government in accessing and making use of this expertise in further developing the ACT Road Safety Strategy and the subsequent action plans.

We look forward to working in partnership with the ACT Government and key stakeholders to improving road safety in the ACT.

Download the [submission](#).

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

Workplace Tobacco Management Project

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

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project is funded by ACT Health. The project aims to increase awareness of and support the implementation of workplace tobacco management policies and reduce the impact of smoking behaviours within participating pilot sites. This project involves nine pilot sites across the alcohol and other drug, mental health and youth sectors. For further information please contact Dr Justin Barker on justin@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy

Please see [Minimum Qualification Strategy](#) section for further information.

September – October 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT

The September to October 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 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 [September – October 2010 Training Calendar](#).

Call for Submissions: November – December 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT Contributions for the November – December 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar are currently being sought.

The Training and Professional Development Calendar will now be produced as a partnership between the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA), Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT. The Training Calendar provides training and professional development opportunities for workers in the youth, alcohol and other drug, mental health, family support and community sectors. This calendar has an average distribution of over 400 in the ACT and surrounding areas to workers in these fields.

To include your training in the calendar for November - December, email katrina@youthcoalition.net or call the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 and provide the following details:

- Name of training / course
- Date(s) of training / course
- Contact person / phone number / email addresses for RSVP
- Cost of training / course

Please submit your training details for this calendar by **Thursday 7 October 2010**.

Call for Membership: Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc.

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. ATODA is currently calling on organisations and individuals to become members of ATODA.

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.

Media Release and Presentation regarding the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)

See the [NSP in the AMC](#) section for further details.

ATODA will be sending out a special Mental Health Week eBulletin on Thursday 7 October 2010 which will provide information on Mental Health Week 2010 : 10 - 16 October and also the following items:

National Improved Services Initiative Forum

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction in partnership with the State and Territory alcohol tobacco and other drug sector peak bodies, with support from the Department of Health and Ageing

Training: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT supported by the ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group

Comorbidity Bus Tours are Recommencing

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

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)

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

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 community organisations funded by ACT Health to provide ATOD services, 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:

- October 2010 - Monday 11, Tuesday 12, Wednesday 13
- 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

RSVP: Essential, please notify ATODA on info@atoda.org.au by **29 October 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.

ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Policy

This new policy, effective from 1 July 2010, provides guidance on the implementation of the ACT ATOD

MQS including eligibility criteria, the key components, reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements and review. The policy was developed through input of members of the ACT ATOD Executive Directors and Workers Groups; the ACT ATOD MQS Development and Implementation Committee; and participants of the ACT ATOD MQS Policy Development Workshop on 9 April 2010. The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction also provided support to develop this policy.
Download the [ACT ATOD MQS Policy document](#).

Call for Members: ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) Project Implementation and Development Committee

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is inviting expressions of interest from individuals interested in participating in the ACT ATOD MQS Project Implementation and Development Committee. The Committee will meet at least three times over its term (July 2010 – June 2011) with other meetings to be determined on a needs basis. The Committee will provide guidance and support to ATODA to conduct the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Project.
For more information contact ATODA, on (02) 6255 4070 or info@atoda.org.au.

Sector Activities and Events

15th Annual Remembrance Ceremony – ‘For Those who Lose their Life to Illicit Drugs’

Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc.

The annual remembrance ceremony is attended by around 100 people each year including family members, friends and concerned people from the community. Names of more than 100 people to be remembered are read out. The ceremony is very moving and also helps raise awareness about the need for better drug policies. Speakers include:

- Amanda Bresnan, ACT Greens member Legislative Assembly
- Reverend Rex Graham, Social Justice Consultant with the Uniting Church
- A family member
- Music by the Cashews

Date: Monday 18 October

Time: 12.30 – 1.30pm

Venue: Weston Park, Yarralumla, ACT (to take place at the dedicated memorial located on the right of Weston Park Road opposite the Prescott Lane junction).

Download the [Remembrance Ceremony Flyer](#).

For more information contact Marion or Brian McConnell, Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform, (02) 6254 2961 or visit www.fdlr.org.au.

Stepping Stones to Success

Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT) and Family Drug Support (FDS)

Stepping Stones to Success is a structured and experiential course for families who are supporting drug dependent loved ones. Key topics include: coping with stress and anger and tips about communication and boundary/limit setting with the aim of providing families with resources to assist themselves and the substance user.

Date: Every Friday, 1 October 2010 – 3 December 2010

Time: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Venue: Salvation Army House, cnr Reed and Anketell Streets, Tuggeranong

Cost: \$70 (including FDS membership and a workbook)

Registration: Essential, numbers are limited

For more information or to register for the course, contact Kerry or Meg from ADFACT on 6291 9591 or contact Theo from FDS on 0402 604354.

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: Courses start on 28 October 2010 and 6 November 2010

Cost: Free

Download the [Flyer](#).

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

Anti-Poverty Week: 17 – 23 October 2010

Anti-Poverty Week was established in Australia as an expansion of the United Nation's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17. The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to:

- Strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia;
- Encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments.

Everyone who is interested in helping to reduce poverty and hardship here or overseas is encouraged to organise their own activities during the Week or join in some being organised by other people. For more information visit www.antipovertyweek.org.au/.

