

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: February 2010

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

ACT Biannual Comorbidity Forum

The Guest Speaker for the Third Biannual Comorbidity Forum will be 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. 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.

For further information, download the [Third Biannual ACT Comorbidity Forum Flyer](#) or contact Amanda Bode, on (02) 6247 3540 or amanda@aodsector.org.au.

First Annual ACT AOD Awards

The First Annual ACT Alcohol and other drug Awards (the 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.

Download the [First Annual ACT AOD Awards Booklet](#) or visit www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/Awards.htm for more information.

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.

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.

See the [Drug Action Week](#) section for information on the Drug Action Week Planning Group facilitated by the ACT AOD Sector Project.

Drug Action Week 2010 Update

This section provides an update on key information leading up to Drug Action Week 2010.

Media Release: Register Now for Drug Action Week 2010!

1 February 2010

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) has launched Drug Action Week (DAW) 2010 with the new theme of “**Looking After YOUR Mind!**”. “Building on the success of the previous theme of “**Alcohol is a Drug-TOO!**” in 2008 and 2009, ADCA has turned the focus to the effect that alcohol and other drugs can have on our health and wellbeing,” the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ADCA, Mr David Templeman, said today.... This year, Drug Action Week will run from Sunday, 20 June through to Saturday, 26 June with the aim of surpassing the 2009 record of 648 events which involved tens of thousands people throughout urban and rural Australia. Mr Templeman said ADCA was calling on organisations from across the alcohol and other drugs, health, education, community, education and media sectors to get involved by registering an event on the DAW website www.drugactionweek.org.au.

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[Training and Professional Development](#)

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

[Interstate Conferences and Symposiums](#)

Information on interstate conferences relevant to the AOD sector.

Visit www.drugactionweek.org.au/userfiles/10_01_Feb_DAW_Register.pdf to view the full media release.

Invitation to the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group

ACT AOD Sector Project

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. 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 Clianthus St, O'Connor

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

ACT AOD Sector Peak Establishment Update

The ACT AOD Sector Peak Establishment Working Group has been established to create an independent, incorporated ACT AOD Sector Peak Body by 1 July 2010, using transparent and inclusive processes. The Group's membership includes worker and Executive Director representatives from ACT Health funded AOD services; and the ACT AOD Sector Project provides secretariat and support. The Group reports to the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group and has met three times.

The Group has done significant work including:

- Agreeing that the Peak will have both government and non-government membership
- Developing a draft constitution (including objects, name, membership categories, etc.)
- Identifying transitional processes
- Beginning the recruitment of the Peak's interim Committee which will operate February to November

The draft Objects and Rules for the Peak will be considered by the Executive Directors Group on 16 February and they are expected to be lodged with the Registrar General soon thereafter.

The Group will next meet on 16 February 2010.

If you would like further information or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Carrie Fowlie, ACT AOD Sector Project, (Group secretariat and support) on (02) 6247 3540 or carrie@aodsector.org.au.

Sector Activities and Events

FebFast Charity Campaign: Banish the Booze

FebFast

FebFast is a national health and charity campaign that challenges individuals to 'banish the booze' during February, the shortest month of the year. In doing so, the campaign aims to raise money for organisations that support young people with AOD issues. Funds raised will go to a number of services across Australia, including Ted Noffs in the ACT.

For more information visit www.febfast.com.au.

Second anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations

Reconciliation Australia (RA)

Saturday 13 February 2010 marks the second anniversary of the Apology to the Stolen Generations. There are a number of activities organizations and individuals can undertake to remember the significant day.

For more information visit www.reconciliation.org.au.

Nominations Open: Red Ribbon Awards 2010

United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and United Nations Development Programme

The Red Ribbon Award honors and recognizes exceptional grassroots leadership in responding to the AIDS epidemic. For more information on categories and awards or to nominate an organisation visit www.redribbonaward.org.

Nominations close 28 February 2010.

National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2010

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

The National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2010 aim to celebrate Australian achievements to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use and harm.

Date: 25 June 2010

Venue: The Sebel & Citigate Hotel in King George Square in Brisbane

Nominations for the 2010 Awards will open in February.

Visit www.drugawards.org.au for further information or contact either Jagdish Dua on (02) 8383 6621 or duaj@noffs.org.au; or Brian Flanagan on (02) 6215 9802 or brian.flanagan@adca.org.au.

[Policy](#)

[Activities](#)

Information on key policy activities effecting the AOD sector.

[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 is 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.

[Employment Opportunities](#)

Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD sector.

[Grants and Funding Opportunities](#)

Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

News from the Executive Directors' Group

This section reports on information from the Executive Directors (ED's) Group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

The ACT AOD Executive Directors Group did not meet in January 2010, however the Group has been progressing key two issues:

- Providing input into, and monitoring, the development of the ACT AOD Sector Peak Body – including negotiating transitional arrangements
- Participating in a workshop for the ACT AOD sector to develop a submission to the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy (2010 – 2014)

The Group's first meeting for 2010 will be on 16 February.

