



ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector eBulletin: July 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 July eBulletin is not available in a html template as is normally the case, and instead has been circulated to you as a pdf. As we transition to the new arrangements, we appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience.

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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.

Workplace Tobacco Management Project Update: June 2011

ATODA in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project aims to increase awareness, and support the implementation, of workplace tobacco management policies; and reduce the impact of smoking behaviours for the staff in nine programs within the mental health, ATOD, and youth sectors. The project is funded by ACT Health and the research component has received ethics approval from the ACT Health Human Research Ethics Committee. For more information visit www.atoda.org.au to download the June Project update. For further information please contact ATODA on tobacco@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy

Register Now! MQS Information Package: Semester 2, 2011

A roll out of the 4 Core Competencies from the Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drug Work is being organized for Semester 2, 2011 with the Canberra Institute of Technology. An information package is now available from www.atoda.org.au or for further information contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

MQS Policy Development

Following consultation with the ACT ATOD Sector, a process to further progress the ACT ATOD qualification strategies will be explored in the second half of 2011. Get involved by contacting ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070 or visit www.atoda.org.au.

Drug Action Week 2011

Drug Action Week in the ACT - A Huge Success!

ACT Drug Action Week 2011 was the biggest yet, thanks to the contributions of ACT ATOD and allied services, particularly those that participated in the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group. With over 40 events held across the Territory over the week,

services must be congratulated on raising awareness of ATOD issues in our community, and highlighting the amazing achievements and contributions made by workers and services.

The success of the week is highlighted in Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister and Minister for Health's media release available online at <http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10786>.

For further information about 2011 Drug Action Week in the ACT visit www.atoda.org.au.

To express interest in participating in Drug Action Week 2012, contact a member of the ATODA team on (02) 6255 4070 or daw@atoda.org.au.

ACT ATOD Sector Conference 2011

The 4th Annual ACT ATOD sector conference aimed to facilitate access to the latest evidence relating to best practice and sought to strengthen the capacity, skills and knowledge base of workers.

The 2011 conference was themed *Not If, But How: Collaboratively Implementing Innovative and Evidence-based ATOD Policy and Programs in the ACT*. The priority areas that were discussed included expanding availability to naloxone, drug diversion and a needle and syringe program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). The conference was held on Thursday 23 June 2011 at the National Library of Australia, Canberra. A webpage to distribute information on the Conference is currently under development. For further information please contact ATODA on conference@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070.

NAIDOC Week: 3 – 10 July

About NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Get Involved in ACT NAIDOC Week Activities

Throughout the week, celebrations will be held across the ACT, encouraging you to get involved. For the full list of events see www.naidoc.org.au/local-naidoc-events-calendar. Some specific activities are also highlighted below.

NAIDOC Family Day and Official ACT NAIDOC 2011 Opening Ceremony

All are welcome to this year's NAIDOC Family Day and official ACT NAIDOC 2011 opening ceremony. Come along for a free day of entertainment for the whole family.

Date: Sunday 3 July 2011

Time: 10am-3pm

Venue: ACT Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Yarramundi Reach, 245 Lady Denman Drive, Canberra

For further information visit <http://www.naidoc.org.au/1564/naidoc-family-day-official->

[opening-ceremony/](#).

Gugan Gulwan Smokefree Youth Talent Quest and Disco

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

Heaps of prizes, giveaways and entertainment for children of all ages....not to mention the deadly showcase of talent.

Date: Friday 1 July 2011

Time: 6 -10 pm

Venue: Wanniasa School, Wheeler Crescent, Wanniasa

For more information visit <http://www.gugan-gulwan.com.au> or call (02) 6296 8900.

Freedom Rides – 40 Years On

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation

"Freedom Rides – 40 Years On" will be screened to mark NAIDOC Week in Canberra. Chris Bourke, Member for Ginninderra and Pauline Bliim, participant in the 2011 Freedom Ride, will also present.

Date: Monday 4 July 2011

Time: 6pm

For more information visit <http://www.naidoc.org.au/1484/free-film-%E2%80%93-freedom-rides-%E2%80%93-40-years-on/>.

NAIDOC 2011 Exhibition

ACT Community Arts Office and Belconnen Arts Centre

A 2 week exhibition featuring ACT Indigenous artists Jason Davidson, Lyndy Delian, Jenny Dries, Margy Duke and Jenni Kemarre Martiniello. Workshops are also organised to be held during this time.

Date: 24 June – 17 July 2011

Venue: 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen

For more information visit <http://www.naidoc.org.au/1307/naidoc-2011-exhibition/>

Drug Policies and Programs in the Alexander Maconochie Centre

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

ACT Government response to the Burnet Report

On 28 June the Minister for Health tabled the ACT Government's final response to the recommendations of the Burnet Report in the ACT Legislative Assembly. The response is generally positive, particularly in regards to the agreement to recommendations 1 – 3 concerning the importance of developing coherent governance arrangements and an overarching service delivery strategy for the many initiatives and organisations operating at the AMC.

