

Annual Report

10/11

1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

We acknowledge the traditional owners and continuing custodians of the lands of the ACT and we pay our respects to the Elders, their families and ancestors.

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The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

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.

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DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

ATODA's 2010 – 2011 annual report should be read in conjunction with several accompanying documents including ATODA's:

- **Strategic and Action Plan 2010 – 2011**
- **Strategic and Action Plan 2010 – 2011 Report**
- **Reconciliation Action Plan 2012**
- **Strategic and Action Plan 2012 – 2013**
- **Financial Statements 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011**

President's Report

This annual report, ATODA's first, reflects the work of a thriving, proactive and collaborative organisation with members and staff committed to improving the health of the ACT community through the reduction and prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) related harms.

ATODA was established by the ACT ATOD sector in 2010, representing a significant achievement by many individuals and services within the sector over several years. ATODA became incorporated in early 2010 with an Interim Board recruited from the sector's Chief Executive Officers / Executive Directors. A goal of the Interim Board was to establish the organisation with a view to having a full Board elected from the membership at the first Annual General Meeting. This was achieved on 4 November 2010.

The staff and resources from the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project, auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT since 2007, were transferred and novated to ATODA on 1 July 2010. For further information regarding this process please see the report *Coming Together, Keeping Together, Working Together: How Stakeholders Collaborated for Sector Development and Change (June 2010)*.

ATODA collaboratively developed its first strategic and action plan for the organisation. The report against this plan has been developed to accompany this annual report. As a new organisation, it was essential that ATODA had sound governance and infrastructure; clearly communicated the rationale for actions undertaken; and provided opportunities for members and stakeholders to regularly engage in, and reflect upon, its development.

Ideally, a new organisation would allow sufficient time and focus to develop infrastructure prior to progressing activities. However, activities continued from the novation of the ACT AOD Sector Project, and ATODA kept a focus on maintaining these contractual outputs whilst its infrastructure was developed. To reflect the context of the organisation, the first strategic and action plan maintained a focus on establishment, infrastructure and securing organisational viability.

As such, the document covered an initial period of 12 months which was then extended to 18 months, to allow for increased monitoring and reflection on the achievements and challenges of the organisation in its establishment phase.

By focusing on the developmental needs of the organisation during this crucial time, the ATOD sector could take greater confidence that ATODA will be well placed to identify and undertake work related to priority actions identified by the sector in future years.

ATODA needed to develop robust structures both internally and externally to be a viable, sustainable and useful organisation. Regular and meaningful engagement with members and stakeholders has been essential to achieving this. ATODA engaged in a range of advisory structures through the provision of secretariat, support and representation.

ATODA's funding is entirely project based, meaning that there is no specific funding to support traditional peak activities such as advocacy and policy development. This places the organisation in a challenging position in terms of meeting its funded outcomes while seeking to respond to requests from members and ever-emerging issues. This also means that all work conducted in these areas, particularly policy work, by ATODA has been above and beyond funded activities.

Our approach has been evidence informed, but has also acknowledged the ever-changing policy environment in which we work. ATODA has been proactive and consultative both formally and informally in its work.

During the period of my Presidency, and the year of activities covered in this report, it has been an enormous privilege to work with those associated with ATODA. I would like to acknowledge three members of the ATODA team whose contributions were recognised this year, namely:

- Nicole Wiggins, Vice President, ATODA for being the 2010 recipient of the ACT ATOD Outstanding Contributions Awards
- David McDonald, ATODA consultant and evaluator for being inducted onto the National Drug and Alcohol Awards Honour Roll
- Carrie Fowlie, Executive Officer for being appointed by the Prime Minister to the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

I would like to acknowledge the support of the membership and the commitment of my colleagues on the Board. The Board has been enormously supportive, engaged and committed. They have worked diligently to ensure the smooth establishment and good governance of the organisation.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the support and funding provided by the ACT Government Health Directorate and the Department of Health and Ageing.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the staff team – it is truly incredible that only 4 fulltime equivalent staff can achieve this much work in only one year! A particular thank you to Carrie Fowlie, our Executive Officer, Amanda Bode and David McDonald for seeing the organisation through its first year.

When ATODA was launched in June 2010, it was launched as a new voice for the ACT ATOD sector. Indeed ATODA can be truly proud of the voice it has created for the sector.



Anne Kirwan
President, ATODA

ATODA was established by the ACT ATOD sector in 2010, representing a significant achievement by many individuals and services within the sector over several years.