Sector Development

Guidelines on the Management of Co-occurring Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Conditions in Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Settings

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) received funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to develop guidelines on the management of co-occurring mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment settings. The Guidelines are based on the best available evidence and draw upon the experience and knowledge of clinicians, researchers, consumers and carers. They have been developed primarily for AOD workers in AOD treatment settings such as those services providing inpatient or outpatient detoxification, residential rehabilitation, substitution therapies or outpatient counselling services. The Guidelines aim to increase AOD workers' knowledge and awareness of mental health conditions, improve the confidence and skills of AOD workers who have clients with comorbid mental health conditions, provide guiding principles for working with clients with comorbid mental health conditions, and improve AOD workers' ability to identify mental health conditions. They provide information on the management and treatment of comorbid mental health conditions, and referral processes. Numerous resources are included, for example, a Suicide Risk Assessment checklist and an Indigenous Risk Impact Screen. The Guidelines are available for downloading from the NDARC website, and training workshops on their use are being conducted around the nation.

Mills, KL, Deady, M, Proudfoot, H, Sannibale, C, Teesson, M, Mattick, R & Burns, L 2009, Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/page/Comorbidity+Guidelines>.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Workforce Development (WFD) in Community Services and Health Industries Survey

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University

NCETA is conducting a survey on employers' attitudes toward, and levels of satisfaction with VET AOD qualifications as workforce development strategy. The survey is targeted at managers of AOD agencies and should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. Responses will help facilitate the development of effective workforce development strategies in the AOD field.

The survey can be accessed online at www.surveymk.com/s/KQMPZR9.

For any queries concerning the project contact Ken Pidd on (08) 8201 7692 or ken.pidd@flinders.edu.au.

An Indigenous Services Database and Other Resources: Indigenous AOD Workers' Wellbeing, Stress and Burnout

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), Flinders University

NCETA has compiled a CD Rom to offer a range of practical resources relevant to both new and experienced workers in the fields of Indigenous health and AOD. The CD Rom has 3 key resources:

1. Indigenous Services Database
2. Websites of Interest
3. Training Courses

To order a free copy of the CD Rom contact NCETA reception nceta@flinders.edu.au or (08) 8201 7535.

Comorbidity e-Learning Module: Impact of Alcohol and Other Drugs on Mental Health Conditions and Medications

South Australia Network of Drug and Alcohol Services (SANDAS)

A new comorbidity e-learning module - The impact of alcohol and other drug use on mental health conditions and medications is now available online. The interactive module covers:

- Medications used to help people with a mental illness
- The impact that the use of alcohol and other drugs can have on people who have a mental illness
- How alcohol and drug use can affect or interact with the medications a person with a mental illness may be taking

The information targets workers who have not received the clinical training undertaken by doctors and nurses but are involved in some other capacity with people with a mental illness.

For further information please contact Andrew Biven at andrew@sandas.org.au or to sign up go to

<http://sandasonlinelearning.e3learning.com.au>.

Drug and Alcohol Monthly Media Briefing

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

The ANCD is offering a new media service that provides media releases, news articles and reports for the previous month.

The service can be accessed at www.ancd.org.au/drug-and-alcohol-monthly-media-briefing/.

DIRECTIONS ACT Summer Edition Newsletter

DIRECTIONS ACT

The Summer edition of the DIRECTIONS ACT direct news newsletter is now available.

Visit www.directionsact.com/pdf/direct_news/10_summer.pdf to view the newsletter.

Free Online Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Lectures

University of Sydney and New South Wales (NSW) Health

The University of Sydney and NSW Health have recently completed a collaborative project that saw the production of thirteen online alcohol, tobacco and other drug PowerPoint lectures covering ten subjects. The lecture series covers core drug and alcohol topics and has been developed by leading experts, and is directed at GPs, students, nurses, and other healthcare workers. The lectures are available at

www.addiction.med.usyd.edu.au/lectures/.

Alcohol and Community Sporting Clubs – Resource Portal

Drug Info Clearinghouse, Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF)

This portal of resources examines the link between alcohol and sport including alcohol sponsorship and the reliance of community sports clubs on alcohol revenue. The portal also provides examples of how some sports have reduced their levels of alcohol consumption and created a culture that cultivates and develops healthy individuals and more sustainable clubs.

Visit the resource portal at www.druginfo.adf.org.au/newsletter.asp?ContainerID=alcohol_community_sportingclubs.

Gambling Help Online

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

Gambling Help Online is a new initiative which provides free online counselling, information and e-mail support 24/7 nationally.

The website can be accessed at www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/.

Launch of the International Centre on Human Rights and Drugs Policy

International Centre on Human Rights and Drugs Policy

The International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy is a new project dedicated to developing and promoting innovative and high quality legal and human rights scholarship on issues related to drug laws, policy and enforcement. The Centre pursues this mandate by publishing original, peer reviewed research on drug issues as they relate to international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law and public international law, and fostering research on drug policy issues among postgraduate law and human rights students at universities and colleges around the world.

For more information visit www.humanrightsanddrugs.org.

Criminal Justice Conversations Podcast with US Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske

Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice and the Berkeley School of Journalism

This is a 30 minute podcast dated 13 Nov 2009 in which Gil Kerlikowske, the recently-appointed Director of the US Office of National Drug Control Policy (the White House 'Drug Czar'), discusses ending the 'War on Drugs', treating drugs as a public health issue, the problems of prescription drugs and drugged driving, the US federal government's response to state medical marijuana laws, and more.

