



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

About this eBulletin

ATODA is currently transitioning the eBulletin to a more user friendly format; which includes improving the templates in which the eBulletin is sent to you. As a result, the August eBulletin has been circulated to you as a pdf. As we transition to the new arrangements, we appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience.

The following sections are included in this eBulletin:

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT	2
Workplace Tobacco Management Project	2
Drug Policies and Programs in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (including Moore Report and consultations)	3
Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010 – Final consultation	4
Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT	5
Pay Equity Case.....	6
Health Reform Update.....	6
News from the ACT ATOD Workers Group.....	7
News from the ACT ATOD Executive Directors’ Group	7
Sector Development.....	7
Training and Professional Development in the ACT.....	8
Interstate Conferences and Symposiums	10
Policy Activities	11
Synthetic cannabis (aka Kronic) banned	12
Policy, Reports and Research.....	12
Consumer Participation	15
Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors	16
Employment Opportunities	17
Grants and Funding Opportunities.....	18
Media	19

News from the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ACT ATOD Services Directory: Version 7

The ACT ATOD Services Directory aims to support workers to make referrals to ATOD services, increase cross- and intra-sectoral knowledge and foster collaborations. It also aims to better communicate the diverse range of services and programs in the Sector.

Visit <http://www.atoda.org.au/> to view the Directory.

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS)

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy (ACT ATOD MQS) for the ATOD sector, which aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional workforce. It also aims to ensure that all workers have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base. Applications for the 4 Core Competencies from the Certificate IV in AOD Work have closed for Semester 2, 2011. Upcoming Training Dates are: 5 - 7 September; 17 - 19 October; and 7 - 9 November. For further information or to express interest in undertaking future training contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Other ATODA news and activities are included throughout this eBulletin.

Workplace Tobacco Management Project

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project is a collaborative which 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.

Free Smoking Care Workshop Series

Four professional development workshops aimed at supporting workers who work with people experiencing disadvantage to enhance their skills to embed tobacco management within their practice and their workplaces. Each full day workshop has been tailored to the needs of a particular sector participating in the project - youth sector, the mental health sector and the alcohol and other drug (ATOD) sector. A fourth workshop is available focusing on tobacco and people experiencing disadvantage - this workshop is open to any interested stakeholders.

1. *Youth Sector Workshop*: Tuesday 23 August 2011 at Ted Noffs Foundation ACT, Watson
2. *Tobacco & People Experiencing Disadvantage Workshop*: Wednesday 24 August 2011 at Pilgrim House, Civic
3. *ATOD Sector Workshop*: Thursday 25 August 2011 at Karralika TC
4. *Mental Health Sector Workshop*: Friday 26 August 2011 at Griffin Centre, Civic

Cost: Training costs are fully subsidised by the Workplace Tobacco Management Project.

Registration: Essential. Maximum 20 participants, with priority given to Workplace Tobacco Management pilot sites. Register your details with Kathryn Sequoia, ATODA on (02) 6255 2070 or tobacco@atoda.org.au by Thursday 18 August 2011.

For more details on these workshops please refer to the ATODA website (www.atoda.org.au) or the training and professional development section of this bulletin. For further information please contact Kathryn on tobacco@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Drug Policies and Programs in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (including Moore Report and consultations)

Balancing access and safety: meeting the challenge of blood borne viruses in prison

Report for the ACT Government into implementation of a needle and syringe program at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Public Health Association of Australia, July 2011

The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) was engaged by the ACT Government in May 2011 to investigate and report on models for the implementation of an NSP in the AMC. The project also entailed an assessment of barriers to implementation and broad consultations with key stakeholders. The emphasis of the project has been on seeking to develop a model that ensures optimal health and safety outcomes for everyone impacted upon by a custodial sentence. This includes not only the person being detained in custody but all prison staff and the broader community. This report outlines outcomes and recommendations from the project and proposes a way to meet this challenge.

Health Directorate Consultations

The Health Directorate is seeking stakeholder views on the report and its recommendations ahead of finalising its response. The Health Directorate is now engaged in a six-week consultation period which will run from Thursday 28 July 2011 – Thursday 8 September 2011. For further information, including the Chief Minister's media release and the PHAA report visit: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/consumer-information/community-consultation/moore-report-implementation-of-a-needle-and-syringe-program>

ATODA Consultations: NSP in AMC

ATODA will be engaging stakeholders in a range of ways, including a meeting on:

Date: Thursday 4 August

Time: 9am – 10:30am

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

RSVP: Essential to carrie@atoda.org.au (limited numbers)

Further consultations will occur - including through ATOD sector advisory structures, including the ACT ATOD Workers Group, Executive Directors Group and ATODA Board and engagement with stakeholders including ACTCOSS and the Community Integration Governance Group.

Establishment of a High level joint Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACSD) / Health Directorate (HD) Advisory Group

The ACT Government's final response to the *External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff*

within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (the Burnet Report) was released in June. In response to Recommendation 2, the ACT Government has indicated an intention, through the powers of the Director General, JACSD, under *Corrections Management Act 2007*, to establish a 'high level joint JACSD/HD advisory group that would advise the Director General of the HD and have responsibility for making recommendations on the implementation of integrated health policies and services in the AMC'. ATODA is a member of this group and the first meeting is scheduled for 3 August.

