

ACT AOD Sector Project

Monthly Summary Report

March - April 2008

This document outlines key outputs of the ACT AOD Sector Project from mid March – mid April 2008.

Key AOD Sector Project activities:

- The Project Team has been developing a publications and resource page for the AOD Sector website, which will include ACT and National documents and relevant links to research. The page will be launched early May.
- From March 10 – April 9 2008 the AOD Sector Project Website has received 94 visits. There have been 612 page views, the most popular being the AOD Services Directory page and eBulletin page.
- The monthly AOD Sector Forum was held on Thursday 27 March 2008, 1 – 3pm at the ADP Withdrawal Unit. The agenda included an update on the AOD Sector Project and information sharing. The guest speaker was David Plant, Policy and Sector Development Officer, Mental Health Community Coalition who provided participants with an overview of the community mental health sector in the ACT, including information on resources and strategies that AOD Workers can use to better connect with the mental health sector to support comorbid clients. 17 sector workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - ADFACT
 - Alcohol and Drug Program
 - Directions ACT
 - Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
 - Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare
 - Ted Noffs Foundation
- Monthly AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on Wednesday 2 April 2008.
- AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have increased from 184 to 229.
- A letter of invitation was sent to Samaratin House to invite them to participate in the Drug Action Week Planning Group.

- A Drug Action Week (DAW) Planning Group was held Thursday 10 April 2008. Key items discussed included AOD conference planning, service activity planning and stakeholder identification. Brian Flanagan, Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA) attended to provide participants with an overview of DAW activities nationally. 7 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Directions ACT
 - Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
 - Save – A – Mate, Red Cross
 - Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare
- The Project Team has been maintaining an ACT draft calendar of events for DAW, which is circulated prior to Planning Group meetings and with meeting minutes. This will minimise overlapping activities.
- A Workers' Group meeting was held on Thursday 10 April 2008. Key items that were discussed included AOD Services Directory, Comorbidity Project, Project evaluation and the Review of Written Materials for Young People. 6 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - AOD Policy Unit
 - Directions ACT
 - Toora Women Inc.
- 8 completed service profiles (including 30 programs) have been endorsed by the ED's group and uploaded to www.aodsector.org.au in html format. The Project Team has been developing a pdf version of the directory which will be uploaded to the website in late April.
- Project Team visited the Sobering Up Shelter who have offered to host the May AOD Sector Forum.
- The Project Team met with Dave Warby and Brett Pridmore to discuss the role of Ted Noffs in the AOD Sector Project and the Comorbidity Project, and provide Brett with information about Project activities.

Some key issues to arise include:

- Nominated representatives: still waiting on some services to nominate a representative to participate in on the Workers' Group.

Key Co-Morbidity Project activities:

- The Project Officer has begun working on the Project 3 days per week.
- The Project Team met with Centacare Project Officer to discuss project, share information and to discuss the relationship between the AOD Sector Project and Grant recipients.
- The Project Officer participated in AOD Sector Forum, provided update of Comorbidity Project to ACT AOD sector.

- The Project Team has made contact with Janet Smith, new Comorbidity Project Worker for the Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health.
- The Project Team attended briefing by NADA to NSW Improved Services grant recipients in Sydney.
- The Project liased with the Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA), Central Office, to determine whether an Improved Services Progress Report template was being developed. We have been advised that template is being developed and will be available soon.
- The Project Team attended meeting with other national AOD Peaks' Executive Directors and Improved Services Project Officers at NADA Office, Sydney to discuss implementation issues and information sharing strategies.
- The Project Team attended a briefing on the Improved Services initiative and training on the Australian adaptation of the Dual Diagnosis Capability Assessment Tool (DDCAT) by DOHA Central Office at DOHA NSW office, Sydney.
- The Project is liaising with Centacare in regards to the initiative and the development of the Project Plan including the use of the DDCAT.
- The Project Team is working with Ted Noffs ACT and NADA to identify how the initiative will be rolled out in the ACT.

Some key issues to arise include:

- Project tools and resources being finalised and rolled out later than originally planned.
- Unclear as to the status of tranche B AOD agencies who applied for funding through the measure (CAHMA, ADFACT, Directions).
- Project's role in liaising with other AOD Peaks and the relationship with the ACT representative.
- The funding allocated through the Improved Services Measure are tied to specific objectives and the funding cannot be used to maintain existing ACT AOD Sector Project activities.

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