

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: July 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 bulletin@aodsector.org.au.

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project	In This Edition...
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ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Strategic Directions and Governance Workshop: 28 & 29 July 2009
ACT AOD Executive Directors' Group, ACT AOD Workers' Group and ACT AOD Sector Project
 The ACT AOD Sector has agreed to hold a two day facilitated workshop to progress ACT AOD sector-wide strategic direction and governance. An agenda and other workshop details are currently being developed.
 For further information please contact Carrie Fowle, ACT AOD Sector Project, on carrie@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group
Comorbidity Project, ACT AOD Sector Project auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT
 The ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group will reconvene in July 2009 due to additional funding being secured through the Department of Health and Ageing's Improved Services Initiative. The objectives of the Group are:

- To provide support and strategic guidance to the Comorbidity Project conducted by the ACT AOD Sector Project (auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT).
- To develop and implement a workplan for the Group.
- To build linkages and strategic partnerships between the AOD, mental health and allied health and community sectors.
- To identify and facilitate comorbidity professional development opportunities for AOD, mental health, allied health and community sectors.
- To identify and distribute targeted and relevant comorbidity information and resources to the AOD, mental health and allied health and community sectors.
- To develop an ACT Comorbidity Communication Strategy.
- To participate in Project evaluation activities.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 July 2009. For further information please contact Carrie Fowle, ACT AOD Sector Project, on carrie@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

Monthly ACT AOD Sector Forum
 Please note that a monthly forum will not be held in July due to the ACT AOD Strategic Directions and Governance Workshops.

Join the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Development and Implementation Committee
 Expressions of interest are sought from all AOD services funded through ACT Health to become members of the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy Development and Implementation Committee. The Committee will oversee the development and implementation of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector Minimum Qualification Strategy from July – December 2009. A Terms of Reference, workplan and meeting schedule is currently under development. The first meeting will be held on Friday 31 July 2009. For further information please contact Carrie Fowle, ACT AOD Sector Project, on carrie@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

The ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 3 May 2009
 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 3 of the Directory has been released and profiles 37 programs including new information about services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse people in the ACT.
 The Directory is available online at www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/directory.htm and hard copies can be ordered on a cost recovery basis from the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy: Final Class Dates for Semester 1, 2009
 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. The following classes will be held shortly for participants enrolled in each stream of the 4 Core Competencies:

Class dates for Stream 1:
 Stream 1 has now completed all 4 competencies.

Class dates for Stream 2:
 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/MQS.htm or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project on (02) 6247 3540 or info@aodsector.org.au

ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy: Semester 2, 2009
 The ACT AOD Sector Project is currently working with funding bodies and the ACT AOD Sector to develop strategies to provide training and assessment opportunities in Semester 2, 2009. For further information please contact Carrie Fowle on carrie@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

Evaluation for participants enrolled in the AOD 4 Core Competencies with the Canberra Institute of Technology
 The *Working with Clients who have AOD issues* Competency and *Assessing the Needs of Clients who have AOD Issues* Competency are components 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: Work with Clients who have AOD Issues:*
 To access the survey please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Dodaj3WfhZX_2bDcLZo_2bY6Kg_3d_3d
Stream 2: Assess the Needs of Clients Who have AOD Issues:
 To access the survey please visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=lzxPrCX8GqFsagvZclaqq_3d_3d

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

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project
Update on Project activities.
ACT Drug Action Week 2009 Wrap Up
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.
NAIDOC Week
Information on NAIDOC Week in the ACT.
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, fact sheets 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.
Interstate Conferences and Symposiums
Information on interstate conferences relevant to the AOD sector.
Policy, Reports and Research
New research, reports, inquiry findings, and any key policy activities affecting 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.
Employment Opportunities
Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD and allied sectors.
Grants and Funding Opportunities
Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

See also:

- [ACT Drug Action Week 2009 Wrap Up](#) section.
- [Training and Professional Development](#) section for the 'ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar'

ACT Drug Action Week 2009 Wrap Up

ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group

ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group is involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week and is open to all workers from AOD and allied services. The key agenda item for the final meeting for 2009 will be reviewing activities, and planning for Drug Action Week 2010.

