

ACT AOD Sector Project

Monthly Summary Report January 2010 – February 2010

This document outlines key outputs of the ACT AOD Sector Project from mid January – mid February 2010.

Key ACT AOD Sector Project activities:

- From 20 January – 15 February the AOD Sector Project website received 436 visits from 316 unique visitors. There have been 1,142 page views, the most popular being the ACT AOD Services Directory and eBulletin pages.
- An ACT AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on 4 February 2010. The eBulletin contained two new sections, Drug Action Week 2010 update and ACT AOD Sector Peak establishment update. AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have increased from 528 to 547.
- The monthly AOD Sector Forum was held 9.30 – 11.30, 28 January 2010, at 1 Moore Street. The agenda included an update on the AOD Sector Project and information sharing. Joanne Cassar, ACT Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) & Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Coordinator, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), provided a guest presentation on discussing ACT Drug Trends from the ACT IDRS and EDRS. 12 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Australian Red Cross
 - Department of Health and Ageing, ACT Office
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - WIREDD, Toora Women Inc
- An ACT AOD Workers Group meeting was held on Thursday 4 February. Key agenda items included an update on Project activities, the Third Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference and the Review of AOD Written Materials for Young People in the ACT. 9 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
 - Salvation Army
 - The Connection, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
- The Review of AOD Written Materials for Young People in the ACT draft tool has been provided by the Australian Drug Foundation to the Project Team for initial piloting and feedback. The Workers Group has piloted the “Resource

Review Checklist” and is currently piloting “Guidelines for Document Development”.

- A draft ACT AOD Sector Project Work, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for January – June 2010 has been distributed to the ACT AOD Workers Group for feedback.
- The Project Team is liaising with NDARC regarding opportunities for key stakeholders in the ACT AOD sector to contribute to, and engage with, the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System and Illicit Drug Reporting System.
- The Project Team met with Donna Blackler, a worker from the Northern Territory Council of Social Service based in the ACT, who is doing some initial work on the feasibility of establishing an AOD peak body in the Northern Territory.
- The Project evaluation is being implemented as per the Protocol, however, an agreement has been made to broaden the evaluation to cover the period of June 2008 – December 2009.
- The Project provided support to a workshop was on 2 February for the sector to develop submissions to relevant ACT and Federal policy documents.
- Following the workshop, the Project developed a first draft of a submission to the draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014. This has been distributed to the ACT AOD Executive Directors and Workers Groups and is an agenda item for discussion and progression on 16 February.
- The Project has provided advice and support regarding a research project being conducted by the Youth Coalition of the ACT on young people, alcohol and violence. The Project has been invited to participate on a Working Group of the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Forum to organise a by-invitation symposium in May to explore the issues.
- The Project has been invited to participate on the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy Steering Committee.

Key ACT Drug Action Week (20 – 26 June 2010) activities:

- The first Drug Action Week Planning was held on Thursday 4 February. Key agenda items included the Drug Action Week launch and the Third Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference. 9 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - Ted Noffs Foundation
 - Youth Coalition of the ACT

- Invitations to participate in the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group were distributed to key stakeholders.
- The Project Team worked with the Workers Group and the Planning Group to develop a proposal for the conference and the launch.
- The following key dates for Drug Action Week 2010 have been identified:
 - 6 May 2010: Closing date for contributions to the ACT Calendar of Events
 - 18 June 2010: Launch of Drug Action Week 2010 in the ACT
 - 23 June 2010: The Third Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference.

Key ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) Project Activities:

- A MQS Implementation and Development Committee meeting was held on 8 February. Key agenda items included a review of applications for Semester 1, 2010 and policy review and development processes. 5 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- Workers that applied to undertake the Canberra Institute of Technology training for workers with partial completion of the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification in Semester 1, 2010 were notified of their success, or otherwise on Thursday 11 February 2010. 5 workers will be undertaking a process of recognition of prior learning and gap filling training in Semester 1, 2010.
- The Project Team participated in a teleconference with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) regarding their involvement in policy development processes related to the MQS. The Project Team is currently developing a proposal to outline further details of NCETA's engagement.
- The Project Team is working with NCETA to establish a national network to look at progressing AOD workforce development issues, with a particular focus on workforce profiling and minimum qualifications.

Key Peak Establishment Working Group activities:

- The ACT AOD Sector Peak Establishment Working Group met on 29 January. Key agenda items included name, objects, membership and other policy decisions. A constitution has been drafted and circulated to stakeholders for feedback and further discussion at the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group meeting on 16 February. Membership of an interim Committee (Board) has been recruited. It is expected that the constitution will be lodged by the end of February.
- The Youth Coalition of the ACT AOD Sector Project Internal Transition Group has been established and met for the first time on 9 February. Key agenda

items included human resources, intellectual property, infrastructure, partnerships.

Key Comorbidity Project activities:

- The Comorbidity Coordinators Networking Group teleconference for State and Territory AOD peaks (or equivalent) continues to be held fortnightly.
- The Project Team has been liaising with Alison Bell, consultant to the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre on the National Comorbidity Clinical Guidelines regarding the delivery of a workshop from 1pm – 4.30pm, Tuesday 23 February 2010. The workshop is now fully booked, with 50 RSVP's.
- The first General Practice Engagement Working Group, which is conducted in partnership with the ACT Division of General Practice, meeting was held on 11 February. Key agenda items included a review of the terms of reference, issue identification, and development of a workplan. 13 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - ACT Division of General Practice
 - Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
 - Department of Health and Ageing, ACT Office
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - headspace ACT
 - Mental Health ACT
 - Toora Women Inc
 - Youth Coalition of the ACT
- An ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group meeting was held on 11 February. Key agenda items included updates on ACT strategies, the development of an ACT comorbidity website and Drug Action Week. 16 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - ACT Division of General Practice
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
 - CatholicCare
 - Department of Health and Ageing, ACT Office
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - headspace ACT
 - Mental Health ACT
 - Mental Health Community Coalition
 - Toora Women Inc
 - Youth Coalition of the ACT

Key Comorbidity Smokefree Pilot Project activities:

- The Project Team submitted a request for tender for the Comorbidity Smokefree Pilot Project to ACT Health.
- The Project attended a presentation by Tony La Montagne, University of Melbourne, a visiting expert in matters including smoking cessation and the workplace.

Key ACT AOD Sector and Prisons Project activities:

- The Project findings are currently being compiled into a three part abridged report for distribution to the sector.

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