Workshop on Programs and Services for the AMC Population: Assessing the Needs and Filling the Gaps 25 May 2011 (Final Report)

The final report following the 25 May 2011 Workshop on Programs and Services for the AMC Population: Assessing the Needs and Filling the Gaps has been released. The workshop provided a positive base from which to plan future programs and service delivery in a more targeted and effective manner and utilising to best advantage the combined expertise available across the ATOD sector. Discussion also identified existing barriers to service provision in the AMC and suggestions for overcoming these. The report also provides details of the follow-up activities undertaken since the workshop to realise directions set at the workshop.

For further information please contact Dr Denise Ryan, AOD Policy Unit, Health Directorate on denise.ryan@act.gov.au or (02) 6207 9110.

Are prisoners entitled to compensation for inadequate drug treatment in prison?

A group of prisoners and ex-prisoners in the United Kingdom is being compensated for the inadequacy of their treatment while in prison. 'The UK government has agreed to pay more than £2m (€2.3m; \$3.2m) in compensation and costs to settle claims by 499 prisoners and former prisoners with drug addiction who say that they suffered from a systemic failure by the prison service to ensure that they received acceptable standards of treatment for their addiction.'

This is the second group of prisoners to receive compensation. 'The last Labour government paid £750 000 in compensation and £700 000 in costs to settle an earlier claim in 2006, brought by 200 prisoners and former inmates who were subjected to a rapid detoxification regime, shortly before the case was due to go to trial in the High Court.

The Home Office, the department then responsible for prisons, received legal advice that the standards of care the inmates received in the late 1990s fell short of acceptable medical standards and the prison service's own guidelines for dealing with prisoners addicted to heroin and decided to settle to avoid the costs of a trial.' Dyer, C 2011, 'Poor treatment of drug addicts in prison costs UK more than £3.5m in compensation and fees', *BMJ*, vol. 343, p. d4438 (news item).

For further information about this area visit: www.atoda.org.au

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010 – Final consultation

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

ATODA continues to have significant concerns regarding the proposed background checking system. For background, previous submissions and position information visit: www.atoda.org.au. Recent policy and representational work has included:

- **Meeting with Minister for Community Services (1 July 2011)** – A joint meeting with the Mental Health Community Coalition to raise the sector’s ongoing concerns, including implementing a staged approach.
- **Concerns with the WWVPC Proposed Regulations (1 July 2011)** - Joint submission with the Mental Health Community Coalition to the Community Services Directorate regarding the draft regulations, which focus on role-based registrations.

Final ACT Government Consultation – closes 9 September 2011

The Community Services Directorate has announced that it will be conducting a final round of consultations for the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010* (WWVPCS) from 1 August – 9 September 2011. The consultation seeks views on the draft:

- Risk Assessment Guidelines and Application Form
- Risk Management Assessment Tool
- Government Amendments to the Bill
- Regulations.

Further information

An Information Book, developed by the Community Services Directorate, is available and provides answers to questions raised by stakeholders to date. Consultation documents can be downloaded

from: www.dhcs.act.gov.au/home/publications/wwvpc. Please contact Jean Thomson, Policy Manager, Community Services Directorate on (02) 6205 8329 or workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au for further information. The Bill is available from the ACT Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au

ATODA’s submission

ATODA will be making a submission to this round of consultations - please contact Carrie Fowlie on carrie@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT

Broad support continues to build for action, and a program is being designed, to expand the availability of naloxone (Narcan ®) in the ACT.

How many ex-prisoners die soon after release from prison, and what do they die from?

Research reported in the *Medical Journal of Australia* reveals that ‘The estimated annual number of deaths among recently released prisoners in Australia is considerably greater than the annual number of deaths in custody, highlighting the extreme vulnerability of this population on return to the community’. The researchers estimate that ‘between 380 and 527 people released from prison in 2007–08 died within 1 year of release, with a disproportionate number dying in the first 4 weeks’. They found that ‘a large proportion of deaths in both cohorts [NSW and WA] was drug-related, highlighting the ongoing need to develop and implement evidence-based strategies to reduce drug-related death among ex-prisoners. One such strategy is opiate substitution therapy, which has been associated with reduced mortality, reincarceration and hepatitis C infection in ex-prisoners. Yet, despite unambiguous endorsement of opiate substitution therapy in the National Corrections

Drug Strategy 2006–2009, its provision in Australian prisons remains inconsistent. Another suggested approach is the provision of naloxone for peer administration. A clinical trial of naloxone provision to those at risk of overdose on release from prison has been proposed but not yet conducted’.

However, ‘Although drug overdose is a leading cause of death for recently released prisoners, more than 50% of deaths in this study were not drug-related, and at least two-thirds of deaths in the first year occurred more than 1 month after release. These findings underscore the importance of moving beyond simplistic messages about reduced drug tolerance and overdose risk in the first few weeks of release’.

Kinner, SA, Preen, DB, Kariminia, A, Butler, T, Andrews, JY, Stoové, M & Law, M 2011, ‘Counting the cost: estimating the number of deaths among recently released prisoners in Australia’, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 195, no. 2, pp. 64-8. Free full text http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195_02_180711/kin10879_fm.html.

Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT (ENAACT) Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to provide expert guidance and support to key stakeholders to develop a program to expand naloxone availability in the ACT. The Committee met on 26 July to further discuss the program design, including the submitted ethics application, with the aim of having a program up and running in Spring 2011, subject to the ACT Government agreeing to fund the program. For further information contact the ATODA, the secretariat and Chair, on info@atoda.org.au

Centre for Research Excellence in Injecting Drug Use Colloquium (18 July)

ENAACT Committee members Associate Professor Paul Dietze, Professor Simon Lenton and Carrie Fowlie presented at the inaugural colloquium in Melbourne.

