

## ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: April 2009

The monthly ACT AOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information relevant to AOD workers in the ACT. The eBulletin is an activity of the ACT AOD Sector Project which is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT. To subscribe, submit an item or to provide feedback email [ebulletin@aodsector.org.au](mailto:ebulletin@aodsector.org.au).

### News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

#### ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing a Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) for the AOD sector. Under the MQS, all workers of ACT Health funded AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification. In October 2008, ACT Health contracted the ACT AOD Sector Project, which is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, to administer \$150 000 in funding to support workers to participate in the MQS. 40 applications to register for the AOD Four Core Competencies (Semester 1, 2009) were successful and the following class streams have been organised:

##### Class dates for Stream 1:

March 2, 3, 4 CHCAOD2C: Orientation to the AOD Sector  
 April 6, 7, 8 CHCAOD6B: Working with Clients who are Intoxicated  
 May 4, 5, 6 CHCAOD8C: Assess the Needs of Clients who have AOD issues  
 June 1, 2, 3 CHCAOD10A: Work with Clients who have AOD issues

##### Class dates for Stream 2:

March 16, 17, 18 CHCAOD2C: Orientation to the AOD Sector  
 May 11, 12, 13 CHCAOD6B: Working with Clients who are Intoxicated  
 June 15, 16, 17 CHCAOD8C: Assess the Needs of Clients who have AOD issues  
 July 20, 21, 22 CHCAOD10A: Work with Clients who have AOD issues

If you have any questions, or for more information please visit [www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au) or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on (02) 6247 3540 or [info@aodsector.org.au](mailto:info@aodsector.org.au)

#### Evaluation of the Orientation to the AOD Sector Competency, for participants enrolled with the Canberra Institute of Technology

The *Orientation to the AOD Sector* Competency is a component of the ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy, which is overseen by the ACT AOD Sector Project. A survey has been developed to collect feedback from participating workers. Information collected will help inform the development of the competencies. The survey should take you about 5 minutes to complete and information provided will be anonymous. A similar survey will be conducted with participants, following the completion of each competency in Semester 1, 2009.

*Stream 1:* To access the survey please visit

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=er1isKmknmztbvFP6b22uQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=er1isKmknmztbvFP6b22uQ_3d_3d)

*Stream 2:* To access the survey please visit

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8nRixDh\\_2fu1IGOwVZgvkb8g\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=8nRixDh_2fu1IGOwVZgvkb8g_3d_3d)

For more information please visit [www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au) or contact Amanda Bode, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer on (02) 6247 3540 or [amanda@aodsector.org.au](mailto:amanda@aodsector.org.au)

#### April 2009 ACT AOD Sector Forum

The ACT AOD sector forum is for AOD workers and is hosted by a different AOD service each month.

*Date:* Thursday 23 April 2009

*Time:* 9.15am for arrivals. 9.30 - 11.30am for forum.

*Guest speaker topic:* Recent changes to detoxification services in the ACT>

*Venue:* DIRECTIONS ACT, 1 Bradley St, Woden

*Note:* This forum is for AOD workers only.

### In This Edition...

#### News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

Update on Project activities.

#### ACT Drug Action Week 2009

Update on activities related to Drug Action Week 2009 in the ACT.

#### ACT AOD Sector Forum Update

Information from services that attended the AOD sector monthly forum.

#### Sector Activities and Events

Launches, key weeks, international days and program and service activities.

#### News from the Executive Directors' Group

Information from the EDs' group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

#### Sector Development

Information on networks, resources, websites, factsheets and tools for workers.

#### Training and Professional Development

Training for the AOD and allied sectors, including upcoming seminars, conferences, bus tours, courses and other professional development opportunities.

#### Policy, Reports and Research

New research, reports, inquiry findings, and any key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.

#### Media

Media releases and news items relevant to the ACT AOD Sector.

#### Consumer Participation

Information items about consumer participation that are relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

#### Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Information from and about allied sectors that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

For more information or to RSVP contact Amanda Bode, Project Officer on [info@aodsector.org.au](mailto:info@aodsector.org.au) or (02) 6247 3540.

### Submissions for the May - June 2009 Training and Professional Development Calendar

The Training and Professional Development Calendar is produced bimonthly by the Youth Coalition in partnership with the ACT AOD Sector Project and is calling for submissions for the period of May to June 2009. The Training Calendar provides information on training and professional development opportunities for workers in the AOD and allied sectors. This calendar has an average distribution of over 500 in the ACT and surrounding areas.

To include your training in the calendar for May - June 2009, email [erin@youthcoalition.net](mailto:erin@youthcoalition.net) or call the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 by Friday 17 April 2009, to provide the following details:

- Name of the training/course
- Date(s) of the training/course
- Contact person/phone number/e-mail address for RSVP
- Cost of training/course.

### ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project, auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, is a capacity building Project that began in July 2007, and is funded by ACT Health. The Project provides support to ACT AOD workers to conduct activities. The Project aims to build the capacity and identity of the ACT AOD sector, foster intra and cross-sectoral relationships, and improve outcomes while maintaining respect for the diversity of services and for people who are affected by AOD.

For more information visit [www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au) or [info@aodsector.org.au](mailto:info@aodsector.org.au) or (02) 6247 3540.

See also:

*Training and Professional Development* section for the 'ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar'

### ACT Drug Action Week 2009

Drug Action Week (DAW) is a national week of activities to raise awareness about AOD issues and to promote the achievements of those who work to reduce drug related harm. DAW will be held from 21 - 27 June 2009.

Nationally, DAW is coordinated by the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia. More information on DAW nationally is available from [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au)

### ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group

Following the success of Drug Action Week in the ACT in 2008, the ACT AOD Sector Project will again be coordinating an ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group. The Planning Group will be involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week and is open to all workers from AOD and allied services.

*Date:* Thursday 16 April 2009

*Time:* 2 - 3pm

*Location:* Youth Coalition Office, 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor.

*RSVP:* To Erin Barry on [info@aodsector.org.au](mailto:info@aodsector.org.au) or (02) 6247 3540

### Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT

Drug Action Week (DAW) in the ACT will be launched by the Minister for Health, Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, at the ACT Legislative Assembly on Friday 19 June 2009. The Launch will also feature service stalls by AOD services to profile their programs and provide information about their services.

*Date:* Friday 19 June 2009

*Time:* To be confirmed

*Venue:* ACT Legislative Assembly

For more information about the Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT, email [daw@aodsector.org.au](mailto:daw@aodsector.org.au) or call (02) 6247 3540.

### Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference

#### Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD and allied sectors.

#### Grants and Funding Opportunities

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

Following on from the success of the First Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference in 2008, ACT Drug Action Week 2009 will see the Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference, held on Wednesday 24 June 2009. The Conference will focus on the relationship between ACT AOD Services, and the ACT's new correctional facilities; and will feature both local and national speakers. The Conference program and registration information will be available in April.

*Date:* Wednesday 24 June 2009

*Venue:* National Library of Australia.

For more information, email [conference@aodsector.org.au](mailto:conference@aodsector.org.au) or call (02) 6247 3540.