Visit www.law.berkeley.edu/cjconversations.htm to stream or download the podcast.

Award Modernisation

Australian Industrial Relations Commission

As of 1 January 2010 social, community, home care and disability services have a new Award, which replaces the current ACT SACS Award. All organisations operating under the SACS Award need to transition to the Modern Award from 1 January 2010, with changes to penalty rates and loadings commencing from 1 July 2010. Classifications and wages are delayed in their implementation until 1 July 2011.

Download the [Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010](#) or visit www.airc.gov.au/awardmod/about.htm for more information about Award Modernisation.

ACT Community Sector Human Resources Network

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The Human Resources Network is a network of individuals and organisations interested in sharing, networking and improving processes for services and employees of ACT Community Sector organisations. The Network aims to provide support to human resources workers with linkages to information and good practice procedures. Any individuals who are working in, or have an interest in, human resources are invited to participate.

The Network meetings will be held quarterly. The first meeting details are:

Date: Wednesday 10 February 2010

Time: 9 - 11am

Venue: Australian Red Cross, Cnr Hindmarsh Dr and Palmer St, Garran

RSVP: For catering purposes, by 5 February 2010.

For more information, contact Kiki on kiki.korpinen@actcoss.org.au or (02) 6202 7224.

Portable Long-Service Leave Scheme for the ACT Community Sector

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS), ACT Government

In 2008, the ACT Government committed to introducing a Portable Long Service Leave Scheme for the ACT community sector by June 2010. The

scheme will allow community sector workers to transfer long service leave entitlements as they change employers within the sector. DHCS has released two reports relating to the development of the scheme, including an actuarial assessment of the costs of a portable long service leave system; and an overview of the scope of the scheme.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/wac#portable for more information, or contact Jolene Clinch on jolene.clinch@act.gov.au.

Well Proud: A Guide to GLBTI Inclusive Practice for Health and Human Services

Victorian Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex health & wellbeing (GLBTI MAC)

Well Proud draws on national and international research on the health and wellbeing of GLBTI people and on guidelines for GLBTI-sensitive practice and service delivery that have been developed here and overseas. The guide provides evidence-based recommendations aimed at supporting services to be more responsive to issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. It includes additional recommendations for specific health care settings, including drug and alcohol services.

To obtain a copy of the resource visit www.health.vic.gov.au/glbtimeac/resources.htm.

New Aurora Program

Inanna Inc.

The Aurora Program, Inanna Inc. is an integrated package comprising a weekly skills group, weekly one to one counselling, and access to afterhours phone coaching. It is for people caught up in self harming patterns.

Download the [Aurora Program Flyer](#) for more information.

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (January - February 2010)

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 Drugs in the Family Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT. The calendar compiles training and professional development opportunities available for workers from the AOD and allied sectors.

Download the current [Training and Professional Development Calendar](#) or visit www.aodsector.org.au.

For more information contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on (02) 6247 3540 or info@aodsector.org.au.

Mental Health First Aid Course

Gungahlin Regional Community Service (GRCS)

This 12 hour program is for people from multi-cultural backgrounds who may be carers, friends or support workers and who are supporting people with mental health issues. The course teaches first-aid skills, identification of symptoms, how to provide support, and how to support people to access additional professional help.

Date: 11, 18, 25 February and 4 March 2010

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Venue: Palmerston Community Centre, Tiptree Crescent, Palmertson

Cost: \$150 RSVP: Essential - by **Thursday 4 February**.

Download the [Mental Health First Aid Course Flyer](#) for more information or contact Branka on (02) 6123 4402 or familysupport@gungahlin.org.

Stepping Stones Training

Family Drug Support (FDS)

The training is for people interested in facilitating the Stepping Stones programs in Canberra or who are working with families who may be referred to Stepping Stones groups running in Canberra. Participating in the training will give greater understanding of how the program works and the processes involved.

Date: 15, 16 February, 2010

Time: 9:30am – 4pm

Venue: Karralika Rehabilitation Service

Food: Lunch will be provided

RSVP: To Antonia Ravesi on 0400 113 422 or Antonia@fds.ngo.org.au

Core Health Promotion Short Course

ACT Health Promotion, ACT Government

This course, developed by the Victorian Department of Human Services, is a 5-day short course providing a practical introduction to the principles and practice of health promotion for those without any formal qualifications in health promotion.

Date: 16 - 18 February and 2 - 3 March 2010

Time: 9am - 4.30pm

Venue: National Botanic Gardens, Clunies Ross Street, Canberra

Cost: \$330

RSVP: Essential - limited places available.

Visit www.healthpromotion.act.gov.au/c/hp?a=da&did=1000916&pid=1260485675 for more information.

Bring The Back Office Forward Conference

Communities at Work

The Conference will cover finance, IT and administration practices for the not-for-profit and community sectors.

Date: Thursday, 25 February 2010

Time: 9am – 4:30pm

Venue: Tuggeranong Community and Function Centre, 245 Cowlshaw Street, Greenway

Cost: \$190

RSVP: Registrations close on **15 February 2010**.