Date: Thursday 2 July 2009

Time: 2 - 3pm

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

RSVP: To daw@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540

Media Release: Alcohol is a Drug Too

19 June 2009

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, has used the launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT, to highlight the harms associated with the misuse of alcohol. Drug Action Week will be held this year from 21 to 27 June 2009, with this year's theme 'Alcohol is a drug too!'

"This is the second consecutive year that alcohol has been the major focus of Drug Action Week. This shows the importance of the issue and its current profile nationally," Ms Gallagher said.

"Drug Action Week aims to provide information to the community and to create debate about the harms associated with the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

"The Week also highlights the achievements of the dedicated people who work on the frontline of the alcohol and other drugs sector and I would like to congratulate those who have been involved in the planning of local activities for Drug Action Week," Ms Gallagher said.

"The diverse program of events during Drug Action Week is a reminder to all of us, of the broad role that the alcohol and other drugs sector plays in both the prevention and the treatment of problems associated with alcohol use.

"I commend the important work of the sector and that of the Youth Coalition of the ACT in helping people affected by the use of alcohol and other drugs in our community."

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8134&m=52 to view the full media release.

Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference: Exploring the Relationship between ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Services and the New Prison

ACT AOD Sector Project

The Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference: *Exploring the Relationship between ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Services and the New Prison* was held on 24 June 2009 as part of Drug Action Week in the ACT. Over 100 cross-sectoral participants attended and provided very positive feedback, including:

- "Very enjoyable and brilliantly planned. Excellent choice of speakers."
- "Excellent presentations from well informed and credible, relevant speakers."
- "The day was encouraging and reinforcing for the AOD sector."

Congratulations to everyone involved in planning the event, particularly the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group, the ACT AOD Workers Group and the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group.

Where to from here?

A range of activities will be conducted following the conference, including:

1. Conference Evaluation Report – summary of participants feedback on the conference;
2. Conference Webpage (www.aodsector.org.au) – will contain conference presentations and other relevant information;
3. ACT AOD Sector and Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) Working Group – a group in development and lead by the ACT AOD sector, to proactively build linkages; and identify issues / strategies;
4. ACT AOD Sector and Prisons Project - a proactive sector-wide needs assessment focused on workforce development and capacity building;
5. ACT AOD Sector Forum: Prisons - November 2009, to present needs assessment findings and discuss strategies;
6. Mapping AOD Services – proactive AOD sector wide mapping of what services are / could be provided with the AMC;
7. Services for Prisoners included in the next ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 4 - November 2009 edition to include what AOD services are providing to prisoners and their families; and,
8. Keeping stakeholders informed of developments – through the monthly ACT AOD Sector e-bulletin (this document); the monthly ACT AOD Sector Forum; the Bi-Annual Comorbidity Forum.

For further information please contact conference@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT AOD Sector Forum Update

This section reports on information shared by services, programs and workers who attend the ACT AOD Sector Forum. As there was not a Forum in June 2009, the sector forum update will return in the September 2009 eBulletin.

NAIDOC Week 2009

NAIDOC Week will be held from 5 - 12 July 2009. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. For more information visit www.naidoc.org.au. Source: ACT Council of Social Service.

An Introduction to NAIDOC Week

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

In addition to the many local activities, NAIDOC celebrations traditionally have a 'national focus'. The national focus city for 2009 is Brisbane. Celebrations are based on a national theme – the theme for 2009 is "Honoring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth". ACTCOSS is hosting a morning tea in the week prior to NAIDOC Week 2009 to provide an introduction to NAIDOC Week and information on events.

Date: Thursday 2 July 2009

Time: 10.30am – 11.30am

Venue: ACTCOSS, Level 1, 67 Townsend Street, Phillip

RSVP: By Tuesday 30 June 2009 to Julie or George on 6202 7200

NAIDOC Awards Ball*ACT NAIDOC Committee*

All are welcome to join in and honour and celebrate the wonderful feats and efforts of the achievers in our small but humble community.

The evening features entertainment by Adam James and the Usual Suspects as well as a performance by Kevin Kropinyeri (winner of Deadly Funny 2008 at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival).

Date: Saturday 4 July 2009

Time: From 7pm

Venue: Deakin Sports Club, 2 Grose St, Deakin

Cost: \$45 per person, or \$40 each when you book a table of ten.