Our Board, Staff and Consultants

Interim Board

An interim board was established for ATODA prior to the organisation's first Annual General Meeting, members included:

Anne Kirwan	<i>President</i>	CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
Jacky Cook	<i>Vice President</i>	Toora Women Inc
Carol Mead	<i>Secretary</i>	DIRECTIONS ACT
Marcus Kanagasuntherie	<i>Treasurer</i>	Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (now Karralika Programs Inc)
Vera Van De Velde	<i>Member</i>	Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health (now Alcohol and Drug Service, ACT Government – Health Directorate)
Nicole Wiggins	<i>Member</i>	Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
Bob O'Heir	<i>Member</i>	Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army

First Elected Board

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A Board was elected from the membership at ATODA's first Annual General Meeting on 4 November 2011 (including a nominated ACT ATOD Workers Group representative), members included:

Anne Kirwan	<i>President</i>	CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
Nicole Wiggins	<i>Vice President</i>	Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
Carol Mead	<i>Secretary</i>	DIRECTIONS ACT
Marcus Kanagasuntherie	<i>Treasurer</i>	Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (now Karralika Programs Inc) (to February 2011)
Bessie Zhou	<i>Treasurer</i>	CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn (from March 2011)
Vera Van De Velde	<i>Member</i>	Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health (now Alcohol and Drug Service, ACT Government – Health Directorate)
Bob O'Heir	<i>Member</i>	Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
Natalie Liosatos	<i>Member</i>	Toora Women Inc
Mackenzie Clare	<i>Member</i>	ACT ATOD Workers Group Representative

Staff

ATODA staff (4 full time equivalent) included:

Carrie Fowle	<i>Executive Officer</i>
Amanda Bode	<i>Project Officer</i>
Ben Frommel	<i>Project Officer (to June 2011)</i>
Justin Barker	<i>Project Manager (to April 2011)</i>
Steve Byrne	<i>Interim Project Manager (from March to June 2011)</i>
Kathryn Sequoia	<i>Project Manager (from June 2011)</i>
Luisa Coates	<i>Office Manager (from February 2011)</i>

Consultants

ATODA engages consultants and evaluators to provide expert advice and support to the organisation, these included:

David McDonald
Raymond Lovett
Katie Fraser

Executive Officer's Report

What a whirlwind of a year! ATODA began with very little: no phones, no electricity, no computers, no desks, no pens... but fortunately, great people. Within twelve months ATODA has become a thriving organisation with a strong Board, a great staff team, engaged membership and some important and collaborative outcomes.

There were huge expectations placed on ATODA for its first year — and the organisation rose to the challenge. With such a small staff team of only 4 fulltime equivalent positions, collaboration was the essential ingredient to all activities. Our daily work was grounded in evidence-informed practice, which has driven us to form partnerships and seek expert input wherever possible.

The work of the organisation has been both internal (*What can we do to support our sector to do its work?*) and external (*What needs to be achieved to prevent and reduce ATOD related harms in the ACT?*). This has meant that ATODA's activities have worked in two intersecting spheres — sector and workforce development; and representation and policy development.

This annual report highlights a year's work that has been achieved through the enthusiasm of our sector, one which is willing to reflect on its practice and tackle difficult issues. It also represents the proactive approach of our sector. This is demonstrated in several areas, particularly the goal of establishing Australia's first naloxone program for potential overdose witnesses.

Our sector is forward looking, progressive, evidence-based and passionate; with ATODA now well placed to support these qualities.

The individuals associated with ATODA have worked incredibly diligently this year — the work and the context has been both emotionally and intellectually challenging. But each challenge was assessed on its merits, and collaborative action undertaken to move forward.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the ATODA team, particularly Anne Kirwan, Amanda Bode and David McDonald for their outstanding contributions, incredible patience and talents.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedicated individuals in our sector, many of whom have supported ATODA in its first 12 months. ATODA's establishment was a significant sector-wide achievement, largely driven by workers. I am happy to say that this worker engagement has continued to drive our work.

I have been honoured to have been part of such a committed, compassionate and dedicated organisation and sector. I look forward to working with our stakeholders to build on our shared successes next year.



Carrie Fowlie
Executive Officer, ATODA

ATODA's activities have worked in two intersecting spheres — sector and workforce development; and representation and policy development.