Government Responds to Burnet Report

28 June 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA today tabled the ACT Government's final response to the independent report into Evaluation of Drug Policies and Services at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10795&m=52>.

Progressing the workshop on Programs and Services for the AMC Population: Assessing the Needs and Filling the Gaps

ATODA, Health Directorate, and Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Following the 25 May workshop, a small working group was formed to produce a report, including an action plan, following the workshop. This report is due to be distributed to stakeholders in early July with new ways of working due to begin the same month.

Developing a model for the NSP in the AMC

Mr Michael Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Association of Australia and former ACT Health Minister has been tasked by the current Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher, to engage with stakeholders to identify a model for an NSP in the AMC. Discussions and consultations are currently taking place across the ACT and Mr Moore visited some European NSPs in prisons in June and their report is soon due to the ACT Government.

NSP in the AMC: ACT Conference Session

In response to requests from the stakeholders, a session of the 4th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference on 23 June was dedicated to discussing possible models, issues, barriers and opportunities to implement an NSP in the AMC. The Public Health Association of Australia led this session with participants.

Prison Issues Update – June 2011

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

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

NSP in the AMC Media Recap

A range of media releases and media articles on the NSP in the AMC are summarised below:

Jail Guard Joins Push for Drug Reform, 14 June 2011, The Canberra Times available at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/jail-guard-joins-push-for-drug-reform/2194127.aspx>.

Prison Staff's Petition Adds to Syringe Program Row, 14 June 2011, The Canberra Times available at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/prison-staffs-petition-adds-to-syringe-program-row/2193926.aspx>.

Prisoners Are Against Needle Plan, 21 June 2011, The Canberra Times available at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/prisoners-are-against-needle-plan-submission/2201531.aspx>

Group Says Prisoners Back Needle Exchange, 23 June 2011, The Canberra Times available at <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/group-says-prisoners-back-needle-exchange/2204355.aspx>

Findings Show Overwhelming Support for Jail Needle Exchange, 23 June 2011, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy Letter to the Editor, The Canberra Times available at

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/opinion/letters/general/findings-show-overwhelming-support-for-jail-needle-exchange/2205069.aspx?storypage=1>.

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

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

ATODA continues to have significant concerns regarding the proposed system. For background, previous submissions and position information visit:

<http://www.atoda.org.au>. Recent policy and representational work has included:

- **External legal advice from the Public Interest Legal Clearing House (June 2011)** - Advice has been received via the Public Interest Legal Clearing House (PILCH) NSW, which includes the potential for the system to be discriminatory.
- **Update on the WWVPCS (June 2011)** - Provides a summary of developments and next steps, including the legal advice summary.
- **Comments on the draft supporting documentation regarding the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System (22 June 2011)** - Joint submission to the Community Services Directorate and the Office of Regulatory Services regarding draft system documents.
- **Letter to Minister for Community Services and Minister for Health (June 2011)** - Joint letter regarding offsetting the potential for discrimination of the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010* by implementing a staged approach.
- **Concerns with the WWVPC Proposed Regulations (1 July 2011)** - Joint submission to the Community Services Directorate regarding the draft regulations, which focus on role-based registrations.

ATODA and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT will be meeting with Minister Burch in July to continue to identify issues and potential solutions for our sectors regarding the system.

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

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.

Committee members, led by the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA), is in the process of developing the program design including the training program. The program evaluation is also being developed.

The Committee will meet next on 26 July to further discuss the program design, including an ethics application planned to be submitted in July 2011, 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

National Drug and Alcohol Awards

Congratulations to David McDonald, New Inductee into the National Drug and Alcohol Honour Roll!

ATODA wishes to congratulate David McDonald for his induction to the National Drug and Alcohol Honour Roll at the National Drug and Alcohol Awards in June. This acknowledges the contributions David has made to the sector over 30 years.

The National Drug and Alcohol Awards are supported by the Ted Noffs Foundation, Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia, Australian Drug Foundation and the Australian National Council on Drugs with the ceremony held on 24 June 2011 in Sydney.

Prime Ministers Award for Excellence

Judge Roger Dive – Parramatta Drug Court

Awards Honour Roll

Professor Robyn Richmond
David McDonald

Excellence in Law Enforcement

The Bourke Alcohol Working Group

Excellence in Media Reporting

Ms Jill Stark, The Age

Excellence in Prevention and Community Education

The W.A. Department of Health's Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) Program

Excellence in Research

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, The Range and Magnitude of Alcohols' Harm to Others

Excellence in Treatment

Catalyst, UnitingCare Moreland Hall, Victoria

Excellence in School Drug Education

Wollumbin High School

Excellence in Services to Young People

Hello Sunday Morning

Excellence in Creating Healthy Sporting Communities
Eastern Football League

Pay Equity Case

ATODA Becomes Signatory on Statement of Equal Pay

ATODA has joined the campaign for funding of decent wages for community workers by becoming a signatory to the Statement of Equal Pay. View the statement online at http://acoss.org.au/equalpay/sector_statement/.

