

Special ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: December 2009

The monthly ACT AOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information relevant to the AOD sector 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

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

Thank You from the ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project Team would like to thank workers from the AOD and allied sectors for your hard work over 2009. It has been a very busy year in the sector, and we would like to congratulate everyone for their outstanding contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of the Canberra community, strengthening the AOD sector and supporting the ACT AOD Sector Project. We hope everyone enjoys a well deserved rest over the holiday season and we look forward to working with you all again in 2010.

ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT Office Shutdown

The Youth Coalition office will be closed from 24 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

The ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 4

The ACT AOD Services Directory aims to support workers to make referrals to AOD services in the ACT, increase cross and intra-sectoral knowledge and foster collaborations. It also aims to better communicate the diverse range of services and programs in the ACT AOD Sector. Version 4 of the Directory profiles 37 programs and contains new information about services provided to people in, and post release from, the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

The Directory is available online at

www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/directory.htm. For more information contact info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

First Annual ACT AOD Awards

The First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards were held from 10am - 12pm on Friday 11 December 2009 at the ACT Legislative Assembly. The Awards recognised individuals who, during the course of their careers, have made outstanding contributions: to improving the health and well-being of people affected by alcohol and other drugs issues; to reducing alcohol and other drug related harm; and towards developing the alcohol and other drug profession.

The Ceremony also highlighted the achievements of workers who had engaged in the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Project in 2009, with certificates of participation being presented by Dr. Colin Adrian, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Institute of Technology. The Awards were generously opened with a Welcome to Country from Ms Agnes Shea (OAM), Ngunnawal Elder. The Awards were

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also kindly presented by Ms Mary Porter, Member of the Order of Australia, Member of the Legislative Assembly, and Member for Ginninderra.

For further information on the First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards and the Award Recipients, download the [First Annual Alcohol and Other Drug Awards Booklet](#).

January ACT AOD Sector Forum

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

Guest Speaker: Discussing ACT Drug Trends - ACT Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) & Ecstasy and Related Drugs (EDRS) Reporting System

Joanne Cassar, ACT Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) & Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) Coordinator, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The IDRS and EDRS provide an evidence base for policy development by detecting changing patterns of drug use and harm, documenting the price, purity and availability of illicit drugs and monitoring patterns, trends and harms over time. Joanne will present findings from the 2009 ACT IDRS and EDRS, providing an opportunity for workers to engage with these key research documents. Information on the methodology and process for completing the annual surveys will also be provided, with a focus on how workers can support people to engage in the survey.

Date: Thursday 28 January 2010

Time: 9.30 - 10.30am (forum), 10.30 - 11.30am (presentation)

Venue: 46 Cliathus St, O'Connor (AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition office)

RSVP: Essential by Monday 25 January 2010 to (02) 6247 3540 or

info@aodsector.org.au

For more information contact Ben Frommel, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group

Drug Action Week is a national week of activities to raise awareness about alcohol and other drug issues and to promote the achievements of those who work to reduce drug related harm. Drug Action Week will be held from 20 - 26 June 2010. The AOD Sector Project will be coordinating an ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group that will be involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week. The Planning Group is open to anyone in the AOD and allied sectors.

Date: Thursday 4 February 2010

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Venue: 46 Cliathus St, O'Connor (AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition office)

RSVP: To Ben Frommel on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

ACT Biannual Comorbidity Forum

The Third Biannual ACT Comorbidity Forum aims to:

- provide an opportunity for ACT AOD and mental health workers to network and share information;
- learn about developments in, and relevant to, comorbidity and the sector;
- access professional development opportunities, information and resources;
- support professional peer networks;

- improve referrals and service knowledge, and;
- provide information about, and give workers an opportunity to have input into, the ACT AOD Sector Project and the ACT Comorbidity Project.

The forum will focus on the management of comorbid mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings.

Guest speaker: Alison Bell, Consultant to the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, on the National Comorbidity Guidelines.