Our Funders, Partners and Sponsors

ATODA would not have been able to achieve so much without the generous support of its funders, partners and sponsors, including:

Funders and sponsors

- Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Minister for Health
- AOD Policy Unit, Health Directorate, ACT Government
- Health Promotion Branch, Health Directorate, ACT Government
- Policy and Government Relations, Health Directorate, ACT Government
- Department of Health and Ageing
- Members of ATODA
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- Mrs Agnes Shea OAM
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)
- National Drug Sector Information Service (NDSIS), Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)
- Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA)
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)

Partners

- ACT Division of General Practice (now ACT Medicare Local)
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)
- Associate Professor Lynne Magor-Blatch
- Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs
- Australian Drug Foundation
- Burnet Institute
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)
- Centre for Excellence in Injecting Drug Use
- David McDonald and Noela McDonald, Social Research and Evaluation
- Devlins Pharmacy
- Dickson Capital Chemist
- Drug Action Week, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)
- Erindale Australian Pharmacy
- Gail Freeman and Bethany Freeman-Chandler, Gail Freeman and Co
- Organisational Development Unit, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol & Drug Services, Health Directorate
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia (ACT Branch)
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Public Interest Legal Clearinghouse NSW
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
- Salvation Army Choir
- South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services (SANDAS)
- Stephen Mugford, Quantitative and Qualitative Social Research
- UnitingCare Moreland Hall
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA)
- Youth Coalition of the ACT

Full, Associate and Individual Members and their ATOD Programs

- Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- AIDS Action Council of the ACT (ATOD Program)
- Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Althea Wellness Centre, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Arcadia House Withdrawal and Residential Transition Services, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
- Canberra City Oasis Drug and Alcohol Support Service, The Salvation Army
- Canberra Recovery Services, The Salvation Army
- Cancer Council ACT (Tobacco Program)
- Child and Family Services, Karralika Programs Inc.
- Community Education Program, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Community Health Promotion, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Community Outreach & Outclient Program (CO-OP), Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- Comorbidity Officer, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Consultation Liaison Service, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Continuing Adolescent Life Management (CALM), Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- Counselling and Treatment Service, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Counselling Program, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Department of Health and Ageing ACT Office
- Diversion Services, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Drug and Alcohol Program, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform (FFDLR) (Peer Support Program)
- Grog Watch, CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- Inside-Out Throughcare Program, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Integrated Multi-Agencies for Parents and Children Together (IMPACT) Program, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Karralika Therapeutic Community Adult Program, Karralika Programs Inc.
- Lesley's Place – Residential and Outreach, Toora Women Inc.
- Marzenna Drug and Alcohol Halfway House for Women, Toora Women Inc
- Maysoon, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- Needle & Syringe Program (NSP), DIRECTIONS ACT
- Opioid Treatment Service, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- P. Dance
- Party Safe, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Program for Adolescent Life Management (PALM), Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- Sober Driver Program, Karralika Programs Inc
- Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
- Solaris Therapeutic Community, Alexander Maconochie Centre, Karralika Programs Inc.
- The Connection, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
- The Nexus Program, Karralika Programs Inc.
- Treatment Support Service, DIRECTIONS ACT
- Withdrawal Unit, Alcohol and Drug Service, Health Directorate
- Withdrawal Unit, Program for Adolescent Life Management (PALM), Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- Women's Information, Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIRED), Toora Women Inc.
- Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Year in Review

The activities of ATODA in its first year have been diverse and many. This section seeks to highlight some of this work including policy development, collaborations, sector and workforce development, representation, information and resources. For further information please visit www.atoda.org.au

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. Naloxone is a Schedule 4 opioid antagonist used to reverse the effects of opioid overdose. Naloxone is widely used in Australia and internationally by paramedics and emergency room staff in cases of suspected opioid overdose. It has no psychoactive effect, is not a drug of dependence, and therefore, is not a substance which is likely to be diverted or misused. The purpose of expanding naloxone availability is to further reduce and prevent death, disability, and injury from opioid overdoses through provision of training and resources to opioid users and their friends and family members who could be potential overdose witnesses. The program aims to:

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

This initiative has been driven the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (the ACT's consumer group) and the multidisciplinary Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT (ENAACT) Committee. The proposed start date for a program in the ACT is spring 2011, subject to approval by the ACT Government and the availability of funds to implement and evaluate the program.

Activity highlights

- Endorsed sector-wide proposal to have a naloxone program in the ACT.
- Establishment and chairing of the multidisciplinary ENAACT Committee, including a terms of reference and regular meetings.
- *Not If – But How* Conference session dedicated to expanding naloxone in the ACT.
- Media interviews, including radio ABC 666 with the Minister for Health.
- Program development, including ethics proposal.