Download the [Bring the Back Office Forward Conference Flyer](#) or visit <http://sl.commsatwork.org/backoffice> for more information.

Grant and Report Writing and Management Workshop

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation

This workshop will focus on an overview of the grant application and report writing process. Participants will develop a complete grant application based on best-practice NGO governance, financial and risk management, customer service and resource allocation.

Date: 3 & 4 March, 2010

Venue: Rydges Capital Hill, Cnr Canberra Avenue & National Circuit, Forrest ACT

Cost: \$500

RSVP: Essential by **5pm Tuesday 16 February 2010** to linus.nesbitt@aerf.com.au.

For more information, download the [AER Workshops Flyer](#) or contact Linus Nesbitt on (02) 6122 8600 or linus.nesbitt@aerf.com.au.

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This is a practical workshop designed to assist services to implement quality improvement in their organisation. Many organisations are required to use Raising the Standard as part of their service funding agreements. A manual and toolkit is provided as part of the training.

Date: Thursday 11 March 2010

Time: 10am - 3.30pm

Venue: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre, Lady Denman Drive, Yarramundi Reach

Cost: \$48 members, \$60 non-members, \$72 corporate / government

RSVP: Essential, by **Thursday 4 March 2010**.

For more information download the [Raising the Standard Training Flyer](#) or contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au.

ACOSS National Conference 2010: A Vote for Equity

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

The Australian Council of Social Service annual conference is a major event for social services and the community sector. It aims to examine Australia from the perspective of low income Australians: what policies and programs are working; and what needs to change; and how best to achieve that change.

Date: 25-26 March 2010

Venue: Rydges Lakeside, London Circuit, Canberra City ACT

Registration: Registrations close **19 February 2010**.

For more information including the conference program and registration details visit www.acoss.org.au/events/view/449/.

Workshops: Evaluating Suicide Prevention

Living is For Everyone (LIFE)

The LIFE Team is providing free evaluation workshops across Australia, for workers and services who are working in suicide prevention. These workshops will introduce and explain the key concepts of evaluation, and provide participants with a take-home plan.

Date: 31 March 2010

Time: 9am - 5pm

Venue: TBA

RSVP: Essential, by **Wednesday 17 March 2010**.

Visit www.livingisforeveryone.com.au/Evaluation-workshops.html for more information or contact LIFE@livingisforeveryone.com.au.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference aims to assist and contribute to further develop the capacity of those working to address AOD harms in meaningful and practical ways. The Conference will also showcase and celebrate the quiet efforts and achievements of those striving to improve the health and well being of our communities.

Date: 16 - 18 June 2010

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

Registration: Early Bird registration closes 15 March 2010 and costs \$600.

For more information on the Conference visit www.nidaconference.com.au/.

Diversity in Health 2010 Conference

Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health and Diversity Health Institute

Australians now come from 230 countries of origin and speak 200 languages. The conference will explore:

- How to maintain cultural integrity in patient care and service delivery
- The right to health and its related entitlements
- Impacts of eHealth on disadvantaged communities
- Emerging issues in aged care, health literacy, mental health and sexual health
- Modern multiculturalism and its impact on wellbeing

Date: 7-9 June, 2010

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Registration: Early bird registrations are now open, \$250 not-for-profit and \$300 full rate

For more information on the Conference visit www.diversityinhealth.com.au.

National Anxiety and Depression Conference 2010

Reconnexion

The Conference will explore approaches to the treatment of anxiety disorders and/or depression from a range of established practitioners and experts in their field.

Date: 17 – 18 May, 2010

Venue: TBC, Melbourne

Visit www.reconnexion.org.au/www/464/1001127/displayarticle/conference-2010--1010900.html for more information or email janet@reconnexion.org.au to add your name to the list of interested participants.

2010 Australian Winter School, Back to Basics: A Commonsense Approach

Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)

The Australian Winter School aims to increase delegates' level of knowledge and professional skills, present the most recent research, and demonstrate its relevance to those working in the alcohol and other drugs field.

Date: 21 - 23 June, 2010

Venue: Sebel Citigate King George Square Hotel, Brisbane

Registration: Early Bird Registration is now open.

Call for Abstracts close **Friday 12 February 2010**.

For more information on the Conference or to submit an abstract visit www.winterschool.info.

Policy Activities

Consultation: 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.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft Strategy.

To obtain a copy 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**.

To assist in developing a submission, visit www.ncd.org.au/government-policy/government-policy.html for access to all current and past national strategies and evaluations.

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>.

Can shutting down street drug markets substantially reduce violent and drug-related crime?

Having found that conventional policing methods were unsuccessful in eliminating the problems associated with drug dealing in a neighbourhood, the High Point Police Department in North Carolina, USA, adopted a different strategy, and was able to close a drug market. The new tactic consisted of 'Creating swift and certain consequences by "banking" existing drug cases; addressing racial conflict between communities and law enforcement, setting strong community and family standards against dealing; involving dealers' family members, and offering education, job training, job placement, and other social services'. The police were also able to close three other drug markets in the city using the same methods. It is reported that other US cities have used similar strategies with similar levels of success. The authors of this study state 'The High Point strategy does not solve the drug problem, but by eliminating street drug markets, we can reduce crime, reduce racial conflict, reduce incarceration, build a sense of camaraderie among residents, and turn some dealers' lives around'.