As part of the National Comorbidity Initiative, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing funded the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre to develop Guidelines on the Management of Comorbid Mental Health Conditions in AOD Treatment Settings. The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide AOD workers with up-to-date, evidence-based information on the management of comorbid mental health conditions in AOD treatment settings. They are based on the best available evidence and draw upon the experience and knowledge of clinicians, researchers, consumers and carers. This forum will provide the only free training opportunity on the guidelines in the ACT.

Date: Tuesday 23 February 2010

Time: 1pm – 4:30pm

Venue: The Canberra Club, 45 West Row, Canberra City

RSVP: Essential by Friday 19 February 2010 to (02) 6247 3540 or

info@aodsector.org.au

Download the [Third Biannual ACT Comorbidity Forum Flyer](#) or visit www.aodsector.org.au.

For more information contact Amanda Bode, ACT AOD Sector Project Officer on amanda@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Information Package - Semester 1, 2010

Due to the changes in the new Community Services Training Package, in 2010 the ACT AOD minimum qualification will change. Therefore:

- this package is for ACT AOD workers who have partially completed the current ACT AOD minimum qualification
- so they can apply for funding to obtain the minimum qualification in semester 1, 2010
- through assessment and training at the Canberra Institute of Technology.

This will ensure all workers and agencies are provided with an opportunity to complete the current minimum qualification prior to the new one being introduced.

Download the [ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Minimum Qualification Strategy Information Package - Semester 1, 2010](#).

For further information or to register for training and assessment opportunities please contact the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Project, by phone on (02) 6247 3540, email info@aodsector.org.au or visit www.aodsector.org.au.

About the 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 2007 and is funded by ACT Health. 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 or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

AOD Services End of Year Shutdown Periods

This section outlines the end of year shutdown dates for the ACT Health funded AOD services.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)

Employment Support Services:

Shutdown: Employment Support Services will be closed from 25 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

Nexus Program:

Shutdown: The Nexus Program will be closed for intake or assessment from 14 December 2009 and will reopen 4 January 2010.

Karralika Program:

Shutdown: The Karralika Program will be closed for intake or assessment from 25 December 2009 and will reopen 4 January 2010.

Sober Driver Courses:

Shutdown: Sober Driver Courses will not run from 25 December 2009 to 31 January 2010.

Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP), ACT Health

Counselling and Treatment Service & Diversion Services:

Shutdown: The Counselling and Treatment and Diversion Services will be closed from 24 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

Opioid Treatment Service:

Shutdown: Medical clinics will cease on 24 December and resume on Monday 4 January. Between Christmas and New Year there will be Medical Officers on call, who can be contacted via The Canberra Hospital switch on (02) 6244 2222. This contact is for professionals only, not for clients. The clinic can be contacted on (02) 6244 2191 or (02) 6205 1000 between 7am - 3.30pm between 26 December and 3 January. For 24 hour drug and alcohol information and advice, contact the intake line on (02) 6207 9977.

Withdrawal Unit:

Shutdown: The Withdrawal Unit will be closed from 24 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) & The Connection Program

Shutdown: CAHMA and The Connection will be closed from 23 December 2009 and will reopen 4 January 2010.

Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army

Shutdown: Canberra Recovery Services will remain open throughout the holiday period.

DIRECTIONS ACT

Woden Office:

Shutdown: DIRECTIONS ACT Woden Office will be closed from 23 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

Althea Wellness Centre:

Shutdown: Althea Wellness Centre will be closed from 23 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

Arcadia House Withdrawal and Detox Centre:

Shutdown: Arcadia House Withdrawal and Detox Centre will be closed from 15 December 2009 and reopen for admissions 6 January 2010.

Needle & Syringe Program (NSP):

Shutdown:

23 December 2009: 9am - 12pm

24 December 2009: 9am - 5pm

25 December 2009: (Christmas Day): Closed

28 December 2009: 10am - 2pm

29 December 2009: 9am - 5pm

30 December 2009: 9am - 5pm

31 December 2009: 9am - 5pm

1 January 2009: (New Years Day): Closed

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

Shutdown: Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation will be closed from 21 December 2009 and reopen 4 January 2010.

Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc

Shutdown: Lesleys Place will continue to operate at normal hours throughout the holiday period.