EXPANDING NALOXONE AVAILABILITY IN THE ACT (ENAACT) COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Committee is to provide expert guidance and support to develop a program to expand naloxone availability in the ACT, including developing a program model, design, implementation and evaluation as part of community opioid overdose prevention and intervention strategies. Particular acknowledgement is extended to the contributions of:

- Ms Nicole Wiggins, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
- Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute
- Associate Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute
- Dr Tuck Meng Soo, AOD Advisor, ACT Division of General Practice and Interchange General Practice
- Mr David McDonald, consultant to ATODA, Australian National University and Social Evaluation and Research
- Ms Helene Delany and Dr Denise Ryan, AOD Policy Unit, Health Directorate

ATOD Policies, Services and Programs in the Alexander Machonochie Centre

The health and wellbeing of people detained in the Alexander Machonochie Centre (AMC) — the ACT's first adult prison — was a priority for ATODA. Most of these people are experiencing complex health issues with 91% of surveyed inmates having reported use of illicit drugs in their lifetime; 2/3 having a heroin dependence; ¾ reporting that their current prison sentence was related to drugs; and 79% reporting that they were affected by drugs when they committed the relevant offence.

ATOD policies, services and programs in the Alexander Machonochie Centre (AMC) has been a priority for ATODA, the sector and the ACT Government this year — all in acknowledgement that prisoner health is public health.

91%

of surveyed inmates reported use of illicit drugs in their lifetime

Activity highlights

- Development of a proposal, as part of ATODA's budget submission, to implement a workplace tobacco management project in the AMC.
- Development of a proposal, as part of ATODA's budget submission, to conduct a needle and syringe program in the AMC.
- Participation in the National Summit on Tobacco in Prisons.
- Membership of the AMC Drug Policies and Services Evaluation Advisory Committee.
- Coordinating a sector response to the ACT Government's interim response to the *External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Machonochie Centre* report.
- *Not If – But How* Conference session dedicated to a needle and syringe program in the AMC.
- Conducting a workshop, and producing a subsequent report, in partnership with Health Directorate, Corrective Services, ATODA and the ATOD sector to address ATOD needs of prisoners.
- Various media releases.
- Engaging with the Public Health Association of Australia's consultation processes to identify a model to implement an NSP in the AMC.
- Meeting with the Minister for Health.

Submission to the ACT Budget 2010 – 11 Consultation

Each year the community is invited by the ACT Treasurer to participate in a consultation regarding budget expenditure. 2010 was the first year that the ACT ATOD sector worked collaboratively to identify resourcing priorities and present them to the ACT Government. This was an important achievement that reflected an engaged and proactive ATOD sector.

Several consultation processes were conducted to develop six priority areas and subsequent proposals including:

1. Reducing and preventing opioid overdose-related harms through increasing access to naloxone;
2. Preventing and reducing the transmission and infection of blood-borne viruses (e.g. HIV/ AIDS, hepatitis C and B) through conducting a needle and syringe program trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
3. Supporting a viable ATOD sector and workforce by implementing the Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010;
4. Supporting quality improvement in healthcare through consumer participation;
5. Reducing tobacco-related harms through promoting healthy workplaces; and
6. Improving our support for people experiencing comorbid ATOD and mental health issues through implementing key actions within the ACT Comorbidity Strategy.

The 2010 – 11 ACT Budget was delivered in May, ATODA participated in the ACTCOSS annual budget forum and undertook an ATOD related expenditure analysis and associated media release.

PRIORITY AREA PROGRESS TO 30 JUNE 2011

Within seven months of submission, all priority areas within the ATODA budget submission had moved forward, including:

- Interest expressed by the Minister for Health to conduct a naloxone program.
- Commissioning of the Public Health Association of Australia to conduct stakeholder consultations to identify an implementation model for a needle and syringe program in the AMC.
- Recognition of the specific needs and issues of the ATOD sector by the Minister for Community Services in regards to background checking, and agreement to an interim evaluation and staged implementation.
- Partial funding allocated to conduct consumer participation activities within the ATOD sector.
- Increased focus on workplace tobacco management, including the specific need in the AMC.
- Partial funding allocated to conduct priorities within the Comorbidity Strategy, including the Comorbidity Bus Tours.

2010 was the first year that the ACT ATOD sector worked collaboratively to identify resourcing priorities and present them to the ACT Government.

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010

The ACT is planning to implement Australia's first background checking system, which covers both children and vulnerable adults. The *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Bill 2010* (WWVPCS) was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly in August 2010, debate was deferred, and the Bill was agreed to in-principle on 29 March 2011. It is expected that the debate will resume at the end of 2011 following a current and final round of stakeholder consultations.