### **Call for Contributions: ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events**

To promote activities that will be held in the ACT during Drug Action Week 2009, the ACT AOD Sector Project will be collating and distributing a calendar of local events. To include your events on the ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events, please contact Erin on [daw@aodsector.org.au](mailto:daw@aodsector.org.au) or (02) 6247 3540 with the following details:

- Title of event
- Time and location
- Contact details

Contributions for the ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events are due by Friday 15 May 2009.

### **ACT AOD Sector Forum Update**

This section reports on information shared by services, programs and workers who attend the monthly ACT AOD Sector Forum.

#### **Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)**

*Service spokesperson:* Tim Green

*Phone:* (02) 6291 9591, *Email:* [timothy.g@adfact.org](mailto:timothy.g@adfact.org)

Some programs currently being offered by ADFACT include:

- Karralika Adult Program: Provides up to 12 months of residential rehabilitative care for single adults and couples with AOD dependencies, using the therapeutic community approach to treatment.
- Karralika Family Program: Provides up to 12 months of residential rehabilitative care for adults with AOD dependencies and accompanying children, using the therapeutic community approach to treatment.
- Sober Driver Program: Provides a 9 week course for people who are convicted of or facing charges for drink-driving offences.
- The Nexus Program: Provides the Men's Halfway House Program and the Aftercare Program that offers a community based treatment program for people with AOD issues.

#### **Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP), ACT Health**

##### **Aboriginal Liaison Officer:**

*Service spokesperson:* Gabrielle Sledge

*Phone:* (02) 6205 8387, *Email:* [gabrielle.sledge@act.gov.au](mailto:gabrielle.sledge@act.gov.au)

- Provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access and participate in all AOD services, whether they be mainstream or Indigenous services.

##### **Opioid Treatment Service (OTS):**

*Service spokesperson:* Amy Faden

*Phone:* (02) 6244 2591, *Email:* [amy.faden@act.gov.au](mailto:amy.faden@act.gov.au)

- Provides prescriptions and dosing of pharmacotherapies for people seeking to manage opioid use.
- The Case Management program continues within the OTS.

- A Women's Health Drop In Clinic is held at Building 7, at The Canberra Hospital each Thursday.

#### **Withdrawal Unit:**

*Service spokesperson: Amy Faden*

*Phone: (02) 6244 2591, Email: [amy.faden@act.gov.au](mailto:amy.faden@act.gov.au)*

- Provides up to 7 days of medicated residential or non-residential support for people experiencing withdrawal.
- The Unit has continued to face high demand since the new year.

### **Alcohol and Other Drug Policy Unit, ACT Health**

*Spokesperson: John Didlick*

*Phone: (02) 6205 0863, Email: [john.didlick@act.gov.au](mailto:john.didlick@act.gov.au)*

Current priorities of the Policy Unit include:

- Developing the next ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy
- Collaborating with the Drugs Policy Modelling Program on the development of the AOD service system (including Corrections) model for the ACT.
- Developing Opioid Maintenance Treatment Guidelines

### **Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)**

*Service Spokesperson: Joanne*

*Phone: (02) 6279 1670, Email: [joanner@cahma.org.au](mailto:joanner@cahma.org.au)*

Some activities and programs currently being offered by CAHMA include:

- Facilitating the Methadone / Buprenorphine Consumers Pharmacotherapy Action and Advocacy Team.
- Providing outreach to the Civic Needle and Syringe Program from 10am - 12pm each Wednesday.
- Providing a free healthy lunch in Garema Place, every second Wednesday of the month.

#### **The Connection (now a program of CAHMA):**

Some activities and programs currently being offered by the Connection include:

- Hosting a Family BBQ and 'Art Attack' Program at Boomerang Centre, Allawah flats, on the first and third Thursday of each month.

### **Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation**

*Service spokesperson: Selina Walker*

*Phone: (02) 6231 9555, Email: [selina@gugan-gulwan.com.au](mailto:selina@gugan-gulwan.com.au)*

Gugan Gulwan provides the following services:

- Young Men's Mentoring Group: This project meets each Monday evening from 5-8pm.
- Young Mum's Group: Operates each Tuesday from 10 am – 2pm.
- Numeracy and Literacy Class: Held from 9am - 3pm on Wednesday and Thursdays.
- Young Women's Group: Operates on a Wednesday afternoon from 4.30-7.30 pm.
- Young Men's Group: Meets each Wednesday from 10am-3pm.
- School Holiday Program: This program is operated each school holidays and is the only Indigenous specific program available to young people attending school.

Download a [Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation Staff Contact List](#).

### **Lesley's Place - Toora Women Inc**

*Service spokesperson: Tai Sullivan*

*Phone: (02) 6241 7233, Email: [lesleys@toora.org.au](mailto:lesleys@toora.org.au)*

- Provides recovery based supported accommodation for up to 3 months for women and accompanying children. Outreach support can be provided pre and post AOD withdrawal.
- Lesleys Place will be looking at changes regarding the flexibility with which women can access the

service in the coming months.

## **Women's Information, Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIREDDD), Toora Women Inc**

Service spokesperson: Susan

Phone: (02) 6248 8600, Email: [wired@toora.org.au](mailto:wired@toora.org.au)

WIREDDD currently provides:

- Information and support for women about drugs
- Support for women with dependency issues
- Free confidential counselling
- AOD assessments and referrals
- Groups including the Family of Origin Group and Relapse Prevention Group (starting again in April from 10.30am - 12.30pm each Tuesday)
- Advocacy
- Education and training to the community
- Outreach support to the Alcohol and Drug Program Withdrawal Unit, Arcadia House, the Psychiatric Services Unit, and Belconnen and Symonston Remand Centres.
- Drop In, available 11am – 4pm, Mondays, Thursday and Fridays; and 2pm – 4pm on Tuesdays for women and accompanying children.

## **Sector Activities and Events**

### **National Drug and Alcohol Awards Nominations Closing Date Extended**

*Ted Noffs Foundation, the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF) and the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD).*

Now in its sixth year, the National Drug and Alcohol Awards (NDAA) honour the dedication and innovation within the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) sector. Award finalists and winners will be announced at a Gala Dinner to be held at the culmination of Drug Action Week, Friday 26 June 2009 in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra.

Nominations close 5pm, April 3, 2009. For information on award categories and nominations visit

[www.drugawards.org.au/index.html](http://www.drugawards.org.au/index.html)

### **The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)**

*National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)*

The EDRS monitors the price, purity and availability and patterns of use of illicit drugs as well as acting as an early warning system for emerging markets. Currently, researchers from NDARC would like to talk to people who use ecstasy in the ACT. Interviews take about an hour and are strictly confidential and anonymous. Participants will be reimbursed up to \$40 for their time and expenses.

For more information download the [ACT EDRS flyer](#) or contact Jo on (02) 9385 0397 or

[actedrs@med.unsw.edu.au](mailto:actedrs@med.unsw.edu.au)

### **Therapeutic Communities: Getting Better All the Time - Partnerships, Practice and Collaboration Conference**

*Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)*

ATCA is currently inviting applications for presentations of papers, project snapshots, agency displays, seminars and/or workshops which address the Conference themes. They particularly invite presentations on Cultural Indigenous Issues from Australian and New Zealand delegates. Poster presentations and agency displays will be on view at specified times. Conference themes are:

- Comorbidity: same people different settings?
- Indigenous Cultural Issues here and across the water. What can we learn?
- Corrections – Drugs and Mental Health, getting the mix right for rehabilitation.
- Families – Working with complexities.
- Youth – More understanding and less pathologising.