Campaign for Equal Pay Funding Commitments Steps Up

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

ACOSS is stepping up the campaign for government commitments to fully fund the outcome of equal pay before Fair Work Australia, leading a delegation of COSS directors and CEO's to Canberra last week for a series of meetings with key federal ministers, MPs and Senators.

<http://www.acoss.org.au/>

ACT Government Restructures and Changes

Given recent changes of government departments to new Directorates, and divisional alignments within the Health Directorate; this section seeks to keep you informed of recent changes within ACT Government.

New Treasurer, New Budget for the ACT

1 July 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

The ACT Government's *Appropriation Bill 2001-12* was passed in the Assembly in the early hours of the new financial year, providing investments in frontline services, record levels of capital works and funding to support those in our community who need it most, Chief Minister and outgoing Treasurer Katy Gallagher, said today.

The Chief Minister's responsibilities as Treasury were formally passed to Deputy Chief Minister, Andrew Barr at Midnight.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10801&m=52>.

Chief Minister Sets Out Agenda for Next 12 Months

21 June 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher has today outlined the Government's priorities in 2011-12 across eight key service delivery areas, with 52 specific projects and 51 measurable targets.

In a Ministerial Statement to the ACT Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister has set out her priority areas in transport, planning, health, education and climate change, many of which are directly linked to the outcomes of the 'Time2Talk: Canberra 2030' community consultations which occurred last year.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10782>.

Chief Minister Outlines Vision for Open Government

23 June 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher, will make public access to information the default position of her Government as the first step in increasing openness of Government. Measures include release of a weekly summary of Cabinet issues and decisions and creation of an Open Government Website, which will be used to release government background reports and reviews; provide public access to material released through Freedom of Information; and access to submissions made during public consultation. To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10789&m=52>.

Pioneer takes his seat in Assembly

31 May 2011

The Canberra Times

Aranda dentist Chris Bourke has become the first indigenous Australian elected to the ACT's Legislative Assembly. The 51-year-old was named the new Member for Ginninderra yesterday in a countback vote to fill the vacancy left by former chief minister Jon Stanhope's resignation.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/pioneer-takes-his-seat-in-assembly/2179917.aspx>.

New Auditor General For the ACT

28 June 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, today confirmed the appointment of Dr Maxine Cooper to the office of ACT Auditor-General, whose term will commence on 8 August 2011 for a period of seven years. The Appointment has been made in accordance with the *Auditor General Act 1996* and will end on 7 August 2018.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10798&m=52>.

Health Reform Update

Keep Informed of ACT Medicare Local Progress

ACT Division of General Practice

Following the announcement of the successful tender from the ACT Division of General Practice to the first round of Medicare Locals, the engagement of the ACT ATOD sector will need to be explored in the coming months. Through membership of the Primary Healthcare Coalition, ATODA will work closely with the Division as it transitions to the new arrangements. To keep informed of developments regarding the Medicare Local visit

http://www.actdgp.asn.au/page/About_Us/Medicare_Local_Information/.

More Elective Surgery and Sub-acute Beds for the ACT: National Health Reform Delivering

27 June 2011

Joint Media Release

The ACT is seeing immediate benefits of national health reform with an additional 800 operations and four new sub-acute beds, the result of \$10.4 million provided by the Gillard Government, Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola

Roxon and ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health Katy Gallagher today announced... Further announcements of other Commonwealth-funded health and hospital projects for the ACT will be made in the future as national health reform continues to deliver. To view the full media release visit <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-nr-nr125.htm>.

Expressions of Interest for National Lead Clinicians Group Membership

Department of Health and Ageing

On 28 May 2010, the Government announced a measure to improve clinical engagement in Australia by establishing National and Local Lead Clinicians Groups (LCGs). The National LCG will provide high-level strategic oversight and leadership on clinical issues, including complementing the role of other national bodies by prioritising the development and implementation of evidence-based clinical practices. The Department of Health and Ageing is now seeking Expressions of Interest for membership of a National Lead Clinicians Group. ATODA will distribute further information on the establishment of the Local Group as it becomes available. For further information visit

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

Sector Activities and Events

Development of a National Population Based Model for ATOD Service Planning

Presented by Associate Professor Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program

The project to develop a national population based model for alcohol and drug service planning was funded in early 2010 by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS). This event seeks to provide an overview of the progress to date, demonstrate how the model is constructed and provide opportunity for questions, and is an important engagement opportunity for ACT stakeholders.

Date: Wednesday 20 July 2011

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Venue: Department of Health and Ageing, Scarborough House Theatre, Scarborough House, Atlantic Street Woden

RSVP: Essential by 5pm Monday 18 July to Robyn.Davies@health.gov.au.

Note: this forum will be held in lieu of the monthly ACT ATOD sector forum.

National Hepatitis Awareness Day

Hepatitis Resource Centre

National Hepatitis Awareness Day is being held on Thursday 28 July 2011 to raise awareness about hepatitis B and C. The theme is 'love your liver'. Activity plans are well under way in the ACT, including healthy liver activities.