As well as criminal history, the system will take into consideration information including apprehended violence orders, domestic violence orders, acquittals, charges and ACT Government employment information when making assessments. The Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, the mental health community sector peak body, and ATODA worked diligently to express concern over the unintended impacts of the scheme on our sectors and on people with lived experience of mental illness or ATOD use that may have resulted in contact with the criminal justice system or other systems that could make assessments more complicated.

Our sectors strongly value lived experience, and seek to ensure the system does not act as a deterrent to organisations employing consumers, or to people with lived experience seeking employment in the sector. The debate of the Bill is expected to be resumed in late 2011.

Activity highlights

- Partnership established with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.
- Multiple letters and submissions provided to the Minister for Community Services and / or the Minister for Health and / or ACT Government Officials regarding concerns.
- Engagement with the Public Interest Legal Clearinghouse NSW to identify potential discrimination of the Bill.
- Meetings with the Minister for Community Services.

LIVED EXPERIENCE RECOGNISED WITHIN THE SYSTEM

Several significant changes have been made to the system, including the ACT Government's:

- Acknowledgement of the specific needs and potential impact of the system on the sector.
- Agreement to implemented the background checking system in a staged approach.
- Agreement to a review / evaluation of the system to be undertaken prior to the implementation of the system within the ATOD and mental health sector.

Sector Support

ATODA continued to implement a broad range of sector support activities in partnership with ATOD treatment services to improve the capacity of workers and respond to the broad policy goals of the sector.

Activity highlights

- Development, endorsement and implementation of sector support workplan in partnership with ACT ATOD services.
- Needs based support to ACT ATOD treatment services including regular correspondence.
- Delivery of needs based in-services to ATOD and allied treatment services.
- Provision of secretariat to the ACT ATOD CEOs / EDs Group.

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendars

- Collation and distribution of bi-monthly ACT Training and Professional Development Calendars in partnership with the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.

ACT ATOD Services Directory

- Collation and distribution of Version 6 and Version 7 of the ACT ATOD Services Directory. Additional content over this time included information on tobacco service provision, Needle and Syringe Program information, quick reference guide by service type and additional services that provide ATOD specific programs.

ACT ATOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile

- Development, endorsement and implementation of a profile workplan.
- Engagement of consultant, Ray Lovett, to support the project.
- Development and implementation of survey tool.
- Development and distribution of information targeted at workers including background documentation and summary of developments and progress from the previous profile.
- Draft ACT ATOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile.
- Engagement with national initiatives regarding workforce profiling and the work of the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA).

Sector Forums and consultation

- Illicit Drug Users Reporting System and Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System Forum and stakeholder workshop in partnership with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.
- Sector Consultation workshop facilitated by Professor Ann Roche, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction to explore an ACT ATOD Workforce Development Strategy, the future of the ACT ATOD MQS, Sector Priorities and implications of the ACT ATOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile.

ACT ATOD Awards

- Development and distribution of ACT ATOD Awards Nomination Package.
- ACT ATOD Awards Ceremony with support from Ms Katy Gallagher, Minister for Health MLA and Mr Peter Kolwald, Deputy CEO, Canberra Institute of Technology.
- Development and distribution of ceremony proceedings booklet.
- Provision of professional development awards to 3 recipients.
- Distribution of ACT ATOD Awards media release and eBulletin.

eBulletin

- Monthly eBulletin distribution to 500+ subscribers as a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information related to ATOD.
- Distribution of additional 'special' eBulletins covering: ACT ATOD Awards Recipients; Mental Health Week; ATOD Service End of Year Shutdowns; Overdose Awareness Day; Drug Action Week, ATODA EO Appointment; ATODA Annual General Meeting and Call for Membership.

ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS)

- Maintenance of partnership with the Canberra Institute of Technology for training delivery.
- Development and distribution of 2 information packages for workers.
- Development and endorsement of MQS policy statement.
- Maintenance of partnership with the National Drug Sector Information Service, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia for the provision of research / training support to MQS participants.
- Delivery of 2 senior First Aid sessions in partnership with St Johns Ambulance Service.
- Delivery of 2 semesters of training for ATOD workers in the Certificate IV in AOD Work, incorporating 8 training blocks.
- Development and delivery of 8 feedback surveys for MQS participants.
- Engagement with Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT regarding cross sectoral qualification strategies.
- Presentation of certificates of participation to all participating workers.

ACT ATOD WORKERS GROUP

The ACT ATOD Workers Group continues its involvement in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the ACT ATOD sector in the ACT.

Additionally, the Workers Group have focused on transitional arrangements to establish a terms of reference that aligns the Group as an essential component of the ACT ATOD sector Governance, as well as acting as a key advisory structure to ATODA. The Group also has a constitutionally directed appointment of a representative to the ATODA Board, further strengthening worker participation in relevant advisory structures.

