

# ACT AOD Sector Project

## Monthly Summary Report

April - May 2009

This document outlines key outputs of the ACT AOD Sector Project from mid April – mid May 2009.

### Key ACT AOD Sector Project activities:

- From 14 April – 14 May 2009 the AOD Sector Project website has received 266 visits from 191 unique visitors. There have been 808 page views, the most popular being the ACT AOD Services Directory page.
- The May 2009 AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on Monday 4 May 2009. AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have remained steady 434.
- The monthly AOD Sector Forum was held on Thursday 23 April, 9.30am – 11.30am at DIRECTIONS ACT. The agenda included an update on the AOD Sector Project and information sharing. Justin Barker, Australian National University, was the guest speaker to present on the Young People and Alcohol and Other Drug Education Project. 7 sector workers attended from the following services:
  - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
  - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
  - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
  - Canberra Recovery Services
  - DIRECTIONS ACT
  - WIREDD
- A Workers Group meeting was held on Thursday 14 May 2009. Key items that were discussed included an update on Project activities and the ACT Health No Smoking Policy. 11 workers attended from the following services:
  - ACT AOD Sector Project
  - Alcohol and Drug Program Foundation ACT (ADFACT)
  - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
  - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
  - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
  - Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
  - Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
  - Ted Noffs Foundation
  - Toora Women Inc

- The ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 3 was finalised and is now available in hard copy.
- The Project Team have received responses or progress updates from the AOD Workers Group and ACT Health for the Recommendations of the Evaluation of the ACT AOD Sector Project: Phase 2, October 2007 – June 2008.

#### Key Issues to Arise:

- There have been some issues with attendance at the monthly ACT AOD Sector Forums.
- A number of issues related to the ACT Health Buildings No Smoking policies have been raised by workers, including issues of equity for the funding of Nicotine Replacement Therapies and implications of the policy.
- The issue of health services within correctional facilities was again raised by workers as an issue that requires some clarity and clearer communication.

#### **Key ACT AOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profiling Project Activities:**

- Hardcopies of the survey were distributed to the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group on 21/03/09 to be completed in their service.
- The ACT AOD Sector Project collected the completed surveys from each Executive Director on Wednesday 6 May 2009.
- To date 120 completed surveys have been returned to the Project, with 2 services yet to return completed surveys.

#### **Key Drug Action Week (21 – 27 June 2009) Activities:**

- The third Drug Action Week Planning Group was held on Thursday 14 May 2009. Key agenda items included an update on the launch and conference and service activity planning. 13 workers attended from the following services:
  - ACT AOD Sector Project
  - ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre
  - Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)
  - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
  - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
  - Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
  - headspace ACT
  - Save A Mate, Australian Red Cross
  - Toora Women Inc
  - Youth Coalition of the ACT
- The Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT will be held from 10am – 12pm, Friday 19 June 2009, at the Exhibition Room in the ACT Legislative

Assembly. The Minister for Health is sponsoring the event and launching the week. Services have been invited to hold stalls at the Launch, with 11 services confirmed to date.

- A calendar of 30+ events has been collated by the Project Team in partnership with the Planning Group, and will be distributed in hard copies to services.
- The second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference program has been finalised. The Conference will be held on Wednesday 24 June 2009, at the National Library of Australia. The Minister for Corrections will open the Conference. It will focus on exploring the relationship between the ACT AOD Sector and the new prison.
- Key ACT Drug Action Week dates include:
  - 21 – 27 June 2009: Drug Action Week
  - Friday 19 June 2009: Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT
  - Wednesday 24 June 2009: The second annual Drug Action Week Conference

#### Key Issues to Arise:

- There has been some delay in finalising guest speakers for Drug Action Week activities including the Launch and the Conference, resulting in a delay of promotion to the AOD sector.

#### **Key ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Project Activities:**

- A total of 65 workers are engaged with the *ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project*, with approximately 40 workers undertaking the 4 Core Competencies with CIT in Semester 1, 2009. Stream 1 completed the third competency on 4 – 6 May 2009. Stream 2 completed the second competency on 11 – 13 May 2009.
- An online survey to elicit feedback from participants regarding each competency has been developed and distributed to workers.
- The Project Team submitted reporting to ACT Health, outlining the allocation of funds to support the Minimum Qualification.
- The *ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project Funding Allocation Committee* held its second meeting on Thursday 23 April 2009 and continued discussions on the allocation of funds through the Minimum Qualification Strategy Project. Some key agreements from the meeting were:
  - To ascertain whether excess funds can be used to further develop the Minimum Qualification Strategy policies and procedures.

- That funding for first aid in Semester 1, 2009 will only be available to workers already engaged in the Minimum Qualification.
- That the Project Team will contact each services Executive Director to negotiate individual invoicing dates.

#### Key Issues to Arise

- Some workers have still expressed confusion about the Minimum Qualification Strategy, its applicability to workers and implementation processes and procedures.

#### **Key Comorbidity Project activities:**

- The ACT AOD Sector Project has received a draft contract from the Department of Health and Ageing to confirm that the Project will receive continued Comorbidity Project funding for 2 years. It is anticipated that the Comorbidity Project will recommence full implementation shortly.
- The Project Team participated in the National Comorbidity Coordinators Networking Group fortnightly teleconference on Wednesday 6 May 2009.
- A Grant Recipients Network meeting was held on Friday 1 May 2009, to inform members of the refunding of the Comorbidity Project and to allow members to provide updates on activities.

#### Some key items to arise include:

- A new staff member will be hired to undertake activities across the Comorbidity Project and ACT AOD Sector Project.

#### **Key ACT AOD Sector and Prisons Project activities:**

- Ben Frommel, is doing a student placement with the Project as a third year community education student. He will be conducting the *ACT AOD Sector and Prisons Project* throughout 2009. The Project seeks:
  - To facilitate access for AOD workers to the latest evidence relating to best practice in AOD work with prisoners within the prison system and upon release; and
  - To provide an opportunity for the AOD sector to be proactive about identifying the issues that the new adult prison may present.

#### **AOD Sector Project Staff:**

- Amanda Bode, Project Officer, [amanda@aodsector.org.au](mailto:amanda@aodsector.org.au) (fulltime)
- Carrie Fowlie, Director, ACT AOD Sector Project, [carrie@aodsector.org.au](mailto:carrie@aodsector.org.au) (2 days per week)
- David McDonald, Consultant, [mail@socialresearch.com.au](mailto:mail@socialresearch.com.au)

- Ray Lovett, Consultant
- Ben Frommel, Student Placement and Project Officer, (1 day per week)  
[student@aodsector.org.au](mailto:student@aodsector.org.au)
- Katrina Campion, Project Officer, [katrina@aodsector.org.au](mailto:katrina@aodsector.org.au) (1 day per week)

For more information about the ACT AOD Sector Project phone 6247 3540 or visit  
[www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au)