



First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Conference

Alcohol: Past, Present and Future

ACT AOD SECTOR PROJECT
www.aodsector.org.au

National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Parkes, ACT
Wednesday June 25 2008, 8.30am-5pm

Conference Program

The ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector in partnership with the Youth Coalition of the ACT is hosting the first Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Conference as part of Drug Action Week 2008. The conference will focus on alcohol. It aims to facilitate access to the latest evidence relating to best practice and seeks to strengthen the capacity, skills and knowledge base of participants. Four participatory sessions will examine current and past alcohol policy, cultural issues and evidence-based interventions. The Conference will incorporate four sessions that will examine current and past policies, as well as current trends and practices related to alcohol. This will provide a context for participants to better understand and engage with issues related to alcohol nationally and locally. Key themes of conference session include a focus on past and present alcohol policy nationally and in the ACT, drinking in Australia as a cultural issue and effective interventions.

Keynote Speakers

Professor Robin Room

Acting Director, Head of Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF) Centre for Alcohol Policy, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

Professor Room is an Australian sociologist who was Director of the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley, California (1977-1991); Vice-President for Research at the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario, Canada (1991-1998); and Director of the Centre for Social Research on Alcohol and Drugs at Stockholm University (1999-2005). Now he is a professor in the School of Population Health, University of Melbourne and the Director of the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. He has worked on social and epidemiological studies of alcohol, drugs and gambling, and studies of policy and other social responses to alcohol and drug problems.

Dr Tanya Chikritzhs

Senior Research Fellow and Statistical Advisor at the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology

Dr Chikritzhs has over ten years of experience in alcohol research, primarily as an epidemiologist and biostatistician. She leads the Alcohol Policy Research team at the Institute and is Chief Investigator for the National Alcohol Indicator Project. Chikritzhs has published over 70 peer reviewed journal papers, monographs, technical reports and bulletins on the epidemiology of alcohol and related problems, alcohol policy and related areas in Australia. She co-edited and contributed to the World Health Organization's International Guide for monitoring alcohol consumption and related harm and has a strong history of successful national and international collaborative research partnerships. She regularly contributes to discussions in the media on alcohol-related issues, as an expert witness for the Department of Health, Western Australia, is a member of the Healthway WA Research Sub-Committee, an Assistant Editor for Addiction and an Editor for Addiction Research and Theory journal.

Mr David Crosbie

Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Council of Australia

As CEO of the Mental Health Council of Australia, Mr Crosbie leads a peak national organisation that is driving mental health reform across Australia and actively advocating the interests of a broad range of members and stakeholders including professional groups, consumers, carers and service providers. Among other appointments, Mr Crosbie is a Member of the National Mental Health Standing Committee and the National Expert Advisory Panel on Drugs. He is a Board Director of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, and Nonprofit Australia. Prior to his current appointment, Mr Crosbie was the CEO of Odyssey House Victoria and CEO of the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA). In the last 15 years, Mr Crosbie has written over 100 articles, presented more than 100 papers, and conducted over 500 media interviews. He has a strong commitment to the role of community-based organisations, and is one of Australia's leading advocates for reform in the way the community responds to alcohol and drug use, mental health and social disadvantage.

Dr Anthony Shakeshaft

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales

Dr Shakeshaft has been working in the field of public health research for over 10 years, addressing a wide range of issues from drug and alcohol problems to quality health care issues in public hospitals in Sydney, Australia. He has authored numerous scientific papers published in international peer-reviewed journals, as well as many invited papers and reports, and has presented his work at international conferences, both as a delegate and an invited speaker. He has obtained over \$3,000,000 in competitive research grants. His current major project is a five year randomised controlled trial, involving 20 rural communities in NSW, aimed at reducing the incidence of alcohol-related harm.

Who is the Conference for:

The conference is open to alcohol and other drug, youth, mental health and supported accommodation assistance program workers and the broader community. There are only 100 spaces available.

About Drug Action Week:

Drug Action Week 2008 is a week of activities held nationally to raise awareness about alcohol and other drugs (AOD) issues in Australia and is an initiative of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA). It will be held from 22 – 28 June 2008, with the theme 'Alcohol is a Drug – TOO! Visit www.drugactionweek.org.au for more information about Drug Action Week 2008.

For information about activities in the ACT visit www.aodsector.org.au for a calendar of events.

About the ACT AOD Sector Project:

The ACT AOD Sector Project is a capacity building project that began on 23 July 2007 and is funded by the AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health. The Youth Coalition of the ACT provides support to ACT AOD Workers to conduct the AOD Sector Project.

The Project aims to build the capacity and identity of the AOD sector in the ACT, foster intra and cross-sectoral relationships, and improve outcomes while maintaining respect for the diversity of services and for people who are affected by AOD. The Project facilitates a number of activities for ACT AOD Workers including a monthly eBulletin, Workers' Group, forum, bi-monthly training calendars and a directory of ACT AOD services.

Email: info@aodsector.org.au

Web: www.aodsector.org.au

About the Youth Coalition of the ACT:

The Youth Coalition is the peak youth affairs body in the Australian Capital Territory. We are responsible for representing, promoting and protecting the rights, interests and wellbeing of people aged between 12 and 25 years and those who work with them.

Phone: (02) 6247 3540

Fax: (02) 6249 1675

Email: info@youthcoalition.net

Web: www.youthcoalition.net

Location: 46 Clialthus Street O'Connor ACT (Youth Coalition of the ACT Office)

Mailing Address: PO Box 5232 Lyneham ACT 2602

Please see registration form for information about associated costs.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT would like to acknowledge the support from the ACT Government and the Improved Services Initiatives and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is correct at the time of printing. The Youth Coalition of the ACT reserves the right to alter or delete items from the program as circumstances dictate and takes no responsibility for any errors, omissions and changes.