Membership is drawn from Health Directorate funded or delivered ATOD treatment programs.

ACT ATOD AWARDS COMMITTEE

The ACT ATOD Awards Committee was again convened with Award recipients from the previous year to assess applications and explore further opportunities to acknowledge the contributions of individuals in the ACT ATOD sector.

ACT ATOD MINIMUM QUALIFICATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The ACT ATOD MQS Committee continues to provide guidance to ATODA to conduct the ACT ATOD MQS. In addition to this, a key focus of the Group has been engaging with the sector regarding the MQS policy development and long term qualification strategy planning.

Drug Action Week 2011

Drug Action Week is a week of activities held nationally to raise awareness about ATOD issues in Australia and is an initiative of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA).

ATODA coordinated Drug Action Week in the ACT with support of ATOD and allied services.

Drug Action Week 2011 was held from 19 – 25 June 2011, with the theme “Looking After YOUR Mind!”



Activity highlights

- Development and promotion of the 2011 ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events collating over 40 activities from participating services.
- Monthly ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group meetings.
- Linkages with the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia, as national coordinators for Drug Action Week, including participation in local activities.
- Mail-out of Drug Action Week promotional information to 100 ATOD and allied services.
- Development and dissemination of special Drug Action Week eBulletin.
- Cross sectoral promotion through key Newsletters including Youth Coalition of the ACT, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and ACT Council of Social Service.

ACT Drug Action Week Launch

- ACT Drug Action Week Launched with support from Chief Minister Katy Gallagher MLA, Ms Agnes Shea OAM, Ngunnawal Elder and The Salvation Army Choir.
- Coordination of 12 ACT ATOD service stalls.
- Dissemination of Launch media release and associated media engagements.

Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference

- Development of Conference Program in the theme of “Not If; But How”. Sessions included Drug Diversion in a Small Jurisdiction; Expanding Naloxone Availability and Needle and Syringe Program in the AMC. A key highlight included an opening address from a consumer perspective.
- Coordination and display of poster presentations on: A checklist of criteria for assessing the merit of drug policies; Solaris Therapeutic Community; Pharmacotherapy Advocacy and Action Team; ATODA – A New Voice and the ACT ATOD Workforce Remuneration and Qualification Poster.
- Dissemination of conference media release and associated media engagements from presenters.
- Development and distribution of a conference evaluation form.

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ACT DRUG ACTION WEEK PLANNING GROUP

The ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group was again hosted monthly to bring together stakeholders to coordinate activities and shared messages. All interested agencies were invited to participate in the planning Group with a membership of 25+ services. This Group coordinated the 40+ activities held in the ACT during Drug Action Week 2011.

Review of ATOD Resources in the ACT

“Access to accurate, credible and current information is a fundamental aspect of all alcohol, tobacco and other drug education, prevention and intervention strategies.”

— Australian Drug Foundation

A guide to reviewing and developing alcohol, tobacco and other drug resources for young people, prepared by the Australian Drug Foundation in partnership with the ATODA and the ACT ATOD sector was launched in November 2010.

The Guide broadly seeks to provide an evidence base for review and development of ATOD resources. The Guide has national and cross sectoral significance.

Activity highlights

- Launch by ATODA and the Australian Drug Foundation at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Conference.
- Adoption of the Guide as sector wide policy by Health Directorate funded or delivered ATOD treatment services (see box at bottom of page).
- Delivery of interactive workshop to 20 ACT ATOD workers to embed the Guide in practice.
- Delivery of interactive workshop at the 6th International Drugs and Young People Conference.
- Promotion and profile of Guide through a range of resources including: National Drug Sector Information Service; CommunityNet eNews; Youth Studies Australia; Dovetail; Drug Scope, United Kingdom and DrugInfo Newsletter.
- Utilisation of the Guide by the ACT Department of Education and Department of Education, South Australia;
- Development of project proposal to expand on work undertaken to date.

ADOPTION OF THE GUIDE AS SECTOR WIDE POLICY FOR ALL ACT ATOD TREATMENT SERVICES:

All Health Directorate funded or delivered ATOD treatment services have agreed to adopt the Guide as sector wide policy. This is now reflected in 3 year funding contracts through the inclusion of the following statement:

“Funded or delivered ATOD treatment services are required to utilise the Guide ‘when reviewing the quality, and determining suitability, of external ATOD resources; or planning designing and developing internally produced resources.’”