Kennedy, DM & Wong, S-L 2009, *The High Point Drug Market Intervention Strategy*, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, www.cops.usdoj.gov/files/RIC/Publications/e08097226-HighPoint.pdf.

How effective is the use of drug detection dogs in reducing drug use?

Researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre analysed data on the use of drug detection dogs in Sydney from interviews with 100 regular ecstasy users and 20 key experts as part of the 2006 Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System. They advise that 'The majority of regular ecstasy users reported taking some form of precaution if made aware that dogs would be at an event they were attending. A small proportion of the sample reported consuming their drugs when coming into contact with detection dogs. One group of key experts viewed the use of detection dogs as useful; one group disliked the use of detection dogs though cooperated with law enforcement when dogs were used; and one group considered that detection dogs contribute to greater harm. Secondary data sources further suggested that the use of detection dogs do not significantly assist police in identifying and apprehending drug suppliers.' The researchers conclude that their study 'suggests that regular ecstasy users do not see detection dogs as an obstacle to their drug use'.

Dunn, M & Degenhardt, L 2009, 'The use of drug detection dogs in Sydney, Australia', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 6, pp. 658-62.

Does restricting the availability of alcohol reduce alcohol-related violence?

In March 2008, the NSW Liquor Administration Board introduced restrictions on trading hours for 14 licensed premises in the Newcastle CBD. Several of the restrictions were aimed at reducing patrons' alcohol consumption. A lockout was imposed from 1 am for all 14 hotels, 'whereby patrons who were still on the premises could continue to drink alcohol but no patron would be allowed to enter after the lockout...From 10pm there was to be: no sale of shots, no sale of mixed drinks with more than 30mls of alcohol, no sale of ready mixed drinks stronger than five per cent alcohol by volume, no sale of more than four drinks to any patron at one time and for there to be free water stations on every bar...Licensees were to ensure patrons did not stockpile drinks...[and] The sale of alcohol had to cease 30 minutes prior to closing time'. Researchers examined NSW Police data on the incidence of assaults in the vicinity of these premises. The analysis covered the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2009, providing 48 months of pre-intervention and 12 months of post-intervention data. They found that the data 'revealed a significant reduction in alcohol-related assaults in the intervention site but not the comparison site...[with] no evidence of any geographic displacement of assaults to other licensed premises or neighbouring areas...[and] a significant decrease in the proportion of assaults occurring after 3am in the intervention site but not in the comparison sites. They conclude that 'the data provide strong evidence that the restricted availability of alcohol reduced the incidence of assault in the Newcastle CBD'.

Jones, C, Kypri, K, Moffatt, S, Borzycki, C & Price, B 2009, *The impact of restricted alcohol availability on alcohol-related violence in Newcastle*, NSW, Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 137, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney,

www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/cjb137.pdf?file/cjb137.pdf.

How likely is it that people convicted of a drink-driving offence will re-offend?

A NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research study on re-offending among drink-drivers in NSW indicates that 'Overall, 15.5 per cent of drink-drivers returned to court for another drink-driving offence within five years, and 14.3 per cent returned to court within five years charged with a non-PCA driving offence, such as a registration, a roadworthiness or a driving licence offence'. (A PCA offence is one of exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol.) The researchers found that reconviction rates were 'higher among men, Indigenous offenders, offenders aged less than

25 years, offenders who lived in areas with the highest level of socio-economic disadvantage, offenders that received a driver licence disqualification of between one and six months, and offenders with two or more convictions in the five-year period prior to their index offence'. For these groups of offenders, the researchers estimate that more than a third will be reconvicted of another drink-driving offence and nearly half will be reconvicted for a driving licence, a motor vehicle registration or a motor vehicle roadworthiness offence.

Trimboli, L & Smith, N 2009, *Drink-driving and recidivism in NSW*, Crime and Justice Bulletin no. 135, NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney, [www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB135.pdf/\\$file/CJB135.pdf](http://www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/bocsar/ll_bocsar.nsf/vwFiles/CJB135.pdf/$file/CJB135.pdf).

Would it be cost-effective to install alcohol ignition interlock devices in all newly registered vehicles?

The Accident Research Centre at Monash University has conducted a cost-benefit analysis of installing alcohol ignition interlock devices in all newly registered vehicles in Australia. The study compared 'the benefits associated with the number of road injuries the interlock was predicted to save with the costs associated with installing the device in all newly registered vehicles'. The researchers found that 'the installation of interlock devices in all newly registered vehicles in Australia could be an effective option, from a cost-benefit analysis perspective, depending upon its level of success in preventing alcohol-impaired driving'. They calculate that 'a substantial number of road fatalities and serious injuries would be prevented, with up to 24 percent of all fatalities and up to 11 percent of all serious injuries saved in Australia per annum', and concluded that 'due to the investigated interlock's user friendliness and relative affordability in comparison to other interlocks, the device should be considered as a countermeasure for curbing the drink driving problem in Australia'.

