

ACT AOD Sector Project

Monthly Summary Report

May - June 2009

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

Key ACT AOD Sector Project activities:

- From 11 May – 10 June 2009 the AOD Sector Project website has received 356 visits from 243 unique visitors. There have been 1,267 page views, the most popular being the ACT AOD Services Directory page.
- The June 2009 AOD Sector eBulletin was compiled, edited and distributed to subscribers on Monday 1 June 2009. AOD Sector eBulletin subscribers have increased from 434 to 451.
- The monthly AOD Sector Forum was held on Thursday 28 May, 9.30am – 11.30am at the Youth Coalition office. The agenda included an update on the AOD Sector Project and information sharing. A 1 hour presentation was provided by Joanne Cassar, ACT Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System (EDRS) Coordinator, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC). Joanne presented findings from the 2008 ACT IDRS AND EDRS, providing an opportunity for workers to engage with these key research documents. Information on the methodology and process was provided, with a focus on how workers can support people to engage in the survey. 13 sector workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project Team
 - Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT (ADFACT)
 - Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - CAHMA
 - Centacare
 - Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc
 - WIREDD, Toora Women Inc
- A Workers Group meeting was held on Thursday 11 June 2009. Key items that were discussed included an update on Project activities, a review of the Training and Professional Development Calendar and Identifying a Workers Group representative for the Conference. 15 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)
- Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
- Centacare
- DIRECTIONS ACT
- Gagan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc
- Ted Noffs Foundation
- WIREDD, Toora Women Inc

Key Issues to Arise:

- The Workers Group have noted that the following Strategies or Frameworks are under development:
 - The Office for Children, Youth and Family Support has released an initial discussion paper to inform the development of the ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014. Submissions are due 23 July 2009. A draft Plan will be released in August. A key issue identified in the discussion paper is binge drinking.
 - A discussion paper to inform the development of the ACT Disability Policy Framework 2009 – 2014 has been released. Submissions are due 26 June 2009.
 - The Mental Health Promotion Prevention and Early Intervention Framework - Building a Strong Foundation: A Framework for Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT 2009–2014 and the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy - Managing the Risk of Suicide Two: A Suicide Prevention Strategy 2006–2008 have been released for public consultation. Consultation will close on 21 July 2009.
- The Workers Group are keen to participate in any relevant consultations related to the development of these key documents.

Key ACT AOD Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profiling Project Activities:

- Approximately 135 completed surveys were returned to the Project Team, comprising approximately 70% of the sector.
- Ray Lovett, Consultant, is currently developing preliminary data with a first draft report expected within a month.

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

- A Drug Action Week Planning Group was held on Thursday 11 June 2009. Key agenda items included an update on the launch and conference and distribution of merchandise. 14 workers attended from the following services:
 - ACT AOD Sector Project
 - Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)

- Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health
 - AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
 - CAHMA
 - DIRECTIONS ACT
 - Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
 - Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc
 - Save A Mate, Australian Red Cross
 - WIREDD, 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. 15 services stall are confirmed and 37 people have RSVP'd for the Launch, including 6 MLA's. Confirmed guest speakers are:
 - Ms. Katy Gallagher, MLA, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Health
 - Mrs. Agnes Shea OAM, Ngunnawal Elder
 - Mr Mark Cooper-Stanbury, Australian Institute for Health and Welfare
 - The ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events was collated by the Project Team, with 400 hard copies distributed to the AOD and allied sectors. The calendar contains 34 events.
 - A Launch flyer was developed by the Project Team, with 200 hard copies distributed to the AOD and allied sectors.
 - The Conference program and registration form were finalised, with 200 hard copies distributed to AOD and allied sectors.
 - A Drug Action Week mail out was sent to 120 AOD, mental health, youth and community services, as well as all ACT MLA's.
 - The Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference: *Exploring the Relationships between ACT AOD Services and the New Prison* will be held 8.30am – 5pm, Wednesday 24 June 2009, at the National Library of Australia. The conference is now **fully booked**, with 100 registrations from a diversity of services. All Conference speakers are confirmed, and the Project Team is currently liaising with them regarding their presentations, and transportation/accommodation needs.

Key Issues to Arise:

- As the Conference is now fully booked, workers from the AOD and allied sectors are no longer able to register. A list of those that have missed out is being maintained by the Project Team.

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 fourth and final competency on 1 - 3 June 2009. Stream 2 will complete the third competency on 15 – 17 June 2009.
- An online survey to elicit feedback from participants regarding each competency has been developed and distributed to workers.
- The Project Team met with CIT, to discuss possible options for Semester 2, 2009 and the CIT Program Advisory Group.

Key Issues to Arise

- Workers have started to request information about the roll out of the Minimum Qualification Strategy in Semester 2.

Key Comorbidity Project activities:

- The ACT AOD Sector Project has signed a contract from the Department of Health and Ageing for Comorbidity Project funding for 2 years. It is anticipated that Comorbidity Project will recommence full implementation shortly.

Some key items to arise include:

- The Project Team is currently discussing staffing for the Comorbidity 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.
- A Project Plan has been developed, outlining timelines and strategies, including the development of a survey following the Conference.
- A presentation was provided by Ben Frommel to Workers Group members regarding their potential involvement in the Project.

AOD Sector Project Staff:

- Amanda Bode, Project Officer, amanda@aodsector.org.au (fulltime)
- Carrie Fowlie, Director, ACT AOD Sector Project, carrie@aodsector.org.au (2 days per week)
- David McDonald, Consultant, mail@socialresearch.com.au
- Ray Lovett, Consultant
- Ben Frommel, Student Placement and Project Officer, (1 day per week) student@aodsector.org.au
- Katrina Campion, Project Officer, 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