A new webpage detailing recent ENAACT activities is now available at http://www2.atoda.org.au/?page_id=342.

Pay Equity Case

ACOSS hails Commonwealth commitment to help community sector with equal pay

6 July 2011

Australian Council of Social Service

The Australian Council of Social Service today welcomed a Federal Government commitment to support the community sector in meeting the inevitable implications of higher wage costs resulting from any pay increases Fair Work Australia may award following the ASU's equal remuneration application.

To view the full media release visit

http://www.acoss.org.au/media/release/acoss_hails_commonwealth_commitment_to_help_community_sector_with_equal_pay.

Health Reform Update

Many important national health reform initiatives started on 1 July 2011. The July edition of the National Health Reform Update profiles some of those that are now operational, including:

- The first 19 Medicare Locals commence
- New Medicare items offer specialists' consultations via video conferencing

- New after hours GP helpline
- Legislation to improve consumer protection in the aged care sector.

To view the full Health Reform Update visit
<http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/update-20110701>

News from the ACT ATOD Workers Group

An ACT ATOD Workers Group meeting was not held in June 2011.

News from the ACT ATOD Executive Directors' Group

The ACT ATOD Executive Directors Group met in July to discuss a range of sector priorities, including:

- Northside ATOD service provision including public dosing and NSP coverage
- ACT Budget 2012/13 sector priorities
- *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010*
- Participating in the proposed expanded availability of naloxone program.

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

Sector Development

Of Substance July 2011

The July issue of *Of Substance* magazine is now available. To view or subscribe to the magazine visit www.ofsubstance.org.au. It includes articles on bystander-administered naloxone, with coverage of the proposed ACT program.

Inquiry into the High Level of Involvement of Indigenous Juveniles and Young Adults in the Criminal Justice System

House Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Parliament of Australia

The House of Representatives have tabled their report: *Doing Time - Time for Doing: Indigenous Youth in the Criminal Justice System*. The Inquiry focused on prevention and early intervention, and sought to identify factors for positive social engagement, the impact of alcohol and other drugs on involvement in the criminal justice system, engagement in education, and best-practice programs in Australia. The report is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia/sentencing/report.htm>

Consensus Statement addressing Hepatitis C in Australian Custodial Settings

Hepatitis Australia

Hepatitis Australia has developed the Consensus Statement: Addressing Hepatitis C in Australian Custodial Settings, which has been endorsed by over twenty leading organisations in this field. The Third National Hepatitis C Strategy in 2010, which was endorsed by all Australian Health Ministers, listed people in custodial settings as a priority population. This strategy recommends the monitoring of the implementation

of the Hepatitis C Prevention, Treatment and Care: Guidelines for Australian Custodial Settings as a priority action.
For further information visit <http://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/information-centre/hepatitis-australia-reports>

Training and Professional Development in the ACT

See also Free Smoking Care Workshop Series under Workplace Tobacco Management Project.

August - September 2011 Training and Professional Development Calendar *Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT*

The recent 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.

To download the training calendar visit www.atoda.org.au.

A Symposium on Pain and How it is Perceived Across Different Health Disciplines

Faculty of Health, University of Canberra

Pain—its causes, effects and treatment—is perceived differently by different people – and especially by those who experience it and those who treat it. How do we as Health Professionals work with and treat pain in our clients and patients?

The Symposium will bring together a range of presentations from guest speakers including Professor Ann Roche, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction and University of Canberra Faculty of Health members with an opening address by Dr Peggy Brown, Director- General of ACT Health.

Date: Tuesday 2 August 2011

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: Ann Harding Conference Centre, Building 24, University Drive, Bruce

Cost: Full fee \$90

Registration: Essential at

<http://www.canberra.edu.au/development/attachments/pdf/PAIN-Symposium-Registration-2.pdf>

What About Me? 2011 – Workshop regarding Children of Parents with Mental Illness

Children of Parents With Mental Illness

This workshop aims to enhance the practice of those who work with children in vulnerable families, where a parent has a mental illness.

Date: Thursday 4 August 2011

Time: 9am - 4.30pm

Venue: Training Room 1, 1 Moore Street

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential

For more information contact Sally Markham on 6207 1344 or visit

<http://emm.epimedia.com.au/link.php?M=206558&N=302&L=1727&F=H>.

Living Works Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

Lifeline Canberra

ASIST is a two-day interactive workshop which aims to improve participants' suicide awareness and prevention skills. The course is presented by LivingWorks – accredited facilitators, who use internationally standardised resources and materials. Participants are trained to recognise when a person may be at risk and how to respond to improve the immediate and long-term safety of the person at risk.

Date: 10th and 11th of August 2011, over 2 days

Time: 9.00am – 5.00pm each day

A minimum of 12 and a maximum of 30 participants is required to run the course. For further information on this course or to download the registration form, please visit www.act.lifeline.org.au or phone 02 6204 6434.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

A practical workshop to assist participants implement quality improvement in community organisations.

Date: Thursday 18 August 2011

Time: 10.00 am - 3.30 pm

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

Cost: ACTCOSS members \$59, Non-members \$68, Government/Corporate \$80

Includes: Morning tea and lunch

To register for the workshop please contact Lisa on 02 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au at least seven days prior to the seminar.