Carers Week: 17 – 23 October 2010

Carers Australia

Carers Week aims to celebrate family carers, to acknowledge their contribution and to generate discussion about carer issues. Carers Day 2010 will be observed on Tuesday 19 October as part of Carers Week. Carers Day is a day for all Australians to reflect on the contribution of unpaid family carers in their community and to consider doing something in return for a carer they know.

For more information about Carers Week including activities and events both nationally and in the ACT visit www.carersweek.com.au/10/events.html.

Young Carers Information Market Day

CYCLOPS ACT and the Litmus Program, Anglicare Canberra and Goulburn

During Carers Week 2010, CYCLOPS ACT and the Litmus Program are hosting a Young Carers Information Market Day. Organisations are invited to host a stall providing information to the public about the services and support they offer for Young Carers in the ACT.

Date: 21 October 2010

Time: 1 – 4pm

Venue: Garema Place, Civic

For more information or to register to host a stall, contact Simone Clarke on (02) 6232 3436 or simone.clarke@anglicare.cg.org.au.

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

The Forum aims to provide an opportunity for people working in public health to discuss and display their work and to network and learn from others.

Date: Thursday 4 November 2010

Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm

Venue: Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden

Registration: Essential by **21 October 2010**

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, by **25 October 2010**.

For more information or to order a ticket visit

www.actco.org.au/flyer/conference2010/DiversityBall2010.pdf.

Mental Health Week: 10 – 16 October 2010

Please see the note in the [News from ATODA](#) section of the eBulletin.

Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre

Congratulations ACT Government: A proud day for evidence informed public health and drug policy in the ACT

16 September 2010

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Media Release

"ATODA strongly supports the ACT Government's on-going commitment to develop and implement evidence-based public health and drug policy."

"ATODA calls on the ACT Government to implement a trial of a needle and syringe program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre."

Download the [media release](#).

Yes We Canberra: Prison-based NSP in the AMC

16 September 2010

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

"ATODA powerpoint presentation at the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (SHAHRD) Stakeholder Forum: Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC)."

Download the [powerpoint presentation](#).

Stanhope opens up to needle exchange

16 September 2010

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) News

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope says he is now more open to the idea of a having a needle exchange in Canberra's jail. The Government will review the situation in the Alexander Maconochie Centre at the end of the year and is keen to discuss the idea.

A needle exchange facility was considered when the centre was first built but the idea was put on hold until the prison's 18 month review.

Mr Stanhope previously opposed the program but says in light of the New South Wales Government's decision to formalise an injecting room in Sydney's Kings Cross, he will now consider the idea.

"I am now far more inclined to look more positively at the possibility of needles being provided at Alexander Maconochie," he said....

He says it is within the prison's duty of care to ensure the safety of prisoners and prison officers....

Visit www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/16/3013230.htm to view the full article.

Time to rethink needle exchange at jail: Stanhope

16 September 2010

The Canberra Times

Chief Minister Jon Stanhope says authorities have failed to keep drugs out of the ACT's jail and it is time to again consider a needle exchange at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Mr Stanhope said yesterday that drugs were readily available to inmates at the Symonston prison and that the health effects of sharing needles had to be addressed.....

"In regard to the continued availability and access of inmates at Alexander Maconochie to illicit drugs, I am now more inclined to believe that a needle exchange, as a minimum, is something that I would accept," he said. "On the information that is available and on the knowledge that we have, illicit substances are still finding their way into Alexander Maconochie despite our best efforts and there is access through whatever illegal means to contraband within AMC."

Visit http://aap.newscentre.com.au/acci/100916/library/workplace_relations/23978515.html to view the full article.

Needle exchange back on agenda

16 September 2010

The Canberra Times

The Chief Minister said he was aware that the guards' union had not changed its stance on a needle exchange but said he was willing to negotiate with the CPSU. "It's an issue that we will have to work our way through if we do make a decision," Mr Stanhope said. "Having observed the operation and the access to illicit drugs that continues to exist at Alexander Maconochie, I don't believe that this is an issue where we should, essentially for ideological or dogmatic reasons, we should walk away from it. "This is a genuine health issue within prisons, where as a result of the use of dirty needles, the levels of hep C and blood-borne diseases are far higher than in the community, [and] we are duty bound to look at an outcome and a position.".....

Visit http://aap.newscentre.com.au/acci/100916/library/workplace_relations/23978505.html to view the full article.

Audio Recording: Interview with Jon Stanhope

16 September 2010

ABC 666 Canberra Breakfast Radio

In this radio excerpt Ross Sulley interviews Chief Minister Jon Stanhope about introducing a needle exchange into the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Download the [audio excerpt](#).

News from the Executive Directors' Group

The ACT ATOD Executive Directors / Chief Executive Officers Group met on 21 September and discussed a range of sector wide matters, including:

- Supporting consumer participation at the APSAD conference
- Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010
- Proposed ACT Health Structures
- Engaging in the organisational surveys as part of the Workplace Tobacco Management Project
- Providing feedback to service users from the 2009 Satisfaction Survey
- Minimum Qualification Strategy Annual Survey
- Workforce Remuneration and Qualification Profile Project Plan
- ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020

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

Sector Development

The Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) and the Connection Magazines *CAHMA and the Connection*

These two magazines are contributed to by people who use or have used illicit drugs and are compiled and published by CAHMA and the Connection. The magazines are targeted publications for injecting/illicit drug users and are not for general distribution.