Details of the conference are:

*Date:* 14 - 19 September, 2009

*Venue:* The Rydges Hotel, Capital Hill, Canberra

Download all the information about the conference plus the Call for Abstracts from [www.atca.com.au/home.htm](http://www.atca.com.au/home.htm)

## National Human Rights Consultation

The Australian Government has announced a National Human Rights Consultation, being conducted by an independent committee during the first half of 2009. This is a great opportunity for all people in Australia to have their say about human rights and how they should be protected.

You can share your views about human rights with the Committee in a number of ways including:

- You can make a submission on through the website:  
[https://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/nhrcc.nsf/Page/HaveYourSay\\_SubmissionForm](https://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/nhrcc.nsf/Page/HaveYourSay_SubmissionForm)
- You can send your written submission to:  
National Human Rights Consultation Secretariat  
Attorney-General's Department  
Central Office  
Robert Garran Offices  
National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600
- Organise your own Community Roundtable

The deadline for submissions is 15 June 2009. For further information, or to order an information pack, please call the National Human Rights Consultation Secretariat on 1800 086 134 or email

[humanrightsconsultation@ag.gov.au](mailto:humanrightsconsultation@ag.gov.au) or visit: [www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au](http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au)

## New Day Refuge for Women

*Toora Women Inc*

Toora is feminist organisation that is focused on empowering women to help themselves. The Day Refuge is a place for homeless or at risk women (unaccompanied by children) to relax and enjoy a safe and quiet space.

Toora Day Refuge offers:

- Free internet access
- Tea and coffee
- Bulk bill access to a psychologist ( by appointment)
- Discounted food bank
- Emotional Support
- Shower Facilities
- Washing and Drying Facilities
- Rest in a quiet space
- Computer and print access
- Self Help and support group
- Craft and art activities
- Friendly supportive staff
- Information and referrals

For more information contact the day refuge on (02) 6247 2399. Please note that the address is strictly confidential.

## NRMA Insurance Volunteer of The Year Awards 2009

*Volunteering ACT*

Volunteering ACT is calling for nominations for the NRMA Insurance ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards 2009. To nominate a volunteer, please send in a completed nomination form, along with supporting evidence to address the selection criteria.

Visit [www.volunteeract.org.au](http://www.volunteeract.org.au) to download a copy of the nomination form. Nominations close Wednesday 15 April 2009.

For more information contact Kerry, Volunteering ACT on (02) 6251 4060.

## Consultation: Transport and Social Inclusion in the ACT

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS invites you to a consultation that will inform the direction of an ACTCOSS project looking at the transport needs of people experiencing disadvantage in the ACT. At this stage it is intended that the project will explore issues including:

- Social inclusion theory and transport disadvantage;
- Specific transport issues, problems and needs of people experiencing disadvantage in the ACT region;
- Alternatives for government policy making and resource allocation;
- Opportunities for community; government and community; or cross- government linkages and projects; and
- Recommendations for change.

ACTCOSS is interested in hearing the thoughts of community sector organisations, stakeholder groups, consumers and carers on transport issues in the ACT and in discussing suggested recommendations for change and improvement.

*Date:* Tuesday 7 April, 2009.

*Time:* 9:30am - 12pm

*Venue:* ACTCOSS Office, Level 1, 67 Townshend St, Phillip.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP for the consultation by email to [brooke.mckail@actcoss.org.au](mailto:brooke.mckail@actcoss.org.au)

## News from the Executive Directors Group

This section highlights information from the Executive Directors/Chief Executive Officers Group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

In March 2009, the Executive Directors/Chief Executive Officers Group:

- Received an update from the ACT AOD Sector Project regarding recent activities.
- Provided agency representatives for Drug Action Week activities/planning.
- Held ongoing discussion regarding governance and the future development of the sector.
- Reached agreement that the ACT AOD Sector Project should be refunded until June 2010.
- Discussed how the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy is now with the ACT Health Executive before going to Government.
- Dr Michael Levy attended last EDs/CEO meeting to provide an update on Corrections Health Review.
- Discussed funding being provided by ACT Health to conduct a study into remuneration and conditions across the AOD sector.

## Sector Development

### The Role of Schools in Alcohol Education

*The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)*

NCETA has been commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) to undertake a project to examine the role of schools in alcohol education. This national project is part of the Government's "Youth Binge Drinking Initiative". The project aims to:

- Investigate existing research on alcohol education programs aimed at deterring and reducing alcohol use in secondary school students
- Consult with experts and key stakeholders (e.g. school staff and students, parents of school students) about their experience with school-based alcohol education programs
- Provide practical recommendations to DEEWR.

The Project comprises:

- A Call for Submissions (Close Friday, 3 April 2009): Experts in education, alcohol research, law enforcement, policy advisors and health economists, as well as community stakeholders, such as youth

groups, students and parents, will be invited to submit their views on these issues.

- An On-line survey (Close Friday, 3 April 2009): the on-line survey will be active from Friday 27 February and can be accessed from the NCETA website.
- A literature review
- Stakeholder interviews: Face-to-face or telephone interviews will be conducted with school personnel and students from Government, Independent and Catholic schools in each state and territory.

For further details of the project go to [www.nceta.flinders.edu.au](http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au)

## **Online AOD Websites – What Do You Think?**

*Queensland University of Technology (QUT)*

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) has contracted QUT to investigate the existence and usage of internet sites providing information about AOD and comorbidity to Australians. As part of this research they are conducting an online survey investigating health practitioners' views and opinions about AOD websites. In particular, they are interested in what health practitioners like and don't like about these kinds of health-related information or treatment websites. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. Everyone who completes the survey can enter the draw for an 8GB IPOD Nano.

To participate in the survey visit <http://tinyurl.com/healthpractionersAODwebsurvey>.

## **Cleaning of Used injecting Equipment Questionnaire**

*Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League (AIVL)*

AIVL is undertaking a project funded by New South Wales Health to look into the Cleaning of Used Injecting Equipment by Injecting Drug Users. The aim of the project is to ascertain what educational messages are currently based on, what messages various agencies are disseminating and how drug users are then interpreting that information. Dr Lisa Maher and her team at National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) have completed a Literature Review for the project.

AIVL are now at the stage of consulting with people in various sectors, and asking them to complete a short questionnaire on the information they provide (or not) on cleaning of used injecting equipment to injecting drug users. With your help AIVL will be able to provide a picture of what is actually happening around both the information provided and the behaviour itself. The project hopes come up with a set of recommendations that will allow for further research into this area.

To participate email [judeb@aivl.org.au](mailto:judeb@aivl.org.au) for a copy of the questionnaire.

## **Australian Comorbidity Training Review and Database**

*National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)*

This new resource from NCETAs Workforce Development Report Series includes the report *Alcohol & Other Drugs, Mental Health & Comorbidity: A Training Review* and a CD-ROM with an interactive Microsoft Office Access Database titled *Alcohol & Other Drugs, Mental Health & Comorbidity: Australian Training Courses Database 2008*. The database includes 1192 accredited and non-accredited courses in the fields of AOD, mental health (MH), and AOD/MH Comorbidity and Psychology that were available in Australia in 2008.