Contact ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre for further information on www.hepatitisresourcecentre.com or (02) 6230 6344.

Older Opiate Users & Hepatitis

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

AIVL is hosting a public forum in conjunction with World Hepatitis Day and National Hepatitis Awareness Week to explore the issue of older opiate users and the longer term implications of hepatitis.

The forum will be held on Friday 29th July. More details and invites will be sent out shortly, keep an eye out for them! In the meantime, contact Laura Liebelt on laural@aivl.org.au for further information.

Karralika Programs Inc Appoints New CEO

Karralika Programs

The Karralika Programs Inc Board is delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Camilla Rowland as its new Chief Executive Officer. Camilla will take up the position on 4 July, bringing with her over 20 years experience in the community services and health sectors in both rural Australia and more recently in Canberra. Supporting Camilla is the newly appointed Services Director, Sharon Tuffin, and Program Managers Dawn Bainbridge, Kerry Fitzroy, Kim Flemming and Pete Townsend. Camilla and the team look forward to building and growing relationships with their partners to make a difference in the lives of the people they support.

2011 Annual APSAD Awards for Excellence In Science and Research: Call for Nominations

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

The Annual APSAD Awards for Excellence in Science and Research are designed to provide peer recognition for those working in the drug and alcohol field in Australasia. The Awards will be presented at the 2011 APSAD Conference Gala Dinner in Hobart, 13 - 16 November. For further information and to obtain the nomination form visit www.apsadconference.com.au.

News from the ACT ATOD Workers Group

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Workers Group (the Workers Group) is involved in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the ACT ATOD drug sector in the ACT. The Workers Group includes representatives of all ACT Health funded or delivered ATOD services. Key summary points from the June meeting include:

- Launching the ACT ATOD Services Directory Version 7 (congratulations to the Workers Group for their work on this).
- Reviewing the ATODA website.
- Exploring implications and issues related to drug diversion in the ACT.

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

News from the ACT ATOD Executive Directors' Group

The ACT ATOD Chief Executive Officers / Executive Directors Group met on Tuesday 16 June, discussions included:

- Reviewing the groups terms of reference and developing a workplan for the new financial year;
- Consumer participation within the Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services Directorate;

- Drug Policies and Programs within the AMC, including the follow up from the 25 May workshop;
- On going concerns with the Working with Vulnerable People Checking System;
- Discussion of the ACT Budget 2011/12, including the new roadside drug driving program;
- ACT ATOD services participating in the proposed naloxone program;
- July workshop on the National Drug and Alcohol Clinical Care and Prevention Project;
- Workers Group Update, including the release of the 7th edition of the ACT ATOD Services Directory;
- Engagement with the new Department of Health and Ageing NSW / ACT Office;
- Engagement with ADCA; and,
- Agency Updates.

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

Sector Development

Subscribe Now: Of Substance eBulletin

Of Substance

Of Substance has launched an e-bulletin to complement its print magazine. This regular e-bulletin will keep readers up-to-date on the latest news and happenings within the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector.

Subscribe online at <http://www.ofsubstance.org.au/>

Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform June 2011 Newsletter

Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform

The June Newsletter features articles related to the Global Commission on Drug Policy Report. The newsletter is available for download from

<http://www.fdlr.org.au/newsletters/Newsletters.htm>.

New Online Service Helps Health Professionals Address Problem Gambling

Gambling Help Online

Gambling Help Online is a new, Australian-first online service provides counselling, information and support 24/7 for people who need help with gambling issues, including referring health professionals.

Get more information online at <http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/>.

Australian National Council on Drugs Membership and May Communiqué

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

In May 2011, the ANCD met in Canberra (including ATODA Executive Officer, Carrie Fowlie) at Parliament House for its first meeting of the new term where members initially discussed their key priorities before discussing and debating a number of issues of current and future importance to address drug and alcohol problems affecting Australian communities. The full communiqué is available at

<http://www.ancd.org.au/communiques/>.

ACT Directory of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Resources

Community Services Directorate

This directory outlines a range of services, governance structures, events and additional resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT. To view the full directory visit <http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/atsia/publications>.

Training and Professional Development in the ACT

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

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>

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 will also receive a copy of the 'Illicit Drugs' DVD produced by the Centre for Customs and Excise Studies as available for purchase through the Australian Drug Foundation, valued at \$140.00

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

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Facilitated by Kerry Reed-Gilbert

This one-day workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers gives participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. It aims to improve knowledge of Aboriginal culture and dispossession, and explores ways the organisations might improve their practice to respond to the needs of Aboriginal people.

Date: Friday 29 July 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/ACHH-29Jul2011.pdf

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 available in Community and Health Development. For more information visit <http://www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/education/community>

Trauma and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy

Ozhelp

Presented by Dr Sandi Plummer, this workshop will cover the theoretical underpinnings of mindfulness, look at developmental trauma, and working with people who have been affected by trauma. It is targeted at psychologists, mental health workers, counsellors, youth workers, case managers and social workers.