Illicit Drug Workshop

Centre for Customs and Excise Studies, University of Canberra

The Centre for Customs and Excise Studies at the University of Canberra, is hosting a number of workshops that explore the illicit drugs market in detail.

Date: 24 August 2011

Time: 9am – 4pm

Venue: University of Canberra, Building 24, Ann Harding Conference Centre, BRUCE, ACT 2617

Cost: \$395.00 per participant (Discounts available for organisations with five or more participants attending)

Includes: Lunch, morning and afternoon tea will be provided. Participants also receive a copy of the 'Illicit Drugs' DVD produced by the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies valued at \$140.00

For further information please contact customs.centre@canberra.edu.au or (02) 6201 5487

Appreciation of Torres Strait Culture Awareness Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Facilitated by Benny Hodges

This one-day training for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers aims to assist participants in developing a better understanding of the cultural perspectives of Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. This training assists participants in developing and improving a range of cross-cultural communication skills.

Date: Friday 26 August 2011

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

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

Cost: ACTCOSS members \$167, Non-members \$203

To register for this seminar visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/TSICulture-26Aug11.pdf

University Qualifications in Community and Health Development

University of Canberra (UC)

UC is currently accepting applications to undertake both undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications in community and health development, to begin in Semester 2 in August 2011. Undergraduate qualifications include: Bachelor of Social and Community Studies (also with Honours), Bachelor of Social and Community Studies and Social Science (Justice Studies). There are also Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Masters degrees available in Community and Health Development.

For more information visit <http://www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/education/community>

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Oceania Tobacco Control Conference 2011

Cancer Council Australia

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

Date: 18 – 20 October 2011

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: \$495 (early bird) *Registration:* Early bird closes **18 July 2011**.

For more information visit <http://www.oceaniatc2011.org/>.

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

Australian National Council on Drugs co-hosted by PEMADAM

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

Date: 8 – 11 November 2011

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

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

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

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

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

This Conference will provide insights into neuroscience, interventions, policy innovations and emerging challenges for the ATOD sector. The Conference will feature both Australian and International speakers. A call for papers for the Late Breaking Session opened on 1 August.

Date: 13 – 16 November

Venue: Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania

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

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

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

Beyond 2012: Leading the Way to Action

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)

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

Date: 6 - 8 June 2012

Venue: Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, Western Australia

Call for Papers and online registration is now available at <http://www.nidac.org.au/>.

Policy Activities

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Community Consultation: Economic, Social And Cultural Rights - A Good Idea For The Act?

ACT Council of Social Service

Consultation period ends: Friday 19 August 2011.

The ACT Government invites you to participate in the community consultation about the possible inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in the ACT. Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) are human rights that belong to individuals and include the rights to housing, health, education, work, and to take part in cultural life. ACTCOSS has long advocated for the inclusion of the ESCR in the ACT Human Rights Act. You can access previous ACTCOSS submissions on Human Rights issues at www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Policy_docs.html#9.

More information about making a submission is available at

www.justice.act.gov.au/review/view/13.

A 5-minute online survey is also available for you to send your views to the Government about ESCR at www.surveymonkey.com/s/JJY8366.

ATODA will be making a contribution to this submission process – please contact Carrie Fowlie on carrie@atoda.org.au to share your views.

ATODA SUBMISSION TO THE ACT BUDGET 2012/13

ATODA works with stakeholders to develop an annual submission to the ACT Budget. This inclusive process seeks to identify sector priorities for funding and develop specific proposals on how priority areas could be progressed. ATODA is focusing its budget submission on some key proposals and initiatives coming out of the sector, including:

- Expanded northside ATOD service provision
- Alcohol ignition interlocks for high range and repeat offenders
- Increased Aboriginal Liaison capacity
- Expand access to residential rehabilitation services for clients on opioid maintenance therapy
- ACT Tobacco Coordination

Other possible priority areas area also being discussed with stakeholders. For further information or to provide input please contact Carrie Fowlie, Executive Officer, on carrie@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

SEE ALSO NSP IN AMC CONSULTATION under Drug Policies and Programs in the AMC

Synthetic cannabis (aka Kronic) banned

The ACT Government made it illegal to manufacture, obtain, possess, supply, sell and/or use products containing synthetic cannabis (synthetic cannabinoids) in the ACT as from 8 July 2011. This followed automatically from a decision by the Commonwealth Government made on the recommendation of the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
<http://www.tga.gov.au/pdf/scheduling/scheduling-decisions-1107-final.pdf>.

What is synthetic cannabis?

Synthetic cannabis includes a range of synthetic compounds that mimic the effects of the active component in cannabis, delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

Synthetic cannabis can be found in products with brand names such as Kronic, Northern Lights, Kaos, Spice, Mango and Voodoo. These products usually consist of dried herbs that are sprayed with synthetic cannabis, which are then smoked for their cannabis-like effects.

For further information visit the Health Directorate website:

- General information <http://www.health.act.gov.au/alerts/synthetic-cannabis>
- Media release
<http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sendfile&ft=p&fid=1310099420&sid=>
- Synthetic Cannabis factsheet
<http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sendfile&ft=p&fid=1310099527&sid=>

What do we know about the 'New Marijuana'?