To order your copy of the Report and CD-ROM or the CD-ROM only, please email NCETA reception at [nceta@flinders.edu.au](mailto:nceta@flinders.edu.au) or telephone (08) 8201 7535.

You can also download a pdf of the report from NCETA's website at [www.nceta.flinders.edu.au](http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au).

## **Over the Counter Codeine Survey**

*Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre*

People who have recently used over the counter codeine are invited to take part in a research project examining the misuse of pain-killers/analgesics containing codeine and mental health and other problems. This study will examine the use of 'over the counter' (OTC) codeine containing analgesics and examine factors that could be associated with developing problems with codeine.

The study aims to better understand the development of dependence on these drugs to inform services and prevent harm related to these products.

The survey is anonymous and can be accessed at [www.turningpoint.org.au/research/research\\_codeine.htm](http://www.turningpoint.org.au/research/research_codeine.htm)

## **Young People and Drugs: the Facts and Issues**

#### *Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)*

The fully updated *Young people and drugs: the facts and issues* resource explores drug-related issues relevant to young people aged between 12 and 18 years. It discusses some of the most common legal and illegal drugs, why young people use drugs, drugs and the law, drug-related terminology, and some of the more common misconceptions and myths relating to drugs.

Copies can be ordered through the ADF at [www.bookshop.adf.org.au](http://www.bookshop.adf.org.au)

### **Commissioned Study on the Contribution of the Not for Profit Sector**

#### *Productivity Commission*

On 17 March 2009, the Productivity Commission received a terms of reference from the Australian Government asking it to undertake a commissioned study on the contributions of the not for profit sector. The study's focus is on:

- Improving the measurement of the sector's contributions
- Removing obstacles to maximising its contributions to society.

In undertaking the study, the Commission is to:

- Assess current and alternative measures of the contribution of the not for profit sector and how these can be used to better shape government policy and programs so as to optimise the sectors contribution to society
- Identify unnecessary impediments to the efficient and effective operation of not for profit organisations and measures to enhance their operation
- Consider ways in which the delivery and outcomes from government funded services by not for profit organisations could be improved
- Examine recent changes in the relationships between government, business and community organisations and whether there is scope to enhance these relationships so as to improve outcomes delivered by the not for profit sector
- Examine the impact of the taxation system on the ability of not for profit organisations to raise funds and the extent to which the tax treatment of the sector affects competitive neutrality.

The Commission has been asked to adopt a broad definition of the not for profit sector to encompass most types of not for profit organisations, including Australian based international aid and development agencies. It is also to have regard to the findings of the Government's Taxation Review headed by Dr Ken Henry and the Inquiry into the Definition of Charities and Related Organisations (2001).

For more information visit [www.pc.gov.au/projects](http://www.pc.gov.au/projects)

### **Training and Professional Development**

See the 'News from the ACT AOD Sector Project' Section for information on:

- ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy
- April 2009 AOD Sector Forum

### **ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (March - April 2009)**

*ACT AOD Sector Project and the Drugs in the Family Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT*

The bi-monthly Training and Professional Development Calendar is produced as a partnership between the ACT AOD Sector Project and the Youth Coalition of the ACT. The calendar compiles training and professional development opportunities available for workers from the AOD and allied sectors.

[Click here](#) to download the current Training and Professional Development Calendar or visit

[www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au)

For more information contact Erin Barry, Youth Coalition of the ACT on (02) 6247 3540 or [info@aodsector.org.au](mailto:info@aodsector.org.au)

### **Mental Health and Substance Use (Including Brief**

## **Interventions in Mental Health Work)**

*Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCCACT)*

The following two day course provides training in two units from the Certificate IV in Mental Health (CHCMH8A:

Provide interventions to meet the needs of consumers with mental health & AOD issues and CHCCS403A:

Provide brief interventions). The content of this course covers:

- The principles of working with mental health & AOD health issues using the recovery model;
- The nature of substance use and context in Australia;
- Legal and ethical issues with substance use;
- Impact of use on mental health;
- Skills in assessing the stage of change;
- Content of AOD assessment;
- Barriers to change;
- Pharmacology;
- Resources and supports available;
- An introduction to brief intervention in mental health;
- Recognise when to intervene;
- CBT;
- Motivational interviewing;
- Introductory skills development and practice in motivational interviewing & interpersonal communication skills;
- Use of the behaviour change model;
- Step by step process for providing intervention strategies and how to monitor & evaluate your interventions; and
- Resources and supports available.

*Date:* Wednesday 22 & Thursday 23 April 2009

*Time:* 9am - 5pm

*Venue:* Room 10, Level 2, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra City

*Cost:* \$100 per day per person (member) or \$150 per day per person (non-member)

To register please phone Narelle on (02) 6249 7756 or email [admin@mhccact.org.au](mailto:admin@mhccact.org.au) by 10 April 2009.

Lunch and morning/afternoon tea will be provided, please advise of any dietary requirements.

## **Building Better Boards - Governance Workshop Program**

*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)*

These workshops are designed for community sector Board or Management Committee members. They give participants a broad understanding of Governance responsibilities and how to make your Board or Management Committee function more effectively. The following sessions will be provided:

- Financial Management: Wednesday 1 April 2009.
- Effective Meetings: Wednesday 29 April 2009.
- Planning Strategically: Wednesday 13 May 2009.
- Budgeting: Wednesday 27 May 2009.

*Date:* See above

*Time:* 5.30pm - 7.30pm

*Venue:* Room 6, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra

*Cost:* \$22 for ACTCOSS members, \$27.50 for non-members

*Registration:* To find out more and register for these workshops call the ACTCOSS office on (02) 6202 7200.

## **Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Workshops**

*Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)*

The one-day workshop will include information on relevant legislation, expand on understandings of child abuse and neglect, provide an opportunity to discuss responses to a disclosure of abuse, reflect on dilemmas in making a report, reflect on what it means to be child focused and provide information on making and receiving a report.

*Dates:* Thursday 2 April 2009, Wednesday 13 May 2009 and Wednesday 17 June 2009

*Time:* 9am – 4pm

*Venue:* Beaufort Room, Level 1, Nature Conservation House, Cnr Benjamin Way and Emu Bank, Belconnen

*Cost:* Free

*RSVP:* To register email [DHCSLearning.Development@act.gov.au](mailto:DHCSLearning.Development@act.gov.au) with your name, organisation and phone number.

**Click here** for the workshop flyer.

For more information contact Robyn on (02) 6205 3839.

## **Training Workshop on ACT Housing Processes**

*Mental Health ACT & Housing ACT*

The workshop will cover various essential day to day topics related to Housing ACT such as;

- How to apply for housing
- Maintaining tenancy (which includes subjects such as rental rebates, rent payment methods, property standards and squalor)
- What to do when a consumer becomes unwell and are at risk of losing their accommodation
- What to do if squatters move in
- What to do when maintenance issues are identified (both day-to-day and emergency)
- How best to communicate with Housing ACT staff and how Mental Health ACT staff can work in partnership with Housing ACT to achieve the best possible outcomes for all involved

*Date:* Wednesday 29 April 2009 & 15 July 2009

*Time:* 1pm - 4pm

*Venue:* Kitchen, Brian Hennessey Rehabilitation Centre, Mary Potter Circuit, Bruce

Please RSVP to [lorinda.braun@act.gov.au](mailto:lorinda.braun@act.gov.au)

## **Policy, Reports and Research**

Note: Most of the reports and research items referenced below are available from the Alcohol and Other Drug Council of Australia's National Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS) <http://ndsis.adca.org.au>

### **The Final Report on the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set Enhancement Project**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) was funded by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing to examine the feasibility of introducing a statistical linkage key and one or more indicators of mental health into the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set (AODTS–NMDS). The purpose would be to provide information on how many clients across Australia receive treatment for alcohol and other drug use, how many of those clients have a co-existing mental health problem, and can the privacy of these clients be protected.