Date: 14 - 15 July 2011

Time: 9.30am - 4.30pm

Venue: Details to be provided upon registration

Cost: \$360.

For more information contact (02) 6251 4166 or ocs@ozhelp.org.au.

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.

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/>.

Centre for Research Excellence into Injecting Drug Use Colloquium: 'Improving drug policy and practice through research'

Burnet Institute

The Burnet Institute is proud to introduce Australia's exciting new Centre for Research Excellence into Injecting Drug Use. With an interactive format and exciting mix of Australian and international speakers the Colloquium is designed to draw together researchers, affected communities, policy makers and practitioners to

discuss research findings and their implications for policy and practice. Carrie Fowlie, ATODA, will be presenting at the colloquium about expanding naloxone availability in the ACT.

Date: Monday 18 July 2011

Time: 9:30am - 5pm (registration from 9am)

Venue: 7th Floor, Alfred Centre, Burnet Institute, Melbourne

Cost: Free - including all catering

Registration: Contact Liz Nicol by Friday 8 July on liznicol@burnet.edu.au

Policy Activities

New Information on the ATODA Website to Help You Engage in Policy Priorities

ATODA

As a means of informing the ACT ATOD and allied sectors of policy engagement activities www.atoda.org.au will now be utilised to highlight key policy priorities. The website now incorporates information on how to engage with policy related to the Working With Vulnerable People Checking System and Expanding Naloxone Availability. As activities progress, and new areas emerge, this website can provide a single contact point to access background information, relevant resources and media articles.

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

Policy, Reports and Research

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

Is the opioid substitution therapy program a possible setting for the delivery of programs to reduce cancer among opioid-dependent people?

'Compared with the general population, opioid-dependent persons are at an increased risk of death from cancer.' A study of deaths from cancer among people registered with the NSW opioid substitution therapy (OST) program found they were '1.7 times more likely to die of cancer than the general population' with higher rates of mortality from lung cancer, liver cancer and anogenital cancers in particular. The researchers conclude that 'Cancer is an increasingly important cause of death among OST registrants as they live longer with their dependency. The site-specific excess deaths suggest the role of tobacco, alcohol, and infection with hepatitis C and human papillomavirus'. Therefore 'The OST setting may be a useful setting for the delivery of programs aimed at detection of precursor lesions, reducing exposure to established carcinogens, and treatment for those with HCV infection. Such targeted steps are likely to reduce the future cancer burden in this population'.

Randall, D, Degenhardt, L, Vajdic, CM, Burns, L, Hall, WD, Law, M & Butler, T 2011, 'Increasing cancer mortality among opioid-dependent persons in Australia: a new public health challenge for a disadvantaged population', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 220-5.

Note: The US health authorities have recently issued an important paper: *Hepatitis and liver cancer: a national strategy for prevention and control of hepatitis B and C*, full text free online at

http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12793&page=R1.

Are people whose parents have a history of alcoholism more likely to experience alcohol use disorders themselves?

In a 45-year prospective longitudinal study of 7,177 people born in Copenhagen, Denmark, '466 (6.5%) had been registered with AUD [alcohol use disorders] at some time in their life, 321 men (8.9%) and 145 women (4.1%)...Eight hundred and one cohort members had a father registered with AUD, and 321 had a mother registered with AUD. There were 102 cohort members with both parents registered with AUD'. The researchers found that 'Parental AUD was associated with an increased risk of offspring AUD independent of other significant predictors, such as gender, parental social status, and parental psychiatric hospitalization with other diagnoses. Furthermore, this association appeared to be stronger among female than male offspring. The results suggest that inherited factors related to alcoholism are at least as important in determining the risk of alcoholism among daughters as among sons'. They also found that 'The risk of offspring AUD was also increased by a diagnosis of any OPD [other psychiatric disorder] in the parents. The findings suggest that the familial transmission of alcoholism may be closely related to the transmission of psychiatric illness in general and may influence women to a larger degree than men'. Sørensen, HJ et al. 2011, 'The contribution of parental alcohol use disorders and other psychiatric illness to the risk of alcohol use disorders in the offspring', *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol. 35, no.7, pp.1315-1320.

Are people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds more likely to engage in harmful alcohol consumption than people from more advantaged backgrounds?

A postal questionnaire of adults in fifty Melbourne neighbourhoods indicated that respondents with lower education or household income 'were less likely to consume alcohol frequently compared to their more-advantaged counterparts'. While lower-educated men 'were more likely to be at risk of short-term harm', low-income women 'were less likely to be at risk of short-term harm'. However, 'Socioeconomically advantaged women were more likely to exceed recommendations for the frequency of alcohol consumption'. The researchers concluded that 'Men and women from socioeconomically advantaged backgrounds were more frequent consumers of alcohol, whereas their disadvantaged counterparts drank less frequently but in greater quantities on each drinking occasion'. Giskes, K, Turrell, G, Bentley, R & Kavanagh, A 2011, 'Individual and household-level socioeconomic position is associated with harmful alcohol consumption behaviours among adults', *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 270-7.