Download the [CAHMA magazine](#) and [the Connection magazine](#).

Nominations Open: ACT Community Sector Awards

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The ACT Community Sector Awards aim to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of community sector organisations and individuals. The Community Sector Awards will be announced at the Diversity Ball as part of the ACTCOSS 2010 conference. Nominations are now open, for the following awards categories: HESTA Healthy Workplace Award, Embracing Change Award, Minor Miracle Award, Little Feet, Big Steps Award and the Partnership Award.

Nominations must be received by **15 October 2010**.

For more information or to submit a nomination visit

www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/conference2010/ACTCommunitySectorAwards2010.pdf.

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

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: \$720 member, \$820 non-member (early bird)

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

Nominations Open: 2010 APSAD Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Research and Practice

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

APSAD are now calling for nominations for the APSAD Awards in two categories; Early Career and Senior Scientist. The Awards will be presented at the 30th APSAD Conference in Canberra, 28 November to 1 December 2010.

For further information visit www.apsadconference.com.au/program/awards/ or contact the APSAD office on (02) 9331 7748 or exec.officer@apsad.org.au.

Nominations are due 15 October 2010.

Training and Professional Development

Young People and Alcohol and Other Drug Use Training

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Facilitated by Annie Bleeker, this workshop is targeted at generalist youth workers who want to increase their knowledge, understanding and skills when working with young people with alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues. It will examine the effects of AOD, the youth worker role in supporting young people with AOD issues, appropriate interventions, and how to assess and refer young people to AOD services.

Date: Wednesday 27 October 2010

Time: 9.30am - 4pm

Venue: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor (Youth Coalition Office) *Cost:* \$80 for members, \$100 for non-members

RSVP: Essential, limited places available.

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

PhD opportunities in Drug Policy at University of New South Wales (UNSW)

Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW

Applications are invited to undertake a PhD with the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP), located at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at UNSW. The DPMP is a multi-disciplinary team of scholars studying drug policy – including generating new evidence to inform drug policy, translating evidence into relevant information for policy makers; and studying the policy process. The PhD is offered on a full-time

basis.

Download the [PhD Flyer](#).

For more information or to apply contact Associate Professor Alison Ritter on alison.ritter@unsw.edu.au.

2011 Doctoral Scholarships

National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)

The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) has been granted funds by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing for two PhD Scholarships. The three-year scholarships will be for doctoral research into the prevention or reduction of alcohol and/or other drug related harm. Applications are invited for the broad research areas of: Young people and alcohol, preventing and responding to alcohol and/or other drug problems in Indigenous communities, prevention and early intervention with alcohol and/or other drug problems and preventing and responding to alcohol and/or other drug problems in the criminal justice system. Applications must be received by **31 October 2010**.

For more information visit ndri.curtin.edu.au or contact Dr Susan Carruthers on (08) 9266 1604 or S.Carruthers@curtin.edu.au.

Quit Educator Training for Workplaces

ACT Health

ACT Health, under its Healthy Workplaces Program, is sponsoring a Quit Educator's Training course in the ACT to support smoking cessation programs in workplaces. Training is designed for professionals wishing to facilitate Quit courses and to develop their knowledge and skills in the area of smoking cessation.

Date: Thursday 4 and Friday 5 November 2010 (attendees must be able to attend both days)

Time: 9:00am to 4:30pm

Venue: Crosbie Morrison Building, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain, Canberra

Cost: Free

Registration: Essential by **5pm 18 October 2010**

Download the [Training Flyer](#).

For further information or to request an application form contact Alanna Williamson, Health Promotion Branch, ACT Health on 620 77811 or Alanna.williamson@act.gov.au.

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.

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.

Marketing for Your Community Organisation

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This seminar is for community organisations that want to increase their public profile. The seminar will include tips on marketing a not-for-profit organisation including low cost marketing tactics and strategies.

Date: Wednesday 13 October 2010

Time: 1:30 – 3:30pm

Venue: ACTCOSS, Level 1, 67 Townshend Street, Phillip

Cost: \$72 ACTCOSS Members, \$84 Non-members, \$97 Government/ Corporate

Registration: Essential by **5 October 2010**

Download the [Marketing for Your Community Organisation Flyer](#).

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

Program Logic Training

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)

This one-day workshop aims to provide participants with an opportunity to learn practical steps to embed program logic into quality improvement processes. The workshop will be presented by Helen Jordan of the School of Population Health, University of Melbourne.

Date: Tuesday 26 October 2010

Venue: Mackillop House and Conference Centre, Lyneham

Cost: \$90 MHCC ACT members, \$120 non members, \$150 government

Registration: Essential by **18 October 2010**

For more information and to obtain a registration package, contact Margaret on (02) 6249 7756 or margaret.charlton@mhccact.org.au.

Registrations open: 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: Early bird - ACTCOSS members \$195, Non-members \$225

Registration: Early bird closes **15 October 2010**

For more information or to register for the conference visit

www.actcoss.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

Registration: Essential by **29 October 2010**

Download the [Bullying: Prevention and Management Flyer](#).

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

September – October 2010 Training and Professional Development Calendar

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT

See [News from ATODA](#) section for further details.

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.