The Health Directorate advises that the ban of synthetic cannabinoids covers drugs with brand names such as Kronic, Northern Lights, Kaos, Spice, Mango and Voodoo. An article recently published in *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy* provides an overview of existing knowledge about this class of drugs that supplements TGA's summary. Its abstract reads: 'Synthetic cannabinoid-induced toxicity is increasing in frequency across the US, with more than 1057 reported cases as of August 2010. There is a paucity of literature on synthetic cannabinoid toxicity; however, there are various reports of adverse effects including tachycardia, hypertension, tachypnea, chest pain, heart palpitations, hallucinations, racing thoughts, and seizures. While reports suggest that toxic symptoms last no longer than 3-4 hours, with no residual adverse effects in many cases, there is concern about serious acute and long-term toxicities. This article reviews the development, abuse, toxicity, treatment, and legal status of synthetic cannabinoids. It is important for health-care professionals to recognize and appropriately treat synthetic cannabinoid-induced toxicity.'

Wells, DL & Ott, CA 2011, 'The "new" marijuana', *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy*, vol. 45, no. 3, pp. 414-7.

Policy, Reports and Research

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

How many people are arrested for illicit drugs offences in the ACT?

The Australian Crime Commission's report on illicit drug arrests for the 2009-10 year has been released. It shows that, in that year, the ACT had 386 arrests for illicit drug

offences, and that 73 Simple Cannabis Offence Notices (SCONs) were issued. 89% of the arrests plus SCONs were classified as drug consumers and only 11% drug providers. In contrast, nationally 81% were consumers. With regard to cannabis specifically, 93% of arrests plus SCONs were cannabis consumers, compared with 86% nationally. In the ACT that year there were also 100 arrests for amphetamine-type stimulants, 30 for heroin & other opioids, 8 for cocaine, 3 for steroids and 1 for hallucinogens. In addition to detailed statistics, the report provides valuable information on drug trafficking and criminal justice agencies' responses. It contains a special chapter on clandestine laboratories and precursors which reports a 55% increase in the number of clandestine laboratories detected nationally compared with the previous year. 90% of the labs were for the manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. No clandestine labs were detected in the ACT in the 2009-10 year. Australian Crime Commission 2011, *Illicit drug data report 2009-10*, Australian Crime Commission, Canberra, http://www.crimecommission.gov.au/publications/iddr/2009_10.htm.

Which drugs are being detected in Victoria's roadside drug testing program?

In Victoria, oral fluid (saliva) specimens from motor vehicle drivers have been tested for the presence of three proscribed drugs, namely methamphetamine and THC since 2003, and MDMA since 2006. In a recent study, 31 drugs were tested for among 853 oral fluid specimens taken from drivers by Victoria Police during roadside drug testing operations. The analysts found that 'At least one proscribed drug was detected in 96% of drivers, of which [methamphetamine] was the most common (77%), followed by THC (42%), MDMA (17%) and the combination of all three (3.9%). Opioids were detected in 14% of drivers of which 4.8% were positive for 6-acetylmorphine and 3.3% for methadone. The incidence of the opioids tramadol (1.2%) and oxycodone (1.1%) were relatively low. Cocaine (8.0%) was as commonly detected as benzodiazepines (8.0%), and was almost always found in combination with [methamphetamine] (7.9%). Samples positive to benzodiazepines were largely due to diazepam (3.5%) and alprazolam (3.4%), with only 0.2% of drivers combining the two. Ketamine was also detected in 1.5% of cases.' The authors conclude that, 'While the incidences of the proscribed drugs itself are concerning, it is clear that many drivers are also using other drugs capable of causing impairment. Chu, M, Gerostamoulos, D, Beyer, J, Rodda, L, Boorman, M & Drummer, OH 2011, 'The incidence of drugs of impairment in oral fluid from random roadside testing', *Forensic Science International*, available online 12 June 2011.

How effective are motor vehicle ignition interlocks in reducing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes?

A systematic review of the literature on this topic found that 'DWI [driving while impaired] offenders who have ignition interlocks installed in their vehicles are at substantially lower risk for recidivism than those who have had their licenses suspended either after being deemed ineligible for an interlock or deciding not to have one installed. These findings also suggest that the experience of being enrolled in an ignition interlock program by itself does not generally lead to long-term changes in the propensity to drink and drive that last beyond the period of interlock installation'. The reviewers suggest that 'Some key features of interlock programs that could improve their effectiveness include increasing the time period during which the interlock is installed or making the removal contingent on appropriate behaviors [sic], using the interlock in conjunction with alcohol rehabilitation programs, increasing the number of participants, and improving protections against circumvention of the interlocks'.

Elder, RW, Voas, R, Beirness, D, Shults, RA, Sleet, DA, Nichols, JL & Compton, R 2011, 'Effectiveness of ignition interlocks for preventing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes: a Community Guide systematic review', *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 362-76.

Why did Portugal decriminalise drug use, and what has been the effect?

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has a new publication series 'Drug Policy Profiles'. The first describes the national drug policy of Portugal. In the conclusion of the Profile, the authors state 'The debates [in Portugal] around the drug laws of 1983, 1993 and 2000...show a progressive move towards a model that clearly prioritises early intervention and treatment over any form of sanction. This transition is the result, among others, of an established and growing agreement among political parties in Parliament on the need to address drug use as a health issue and not as a criminal matter...What makes the Portuguese case special is that decriminalisation was not, as in other countries, associated with an increasing prevalence of cannabis use among young people and the consequent difficulties for law enforcement bodies in coping with it. In Portugal, problem drug users—mainly heroin users—were the focus of the policy discussions and it was with them (and their problems) in mind that it was decided to change the law in 2000. The Portuguese policy also reflects the main elements of drug policy convergence that have been observed in the European Union over the last two decades: the development of an overarching and detailed policy; the acceptance of harm reduction interventions; the recognition of the drug user as a person in need of help and not as a criminal; and the attempt to further link or integrate illicit and licit drug policies.'