Comorbidity Project

The Comorbidity Project assisted and supported ACT ATOD services to undertake service improvement processes to better identify and support people experiencing comorbid ATOD and mental health issues.

Activity highlights

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and ATOD training as a Mental Health Week activity presented by Dr Katherine Mills, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.
- Monthly Comorbidity Bus Tours in partnership with the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and associated evaluative and development activities.
- Participation and co-secretariat and chairing for the fortnightly Comorbidity Coordinators Networking Group teleconference for state and territory ATOD peaks (or equivalent); and attendance at relevant face to face meetings.
- Delivery of the National Improved Services Initiative Forum in partnership with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) and the State and Territory ATOD peaks (or equivalent) and associated outcomes report.
- Secretariat and chairing for the Logistics Committee to progress the development of the National Improved Services Initiative Forum.
- ACT representation to the Federal Minister for Health and Department of Health and Ageing regarding the future of the Improved Services Initiative.
- Contributions to, and coordination of, the quarterly National Improved Services Initiative Newsletter.
- Partnering with CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn to provide the ACT Comorbidity Interagency Day.
- Accredited Comorbidity Training Project in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT and the Health Directorate and associated evaluative activities. Training was delivered by UnitingCare Moreland Hall, an ATOD specific registered training organization.
- Presentation on the national and local policy and programmatic response to ATOD and comorbid issues to core Mental Health Services, Health Directorate training.
- Participation in the ACT Mental Health Week Committee.
- Contributions to the development of the draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy and proposed governance structures in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition and the Health Directorate.
- ACT ATOD Sector meetings with NSW / ACT Office of the Department of Health and Ageing.
- Progressing a central contact point for the ACT ATOD sector and associated promotion activities.
- Monthly contributions to ACT Division of General Practice Resources.
- Monthly contributions to the Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services Newsletter.
- Support to the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT's Conference titled "Leading the Change". This included the facilitation of a comorbidity workshop for 30 delegates, incorporating a presentation on "Building Capacity for Change"
- Monitoring and ongoing engagement regarding implications of ACT Government Restructure (alignment of mental health and ATOD treatment services).
- Ongoing partnership with Organisational Development Unit in the Health Directorate to ensure a greater comorbid focus to training.

COMORBIDITY STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP

The ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group continued as a key advisory structure to the Comorbidity Project, with a focus on: building linkages and strategic partnerships; implementing comorbid professional development activities and information dissemination. Membership was drawn from the ATOD and mental health sectors.

In addition to supporting key comorbidity activities the Group began a transitional arrangement to establish a new governance structure with a focus on implementing and monitoring the ACT Comorbidity Strategy. This new group would help ensure an effective, strategic and coordinated response to comorbidity in the ACT and would maintain a partnership approach.

ACT GRANT RECIPIENTS NETWORK

The ACT Improved Services Grant Recipients Network continued as a mechanism to support funded ACT ATOD treatment services to: coordinate activities; engage with shared issues and ensure the responsiveness of the Comorbidity Project.

In addition to leading comorbidity service improvement activities, the Group focused on sustainability of initiatives.

GENERAL PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The General Practice Engagement Working Group continued in partnership with the ACT Division of General Practice with a focus on: building linkages and strategic partnerships between the ATOD, mental health and primary health care sectors in the ACT and disseminating information and resources. Membership was drawn from the ATOD, mental health and primary healthcare sectors.

In addition to supporting activities that engaged General Practices in the ACT, the Group has focused on transitioning governance arrangements (to obtain autonomy from the Comorbidity Strategic Working Group) and monitoring and engaging in activities related to Health Reform including those related to the ACT Medicare Local.

The ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group continued as a key advisory structure to the Comorbidity Project.

Workplace Tobacco Management Project

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project is a collaboration between ATODA as the lead agency for the Project, in partnership with the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT), and the Youth Coalition of the ACT (Youth Coalition).

The project aims to increase the awareness, and support the implementation, of Workplace Tobacco Management Policies; and to address the impacts of harms associated with smoking behaviours for the staff in nine programs within the mental health, alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) and youth sectors.

Activity Highlights

- Development of a Project Advisory Committee and associated terms of reference.
- Memoranda of Understanding developed for project partners and pilot sites.
- Review of existing and emerging research and literature and development of a background paper.
- Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) Project Policy and registration form developed and distributed.
- Partnerships and accounts developed with 3 ACT Pharmacies for the provision of subsidised NRT for workers at the nine pilot sites.
- Education and information sessions provided to participating pilot sites.
- Evaluation framework developed including on-line surveys for participating organisations and staff members working in the pilot sites.
- Collation of current and appropriate tobacco resources and information and development of a resource summary document.
- Development of a Workplace Tobacco Management Policy template to inform site specific policy development (based on the ACT Health Smoke-free policy).
- Development of a workplan and monitoring document for each pilot site to inform key activities and actions for implementation.
- Liaison with training providers for tobacco management training sessions for all sectors and those working with people experiencing disadvantage.
- Presentation at an ACT Public Health Forum.
- Involvement in World No Tobacco Day Symposium.