The AIHW has issued the final report on the Project. The major findings are that: 'Introduction of the components of the Statistical Linkage Key 581 to the collection are feasible and should be introduced nationally'; the first two questions of the General Screener of the PsyCheck tool '...are appropriate items to indicate the prevalence of affective and anxiety disorders in clients of AOD services'; 'Implementation of new data elements into the NMDS would vary between jurisdictions according to their existing data collection, reporting systems and subject to national agreement'; and 'Privacy is a critical issue to address in the development of the AODTS–NMDS and will require ongoing attention by the AODTS–NMDS Working Group and the AIHW' (p. 2).

Should this enhancement be introduced, it is likely that the NMDS in the ACT would need to be modified to include the extra items for the Statistical Linkage Key, e.g. client name, and the extra items on mental health problems.

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare 2009, *Enhancing the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set: counting clients and reporting comorbidity*, AIHW Bulletin no. 69, cat. no. AUS 112, AIHW, Canberra, [www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10691](http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10691).

### **How can we reduce the health risks from drinking alcohol?**

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has recently released a new set of guidelines intended to 'establish the evidence base for future policies and community materials on reducing the health risks that arise from drinking alcohol'. The NHMRC states 'we hope these guidelines will help you make an informed choice and also help health agencies guide the community in reducing health risks'.

In summary, the Guidelines are:

1. Reducing the risk of alcohol-related harm over a lifetime: for healthy men and women, drinking no more than two standard drinks on any day reduces the lifetime risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury.
2. Reducing the risk of injury on a single occasion of drinking: for healthy men and women, drinking no more than four standard drinks on a single occasion reduces the risk of alcohol-related injury arising from that occasion.
3. Children and young people under 18 years of age: parents and carers should be advised that children under 15 years of age are at the greatest risk of harm from drinking and that for this age group, not drinking alcohol is especially important; and for young people aged 15-17 years, the safest option is to delay the initiation of drinking for as long as possible.
4. Pregnancy and breastfeeding: for women who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, not drinking is the safest option; and for women who are breastfeeding, not drinking is the safest option.

National Health and Medical Research Council 2009, *Australian guidelines to reduce health risks from drinking alcohol*, National Health and Medical Research Council, Canberra,

[http://nhmrc.gov.au/your\\_health/healthy/alcohol/index.htm](http://nhmrc.gov.au/your_health/healthy/alcohol/index.htm)

### **Is it possible to identify people at risk of developing drug-related problems and to prevent or reduce the harm?**

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has published a thematic paper on a review of the theory and evidence base for indicated prevention and its value in preventing later substance abuse disorders. Indicated prevention is defined as 'a preventive individualised approach targeted at individuals at high risk of developing substance abuse or dependence later in life'.

The authors state that 'individual risks include early developmental problems such as sleep problems, externalising and internalising behaviour problems, several child psychiatric disorders (ADHD, conduct disorder and especially the association between these two, depression), post-traumatic stress disorder and events leading to it (e.g. childhood abuse, neglect), school failure, dissocial behaviour and delinquency. Personality traits such as sensation seeking may also contribute. Social learning variables including peer attitudes (prevalence of norms favourable to deviant behaviour), as well as personal approval (adoption of deviant norms) constitute separate risks. In addition, academic failure and problems related to school contribute to risk situations. Family factors such as familial substance use or abuse and lack of parental supervision constitute additional risks. Generally, boys are at a higher risk for substance use than girls. Identified high-risk groups include adolescents in foster or residential care'.

They explain that 'the aim of indicated prevention efforts is not to prevent the initiation of use or the use of substances, but to prevent the development of a dependence, to diminish the frequency of substance use and to prevent "dangerous" patterns (e.g. moderate instead of binge-drinking)'.

Reports of 21 programs of indicated prevention from 11 European countries were studied. The interventions 'mainly consisted in group work focused on reinforcing self-esteem and stimulating positive interactions and leisure activities, including sports or cultural and creative activities'.

The authors conclude that 'cooperation between the medical field and the pedagogical and psychosocial domains is needed to meet the challenges in indicated prevention of substance abuse in children and adolescents. Yet, indicated prevention seems a promising approach, especially for youngsters in a multiproblem context'.

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug 2009, *Preventing later substance use disorders in at-risk children and adolescents: a review of the theory and evidence base of indicated prevention*, Thematic Papers, Office for

Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg,  
[www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/indicated-prevention](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/thematic-papers/indicated-prevention).

### **Are kids who wear T-shirts advertising alcohol more likely to begin drinking and binge drink?**

A 24-month study commencing of over 6,000 American children aged 10 to 14 years in 2003 found between 11% and 20% owned alcohol-branded merchandise (ABM), of which 88% comprised clothing. The researchers found that 'among never-drinkers, ABM ownership and susceptibility [to alcohol use] were reciprocally related, each significantly predicting the other during an 8-month period' and 'ABM ownership and susceptibility predicted both initiation of alcohol use and binge drinking, while controlling for a broad range of covariates'. The authors conclude that their research 'provides strong evidence that alcohol-branded merchandise distribution among adolescents plays a role in their drinking behavior and provides a basis for policies to restrict the scope of such alcohol-marketing practices'.

McClure, AC, Stoolmiller, M, Tanski, SE, Worth, KA & Sargent, JD 2009, 'Alcohol-branded merchandise and its association with drinking attitudes and outcomes in US adolescents', *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, vol. 163, no. 3, pp. 211-7.

A comprehensive review of this research, entitled 'Alcohol-branded merchandise associated with drinking behaviors among teens' can be found at the website News-Medical.Net at  
[www.news-medical.net/print\\_article.asp?id=46374](http://www.news-medical.net/print_article.asp?id=46374).

### **Is there a link between alcohol and prostate cancer?**

Australian researchers Associate Professor Tanya Chikritzhs and Research Associate Richard Pascal, from the National Drug Research Institute based at Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia, working with researchers from Canada and the United States, reviewed 35 studies examining the relationship between level of drinking and the risk of developing prostate cancer. Though previous reviews had found no association between alcohol use and prostate cancer incidence, the authors concluded as a result of this review that 'men who drink two or more standard drinks a day (or 14 drinks a week) or more have about a 20% greater chance of developing prostate cancer'.

Fillmore, KM, Chikritzhs, T, Stockwell, T, Bostrom, A & Pascal, R 2009, 'Alcohol use and prostate cancer: a meta-analysis', *Molecular Nutrition & Food Research*, vol. 53, no. 2, pp. 240-55.