They comment 'The changes that were made in Portugal provide an interesting before-and-after study on the possible effects of decriminalisation, as the drug prevalence rates have not confirmed the theory that decriminalisation, or a less punitive approach, leads to increased use.'

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (ed.) 2011, *Portugal, EMCDDA Drug Policy Profiles*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/drug-policy-profiles/portugal>.

Is mobile phone text messaging an effective way to help people quit smoking?

A recent issue of *The Lancet* reports on a clinical trial in the United Kingdom which involved 5,800 participants. Its aim was to assess 'the effect of an automated smoking cessation programme [txt2stop] delivered via mobile phone text messaging on continuous abstinence, which was biochemically verified at 6 months'. The researchers found that people who gave up smoking with the help of text messaging were nearly twice as likely to be smoke-free six months later than smokers who did not have this support.

The researchers concluded that 'The txt2stop smoking cessation programme significantly improved smoking cessation rates at 6 months and should be considered for inclusion in smoking cessation services'.

Free, C et al. 2011, 'Smoking cessation support delivered via mobile phone text messaging (txt2stop): a single-blind, randomised trial', *The Lancet*, vol. 378, no. 9785, pp. 49-55.

Does combining alcohol with energy drinks increase the risk?

Research in the United States has investigated whether young people who consumed alcohol mixed with energy drinks (AmED) would be more likely to become

intoxication than if they consumed alcohol alone. It was found that 'An energy drink appears to alter some of the objective and subjective impairing effects of alcohol, but not others. Thus, AmED may contribute to a high-risk scenario for the drinker. The mix of impaired behavioral inhibition and enhanced stimulation is a combination that may make AmED consumption riskier than alcohol consumption alone'.

Marczinski, CA, Fillmore, MT, Bardgett, ME & Howard, MA 2011, 'Effects of energy drinks mixed with alcohol on behavioral control: risks for college students consuming trendy cocktails', *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol. 35, no. 7, pp. 1282-92.

New reports

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, *State and territory statistical indicators, 2011*, ABS, Canberra, <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1367.0> (first issue in a valuable new series).

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011, *2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report*, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=32212254712&tab=2>. Large file warning: 4.8 MB. (See also the supplementary tables on alcohol at the same URL.)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011, *National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2010 report*, cat. no. HSE 109, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737419328&tab=2>.

Hepatitis Australia et al. 2011, *Consensus statement: addressing hepatitis C in Australian custodial settings*, Hepatitis Australia, Canberra, <http://www.hepatitisaustralia.com/information-centre/hepatitis-australia-reports>.

Roxburgh, A & Burns, L 2011, *Drug-induced deaths in Australia, 2007 edition*, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, Sydney, [http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/Bulletins1/\\$file/NDARC+deaths+Bulletin+2007.pdf](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/Bulletins1/$file/NDARC+deaths+Bulletin+2007.pdf).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2011, *World Drug Report 2011*, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna, <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2011.html>.

Consumer Participation

Consumers Reforming Health Conference, Melbourne

Health Care Consumers' Association Inc

Three HCCA staff and three consumer representatives attended the Consumers Reforming Health Conference in Melbourne 18 – 20 July. The HCCA blog contains reports from the conference and is available at <http://hcca-act.blogspot.com/2011/07/reflections-on-consumer-engagement-in.html>.

Collaborating with consumer and community representatives in health and medical research in Australia: results from an evaluation

The objective of this research was to collaborate with consumer and community representatives in the Alcohol and Pregnancy Project from 2006-2008 and evaluate

researchers' and consumer and community representatives' perceptions of the process, context and impact of consumer and community participation in the project. Health Research Policy and Systems 2011, 9:18. July 2011.

Needle and Syringe Program - Treatment Service Users (TSU) Project: Phase Two

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League for the Department of Health and Ageing, March 2011(released July 2011). This project implemented consumer participation demonstration projects in a variety of drug treatment settings in Australia. It followed the phase one research project which recommended a series of priority actions to support education and training in relation to consumer participation. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/needle-tsu2>

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

intouch Newsletter July 2011

Public Health Association of Australia Inc.

The July issue of intouch newsletter contains articles on World No Tobacco Day and the 2010 Inmate Health Survey.

The newsletter is available at <http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/July2011.pdf>

NOFASARD Newsletter June 2011

The National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders Inc.

The June issue of NOFASARD's Newsletter is available for download from

<http://www.nofasard.org/>.

Alcohol, Drugs and Suicide Prevention Position Statement

Suicide Prevention Australia

Suicide Prevention Australia has released its latest position statement 'Alcohol, Drugs and Suicide Prevention'. It is available at

<http://suicidepreventionaust.org.tmp.anchor.net.au/?statement=alcohol-drugs-and-suicide-prevention>.

Culturally Secure Recruitment and Retention Guide for the AOD Sector

Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies

Information and examples about culturally secure ways for organisations to recruit and retain Aboriginal workers. The document is available at

http://www.wanada.org.au/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_details&gid=445&Itemid=24.

ACTCOSS Fact Sheets

ACT Council of Social Service

ACTCOSS has produced a number of fact sheets about issues relating to the ACT community sector and people experiencing disadvantage in the ACT. These include:

- Community sector viability;
- Equity and climate change;
- Human rights;
- Reconciliation;
- Social determinants of health; and
- Social inclusion and exclusion.