What is the current understanding of the cannabis/psychosis link?

A recent *BMJ* editorial by prominent Australian researchers commented on the current body of research on the cannabis/psychosis link, with special reference to the findings of Dutch longitudinal research: Kuepper, Ret al. 2011, 'Continued cannabis use and risk of incidence and persistence of psychotic symptoms: 10 year follow-up cohort study', *BMJ: British Medical Journal*, vol. 342, p. d738. The editorial is recommended as a particularly useful summary of current knowledge in this area. Hall and Degenhardt conclude that cannabis is a causal factor in psychosis, but point out that 'The major challenge...is to deter enough young people from using cannabis so that the prevalence of psychosis is reduced. A modelling study suggests that we would need to prevent 2018-4530 young people in the United Kingdom from becoming regular cannabis users to prevent one case of schizophrenia, or to prevent

four to five times as many (10 000-23 000) from light cannabis use to achieve the same result'. Furthermore, 'The evidence on cannabis and psychosis has influenced the decision in the UK to retain criminal penalties for cannabis use, despite evidence that removing such penalties has little or no detectable effect on rates of use. An informed cannabis policy should be based not only on the harms caused by cannabis use, but also on the harms caused by social policies that attempt to discourage its use, such as criminal penalties for possession and use'.
Hall, W & Degenhardt, L 2011, 'Cannabis and the increased incidence and persistence of psychosis', *BMJ: British Medical Journal*, vol. 342, p. d719.

Do supervised injection facilities reduce overdose deaths?

Canadian researchers analysed drug-related overdose mortality rates before and after the establishment of North America's first supervised injection facility (SIF) in Vancouver, Canada. They examined 'population-based overdose mortality rates for the period before (Jan 1, 2001, to Sept 20, 2003) and after (Sept 21, 2003, to Dec 31, 2005) the opening of the Vancouver SIF...[and] compared overdose fatality rates within... 500 m radius of the SIF and for the rest of the city'. They found that 'The fatal overdose rate in this area [up to 500m radius of the SIF] decreased by 35.0% after the opening of the SIF [while] during the same period, the fatal overdose rate in the rest of the city decreased by only 9.3%'. They concluded that 'SIFs should be considered where injection drug use is prevalent, particularly in areas with high densities of overdose'.

Marshall, BD, Milloy, MJ, Wood, E, Montaner, JS & Kerr, T 2011, 'Reduction in overdose mortality after the opening of North America's first medically supervised safer injecting facility: a retrospective population-based study', *Lancet*, vol. 377, no. 9775, pp. 1429-37.

What type of problems do community pharmacists experience in providing opioid substitution treatment?

A questionnaire of community pharmacists in NSW and Victoria providing opioid substitution treatment (OST) investigated 'service provision and the range of problems that...[they had] experienced with clients and prescribers'. The survey had a 68% response rate. In the preceding month '41% of pharmacists had refused to dose a client for any reason, due most commonly to expired prescriptions...or missed doses... Terminating a client's treatment in the past month was reported among 14% of respondents, due most commonly to inappropriate behaviour and missed doses. Treatment termination was reported by a significantly higher proportion of pharmacists in VIC'. The researchers concluded 'This study highlights the range of problems experienced by community pharmacists in the delivery of OST and the consequences for people in treatment. Particular attention should be focused upon considering number of clients per pharmacy and improving professional communication between pharmacists and prescribers'.

Winstock, AR, Lea, T & Sheridan, J 2010, 'Problems experienced by community pharmacists delivering opioid substitution treatment in New South Wales and Victoria, Australia', *Addiction*, vol. 105, no. 2, pp. 335-42.

Are harm reduction strategies and 12-step approaches incompatible?

'Twelve-step programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) are widely recognized as being a representative example of abstinence-based treatment and are often seen as oppositional to harm reduction'. Researchers from USA examined 'the ways in which harm reduction workers interpret the relationship between harm reduction and 12-step approaches to treatment'.

The 12 steps include 'acknowledging one's powerlessness over alcohol, engaging in a healing relationship with God as understood by each individual, making amends to people who may have been harmed by one's alcohol-use-related problems, heightening self-awareness, accepting responsibility for errors, and sharing the 12-step message with others experiencing alcohol-use-related problems'. This approach contrasts with 'harm reduction strategies, such as needle exchange, motivational interviewing approaches, cognitive-behavioral relapse prevention, and behavioral self-control training'.

The researchers' conclusion is that 'Complementary conceptualizations of harm reduction and 12-step approaches have the potential to broaden the range of options available to people experiencing substance use problems'.

Lee, HS, Engstrom, M & Petersen, SR 2011, 'Harm reduction and 12 steps: complementary, oppositional, or something in-between?' *Substance Use and Misuse*, vol. 46, no. 9, pp. 1151-61.

How effective are anti-illicit-drug public service announcements in preventing or reducing illicit drug use?