### **How effective are personalised feedback interventions in reducing problem drinking?**

A meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials and systematic reviews of single-session personalised-feedback interventions to reduce problem drinking without therapeutic guidance has found that these interventions appear to be effective in achieving the outcome of reduced alcohol consumption. The researchers conclude that 'The use of single-session personalized-feedback interventions without therapeutic guidance appears to be a viable and probably cost-effective option for reducing problem drinking in student and general populations. The Internet offers ample opportunities to deliver personalized-feedback interventions on a broad scale, and problem drinkers are known to be amenable to Internet-based interventions'.

Riper, H, van Straten, A, Keuken, M, Smit, F, Schippers, G & Cuijpers, P 2009, 'Curbing problem drinking with personalized-feedback interventions: a meta-analysis', *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, vol. 36, no. 3, pp. 247-55.

### **What research is needed to improve Indigenous tobacco control?**

Roundtable discussions to identify gaps and priorities in national Indigenous tobacco control research were held in Brisbane on 23 May 2008. A report on these discussions is now available. It identifies five key areas for further analysis: creating positive environments for smoking cessation; improving our understanding of motivations for

smoking and not smoking; improving knowledge of best practice interventions; empowering and supporting the health workforce; and best use of resources to support tobacco control.

Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (Australia) 2008, 'Indigenous tobacco control in Australia: everybody's business: National Indigenous Tobacco Control Research Roundtable report: Brisbane, Australia 23 May 2008', Melbourne, [www.ceitc.org.au/system/files/CEITC+Roundtable+Report\\_web\\_1.pdf](http://www.ceitc.org.au/system/files/CEITC+Roundtable+Report_web_1.pdf).

### **Can amphetamines alone cause death?**

An article in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* reports on an examination of the effects of amphetamine-class drugs in cases reported to the Victorian coroner from 2001 to 2005 to determine if death can occur from the use of amphetamine-class drugs alone. A forensic autopsy detected amphetamine(s) in the blood in 169 cases. The researchers reported that, of these, 'there were six cases in which a cerebral hemorrhage caused death and three cases in which serotonin syndrome was established as being caused by the interaction of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) and moclobemide. There were 19 cases in which long-term use of amphetamines was associated with heart disease. There were three cases where amphetamine-class drugs alone were regarded as the cause of death, of which two cases exhibited high levels of MDMA and lesser amounts of methamphetamine (MA) and/or amphetamine. There were no cases in which significant natural disease was absent and death was regarded as caused by the use of MA. There was no correlation between blood concentration of drug and outcome'.

Pilgrim, JL, Gerostamoulos, D, Drummer, OH & Bollmann, M 2009, 'Involvement of amphetamines in sudden and unexpected death', *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, vol. 54, no. 2, pp. 478-85.

### **Are naltrexone implants safe?**

In a recent editorial in the *Medical Journal of Australia* (MJA) Dr Alex Wodak, Director of the Alcohol and Drug Service, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, in conjunction with Associate Professor Robert Ali, Adjunct Professor David Henry and Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, deplored the fact that naltrexone implants have not been subject to the usual rigorous scrutiny required for new devices in Australia, but are widely used through the Therapeutic Goods Administration Special Access Scheme. The authors explain that 'the inclusion of naltrexone implants in the Scheme and their widespread use (reportedly by more than 1500 individuals) means the product has achieved a substantial market while not undergoing the rigorous evaluation usually applied to drugs before registration'.

This issue of the MJA includes an article by Lintzeris and others about eight patients with naltrexone implants who developed serious medical complications considered to be related to the implant.

Wodak, AD, Ali, R, Henry, D & Sansom, L 2008, 'Ensuring the safety of new medications and devices: are naltrexone implants safe?' *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 188, no. 8, pp. 438-9, [www.mja.com.au/public/issues/188\\_08\\_210408/wod10120\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/188_08_210408/wod10120_fm.html).

### **Is it possible to estimate illicit drug use by studying sewage?**

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction has published a report analysing communal wastewaters for illicit drugs. The review includes articles from different research disciplines including: analytical chemistry, physiology and biochemistry, sewage engineering, spatial epidemiology and statistics, and conventional drug epidemiology.

One of the project leaders, Norbert Frost, writes 'Wastewater analysis offers an interesting and new opportunity to provide a comparable picture of the distribution of illicit drug consumption, which could also help to inform a more precisely tailored preventive response or other appropriate interventions. In view of a proposed European agreement to monitor wastewater for environmental purposes, it may be feasible to consider the possibility of extending this approach to include monitoring of illicit drugs'.

He explains: 'The analysis of illicit drugs in wastewater samples represents a new field of study; one that until recently has not attracted much attention. However, case studies are now being conducted, and scientific research in this newly emerging field is progressing quickly. Studies of specific urban areas with known elevated prevalence and good quality background data (demographic, socio-economic) could be particularly interesting and fruitful for further research investigation. A wastewater system contains information about the society that it serves, and it can reflect the behaviours of that population with regard to its discharge of liquid waste. Wastewater sampling for drugs in any given area has the potential to provide what might be regarded as a drug consumption index. This method is most suited for the purposes of drug surveillance at the community level, where it may be used to help public health and law enforcement activities' (p. 93).

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction 2008, *Assessing illicit drugs in wastewater: potential and limitations of a new monitoring approach*, EMCDDA Insights no. 9, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, [www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/wastewater](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/insights/wastewater).

### **What is the cost of the foetal alcohol spectrum disorder to Australia?**

Foetal (or Fetal) Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe a range of disabilities and a continuum of effects that may arise from prenatal alcohol exposure and it is widely recognized as the most common preventable cause of birth defects and brain damage in children. (Definition obtained from the website of NOFASARD – the National Organisation for FAS & Related Disorders, [www.nofasard.org.au](http://www.nofasard.org.au).)

So far as we know, no estimate has been made of the cost of FASD in Australia.

Researchers writing in the *Canadian Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* state that 'In Canada the incidence of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder...is estimated to be 1 in 100 live births', and that 'FASD is the leading cause of developmental and cognitive disabilities in Canada'. Their article gives the results of a study which calculated a revised estimate of direct and indirect costs associated with FASD at the patient level.

Their calculations indicated that 'Total adjusted annual costs associated with FASD at the individual level was \$21,642' (Canadian dollars). They found that 'Severity of the individual's condition, age, and relationship of the individual to the caregiver (biological, adoptive, foster) were significant determinants of costs'. Further, they calculated that the cost of FASD annually to Canada of those individuals '...from day of birth to 53 years old, was \$5.3 billion' (Canadian dollars). They concluded that, 'Study results demonstrated the cost burden of FASD in Canada was profound'.

If we assume that the incidence of FASD in Australia is similar to that in Canada, after adjusting for population size and the different values of the currencies, the total annual cost to Australia of FASD would be around AU\$4 billion.

Stade, B, Ali, A, Bennett, D, Campbell, D, Johnston, M, Lens, C, Tran, S, Koren, G. 2009, 'The burden of prenatal exposure to alcohol: revised measurement of cost', *Canadian Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, vol. 16, no. 1, pp. e91-102.

### **Grasping the opportunity of Opal: assessing the impact of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy**

On 19 March, Senator Claire Moore tabled this report by the Australian Parliament's Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs of its inquiry into the impact of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy. The report contains 18 recommendations, addressing the following matters: the ongoing effectiveness of the eight-point plan in combating petrol sniffing in central Australia; the extent of the roll out of Opal fuel; the delivery of youth services in the affected areas; the effectiveness and adequacy of resources provided to address petrol sniffing and substance abuse in central Australia; and what more needs to be done to effectively address petrol sniffing.