Lahausse, JA & Fildes, BN 2009, 'Cost-benefit analysis of an alcohol ignition interlock for installation in all newly registered vehicles', *Traffic Injury Prevention*, vol. 10, no. 6, pp. 528-37.

Which smoking cessation pharmacotherapy is most effective?

A clinical trial in the United States of the effectiveness of smoking cessation pharmacotherapies has found that nicotine patches combined with nicotine lozenges were most effective in helping people to give up smoking. The trial involved 1,504 adults 'who smoked at least 10 cigarettes per day during the past 6 months and reported being motivated to quit smoking'. The participants were allocated to one of six treatment conditions: nicotine lozenges, nicotine patches, sustained-release bupropion, nicotine patch plus nicotine lozenge, bupropion plus nicotine lozenge, or placebo. Each participant also received six individual counselling sessions. The researchers found that 'only the nicotine patch plus nicotine lozenge... produced significantly higher abstinence rates at 6-month postquit than did placebo'. They concluded that 'While the nicotine lozenge, bupropion, and bupropion plus lozenge produced effects that were comparable with those reported in previous research, the nicotine patch plus lozenge produced the greatest benefit relative to placebo for smoking cessation'.

Piper, ME, Smith, SS, Schlam, TR, Fiore, MC, Jorenby, DE, Fraser, D & Baker, TB 2009, 'A randomized placebo-controlled clinical trial of 5 smoking cessation pharmacotherapies', *Archives of General Psychiatry*, vol. 66, no. 11, pp. 1253-62.

A useful discussion of this research can be found at <http://cme.medscape.com/viewarticle/712074?src=cmemp&uac=127166SN>.

Have any Australian residential drug withdrawal services successfully gone tobacco-free?

This is the abstract from a recent conference presentation. It answers the question in the affirmative. 'At the beginning of 2009, inpatients of Victorian community residential withdrawal units (CRWUs) were allowed to smoke cigarettes during alcohol or other drug withdrawal treatment. Smoking in CRWUs has continued for over a decade, despite established physical harms, links between smoking and alcohol and other drug use and advances in pharmacotherapies for nicotine dependence. The authors present the experience of two 12-bed CRWUs affiliated with Southern and Eastern Victorian hospital networks following roll-out of a smoke free policy. We will present staff and client experiences of detoxification in a non smoking setting and will examine the initial impact of smoke free treatment on service intake and bed occupancy. We will also present a preliminary audit of the use of nicotine replacement therapy in the two CRWUs. Our study allows some comparison between approaches at each CRWU. While challenging the entrenched culture of smoking in CRWUs is difficult, tobacco free policies are likely to expand and cannot be disregarded by alcohol and other drug treatment services. We hope that our experiences will help inform approaches to management of cigarette smoking by alcohol and other drug services. We believe that the 'impossible dream' of tobacco-free inpatient treatment is realizable and sustainable.'

Frei, M, Nielsen, S, Cook, K & Burnett, R 2009, "The impossible dream": initial experiences of two inpatient withdrawal units going tobacco-free', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. Supp. 1, p. A23.

Are teenagers whose parents monitor their activities less likely to use cannabis?

It is widely assumed that adolescents whose behaviour and activities are closely monitored by their parents are less likely to engage in risky behaviour such as marijuana use than those who come under less parental scrutiny. A meta-analytic review examined 'the relationship between parental monitoring and marijuana use among adolescents', drawing on '25 independent samples involving more than 35,000 participants'. The analysis 'disclosed a robust link between parental monitoring of adolescents and lower marijuana consumption in adolescents... More intense monitoring was associated invariably with less adolescent marijuana use'. The researchers state 'Our review suggests that parents are far from irrelevant, even when it comes to an illegal and often secretive behavior on the part of their adolescent children. Information derived from this quantitative synthesis may prove useful in marijuana-based prevention programs and campaigns targeting parents, and might offer insight on how to alleviate a risky behavior that is all too common at an important transitional stage between childhood and adulthood'.

Lac, A & Crano, WD 2009, 'Monitoring matters: meta-analytic review reveals the reliable linkage of parental monitoring with adolescent marijuana use', *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, vol. 4, no. 6, pp. 578-86.

Given changes in drug use over recent years, is drug treatment still effective in reducing harmful behaviours?

The Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS) was a major national evaluation of drug treatment in England. It comprised a longitudinal survey of outcomes, a qualitative assessment of the factors that impact on effective treatment, and an economic analysis. The findings of the study have now been published by the United Kingdom Home Office. 'The findings from the DTORS survey show that despite the changing landscape of drug use and treatment in England, drug treatment is still effective in reducing a range of harmful behaviours associated with problem drug use and

it is cost-effective. 'The study found that the majority of treatment seekers received care-co-ordinated treatment, expressed satisfaction with their care, were retained in treatment beyond three months, and reported significant and substantial reductions in drug use and offending as well as improvements in social functioning. 'The findings lend credence to referral into drug treatment via the CJS [criminal justice system]. There were few differences in outcomes between CJS and non-CJS referrals and there were no apparent differences based on referral routes in motivation levels among the treatment seekers interviewed. 'The findings also highlighted the multiple needs of treatment seekers and the requirement that treatment is sufficiently flexible to meet this wide range of needs. A key challenge for treatment providers in this respect is to engage as fully as possible with partner organisations from health, housing and social welfare.' Donmall, M, Jones, A, Davies, L & Barnard, M 2009, *Summary of key findings from the Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS)*, Research Report 23, Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, London, www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr23.pdf.