Download the fact sheets at www.actcoss.org.au/publications/factsheets.html.

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

Aboriginal and Islander families in Belconnen are invited to celebrate National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day with the West Belconnen Child and Family Centre.

Date: 4th August 2011

Time: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Venue: West Belconnen Child and Family Centre, Corner of Starke & Luke Streets, Holt

RSVP: Ph 6205 2904

Includes: Transport available, free food and children's activities.

Employment Opportunities

Executive Officer

ACT Shelter

Peak Community Advocacy Organisation representing the housing needs of low-to moderate income households is seeking a full-time Executive Officer. Salary in the range \$71,000 to \$76,000.

12-month contract with 3-month probationary period.

For selection criteria, contact ACT Shelter on contact@actshelter.net.au or 6247 3727.

Closing date for applications: 2 August 2011

Multiple Positions: Karralika Programs

Karralika Programs

The following fulltime positions are currently available at Karralika Programs:

- Outreach / Early Birds Worker
- Case Workers

Karralika Programs is seeking expressions of interest (including a CV) from interested parties. For further information please contact Michelle Sims on (02) 6163 0200. Expressions of interest should be emailed to Michelle at info@karralika.org.au by Friday 5 August 2011.

Transforming Perceptions Program Officer

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT are seeking a Program Officer who will support the Transforming Perceptions Program, through delivery of training, networking and development of resources about reducing stigma in multicultural communities.

Salary Range: ACT Community Sector Multiple Enterprise Agreement, Level 5: \$53,785-\$57,839 (pro rata) plus 9% superannuation and generous salary packaging
Hours: 22.5 hours per week (negotiable)

Duration: Permanent, with three month probationary period

For a full position descriptions and selection criteria, please see attached or go to our website at www.mhccact.org.au.

Applications close on Monday 15 August 2011.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Mental Health Week 2011 Small Grants Program

ACT Health Directorate

The ACT Health Directorate in collaboration with a number of community agencies will offer small grants/reimbursement program to assist community organisations with mental health promotion activities during Mental Health Week 2011. This year the week runs from the 9th to 15th of October 2011. Reimbursements from \$200 up to \$1500 will be considered and provided on a cost recovery basis.

Enquiries can be directed to Gavin Bussenschutt:

Ph: 6245 6400

Email: gavinb@mifellowship.org

Applications close 12 August 2011.

Optus Community Grants Program

Optus

Funding of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to projects aimed at building social inclusion and supporting disengaged young people are now available.

For more information visit

<https://communitygrants.optus.com.au/guidelines/categories>. Applications close 12 August 2011.

2011-12 Community Support and Infrastructure Grants

Community Services Directorate

Community groups are being urged to apply for grants of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for projects and infrastructure. Further information and application packages are available online at www.grants.act.gov.au or by phoning (02) 6205 1308.

Applications close 15 August 2011.

2011 Community Support and Infrastructure Grants

ACT Government

These grants fund one-off community based projects, fixed and non-fixed infrastructure for community organisations. Three categories are available: Community Support and Capacity (up to \$15,000); Non-Fixed Infrastructure and Equipment (up to \$10,000); and Capital Works and Fixed Infrastructure (up to \$20,000).

For more information visit <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac/community/grants>.

Applications close 15 August 2011.

Local Community Grants to Promote Better Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Programs

Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government

These grants are to support community organisations around Australia to develop and implement ideas for local initiatives and programs to promote messages around chronic disease prevention and healthy lifestyle choices. Activities and programs will be supported and driven by the community to raise awareness of the relevant issues, promote overarching messages, and direct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to information or support. For more information visit

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/grant4481011>.

Applications close 30 September 2011.

Local Community Campaigns to Promote Better Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program Grants

Department of Health and Ageing

Local Community Campaigns is about community organisations throughout Australia developing and implementing ideas for local initiatives and programs to promote messages around chronic disease prevention and healthy lifestyle choices and the benefits of accessing primary healthcare. These local projects will be supported and driven by the community to raise awareness of the relevant issues, promote overarching messages and direct Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples to more information and/or support.

To view the grant guidelines visit <http://livelonger.health.gov.au/grant-funding/grant-guidelines.html>. Applications Close September 2011.

Optus Community Grants Program

Optus

Funding of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to projects aimed at building social inclusion and supporting disengaged young people are now available.

For more information visit

<https://communitygrants.optus.com.au/guidelines/categories>. Applications close 12 August 2011.

Media

Better Mental Health Services from 1 July

1 July 2011

The Hon Mark Butler MP

The Australian Government is delivering on its commitment to transform the mental health system so it better meets the needs of people with a mental illness, their carers and families with a number of key initiatives being delivered from 1 July.