Comorbidity Bus Tours

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

ATODA will be sending out a special Mental Health Week eBulletin on Thursday 7 October 2010 which will provide information on this item.

Training: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT supported by the ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group

ATODA will be sending out a special Mental Health Week eBulletin on Thursday 7 October 2010 which will provide information on this item.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco Conference 2010

Asia Pacific Association for the Control of Tobacco (APACT)

The theme of APACT is Change, Challenge and Progress: Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in the Asia Pacific. APACT 2010 aims to encourage tobacco control and public health advocates,

researchers, practitioners, policy makers and youth leaders to share experiences, and discuss strategies for implementation of the FCTC and for dealing with the tobacco industry.

Date: 6 – 9 October, 2010

Venue: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: \$790 fulltime delegate, \$325 day delegate

Registration: Late/onsite registrations opened 4 September 2010.

For more information or to register for the conference visit www.apact2010.org.

National Improved Services Initiative Forum – A Tale of Two Systems: Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Co-occurrence

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction in partnership with the State and Territory alcohol tobacco and other drug sector peak bodies, with support from the Department of Health and Ageing
ATODA will be sending out a special Mental Health Week eBulletin on Thursday 7 October 2010 which will provide information on this item.

2010 National Drug Trends Conference

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The National Drug Trends Conference will present recent findings in illicit drug use, markets and related harms across Australia. The Conference will include the first release of the 2010 findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS).

Date: Friday 15th October 2010

Time: 9.45am-4.45pm (followed by a cocktail party from 5 – 7pm)

Venue: Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo, Sydney

Cost: \$230 (an additional \$35 for the cocktail party)

For more information or to register for the conference visit

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Conference>.

Reducing Harm Across the Lifespan

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)

The conference will raise the level of awareness of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) sector issues at the local, state and national level, and aims to link the increasingly emergent preventative health perspectives with the now traditional notion of harm minimisation.

Date: 18 – 20 October, 2010

Venue: Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart

Cost: \$645 member, \$695 non-member

Visit www.conventionwise.com.au/images/ATDC_2010/ATDC_Conference_Program.pdf to view the Full Conference Program.

For more information or to register for the conference visit <https://events.conventionwise.com.au/ei/cm.esp?id=9603010000274&pageid=2VT0TF2GB>.

Anex 2010 Australian Drugs Conference – Public Health and Harm Reduction

Anex

The Conference will explore challenges and set new priorities to expand efforts to address the health and social implications of problematic substance use at the individual and community level.

Date: 25 – 26 October 2010

Venue: Melbourne Cricket Ground

Cost: \$440

Visit www.australiandrugsconference.org.au/program.htm to view the Conference Program.

For further information or to register for the conference visit

www.australiandrugsconference.org.au/index.htm.

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

Registration: Essential by **28 October 2010**

For further information or to register visit <http://nipdc.arts.unsw.edu.au/> or contact the conference organisers on nipdc@unsw.edu.au or +61(2) 9385 7588.

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 www.adf.org.au/in-the-community/6th-international-drugs-and-young-people-conference-2.

Policy Activities

Workforce Plan for the Health Workforce of the ACT

ACT Health, ACT Government

ACT Health is developing a Workforce Plan to help plan for a sustainable health workforce for the ACT, following the expiration of the current ACT Health Workforce Plan 2005 - 2010. The new plan will build upon the current plan and will also be widened to include the entire ACT Health workforce (not just clinicians) and the health professional workforce across the ACT.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sp&pid=1273549353 for more information.

Improving women's access to health care services and information: A Strategic Framework 2010 – 2015

ACT Health

The Strategic Framework: Improving women's access to health care services and information informs the directions for the delivery of health services to women of the ACT up to 2015. The vision of the framework is that Women's access to and satisfaction with health care services and information allows them to maintain their health and wellbeing. The framework makes reference to the delivery of alcohol, tobacco and other drug services.

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dlpubpoldoc&document=2073 to view the strategic framework.

Policy, Reports and Research

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

How cost-effective is prevention in population health?

Assessing Cost-effectiveness (ACE) Prevention is a large, 5-year study that was funded by National Health and Medical Research Centre (NHMRC) and jointly led by Professor Theo Vos from the University of Queensland and Professor Rob Carter from Deakin University. 'The overall aim of this project was to provide a comprehensive analysis of the comparative cost-effectiveness of preventive intervention options addressing the non-communicable disease burden in Australia, with a specific focus on Indigenous Australians.

'ACE Prevention is the most comprehensive evaluation of health prevention measures ever conducted world-wide, involving input from 130 top health experts. The research team assessed 123 illness prevention measures to identify those which will prevent the most illness and premature deaths and those that are best value for money. For comparison purposes 27 treatment interventions were included.

'The final report [3MB] provides a comprehensive overview of the findings of ACE Prevention. Many results can also already be accessed in the form of Pamphlets and on a range of topics Briefing Papers and publications are available.'

The interventions assessed include those addressing alcohol, cannabis, tobacco, mental illness, etc.

Vos, T, Carter, R, Barendregt, J, Mihalopoulos, C, Veerman, JL, Magnus, A, Cobiac, L, Bertram, MY, Wallace, AL & ACE-Prevention Team 2010, *Assessing cost-effectiveness in prevention (ACE-Prevention): final report*, University of Queensland and Deakin University, Brisbane & Melbourne, www.sph.uq.edu.au/bodce-ace-prevention.

