

ACT AOD Sector Project

Monthly Summary Report

January – February 2009

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

Key ACT AOD Sector Project activities:

- From 20 January – 16 February 2009 the AOD Sector Project website has received 160 visits from 121 unique visitors. There have been 562 page views, the most popular being the activities index page.
- The February 2009 AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on Monday 2 February 2009. AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have increased from 395 to 398.
- A Workers Group meeting was held on Thursday 5 February 2009. Key items that were discussed included key Project documents, Project funding, Drug Action Week 2009 and the Minimum Qualification Strategy Project. 14 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
 - Lesley's Place, Toora Women Inc
 - Ted Noffs Foundation
 - The Connection, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
 - WIREDD, Toora Women Inc
- A letter was written to the chair of the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy Implementation and Evaluation Group to request worker involvement in, and offer support for, public consultation process on the updated Strategy.
- The Project website (www.aodsector.org.au) has received an update of information including dates for upcoming activities and the development of 2 new pages including 'Drug Action Week 2009' and 'The ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project'.

- Some key Project documentation including the Project Work, Monitoring and Evaluation plan has been finalised into a draft, and has been circulated to the Workers Group for feedback and the Executive Directors Group for endorsement.

Drug Action Week (21 – 27 June 2009):

- A part-time Project Officer, Erin Barry, was appointed to assist with coordinating Drug Action Week 2009 in the ACT and work on the Project.
- A preliminary Drug Action Week Planning Group meeting was held on Thursday 5 February 2009, to inform workers group members of key Drug Action Week dates and to discuss the groups membership.
- Workers and services in the ACT AOD Sector, and related sectors, were invited to participate in the Drug Action Week Planning Group, to coordinate activities for Drug Action Week 2009 in the ACT. Invitations to participate were distributed through the ACT AOD Sector eBulletin, promoted at the ACT AOD Workers Group, and through letters posted out to services.
- The following key dates for Drug Action Week 2009 have been identified:
 - Friday 19 June 2009: Launch of Drug Action Week 2009 in the ACT
 - Wednesday 24 June 2009: The second Annual ACT AOD Sector Drug Action Week Conference.

Some key items to arise include:

- Some workers have expressed concerns with the amount of activities that they may be required to attend in the coming months, and have expressed a desire for the Project to ensure that activities do not overlap (e.g. Minimum Qualification Strategy training and AOD Workers Group meetings).

ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Project:

- The *ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project Information Pack* was finalised and distributed to key stakeholders, in the ACT AOD Executives Directors Group, and the ACT AOD Workers Group, for feedback. This Information Pack was distributed on Monday 2 February 2009. On this date, workers and services were invited to:
 - Submit applications to register in the *CIT Four Core Competencies* in Semester 1 2009. Applications were due by COB on Friday 13 February 2009.
 - Submit applications for *Reimbursement of Alternative Training and Assessment Options*, to be undertaken in Semester 1 2009. Applications were due by COB on Friday 13 February 2009.
 - Submit applications for *Reimbursement of Courses Undertaken in Semester 2, 2008*. Applications were due by COB on Friday 13 February 2009.

- Submit applications for *Reimbursement of Staff Backfill*, for courses undertaken in Semester 2, 2008. Applications were due by COB on Friday 13 February 2009.
- On Monday 9 February 2009, a Minimum Qualification Strategy Information Session was held for the ACT AOD Sector. This session was well attended, with 9 service representatives attending from ACT AOD services. An overview of the Minimum Qualification Strategy Project was provided, and the Canberra Institute of Technology attended to provide information regarding *the Four Core Competencies* to be undertaken in Semester 1, 2009.
- A Terms of Reference and membership was developed for the *ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project Funding Allocation Committee*. Representatives from the ACT AOD Sector were invited to participate in the Committee. Membership currently includes:
 - ACT AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Centacare Canberra
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - Social Research and Evaluation

This Committee will be meeting on Wednesday 18 February 2009, to discuss the applications received and identify strategies to allocate funding equitably, throughout Semester 1, 2009.

- The ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy Project also responded to a number of requests for support from the ACT AOD Sector, regarding clarification about the Minimum Qualification and the application process.

Some key items to arise:

- There is some confusion with workers regarding their ongoing participation in the Minimum Qualification Strategy, as funding has not been guaranteed for Semester 2, 2009.

Key Comorbidity Project activities:

- Please see item below.

Some key items to arise include:

- The AOD peak bodies (or equivalents) in each state and territory received initial funding of one year for their Comorbidity Projects; with the possibility of a two-year extension. Although the Department of Health and Ageing have put forward a recommendation to the Minister that these projects get refunded until the end of 2010, this has not yet been confirmed. Unfortunately the Project had to cease activities as of 31 December 2008, until the Project receives confirmation of continued funding.

AOD Sector Project Staff:

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The ACT AOD Sector Project is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT. For more information about the ACT AOD Sector Project phone 6247 3540 or visit www.aodsector.org.au