WORKPLACE TOBACCO MANAGEMENT PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Workplace Tobacco Management Project Advisory Committee was formed to work collaboratively to provide multi-disciplinary advice to the Project and stakeholders. Professionals from the ATOD, mental health, youth, allied health and community sectors have participated in this group.

The Advisory Committee has provided advice and strategic guidance to the project and has assisted with the development and implementation of the project to date.

Additional Activities

Organisational establishment

- Organisational infrastructure establishment activities.
- Finalising transition from ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT.
- 2 x strategic planning sessions with Dr Stephen Mugford.
- Policy and procedure development.

Additional submissions, reports and papers

- Submission to the ACT Diversionary Framework consultation
- Submission to Vision Zero: ACT Road Safety Strategy
- Submission to the ACT Budget 2010 /11
- Submission to the ACT Carers Charter consultation
- Submission to the Mental Health Charter of Rights consultation
- Enhancing Consumer Health Outcomes by Strengthening Systems: Opioid Maintenance Treatment Interstate Transfer issues and options paper to the Opioid Treatment Advisory Committee for consideration.

Conference and other presentations


- Interactive workshop at the International Drugs and Young People Conference on reviewing and developing ATOD resources for young people in partnership with the Australian Drug Foundation.
- Presentation at the International Drugs and Young People Conference on ATOD, homelessness and young people.
- Presentation at ACT Health Workplaces Forum presentation on tobacco management.
- Presentation at Dangerous Consumptions Colloquium, Australian National University on tobacco management.
- Presentation at Leading the Change, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT Conference on tobacco management.
- Presentation at Leading the Change, MHCC ACT Conference on building comorbid capacity.
- Presentation at the inaugural Injecting Drug Use Colloquium, Centre for Research Excellence in Injecting Drug Use.
- Presentation on ATOD sector referral at ATOD and young people training hosted by the Youth Coalition of the ACT.
- Presentations to Health Directorate core comorbidity training.

Additional representation

- ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy Evaluation Group
- ACT ATOD CEOs / Executive Directors Group
- ACT ATOD Workers Group
- ACT Peaks Forum
- ACT Primary Healthcare Coalition
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Board (Ex-Officio State and Territory ATOD peak body Representative)
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set Working Group
- ATOD Peaks CEOs Teleconference
- Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Local Arrangements Committee
- Consultation for the development of the National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy
- Diversionary Framework Roundtable
- Information and Referral Providers meeting
- Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services Executive
- Unregistered Health Practitioners Forum
- Youth Commitment Signing Ceremony

Additional activities

- ATODA Annual General Meeting.
- Development and dissemination of membership satisfaction survey.
- Engaging with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to support people accessing residential drug treatment to participate in the census.
- Meeting regarding research opportunities related to ATOD and transgendered people.
- Meeting with Aboriginal Justice Centre.
- Meeting with ACT Department of Education regarding ATOD education in schools.
- Meeting with ACT Policing, Australian Federal Police regarding ATOD issues.
- Meeting with ACT Shelter.
- Meeting with Australian Youth Affairs Council.
- Meeting with Human Rights Commission.
- Meeting with Pharmacy Guild of Australia – ACT Branch.
- Meeting with Territory and Municipal Services to discuss ATOD course for people convicted of drink / drug driving.
- Meetings with Health Care Consumers Association.
- Meetings with Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA.
- Meetings with Minister for Community Services, Ms Joy Burch MLA.

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- Participation in CatholicCare quality improvement forum.
 - Participation in the forum on developing a national population based model for drug and alcohol service planning presented by the Drug Policy Modelling Program.
 - Television interview with WIN News regarding the National Drug Household Survey results for the ACT.
 - Various media releases and radio and newspaper interviews.
 - Signatory to the Vienna Declaration.
 - Signatory to ACOSS Sector Statement on Pay Equity.
 - Support to the Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform Public Forum on drug policy of election candidates.

Financial Report

ATODA's 2010 – 11 financial is available as a separate document to accompany this annual report. Please visit www.atoda.org.au for electronic copies or contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070 for hard copies.

www.atoda.org.au