A review of studies of 'the effectiveness of anti-illicit-drug public service announcements (PSAs)' has found that 'insufficient data exist to support the conclusion that anti-illicit-drug PSAs are effective in modifying intention to use illicit drugs and reducing self-reported illicit-drug use among targeted youth'. Of eleven studies evaluated, 'Only one randomised trial showed a statistically significant benefit of PSAs on intention to use illicit drugs, and two found evidence that PSAs significantly increased intention to use drugs. A meta-analysis of eligible randomised trials demonstrated no significant effect. Observational studies showed evidence of both harmful and beneficial effects'.

Werb, D, Mills, EJ, DeBeck, K, Kerr, T, Montaner, JSG & Wood, E 2011, 'The effectiveness of anti-illicit-drug public-service announcements: a systematic review and meta-analysis', *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, online first.

How common is it for injured drivers to have taken drugs prior to crashing their vehicles?

A Victorian study used data on injured drivers taken to hospital and drug tested there—a procedure that has been mandatory since 2009. Laboratory tests were conducted on preserved blood, testing for alcohol, cannabis metabolite, methylamphetamines and an additional 105 drugs including THC, amphetamines, opioids, benzodiazepines, antidepressants, antipsychotics, etc. 1,714 drivers were tested with 52% being positive to alcohol and/or other drugs. Alcohol was detected in 29% of cases (median concentration 0.1g%) and other drugs in 35%. The positive rate for the three drugs prohibited by Victorian legislation was 12.5%, with the prevalence of THC, methamphetamine and MDMA being 9.8%, 3.1%, and 0.8%, respectively. The range of THC concentrations in blood was 2-42ng/mL (median 7) of which 70% had a concentration of 10ng/mL or higher. (Levels over 10 ng/mL usually indicate significant impairment.) The other drugs were largely prescribed drugs such as opioids (primarily codeine) (9.4%) antidepressants (9.3%) and benzodiazepines (8.9%).

Drummer, OH, Kourtis, I, Beyer, J, Tayler, P, Boorman, M & Gerostamoulos, D 2011, 'The prevalence of drugs in injured drivers', *Forensic Science International*, in press.

Is there agreement among researchers about the consequences of mixing alcohol and energy drinks?

Last year the USA Food & Drug Administration banned alcoholic energy drinks (alcoholic beverages with caffeine as an additive) on health grounds, and in the

December eBulletin we drew attention to a study Arria, AM et al. 2011, 'Energy drink consumption and increased risk for alcohol dependence', *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol. 35, no. 2, pp. 1-11. Arria and a colleague have subsequently published a commentary in the prestigious *Journal of the American Medical Association* summarising their assessment of the research on alcoholic energy drinks, concluding that there are sufficient concerns for public health actions to be instituted to educate consumers about the risks. At about the same time, the editors of the journal *Current Drug Abuse Reviews* (Verster & Alford) published an editorial titled 'Unjustified concerns about energy drinks', in which they argue that the apparent harms from alcoholic energy drinks are due to confounders; the problem is the alcohol, not the caffeine additive, they argue. (They give the disclosure of interests: 'Joris Verster and Chris Alford are scientific advisors to Red Bull GmbH.')

[Editorial comment: more and better research on this topic is needed to inform policy development.]

Arria, AM & O'Brien, MC 2011, 'The "high" risk of energy drinks', *JAMA*, vol. 305, no. 6, pp. 600-1.

Verster, JC & Alford, C 2011, 'Unjustified concerns about energy drinks', *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, vol. 4, no. 1, pp. 1-3.

Recently Published Reports

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare 2011, *Key indicators of progress for chronic disease and associated determinants: data report*, AIHW cat. no. PHE 142, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737419245>.

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> .

2011, *The health of Australia's males*, AIHW cat. no. PHE141, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737419204&tab=2> .

2011, *Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011*, AIHW cat. no. PHE140, Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, Canberra, <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737419261>.

Global Commission on Drug Policy 2011, *War on drugs: report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy*, <http://www.globalcommissionondrugs.org/Report>.

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) 2011, *literature review and discussion paper for the development of the National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy*, http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/projects/new_projects.html.

The Kirby Institute 2011, *Australian NSP Survey national data report 1995-2010*, The Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Sydney, <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/NCHECRweb.nsf/page/Australian+NSP+Survey>.

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

New Journal

International Journal on Human Rights and Drug Policy,
<http://www.humanrightsanddrugs.org/official-journal/volume-i-2010/>.

Media

After Hours GP Phone Line Another Option to Access GP Advice

1 July 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA has congratulated the Gillard Government's *after hours GP helpline* which commenced today, providing free, out of hours medical advice to those in need... The new *after hours GP helpline service* has been added to the existing 24-hour nurse triage service *Healthdirect* which is currently available in the ACT, and will be staffed by leading healthcare provider Medibank Health Solutions, with a team of around 100 GPs and more than 240 nurses on hand to answer calls.