Is there any evidence supporting the use of naltrexone implants for treating opioid dependence?

It has long been acknowledged that naltrexone is an effective opioid antagonist, but its use as a treatment for opioid dependence has been limited by low levels of patient compliance with the treatment regimes. For some years naltrexone implants have been used in Western Australia even though the drug is not approved for general use in treating opioid dependence. Western Australian researchers have conducted the world's first randomised controlled trial comparing the efficacy and safety of a single treatment sustained-release naltrexone implant with daily oral naltrexone treatment. They found that 'The naltrexone implant effectively reduced relapse to regular heroin use compared with oral naltrexone and was not associated with major adverse events'. On reviewing the study, the Findings magazine concluded that 'The first trial of implanted versus oral naltrexone found that the implants' extended opiate-blocking action helps avoid relapse to regular opiate use—but the action was not as extended as hoped, non-opiate use was greater, and there were more unpleasant side-effects'.

Hulse, GK, Morris, N, Arnold-Reed, D & Tait, RJ 2009, 'Improving clinical outcomes in treating heroin dependence: randomized, controlled trial of oral or implant naltrexone', *Archives of General Psychiatry*, vol. 66, no. 10, pp. 1108-15, http://findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=Hulse_GK_13.txt.

Is peer access to naloxone a viable harm reduction strategy for Australia?

Paramedics from the State and Territory ambulance services save many lives every year by administering naloxone (Narcan) to people who have overdosed on opioids. It has frequently been pointed out, however, that other users of opioids are frequently present when an overdose occurs and are therefore ideally situated to administer naloxone, rather than to have to wait until an ambulance arrives. Australian researchers have recently reviewed the arguments for and against peer administration of the drug and have concluded that it is a harm reduction initiative that is likely to have significantly more benefits than negative features. On that basis, they have concluded that 'Now is the time to take steps to allow peer access to naloxone for heroin overdose in Australia'. Apparently no public response to this proposed change in policy has yet been made by the Commonwealth Government which has responsibility for determining access to drugs like naloxone.

Lenton, SR, Dietze, PM, Degenhardt, L, Darke, S & Butler, TG 2009, 'Now is the time to take steps to allow peer access to naloxone for heroin overdose in Australia', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 6, pp. 583–85; Lenton, SR, Dietze, PM, Degenhardt, L, Darke, S & Butler, TG 2009, 'Naloxone for administration by peers in cases of heroin overdose', *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 191, no. 8, p. 469.

ACTCOSS Submission: The Road Map: A Discussion Paper on the Way Forward for ACT Homelessness Services and Related Services

ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS has prepared a submission on the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services' discussion paper 'The Road Map: A Discussion Paper on the Way Forward for ACT Homelessness Services and Related Services', Chapters 2, 3 and 5. The submission is available for download at www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Publications_2009/3809SUB.pdf.

'Resetting the Relationship' in Indigenous Child Protection: Public Hope and Private Reality

Regulatory Institutions Network, Australian National University

A qualitative study was undertaken to explore the private realities of Indigenous parents and self-identified carers who had experiences with child protection authorities. Semi-structured interviews focused on the nature of the relationship between parents and child protection authorities, how these regulatory encounters served to enlist or dissolve co-operation and how child-focused outcomes could be delivered.

Download the ['Resetting the Relationship' Report](#).

headspace Evaluation Report

Social Policy Research Centre

In 2008, the Social Policy Research Centre was contracted by headspace and the University of Melbourne to conduct the first independent evaluation of headspace. The evaluation is a longitudinal, mixed methods research project, established to examine the achievements, limitations and future directions of the headspace program.

Visit

www.headspace.org.au/uploads/documents/Submissions_and_Publications/Final_Independent_evaluation_of_headspace_report.pdf

to view the report.

Media

Tobacco Out of Sight From 1 January 2010

31 December 2009

Katy Gallagher, MLA

From tomorrow (1 January 2010) tobacco displays will no longer be visible at Canberra newsagencies, supermarkets and petrol stations, ACT

Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA said today. The tighter regulations come into effect tomorrow, following moves by the ACT Government last year to amend the Tobacco Act... The ban on point of sale displays comes after the Government passed legislation earlier this month to ban smoking in the outdoor areas of Canberra's restaurants, cafes and coffee shops, as well as at underage functions. The ban on smoking in outdoor eating and drinking areas will come into effect in December next year, giving businesses time to adjust.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9077&m=52 to view the full media release.

Government Continues Fight Against Illicit Drugs

28 December 2009

Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing

The Rudd Government is continuing the fight against the scourge of illicit drugs with a funding package totalling more than \$4 million for measures to support peak bodies, drug education, online counselling, data collection and law enforcement research.

Visit [www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/4622DA848B2DEBF4CA2576A00078ABA9/\\$File/nr03.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/4622DA848B2DEBF4CA2576A00078ABA9/$File/nr03.pdf) to view the full media release.