How effective is licence suspension as a deterrent to drink driving?

A study of drink drivers in Perth found that 'even finite periods of licence suspension can provide a considerable burden on employment and family responsibilities...[and] parents, especially those with young children, faced with abrupt loss of ability to lawfully drive and few other viable options chose to drive whilst under suspension. This pressure is probably greater for those with other social and economic disadvantage, and those living in outer metropolitan areas where facilities are sparse and public transport less available'. The analysis suggested that 'once suspended from driving for long periods...the low risk of apprehension for driving without a licence combined with family and employment demands, inconvenience, and the sense that they won't get their licence back in the foreseeable future, if at all, led to a significant number of suspended drivers to drive without a licence'. The researchers recommend that 'the effectiveness of long periods of licence suspension be reviewed, and options explored and trialled which encourage compliance with the law and earning back one's driving privileges'.

Lenton, S, Fetherston, J & Cercarelli, R 2010, 'Recidivist drink drivers' self-reported reasons for driving whilst unlicensed - a qualitative analysis', *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 637-44.

How cost-effective has the Victorian roadside drug testing (RDT) regime been?

'In summary, this economic evaluation suggests that the economic merits of the RDT program are contingent upon the level of incremental deterrence it attains, rather than on the number of drug driver it detects. The RDT program could be a cost-effective intervention if it deters an additional 10% of potential drug drivers. Although 10% of incremental deterrence may not be an unrealistic goal, it is unclear whether it is being realised to present, and uncertain whether it can be realised given the limited size and current costs of the program, and limits on additional police resources. Notwithstanding these uncertainties, this evaluation found that the RDT program will have minimal impacts on the overall number of road deaths...if the program continues, attention will need to be given to achieving deterrence, and improving the accuracy and reducing the time required of drug-testing devices at reasonable costs' (p. 24).

ACE-Prevention - Assessing Cost-Effectiveness in Prevention [2010], *Random roadside drug-testing program in Victoria*, Briefing Paper, Centre for Burden of Disease and Cost-Effectiveness, University of Queensland and Deakin Health Economics Unit, Deakin University, Brisbane and Melbourne, www.sph.uq.edu.au/ace-prevention-illicit-drugs.

What were the effects on night-time assaults of restricting pub closing times in Newcastle?

In 2008 the New South Wales courts restricted pub closing times to 3 a.m., and later 3.30 a.m., in the Newcastle CBD. This study investigated the impacts of the changes on incidence of assaults in the area. It was done by comparing the incidence in the Newcastle CBD with Hamilton, a locality with a similar night-time economy but where no restriction was imposed. The study found that, in the Newcastle CBD, recorded assaults fell from 99 per quarter before the restrictions were implemented to 68 per quarter afterwards. In Hamilton the assault rates were 23 and 26 per quarter, respectively. On average, some 33 assault incidents were prevented per quarter. The authors concluded that 'This study indicates that a restriction in pub closing times to 3/3.30 a.m. in Newcastle, NSW, produced a large relative reduction in assault incidence of 37% in comparison to a control locality'.

Kypri, K, Jones, C, McElduff, P & Barker, D 2010, 'Effects of restricting pub closing times on night-time assaults in an Australian city', *Addiction*.

How much does others' drinking cost Australians?

Researchers from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation (AER) Centre for Alcohol Policy Research at Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre have developed new estimates of the costs, to Australian society, of alcohol use. 'In this report, alcohol's costs to others around the drinker are tallied for the first time, including many costs which were not included in the estimate by Collins and Lapsley. In terms of tangible costs reported by a representative sample of the Australian population, heavy drinkers have cost others around them in excess of \$13 billion in out-of-pocket costs and in forgone wages or productivity. Hospital and child protection costs to the society due to another's drinking sum to a further \$765 million. In addition, there are large intangible costs, estimated at a minimum of \$6 billion dollars. These negative externalities or "passive drinking" costs of alcohol need to be factored into debates regarding implementation of effective alcohol policies' (p. xix).

Laslett, A-M, Catalano, P, Chikritzhs, Y, Dale, C, Doran, C, Ferris, J, Jainullabudeen, T, Livingston, M, Matthews, S, Mugavin, J, Room, R, Schlotterlein, M & Wilkinson, C 2010, *The range and magnitude of alcohol's harm to others*, AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Eastern Health, Fitzroy, Victoria, http://aerf.com.au/Harm_to_Others_Full_Report_with-errata.pdf. Summary report http://aerf.com.au/Harm_to_Others_Summary.pdf (Large file warning: 3.3 MB).

Is there a link between low maternal control during early childhood and alcohol problems in adolescence?

Data were analysed from the Mater University Study of Pregnancy, a birth cohort study of women and their babies recruited between 1981 and 1984 in Brisbane, to examine 'whether a mother's style of parenting at child age 5 years predicts problematic patterns of drinking in adolescence'. The study consists of 'a cohort of 4158 mothers and children for whom complete data were available at baseline, at 5 and 14 years follow-up'. The researchers found that 'Physical punishment at child age 5 did not predict adolescent alcohol problems at follow-up. Results indicated that low maternal control at child age 5 predicted adolescent occasional drinking patterns at age 14. More frequent maternal partner change coupled with lower levels of control was the strongest predictor of more problematic patterns of drinking by adolescents'. They concluded that 'These findings highlight the importance of family structure and level of parental control in the development of

problematic patterns of drinking in adolescence’.