The service is free to callers from landlines within Australia, and begins operating from 1 July 2011. It will be accessible from 6pm to 8am Mondays to Saturdays, and from 12 noon on Saturdays to 8am Mondays, and all day on public holidays.

To speak to an out of hours GP please call 1800 022 222.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10803&m=52>.

Support Cancer Patients by Giving Up Alcohol This Drug July

1 July 2011

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher today asked Canberrans to consider participating in Dry July, an annual event that challenges people to go one month without drinking alcohol in order to raise money for cancer patients, through sponsorship from family, friends and colleagues...

Signing up to Dry July is simple and free. Simply visit www.dryjuly.com, create your profile page and encourage your friends and peers to sponsor you, or participate by setting up a team.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10803&m=52>.

Release of Liquor Fees Review

8 June 2011

Simon Corbell, MLA

ACT Attorney General, Simon Corbell, today announced the release of the submissions to the Liquor Fees Review... The fees are required to offset the additional costs of ten new police officers and additional Office of Regulatory Services staff to address alcohol-related violence and anti-social behaviour.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10764&m=53>.

First ACT drug-driving conviction after car crash

13 June 2011

The Canberra Times

A Gordon man who crashed his car after smoking cannabis has become the first person in the ACT to be convicted under drug-driving laws.

Dale Twist, 38, was convicted recently in the ACT Magistrates Court for driving with a prescribed drug in his blood.

New laws permitting random roadside oral fluid drug testing came into effect in December and police began randomly testing Canberra drivers in May.

To view the full article visit

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/first-act-drugdriving-conviction-after-car-crash/2192958.aspx?src=rss>.

Consumer Participation

Take Action! New Engagement Opportunities on the AIVL Website

Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League (AIVL)

The new AIVL website has now made it easier than ever to 'take action' with sections on how to act now, learn more, tell a friend, make a statement and work for change. For more information visit <http://www.aivl.org.au/#p=p/action.php>.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Action Framework to Lead Development of Mental Health Community Sector

30 June 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA

Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA today presented the Legislative Assembly with the Review of the ACT Community Sector of Mental Health Services, to grow and strengthen mental health services in the ACT.

"The community sector in the ACT developed in an organic fashion, in response to individual circumstances. Therefore, the Government has undertaken a broad assessment of the pattern of service delivery to ensure the ACT has the right mix of the right services in the right place to meet current and future demands, while also providing value for money," the Chief Minister said.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10801&m=52>.

Community Policing Initiative Raises Mental Health Awareness

3 June 2011

Katy Gallagher MLA

ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, and Minister for Police & Emergency Services, Simon Corbell MLA, today attended the signing ceremony for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ACT Health and ACT Policing that will embed mental health clinicians within the Police Operations Centre.

To view the full media release visit

<http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=10758&m=52>

Interested in Youth Issues?: Subscribe to Youth Field Xpress

Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

Youth Field Xpress is a free monthly newsletter for youth researchers, youth workers, policymakers and anyone with an interest in youth issues. It contains news of research projects, reports, programs, projects and events that are relevant to the Australian youth sector and supporting services.

The newsletters is accessible online at http://www.acys.info/oldsite/youth_field_xpress.

Employment Opportunities

Business Support Officer – Services and Systems

Karralika Programs Inc

Karralika Programs are seeking applicants to provide office support services to the head office of Karralika. To obtain the duty statement, selection criteria and further information contact Sharon Tuffin, Services Director on (02) 6163 0200 or Sharon.t@karralika.org. **Applications close 4 July 2011.**

Finance and Administration Officer

Australian Injective & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

The Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) is the peak organisation representing State and Territory peer-based drug user organisations and issues of national significance for people who use illicit drugs. AIVL is seeking to employ a Finance & Administration Officer. The position involves processing all of the day-to-day financial transactions (including payroll) using MYOB, as well as providing general back-up administrative support.

Based in Canberra, this is a part-time position for 30 hours per week (0.8 EFT). A commencement salary of up to \$50,000 p.a. (pro rata) plus 9% superannuation is offered, and generous salary packaging benefits are also available.

People with personal experience of the issues AIVL represents are strongly encouraged to apply for this position.

Applicants must obtain the position description and selection criteria before submitting an application by contacting Dayle Stubbs, AIVL's Operations Manager, on (02) 6279 1600 or DayleS@aivl.org.au. **Applications close 15 July 2011.**

Multiple Positions: DIRECTIONS ACT

DIRECTIONS ACT

The following positions are currently available at DIRECTIONS ACT:

- Clinical Manager
- Training Manager
- Alcohol and Other Drug Workers (casual).

For more information on each position, including descriptions and selection criteria visit <http://www.directionsact.com/employment>.

Case Worker (ATOD)

Canberra Recovery Services Centre, Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has an opportunity available for a Case Worker at Canberra Recovery Services Centre, located in Fyshwick. They are seeking an experienced Case Worker with knowledge of issues specifically impacting on women in addiction.

For further information contact Canberra Recovery Services on (02) 6295 1256.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

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.

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.