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, 2009, *Grasping the opportunity of Opal: assessing the Impact of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy*, [www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac\\_ctte/petrol\\_sniffing\\_substance\\_abuse08/](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/petrol_sniffing_substance_abuse08/)

### **The Federal Government's annual 'Closing the Gap' report**

## released

The Rudd Government released its first Annual Report on 'Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage: the Challenge for Australia', on 26 February 2009 to mark the one-year anniversary of the National Parliament's apology to the Stolen Generations.

Department of Families, Community Services, Housing and Indigenous Affairs, 2009, *Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage*, Canberra, [www.fahcsia.gov.au/indigenous/closing\\_the\\_gap/closing\\_the\\_gap.pdf](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/indigenous/closing_the_gap/closing_the_gap.pdf) Large file warning: 5MB.

## Media

### Rural Property Purchased for Bush Healing Farm

*Katy Gallagher, MLA, March 3, 2009*

ACT Health Minister Katy Gallagher today announced the purchase of a site for an alcohol and drug rehabilitation service that will address the complex issues related to drug and alcohol abuse for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The establishment of this service reflects a request from the United Ngunnawal Elders Council for a 'Bush Healing Farm'.

"The concept involves a rehabilitation service founded on re-connecting Aboriginal people to their land and culture as part of the therapeutic process," Ms Gallagher said.

"The service will target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents from the ACT and surrounding region aged 18 years and over and will accommodate 16 people who require rehabilitation, including accommodation for family members."

"We will provide a holistic service that will include programs aimed at implementing culturally appropriate prevention, education, rehabilitation and outreach programs."

"The new site at "Miowera", on Paddy's River Road Tharwa, meets all the criteria set by the ACT Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reference group," Ms Gallagher said.

To view the full media release visit [www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7774&m=52](http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7774&m=52)

### ACT Health: smoke free from 1 May 2009

*Katy Gallagher, MLA, March 13, 2009*

ACT Health facilities, including grounds and car parks, will be smoke free from 1 May 2009.

Announcing this today, ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, said from that date smoking would be permitted only in approved designated outdoor smoking areas.

"The changes will mean that from 1 May, there will be only one staff designated outdoor smoking area at any one ACT Health worksite," Ms. Gallagher said.

"For example the Canberra Hospital or Community Health Centres will have only one designated outdoor smoking area each, for staff."

"ACT Health facilities will also establish one separate designated outdoor smoking area for visitors and healthcare consumers per site," she said.

The Minister said that it was important that maximum support and encouragement was provided for both staff and patients to ensure that the new policy was a success in reducing the harmful effects of tobacco smoke.

"ACT Health will provide staff who smoke with free nicotine replacement therapy and they will be able to start this therapy before the policy comes into effect in May this year."

"Patients admitted to Canberra Hospital who smoke will be assisted by ACT Health to manage their nicotine dependence while at the hospital through nicotine replacement therapy."

Ms Gallagher said ACT Health would be publicising the policy over the next two months to ensure staff, healthcare consumers and visitors were aware that ACT Health is a smoke free healthcare provider.

To view the full media release visit [www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7800&m=52](http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7800&m=52)

### Canberras new Wellness Centre launched

*Katy Gallagher, MLA, March 13, 2009*

ACT Health Minister Katy Gallagher MLA was today pleased to launch DIRECTIONS ACT's new health clinic - the 'Althea Wellness Centre'.

The clinic offers clients access to services such as General Practitioners, youth health services, comorbidity support and assessment, sexual health services, naturopathy, and hepatitis C services to individuals who have alcohol or drug use issues.

" With the inauguration of the 'Althea Wellness Centre', DIRECTIONS ACT continues to play a key role in the provision of alcohol and other drug services in Canberra", Ms Gallagher said.

" People who use alcohol and other drugs sometimes perceive significant challenges when engaging with traditional health services."

" In providing integrated, low- or no-cost, specialised health services, the 'Althea Wellness Centre' will build upon DIRECTIONS ACT's privileged access with what can be 'hard to reach' populations."

To view the full media release visit [www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7801&m=52](http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7801&m=52)

## **Key Advisory Body Formed on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections**

*The Hon Nicola Roxon, MP, 24 March, 2009*

The Australian Government has established a new key advisory body on the national response to blood-borne viruses and sexually-transmissible infections, including HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and chlamydia. The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections is chaired by Professor Michael Kidd. It will advise the Government on a national framework to prevent and treat blood-borne viruses and sexually-transmissible infections, and play a role in implementation of the new framework and monitoring its progress and effectiveness.

The committee will also develop an action plan to prevent the spread of blood-borne viruses and sexually-transmissible infections (STIs) among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Research priorities to support the national framework will be identified by the committee along with appropriate policy responses to emerging trends in the epidemiology of blood-borne viruses and STIs.

To view the full media release visit <http://tinyurl.com/cwajlx>

## **Australia to support United Nations Indigenous rights declaration**

*ABC News Online, 26 March, 2009*

Australia will next week officially back the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, reversing the Howard Government's vote against it in 2007.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin will make a statement on Australia's change in position on April 3 at Parliament House in Canberra.

The decision to support the declaration, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, was part of the Rudd Government's election promises.

It also follows an unprecedented apology last year by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to the stolen generations.

Ms Macklin says supporting the declaration is an important step towards closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

To view the full article visit [www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/26/2527177.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/26/2527177.htm)

## **Alexander Maconochie Centre Accepts First Prisoners**

*John Hargreaves, MLA, 30 March, 2009*

Minister for Corrections John Hargreaves has announced that the Alexander Maconochie Centre accepted its first prisoners earlier today.

" While the Government readily admits it has taken longer to get to this point than we expected, it was vital that the issues which arose in the security system were rectified by the contractors before prisoners began moving in so that the AMC was safe for the community, staff and prisoners," Minister Hargreaves said.

" The security system has been stable and working well for several weeks now and has passed the commissioning process. This process was independently audited by security expert Webb Australia Group which has extensive experience across Australia in designing and commissioning prison security systems.

" Our custodial staff have had access to the AMC for some months which has allowed them to test systems and procedures, as well as undertake relevant training.

" Prisoners will be transferred to the AMC incrementally, beginning with prisoners currently held in ACT correctional facilities, followed by ACT sentenced prisoners in New South Wales. I am advised that all transfers should be completed within the next few months.

" By having a staged prisoner intake process it allows for appropriate prisoner placement and an opportunity for staff to refine operations.

" The Belconnen Remand Centre will be decommissioned.

" I am excited that the ACT can now deal with our own prisoners in a state of the art facility founded on human rights principles. Having our prisoners at the AMC allows them to maintain their important family networks and also gives us much more influence over their rehabilitation.

" A 'throughcare' model of case management will apply for each prisoner at the AMC. Each prisoner will have a case manager who will work with them to develop an individual rehabilitation plan and a pre-release plan which addresses offending behaviour and maps out education and training pathways to maximise employment opportunities upon release and to ease transition back into the community."