Alati, R, Maloney, E, Hutchinson, DM, Najman, JM, Mattick, RP, Bor, W & Williams, GM 2010, ‘Do maternal parenting practices predict problematic patterns of adolescent alcohol consumption?’ *Addiction*, vol. 105, no. 5, pp. 872-80.

What is child- and parent-friendly AOD practice, and how good are we at it?

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), in collaboration with the Australian Centre for Child Protection, conducted a national survey to investigate the role of AOD workers and examine factors that influence child and parent-sensitive work practice within the AOD treatment field. They applied the Council of Australian Governments (CAOG) definition: ‘Child and parent-sensitive work practice is defined here as identifying and addressing the needs of adult clients as parents and the needs of their children, as part of the treatment or counselling process. The aim of child and parent-sensitive practice is to improve client outcomes whilst also ensuring the safety and wellbeing of their children’.

The study concluded that ‘...while AOD workers are generally disposed towards child and parent-sensitive practice, more steps need to be taken to improve organisational policies and practice in relation to child and parent-sensitive practice’ and recommended action in these areas:

1. develop an organisational checklist in regard to child-friendly practices to ensure that each organisation has child-friendly policies and procedures in place;
2. expand the provision of education and training aimed at building the capacity of the AOD workforce to undertake child and parent-sensitive practice;
3. ensure that appropriate clinical supervision is available for all staff and services where clients have children;
4. undertake an audit of one’s organisation to assess the level of child-friendly practice in place;
5. include questions regarding clients’ parenting roles and responsibilities as part of a routine assessment; and
6. regularly review procedures related to working with child welfare service...’ (p. 46).

Trifonoff, A, Duraisingam, V, Roche, AM & Pidd, K 2010, *Taking first steps. What family sensitive practice means for alcohol and other drug workers: a survey report*, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, Flinders University, Adelaide, www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/documents/EN426_Trifonoff2010.pdf

Are alcohol abuse and dependence treated adequately and effectively?

Analysis of the findings of the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing indicates that ‘In Australia in 2007, 4.3% of adults had an alcohol use disorder in the last 12 months...and 22.1% experienced alcohol use disorders in their life-times’. However ‘Only 22.4% of those with alcohol use disorders were treated for their alcohol disorder’. The researchers found ‘There were significant associations between current alcohol use and other drug use disorders...and between anxiety disorders and alcohol use disorders’. They concluded ‘Comorbidity between anxiety and other drug use disorders is common and remains a significant challenge for the delivery of effective health-care services and treatment. The low rate of effective interventions for alcohol problems is a significant public health concern’.

Teesson, M, Hall, W, Slade, T, Mills, K, Grove, R, Mewton, L, Baillie, A & Haber, P 2010, ‘Prevalence and correlates of DSM-IV alcohol abuse and dependence in Australia: findings of the 2007 National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing’, *Addiction*, DOI 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2010.03096.x.

How widespread is community discrimination towards people who inject illicit drugs?

Market research undertaken by the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users’ League (AIVL) has shown that ‘the level of discrimination towards the community that AIVL represents is widespread, well accepted and seen as a social necessity’. The project included consultation with members of the general public and medical professionals, with both groups making it clear that ‘they engage in discriminatory behaviour towards injecting drug use (IDU) as both pragmatic and tactical responses to “perceived threats, real dangers and fear of the unknown”. They know little about people who inject drugs and perceived them as a threat to their moral beliefs, their physical safety and/or to their standing in their community or profession’.

AIVL states that ‘it will be necessary to gain a better understanding of the experience of both the ‘stigmatised’ and the ‘stigmatisers’ before any campaign or education can be successfully developed. This suggests the need to undertake further work to bring together and examine the findings from both the AIVL market research and the available literature on stigma and discrimination to form a more robust theoretical basis for any campaign targeting this issue’.

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users’ League (AIVL) 2010, *Summary report, findings & future actions from AIVL’s anti-discrimination market research “Why wouldn’t I discriminate against all of them?”* Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users’ League (AIVL), Canberra, www.aivl.org.au/files/29319-AIVL%20National%20AntiDiscrimination%20Project%20Market%20Research%20Report%202010_WITH_ADDITIONS_2.pdf

Is misuse of over-the-counter codeine a serious health problem?

Victorian researchers examined prospective case series collected from Victorian hospital-based addiction medicine specialists between May 2005 and December 2008. Their study included 27 patients with serious morbidity ‘mainly with gastrointestinal haemorrhage and opioid dependence. In many of these cases, serious morbidity resulted from use initiated for therapeutic reasons, such as persisting pain’. The researchers recommend that ‘Given that these drugs are likely to remain available without prescription in Australia, physicians should ask specifically about non-prescribed analgesics when taking a medication history, and pharmacy personnel should consider the risk of misuse when supplying these combination analgesic products’. They conclude that ‘Although codeine can be considered a relatively weak opioid analgesic, it is nevertheless addictive, and the significant morbidity and specific patient characteristics associated with

overuse of codeine–ibuprofen analgesics support further awareness, investigation and monitoring of over the counter (OTC) codeine–ibuprofen analgesic use’.