"We are delivering the largest mental health package ever with \$2.2 billion in new measures" the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler said.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-mb-mb062.htm>

The War on Drug Labs

2 July 2011

The Canberra Times

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Australian Crime Commission reports point to an upsurge in clandestine drug laboratories manufacturing amphetamines and illegal synthetic "party drugs". Drug lab clean-ups are becoming a big problem, especially for public housing. In the ACT, the Government's public housing authority does not have a drug laboratory remediation policy, and does not conduct tests for potential drug residues when a property is vacated.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/the-war-on-drug-labs/2213949.aspx>

Australian National Council on Drugs Committees Announcement

4 July 2011

Australian National Council on Drugs

On behalf of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) Dr John Herron is pleased to announce the membership appointments to the following ANCD Committees:

- National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)
- Asia-Pacific Drug Issues Committee (APDIC)
- Of Substance (National Magazine) Board of Management
- Of Substance (National Magazine) Editorial Reference Group

Dr Herron thanked the previous members of these committees for their hard work and dedication over the previous term and looked forward to working with re-appointed and new members on some of the pressing issues affecting these areas. To view the full media release visit <http://www.ancd.org.au/media-releases/ancd-committees-announcement.html>

Tobacco: Cigarette habits going up in smoke

4 July 2011

Herald Sun

Smokers around Australia are lining up to kick the habit, with 100,000 scripts for subsidised nicotine patches being filled since they became available on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) in February.

“Placing patches on the PBS has clearly helped to make them affordable for tens of thousands of Australians who want to quit and has the added benefit of proper support and guidance from a medical professional,” Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said.

To view the full article visit <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/smokers-queuing-up-to-quit/story-e6frf7jo-1226086644904>

100,000 NRT Scripts Filled to Help Australians Kick the Habit

4 July 2011

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP

Smokers around Australia have chosen to kick the habit with 100,000 scripts for subsidised nicotine patches being filled since they became available on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS) in February.

“Placing patches onto the PBS has clearly helped to make them affordable for tens of thousands of Australians who want to quit – and has the added benefit of proper support and guidance from a medical professional. Using patches as part of a smoking cessation program increases the likelihood of success,” Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon said.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr132.htm>

Safety of quit-smoking drug reviewed

5 July 2011

The Canberra Times

Australian regulators are reviewing the quit-smoking drug Champix after a study found the medication was associated with a 72 per cent increased risk of serious cardiovascular events.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/safety-of-quitsmoking-drug-reviewed/2215870.aspx>

Housing Help Now Under One Roof With New Facility

5 July 2011

Joy Burch, MLA

Canberrans seeking community housing and crisis accommodation now have for the first time a one-stop shop for services, with a new \$295,000 facility officially opened by Community Services Minister Joy Burch. The new Central Access Point facility co-locates three major housing and homeless services at Housing ACT's headquarters in Belconnen. The new premises seek to create a more welcoming and dignified environment for clients.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10817&m=138>

New Plain Packaging Legislation a Milestone for Tobacco Control

6 July 2011

Public Health Association of Australia; Australian Council on Smoking and Health; and Cancer Council Victoria

The Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill 2011, introduced in the Federal Parliament today by Health Minister Nicola Roxon, has been hailed as a milestone for tobacco control in Australia and a global precedent that will be followed by other countries.

President of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH), Professor Mike Daube said, "This is world's best practice for tobacco control. Plain packaging will protect children from tobacco promotion, encourage adults to quit and make a major contribution to saving thousands of lives.

To view the full media release visit

www.phaa.net.au/documents/MediaReleasePLAINPACKAGING.pdf

Packaging law sees \$1.1m fines locked in

6 July 2011

The Australian

Retailers and big tobacco companies face fines of up to \$1.1 million if they breach world-first plain packaging rules and try to produce or sell cigarettes in packets that carry commercial branding. Health Minister Nicola Roxon will introduce the laws into parliament today. The legislation gives retailers just six weeks from May 20 next year to clear their shelves before plain packaging becomes mandatory on July 1.

To view the full article visit <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/packaging-law-sees-11m-fines-locked-in/story-fn59niix-1226088385066>

Alcohol price too low: lobby

6 July 2011

The Canberra Times

Alcohol taxes and the real price of liquor should be lifted, health experts will tell federal politicians today. Members of the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol will meet with 54 MPs and senators, including Health Minister Nicola Roxon, to lobby for alcohol price reform and for the issue to feature prominently in the Government's October tax summit.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/alcohol-price-too-low-lobby/2217294.aspx>

Think you spend too much on booze? Average Aussie spends \$31 a week on alcohol

6 July 2011

Daily Telegraph

The average Australian spends \$31 a week on alcohol. That's the equivalent of a little more than eight beers, with the average price of a 285ml glass of full-strength draught beer \$3.73, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

To view the full article visit <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/business/think-you-spend-too-much-on-booze-average-aussie-spends-31-a-week-on-alcohol/story-e6frez7r-1226088138742>

Few cheers for alcohol consumption idea

27 July 2011

The Canberra Times

It's difficult to find an 18-year-old in Canberra who wants the legal drinking age raised to put alcohol out of his or her reach.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/few-cheers-for-alcohol-consumption-idea/2239061.aspx>

Even split over lift in drinking age

27 July 2011

The Canberra Times

Australians are almost evenly divided over whether the legal drinking age should be lifted from 18 years, according to the results of a national survey to be issued today. The 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report also shows that most Australians support the establishment of supervised drug injecting rooms and the legal use of marijuana to treat medical conditions.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/national/national/general/even-split-over-lift-in-drink-age/2239060.aspx>

Cocaine on a high, ecstasy on a comedown: Australia's new drug survey report

27 July 2011

The Conversation

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey Report 2010, which indicates the behaviour and attitudes of Australians to drug use, shows reductions in daily tobacco smoking, a range of mixed findings on alcohol and an overall rise in illicit drug use.

To view the full article visit <http://theconversation.edu.au/cocaine-on-a-high-ecstasy-on-a-comedown-australias-new-drug-survey-report-2530>.

About ATODA

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

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

Become a member of ATODA

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