To view the media release visit [www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7854&m=50](http://www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=7854&m=50)

## Consumer Participation

### Association of Participating Service Users (APSU)

*Source: Practice Link, March 2009, Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre*

The APSU is an advocacy service based in Victoria with a mission of working to increase service user participation in drug treatment systems, increase service user impact on policy development and promote consumer run programs. The APSU website contains a number of resources, including a quarterly newsletter, to support the improvement of AOD services through the participation of people who have used those services.

For more information visit <http://apsuonline.org.au/>

## Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

### National Youth Week 2009

*Youth Coalition of the ACT*

National Youth Week 2009 will be held from 28 March - 5 April 2009. National Youth Week 2009 is Australia's largest celebration of young people and is set to go off with the theme 'Make a Move'.

For information on events happening in the ACT grab a copy of latest issue of BMA Magazine (Canberra's Entertainment Guide) or download the [ACT Youth Week Calendar of Events.](#)

## Employment Opportunities

### Case Manager

*Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)*

ADFACT currently operates The Nexus Program (incorporating the Men's Halfway House Program and After-care Program). Case Managers are involved in the day-to-day operations of the Nexus Program which includes the management of two halfway houses and client case load, the delivery of education sessions and other program activities.

This is a full time position (applications for part time will be considered) with an initial three-month probationary period. Salary will be in the ADFACT Level 2 -3 range. The position will be based at the ADFACT central office in Phillip. Salary packaging including PBI fringe benefits-free threshold is available. To fulfill the responsibilities of the Case Manager the successful applicant will be required to work within the guidelines of ADFACT.

Essential Qualifications and Skills:

- Relevant health/welfare qualifications/experience
- Experience/knowledge of the AOD field
- Ability to engage with and retain clients in programs
- Demonstrated Case Management skills
- Demonstrated group work skills
- Proven skills in record keeping, report writing
- Sound computer literacy
- Current driver's license

At this stage ADFACT is seeking expressions of interest (including a CV) from interested parties. Please contact:  
The Manager – ADFACT Community Programs on (02) 6163 0200 or by email at [dawn.b@adfact.org](mailto:dawn.b@adfact.org)

### **Aradia House Detoxification and Withdrawal Services Program Coordinator: Part – Time**

DIRECTIONS ACT

This proactive and challenging position will facilitate and support the therapeutic program of Arcadia House through conducting groups and coordinating external providers of groups and services to the clients of Arcadia House Withdrawal and Detoxification Services.

Salary Range: \$48,500 (pro rata plus salary packaging to \$16,000)

Hours of Work: 9.30am - 3pm, Monday to Friday (25 hours per week)

Applications close 5pm, Friday 3 April 2009 and must be submitted to [hr@directionsact.com](mailto:hr@directionsact.com) or in person at 1 Bradley St, Woden. For more information visit [www.directionsact.com](http://www.directionsact.com)

### **General Practitioner – 6 months initial contract**

DIRECTIONS ACT

The Althea Wellness Centre seeks sessional General Practitioners who enjoy the challenges of engaging and treating people with alcohol and other drug issues and their families, in an integrated response with the range of other services available at DIRECTIONS ACT. The General Practitioners will work closely with other clinical and non-clinical personnel in the Althea Team to provide the best possible holistic health care in a primary health care setting.

The position is a flexible part-time 6 month position in the first instance, which has the option of renewal after discussion with the Executive Director. The wage offered reflects the status of the position, the tertiary qualifications that the successful applicant has obtained and the standard of the work required.

Salary Range: \$120 per hour for FRACGP / \$80 per hour for non-vocational GPs

For more information visit [www.directionsact.com](http://www.directionsact.com)

### **Executive Officer**

*Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)*

MHCC ACT is a not-for-profit peak organisation representing the interests of the mental health community sector in the ACT. The key responsibilities will include:

- Developing policy relating to mental health issues;
- Managing a small team;
- Assisting the Board with development and implementation of the Strategic Plan;
- Developing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders;
- Representing the organisation at relevant forums; and
- Financial management, in close cooperation with the Treasurer.

Essential Criteria:

- Demonstrated management and leadership experience;
- High level oral communication skills, including interpersonal skills;
- High level written communication skills;
- Ability to work effectively with mental health consumers and carers, and a range of other stakeholders;  
and
- Ability to quickly acquire a sound understanding of mental health issues.

Highly Desirable:

- Experience in policy development and analysis;
- Experience in lobbying and media liaison;

- Sound computer skills; and
- Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline, or relevant experience.

The minimum salary on offer is \$70,000 pa, plus car parking; performance based annual increments, and 9% superannuation. Salary packaging including PBI fringe benefits-free threshold is available. The salary will be based on skills and experience, and the organization is willing to negotiate a sizable increase to the salary on the basis of exceptional skills and experience. It may also be possible to negotiate reduced hours.

Please email your resume direct to [jobs@sosrecruitment.com.au](mailto:jobs@sosrecruitment.com.au) in complete confidence. If you require further information direct your enquiry to (02) 6260 8533. For more information visit [www.sosrecruitment.com.au](http://www.sosrecruitment.com.au)

## Grants and Funding Opportunities

### Innovative Project Grants - October 2008 to 1 June 2009

*Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AER)*

The AER objectives are to:

- Prevent alcohol and other licit substance abuse, including petrol sniffing, particularly among vulnerable population groups such as indigenous Australians and you;
- Support evidence-based alcohol and other licit substance abuse treatment, rehabilitation, research and prevention programs; and
- Promote community education encouraging responsible consumption of alcohol and highlighting the dangers of licit substance abuse.

Innovative Project grants (capped at \$20,000 per grant) are available for organisations that pursue best-practice goals by developing innovative projects in the alcohol and other drug sector. Organisations need to demonstrate the benefits that will be gained by AER, their organisation and the broader community.

For more information or to download an application form visit [www.aerf.com.au/community/about.aspx](http://www.aerf.com.au/community/about.aspx)

### Up To \$4000 Funding Available For Children Of Drug And Alcohol Clients

*Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund, Odyssey House Victoria*

The Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund aims to enable drug and alcohol workers to pay for activities and services that will enhance children's health, connectedness to family, community, education and employment prospects, and self-esteem and well-being. A range of opportunities have been previously funded, such as music lessons, dental work, counselling, sports equipment and tutoring.

Visit [www.odyssey.org.au/brokerage/content/index.asp](http://www.odyssey.org.au/brokerage/content/index.asp) for more information or contact Jordan Trew on (03) 9420 7626 or email [jtrew@odyssey.org.au](mailto:jtrew@odyssey.org.au)

### Tenant Initiated Grants

*Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)*

The Community Linkages Program has funding available for community projects that will benefit Canberra's community and public housing tenants. Housing ACT is inviting applications from public and community housing tenants and tenant groups. The program is looking for projects that will help to:

- Achieve safer living environments
- Enable more long term tenancies
- Enhance social interaction within Housing communities
- Enhance social interaction between community and public housing tenants and the broader community
- Link tenants to employment opportunities and to community and support services; and
- Reduce poverty.

A maximum funding of up to \$5,000 will be available for each application. To find out more, please visit the Community Linkages Website at

[www.dhcs.act.gov.au/hcs/public\\_housing/community\\_linkages\\_program](http://www.dhcs.act.gov.au/hcs/public_housing/community_linkages_program)

Applications close 5pm, Friday 17 April 2009.