Frei, MY, Nielsen, S, Dobbin, MD & Tobin, CL 2010, ‘Serious morbidity associated with misuse of over-the-counter codeine-ibuprofen analgesics: a series of 27 cases’, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 193, no. 5, pp. 294-6.

What do we know about the net-widening outcomes diversionary programs for young people?

Diverting young drug offenders from the criminal justice system into the helping services is a widespread, and generally accepted policy. But does it result in an increased number of young people being caught up in the criminal justice system, i.e. net-widening? This has been investigated in Tasmania:

‘Internationally, many youth justice systems aim to divert young people from court through informal mechanisms, such as police cautions and restorative conferences. Among other things, diversion avoids the potentially criminogenic effects of formal contact with the criminal justice system. However, in some instances, the sum of court appearances and diversionary procedures indicates an overall increase in the numbers of young people having contact (formal or informal) with the criminal justice system—a phenomenon known as net-widening. This article summarises previous debates about the risks of net-widening. It then presents results from analysis of over 50,000 police records pertaining to young people’s contact with the Tasmanian criminal justice system between 1991 and 2002. Across that decade, court appearances markedly reduced, while a corresponding increase in diversions was recorded. There was no evidence of net-widening. However, there was a significant increase in detention orders. Implications for policy and future research are considered.’

Prichard, J 2010, ‘Net-widening and the diversion of young people from court: a longitudinal analysis with implications for restorative justice’, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, vol. 43, no. 1, pp. 112-29.

What impact has the alcopops tax had?

Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)

In 2008 the Australian Government increased the tax on alcopops by 69%, which raised the price of an average bottle or can of alcopops by about \$1.00. The Australian Drug Foundation has released an alert that reviews the impact of this tax and some of the background evidence surrounding alcopops.

Visit <http://enews.vaada.org.au/news/2010/09/16/what-impact-has-alcopops-tax-had> to view the full alert.

Demand for Accommodation from Government-Funded Specialist Homelessness Services 2008-09

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

The AIHW have released this report that provides information about the level of unmet demand for accommodation, including how the estimates are calculated.

Visit www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11236 to view the report.

Media

Improved dental requires bipartisan commitment

2 September 2010

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

ACOSS has welcomed the inclusion of dental in the agreement between the Greens and Labor and has urged bipartisan support for a serious commitment to improving dental care in Australia.

"Dental care remains a critical gap in Australia's universal health system" said CEO Cassandra Goldie. "Up to 7 million Australians go without dental care because they cannot afford it and average waiting times for public dental care are longer than 2 years in many parts of the country...."

Visit www.acoss.org.au/media/release/improved_dental_requires_bipartisan_commitment to view the full media release.

Minister announces funding round for local health and medical researchers

7 September 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher, is encouraging health and medical researchers to apply for \$205,000 in grants available to support further research here in the ACT.

"The funding round is aimed at ensuring we foster the talents of health and medical researchers in the ACT and increase our contribution to national and international research," Ms Gallagher said....

Under the program, researchers can apply for funding for Project Development Grants. Such grants provide short term funding to assist recipients to compete successfully for research funds for Large Research Projects through major grants rounds.

Preference will be given to projects in health priority areas such as chronic disease management, health services and mental health.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to download an application package from the ACT Health website (<http://health.act.gov.au/>). Applications close on 11 October 2010 and will be assessed by the ACT Health and Medical Research Council. For more information please contact the ACT Health Research Office on 6244 4043.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9928&m=52 to view the full media release.

Attorney general opens new offices for Legal Aid ACT

9 September 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

Legal Aid ACT will be better equipped to meet the needs of the ACT community, Attorney General, Simon Corbell, said today while opening the new offices for Legal Aid ACT in Civic.

"The new office space for Legal Aid ACT has been specially designed to better accommodate Legal Aid ACT staff, and to provide a better facility to meet the needs of community members who rely on Legal Aid for assistance in the judicial system," Mr Corbell said.....

The new offices provide improved client and staff meeting spaces, special family violence conference rooms as well as a play room for children who may accompany their parents or guardians to the offices.....

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9934&m=53 to view the full media release.

Statement from Minister for Health and Ageing

11 September 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon, MP

Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said she was pleased and honoured to continue leading the Government's ambitious health reform agenda to deliver better health services for all Australians.....

I am pleased and honoured to continue to lead the Government's ambitious health reform agenda to deliver better health services for all Australians. Following a very busy first term introducing health reform - I now look forward to implementing changes that will deliver better health and hospital services across the country. In particular, I will focus on the better delivery of health services through improved GP clinics, modernised hospitals, an expanded medical and nursing workforce, better after hours services and unleashing the benefits of e-health and telemedicine....

Visit www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr151.htm to view the full statement.

Health workforce continues to grow through Government investment

12 September 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Continued investment by the ACT Government in our public health system will see the ACT Health workforce grow to more than five thousand full-time equivalent positions in 2010-11.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9946&m=52 to view the full media release.

Status change for Medically Supervised Injecting Centre welcomed

15 September 2010

Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) congratulates the New South Wales (NSW) Government on its decision to formalise the status of Australia's only Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Kings Cross in Sydney.

Visit www.adca.org.au/content/view/280/111/ to view the full media release.

