

ACT AOD Sector Project

Monthly Summary Report

May – June 2008

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

Key AOD Sector Project activities:

- From May 11 – June 10 2008 the AOD Sector Project Website has received 219 visits. There have been 973 page views, the most popular being the AOD Services Directory page and the Drug Action Week page.
- www.aodsector.org.au has been updated to include a new publications page sorted by ACT, National and research publications.
- The monthly AOD Sector Forum was held on Thursday 22 May 2008, 9.30am – 11.30am at the Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare. The agenda included an update on the AOD Sector Project and information sharing. The guest speaker was Neil Harwood, Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services. 14 sector workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - CAHMA
 - Canberra Recovery Service
 - Directions ACT
 - Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare
 - The Connection
 - WIREDD
- The June AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on Friday 30 May 2008.
- AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have increased from 235 to 262.
- A Drug Action Week (DAW) Planning Group meeting was held on Thursday 5 June 2008. Key items discussed included AOD conference planning update, DAW launch update and service activity planning. DAW merchandise was also distributed to participating services. 8 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Alcohol and Drug Program

- Directions ACT
 - Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
 - Lesley's Place
 - Save – A – Mate, Red Cross
 - Ted Noffs Foundation
- The first annual ACT AOD Sector Conference *Alcohol: Past, Present and Future*, has been organised for Wednesday 25 June at the National Library of Australia as part of Drug Action Week 2008. All conference speakers have been confirmed. The Project Team has been liaising with the speakers regarding the content of their presentations.
 - 300 hard copies of the conference program and registration form were printed and distributed to services and MLA's. The AOD Sector had one week to register, before the conference was more widely promoted.
 - The Project Team has been liaising with AOD Services that were offered an opportunity to have a service stall at the launch.
 - The ACT Drug Action Week launch has been organised for Friday 20 June 2008 from 12.30 – 2pm at the Legislative Assembly. Speakers include:
 - Mrs Agnes Shea, Ngunnawal Elder, who will be opening Drug Action Week in the ACT;
 - Ms Katy Gallagher, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Health who will be launching Drug Action Week in the ACT; and
 - Mr David Batts, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare who will be presenting some key findings from the first results of the National Drug Strategy Household Survey released in April 2007.
 - 200 hard copies of the ACT Drug Action Week launch flyers were printed and distributed cross-sectorally to services and MLA's.
 - The Project Team compiled the ACT DAW Calendar of Events, containing 23 activities submitted by the Drug Action Week Planning Group. 400 hard copies of the calendar were printed and distributed cross-sectorally to services and MLA's.
 - The launch flyer, conference program and calendar were sent electronically through the AOD eBulletin, Youth Coalition eBulletin, ACT Health Promotion Network, Mental Health Community Coalition eBulletin, ACTCOSS Fax Stream and Update. All information is also available for download from www.aodsector.org.au
 - A Workers' Group meeting was held on Thursday 8 May 2008. Key items that were discussed included Project Planning, Comorbidity Project, Project evaluation, Review of the Liquor Act and the Review of Written Materials for Young People. 10 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Alcohol and Drug Program
 - Canberra Recovery Service
 - Lesleys Place

- Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare
- Ted Noffs Foundation
- WIREDD

Some key issues to arise include:

- There still remain a number of services that have not nominated a representative to participate in the Workers Group.
- We are still waiting on some service profiles to be completed which means that we have had to delay the development of a downloadable pdf version of the ACT AOD Services Directory.
- Workers' Group members agreed to continue Project activities at full capacity until December 2008, despite the uncertainty with Project funding beyond that date. Workers' have expressed a concern that activities will not continue without someone to coordinate it.

Key Comorbidity Project activities:

- The Terms of Reference for the Project has been finalised.
- A webpage has been created for the Project on the ACT AOD Sector Project website: www.aodsector.org.au/public/about/comorbidity.htm
- A Project progress report was provided to the AOD Workers Group.
- Attended and provided a Project update to the AOD sector at the May ACT AOD Sector Forum.
- Participated in the second national teleconference of the AOD NGO Peaks Comorbidity Project Networking Group made up of the Comorbidity Project Officers from all the alcohol and other drug peak bodies (or equivalent) in each state and territory. The group discussed project implementation issues and sharing resources to support project grant recipients. An additional meeting was held at the Synergy Conference (see below).
- Participated in a consultation by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre on the development of the Draft National Comorbidity Guidelines. A collective response was developed and submitted by the AOD NGO Peaks Comorbidity Project Networking Group.
- Wrote letters of invitation and a terms of reference for the ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group.
- The first ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group was held on Tuesday 10 June 2008. Key items discussed included an introduction and history to the ACT AOD Sector Project and the Comorbidity Project, a terms of reference and draft workplan and some possible activities for the group. The group has representation from the following agencies, of which seven attended:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT
 - ACT Division of General Practice

- ACT Office, Department of Health and Ageing
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Comorbidity Project, Centacare
 - Mental Health ACT
 - Mental Health Community Coalition
 - Mental Health Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
 - Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (to be confirmed)
- The Improved Services Grant Recipients Network is in on-going development.
 - Participated in the 2008 Creating Synergy V Conference from 12 – 13 June 2008 at the University of Wollongong, this conference had a focus on comorbidity.
 - Participated in a face-to-face meeting of all the AOD NGO Peaks Comorbidity Project Networking Group in Wollongong on Friday 13 June.
 - Provided support to grant recipients by:
 - Liaising with ACT DOHA regarding project plan feedback;
 - Providing information about Psycheck, a mental health screening tool being developed by Turning Point for AOD services;
 - Providing information about the Draft National Comorbidity Guidelines;
 - Providing information about training and professional development opportunities.
 - The Project has continued working with the Ted Noffs Foundation ACT to identify ways in which we can support their organisation, whose head office is based in NSW, to support ACT based activities.
 - Attended the national launch of Drug Action Week 2008 on Monday 16 June.
 - Participated in the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group.
 - Contributed training and professional development opportunities to the Training and Professional Development Calendar and the AOD Sector eBulletin.
 - Promoted Drug Action Week activities to grant recipients, the Comorbidity Strategic Working Group, and the ACT mental health sector through the Mental Health Community Coalition eBulletin.
 - Participated in a teleconference with the Department of Health and Ageing and the Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies NSW on 28 June to discuss the Project first quarter report. The Project received positive feedback from both parties.

Some key issues to arise include:

- Still awaiting for the Department of Health and Ageing to announce whether services under Tranch B of the Improved Services Initiative will be funded.
- Draft National Comorbidity Guidelines are confidential and can't be circulated for evaluation purposes. This prevents the project from getting feedback from the ACT AOD Sector.

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For more information about the ACT AOD Sector Project phone 6247 3540 or visit www.aodsector.org.au