Oasis Bridge Program, Salvation Army

Shutdown: The Oasis Bridge Program will be closed from 18 December 2009 and reopen 11 January 2010.

Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra

Shutdown: The Sobering Up Shelter will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night throughout the holiday period.

Ted Noffs Foundation ACT

Shutdown: The Ted Noffs Foundation will be contactable by phone during normal hours. There will be no intake or assessments from 24 December to 29 December 2009.

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services

Shutdown: Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services will close at 12pm on 24 December 2009 and reopen for reduced hours (until 1pm) on 29, 30 & 31 December

2009. There will be no services available on 1 January 2010 and normal hours will resume on 4 January 2010.

Womens Information, Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIREDDD), Toora Women Inc

Shutdown: WIREDDD will be closed from 24 December 2009 and reopen 11 January 2010. Relapse prevention starts on 2 February 2010.

Crisis Services

This section outlines the crisis services that will be available throughout the end of year period.

Emergency Relief & Community Service Providers Christmas Hours

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau ACT puts out a list of opening and closing times for emergency relief providers and community services.

Visit www.citizensadvice.org.au to download the Emergency Relief and Community Service Providers Christmas Hours document.

Free Meal Guide for Holiday Season

Citizens Advice Bureau

The Citizens Advice Bureau ACT puts out a free meal guide for the holiday period.

Visit www.citizensadvice.org.au to download the free meal guide.

AOD Strategies

This section outlines the three AOD strategies currently released for consultation and how the ACT AOD Sector can provide input into the development of these strategies.

Alcohol and Other Drug Sector Policy Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to support the ACT AOD sector to provide input into the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy (2010 - 2014); the ACT Comorbidity Strategy; and the National Drug Strategy.

Date: Tuesday 2 February

Time: 9am - 1pm

Venue: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor (ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition office)

RSVP: Essential, please email info@aodsector.org.au or call (02) 6247 3540.

For further information please contact Carrie Fowle on carrie@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

Community Consultation on the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 - 2014

ACT Government

The ACT Government has commenced a phase of community consultation to further the development of the draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014. The draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 replaces its 2004-2008 predecessor and has been developed to this point in consultation with the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy Implementation and Evaluation Group and with input from key stakeholders in the ACT's alcohol and other drug sector.

The ACT Government invites individuals and organisations to consider the draft

Strategy and to engage with its development by lodging a submission.

Further information, including the draft Strategy is available from

www.health.act.gov.au/communityconsultation.

Submissions close **28 February 2010**.

Draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy 2010-2013 released for Consultation

ACT Health

The draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy articulates the roles of mental health services, AOD services and primary care services in ensuring those at risk of or experiencing both mental health and AOD problems concurrently receive the right services at the right time. It also outlines the areas in which further investment is required in terms of effort and / or funding to strengthen the support available for those who deliver and receive these services. The objectives of the Strategy are to:

- Define comorbidity and its prevalence within our community
- Identify the current investment in the ACT in mental health and AOD services
- Articulate the roles and responsibilities of mental health, AOD and primary care services in working with people at risk of or experiencing both mental health and AOD problems
- Identify areas where further investment is required in terms of effort and / or funding to support those who deliver and those who experience both mental health and AOD problems.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft Strategy. To obtain a copy of the draft Strategy or to provide comments email Johann Sheehan on

Johann.Sheehan@act.gov.au by close of business on **28 February 2010**.

It would be appreciated if comments/ proposed changes could be tracked into the document directly where relevant, if possible.

National Drug Strategy Consultation paper

Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy

On 27 November a discussion paper was released about Australia's National Drug Strategy. This Consultation Paper aims to identify emerging issues and seek input from expert stakeholders and the broader community on directions for the next phase of the Strategy 2010–2015. The Paper has been prepared on behalf of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) by the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs National Drug Strategy Development Working Group. The MCDS will consider feedback in response to this paper in developing a draft of the National Drug Strategy 2010-2015, which will be released for further consultation in the first half of 2010.

Further information, including the consultation paper is available from

www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au.

The closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 24 February 2010**.