Medically Supervised Injecting Centre to be a permanent Health Care Facility - A Significant Step Forward In Drug Policy

15 September 2010

Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc.

"What a great day", said Brian McConnell, President of Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform. " The NSW government has taken another courageous step and moved the status of the Sydney Kings Cross' Medically Supervised Injecting Centre from a trial to a permanent Health Care Facility".....

Over those 9 years the Centre has provided a safe environment for drug users who would otherwise use the drugs in the backstreets and alleyways of Kings Cross and importantly the Centre is able to link the users to other health care services such as rehabilitation and the like. In doing this the centre has no doubt saved many lives.

"Members of Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform are especially excited because it shows that NSW politicians are putting the well-being and the life of drug users ahead of the 'tough on drugs' mantra", said Brian McConnell. "And this is most encouraging for families who so often feel the stigma and isolation which comes when a family member is caught up in addiction to illicit drugs".

"The ACT Government should take a lead from NSW and reopen the debate on a supervised injecting room and heroin on prescription. Both actions have been shown to save lives. Importantly also heroin prescription has caused drug-related crime to plummet."

Visit www.ffdlr.org.au to view the full media release.

Electronic transfer of prescriptions (ETP) way of the future

16 September 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher, today visited the Chisholm Pharmacy for a demonstration of electronic prescribing and medication management.

"Electronic prescriptions have the potential to minimise adverse drug events by reducing dispensing errors and improving the safety of the patient's medication management," Ms Gallagher said.

"Electronic prescribing also allows better tracking of whether prescriptions have been filled, and will make for better national data collection and therefore more informed health policy decisions," she said.....

"The ACT Government's Health-e Future program will enable secure and coordinated information sharing and teamwork between the different parts of the health system, resulting in safer care and improved patient outcomes. ...

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9959&m=52 to view the full media release.

Attorney general moves to address court security

16 September 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, has today advised the ACT Government is developing a strategy to improve

court security in the ACT.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9960&m=53 to view the full media release.

AER Foundation CEO Ian Chalmers resigns

17 September 2010

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF)

The Chief Executive Officer of the Alcohol Education & Rehabilitation Foundation (AER Foundation), Ian Chalmers, today announced his resignation.

Cheryl Bart, AER Foundation Chairman said: "The AER Foundation Board would like to acknowledge the contribution Mr Chalmers has made to the organisation, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours."

Visit

www.aerf.com.au/showcase/MediaReleases/2010/100916_Media%20Statement_AER%20Foundation%20CEO%20Ian%20Chalmers%20Resigns.pdf to view the full media release.

See the [NSP in the AMC](#) section for further AMC specific media.

Consumer Participation

Althea Wellness Centre Reference Group

DIRECTIONS ACT

Expressions of interest are currently being sought for a consumer representative to join the DIRECTIONS ACT Althea Wellness Centre Reference Group. The Althea Wellness Centre is a Department of Health and Ageing funded community based health care service for clients and their family members with past or active alcohol and other drug issues.

For more information visit www.directionsact.com/employment.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Nominations Open: Annual Yogie Awards

Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Annual YOGIE Awards aim to recognise, celebrate, promote and reward outstanding practice in working with young people aged 12 - 25 in the ACT and surrounding area. The YOGIE Awards are a Youth Coalition of the ACT initiative, proudly supported by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government. Any individual, organisation or young person can make a nomination.

Nominations close **15 October 2010**.

For more information or to request a nomination package contact the Youth Coalition of the ACT on (02) 6247 3540.

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 organization 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.

Employment Opportunities

Clinical Manager

Althea Wellness Centre, DIRECTIONS ACT

Part Time Position, \$16,050.00 per annum.

Althea Wellness Centre is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing to provide primary and secondary health services to clients with past or present Alcohol and Other Drugs use, and their family members. The person required will be well able to manage a multidisciplinary team of administrative and health professionals and work as a contributing member of the Organisation's management team.

Visit www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/acm181010.pdf for the position description and selection criteria. For more informaton, contact Diedre Hobson on (02) 6122 8000 or hr@directionsact.com. Applications close **5pm Monday 18 October 2010**.

Arcadia House Night Shift Worker

Arcadia House, DIRECTIONS ACT

The AOD night Support Worker positions at Arcadia House are an integral part of the transition program that will assist clients to gain the tools to help themselves in their treatment.

Visit www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/ahnsw181010.pdf for the position description and selection criteria.

For more information, contact Diedre Hobson on (02) 6122 8000 or hr@directionsact.com. Applications close **5pm Monday 18 October 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 Fowlie, 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**.

Part-time Bookkeeper

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA)

Available to the right candidate is the opportunity to work around your own commitments as this role only requires someone to work up to 7 hours per week depending upon experience. The role will suit an experienced bookkeeper or a student who is looking for further professional experience. The pro-rata salary package is negotiable.

The role will be responsible for bookkeeping, including the preparation of financial reports, budgets, balance sheet, profit & loss, and cash flow statements for monthly meetings and other duties as negotiated with the Executive Officer.

To be considered for this position previous experience in finance, use of MYOB, excellent verbal, written and interpersonal communication skills and high attention to detail are a pre-requisite.

For more information, please contact Carrie Fowlie on (02) 6255 4070 6344 or on carrie@atoda.org.au. Applications close **22 October 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.

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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