Porter Congratulates Drug Workers

12 December 2009

Mary Porter, MLA

Today, Mary Porter MLA, was happy to present the awards at the First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards Ceremony. "I am very pleased to be involved with the recognition of the people who have done so much to the treatment and support in the ACT alcohol and other drug sector", Ms Porter said. These awards recognise exceptional people who work to promote health and prevent harms associated with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) in the ACT. "The AOD Sector Project initiated the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Awards to recognise, promote and reward outstanding practice in the AOD sector in the ACT, and there are many initiatives that deserve recognition for advancing the alcohol and other drug sector."... "These award winners demonstrate their commitment to the principles of 'harm minimisation' in the work they do," Ms Porter said. "Their services are valuable to our community and I congratulate them on their commitment to excellence."

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9047 to view the full media release.

Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights to Underpin the Provision of Safe and Quality Care

10 December 2009

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, today launched the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights which explains what people can expect from their health system. The Minister launched the Charter on International Human Rights Day. "The Charter describes the rights of consumers and carers using the health system and will be implemented across all ACT Health services. It is important that we support these rights to ensure wherever and whenever care is provided, that it is of high quality and safe," Ms Gallagher said... "ACT Health has an ongoing commitment to supporting consumer participation in health care and by implementing the Charter across all ACT Health Services, we are not only supporting the rights of health care consumers but we are also recognising the vital role that consumers play in the provision of their own care," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9013&m=52&s=1 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Training for Consumer Representatives

Health Care Consumers Association (HCCA)

This training is for consumer representatives interested in finding out more about the public health service system from a consumer point of view.

Date: March 18th and 25th

Time: 10am to 2.30pm

Venue: ACT Sports House, Maitland St, Hackett, ACT

For more information email adminofficer@hcca.org.au or call (02) 62307800.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

National Youth Week 2010

National Youth Week, the annual celebration of young people throughout Australia, will be held from 10 - 18 April 2010. Visit <http://youthweek.com/> for more information about National Youth Week.

For information on National Youth Week in the ACT, contact Anna on (02) 6247 3540 or youthweek@youthcoalition.net.

Young People and Alcohol – Reducing the Risk Australian Research

Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY)

The ARACY has released "Young people and alcohol – reducing the risk" the first of a series of publications called Action for Young Australians. The Action for Young Australians series of publications focuses on complex issues impacting on young people in Australia today. Drawing on Australian and international research and expertise, the reports identify what is known and what is actually being done to address key problems affecting the wellbeing of children and young people and suggest a way forward for progressing identified solutions to the problem – that is, turning the evidence into action. Download the [Young People and Alcohol – Reducing the Risk report](#).

Fourth National Mental Health Plan

Commonwealth of Australia

The Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) recently launched the Fourth National Mental Health Plan: an agenda for collaborative government action in mental health 2009-2014. This plan is the product of twelve months of development work including a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process, and has significant impact upon the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector. The plan has five priority areas for government action in mental health: 1. Social inclusion and recovery 2. Prevention and early intervention 3. Service access, coordination and continuity of care 4. Quality improvement and innovation and 5. Accountability - measuring and reporting progress.

Download the [Fourth National Mental Health Plan](#).

Youth Field Xpress – December Edition

Australian Clearinghouse for Youth Studies

Youth Field Xpress is a free monthly newsletter for youth researchers, youth workers, policymakers and anyone with an interest in youth issues. It contains news of research projects, reports, programs, projects and events that are relevant to young people in Australia today. The December edition contains a number of articles relevant to the Drug and Alcohol sector, particularly those listed under the headings of Care and Protection issues, Drug and Alcohol issues, health, indigenous youth and mental health.

Visit www.acys.info/youth_field_xpress/past_issues/no.160_december_2009 to view the newsletter.

Investing in Australia's Young People Office for Youth

Australian Government

The Office for Youth has released Investing in Australia's young people: A stocktake of Australian Government initiatives for young people. The report is a stocktake of Australian Government activities for young people aged between 12 and 25. It highlights the wide range of programs, payments and services for young people in Australia.

Download the [Investing in Australia's Young People Report](#).

Employment Opportunities

Quality and Workforce Development Officer

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC)

Multiple Enterprise Agreement (MEA) Level 6: \$52,816 - \$55,306 plus superannuation and salary packaging 37.5 hours per week (negotiable)

The MHCC is the peak body representing the not-for-profit community mental health sector in the ACT, and is currently seeking a Quality and Workforce Development Officer who will work to grow and develop the community mental health workforce and improve the quality of services delivered to the ACT community.

Download the [Quality and Workforce Development Officer Position Description](#) for more information or contact Brooke McKail on (02) 6249 7756 or brooke.mckail@mhccact.org.au.

Applications are due by **5pm Monday 15 February 2010**.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund

Odyssey House Victoria

Drug and alcohol workers are invited to apply for funding to assist children impacted by parental drug and alcohol problems. The Counting the Kids Brokerage Fund aims to enable workers to pay for activities and services that will enhance children's health, connectedness to family and community, education and employment prospects, and self-esteem and well-being.

Visit www.odyssey.org.au/brokerage/content/index.asp?menuID=0 for more information or to apply.

Applications close **28 February 2010**.