RSVP: Contact Nevada Poulos on (02) 6207 0555 or 0405 480 432, or Robyn Forester on 0414 917 740 or Maurice Walker on 0458 598 254

NAIDOC 'Smoke Free' Youth Talent Quest and Disco*Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation supported by the ACT Government under the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program.*

Dance competitions, prizes, talent showcase and heaps more. Please note that children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

Time: 6pm - 10.30pm (doors open at 5.30pm)

Venue: Vikings Erindale Auditorium, Wanniasa

For more information or to enter the talent quest contact Selina Walker on (02) 6231 9555.

Honouring Our Elders, Nurturing Our Youth : A gathering to celebrate Indigenous Women's Leadership*ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS), Beryl Women Inc., Women's Legal Centre and the YWCA of Canberra*

All are welcome to share stories (and lunch) to honour the work of the women who have gone before us and to inspire and nurture the younger women who are beginning their journey. For non-Indigenous women, there will be opportunities to learn about how non-Indigenous women have supported Indigenous rights and reconciliation and how to carry on that legacy into the future. There will be time to talk together about what the shared stories mean to us and how we can use them to inspire and encourage or journey forward.

Date: Wednesday 8 July 2009

Time: 11am - 2pm

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

Food: Bush tucker inspired lunch provided

RSVP: To the YWCA of Canberra on (02) 6239 6878, canberra@ywca-canberra.org.au or www.ywca-canberra.org.au

NAIDOC Week Family and Community Day*Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation*

The day will feature entertainment and fun aimed at the whole family, including Kenny Koala; face painting; balloons; refreshments; show bags; reptile display; lunch; prizes and giveaways; and kids' activities'. Tickets are free but places are limited so bookings are essential. All are welcome but no ticket—no lunch!

Date: Thursday 9 July

Time: 11am - 3pm

Venue: 158 Stockdill Drive, Holt

RSVP: By 2 July 2009 to Linda on (02) 6278 4799

Visit www.naidoc.org.au for more information on NAIDOC Week.

Sector Activities and Events**Mick Barry - Celebration of Life***Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)*

Micky Barry was a well respected health advocate who dedicated work to improving the health and wellbeing of people affected by alcohol and other drug issues in Canberra and across Australia. He was an employee of both the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) and the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users' League (AIVL); and represented consumers on groups such as the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Strategy Implementation and Evaluation Group for a long time. Below is a copy of a CAHMA radio show announcement:

"Micky Barry died Tuesday 16th June after a 6 month battle with bowel cancer. He had been staying with his partner, Spiral, who was looking after him. He died at the house in the company of close friends and relatives.

Micky was buried last Friday 26th June on his brothers property at Drake, Northern NSW. He was buried next to the rainforest that he had spent many years working on re-planting and regenerating. The ceremony was conducted by an elder representing the local Bungalong people's who performed a beautiful traditional ceremony. Family members from NZ then participated in a Maori ceremonial dance traditionally performed at funerals, followed by Micky's partner conducting a smudging (ancient ritual to "Cleanse with Smoke" – involves burning of herbs and incense to cleanse the area). The burial site was extremely beautiful covered with native flowers and bushes and as the sun set about 50 small candles were placed around the edges and through the flowers."

We would like to invite Micky's friends to a celebration of his life:

Date: Friday 3 July 2009

Time: 3pm

Venue: CAHMA Office, 112 - 116 Allinga St, Canberra City

For any questions please contact CAHMA on (02) 6279 1670.

Public Hearings on the Human Rights Consultation*National Human Rights Consultation Committee*

The Public Hearings provide a forum for key commentators on human rights issues to present information to the National Human Rights Consultation Committee. This will include addresses from public figures and notable speakers, both at home and overseas. The hearings will also provide an opportunity for the Committee to invite groups and individuals who have made substantive submissions as part of the consultation, to expand upon or clarify elements of their submission. The public is invited to attend some or all of the Hearings. Visit www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au/www/nhrcc/hearings.nsf/calendar for more information.

Date: 1 - 3 July 2009.

Venue: Great Hall, Parliament House.

Download the [Public Hearings Program](#).

Healing Foundation: Community Workshops*Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)*

The Australian Government is proposing to set up a Healing Foundation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which will support communities and individuals to address trauma and healing needs. The proposed Foundation will seek to support holistic and innovative healing through funding support, community education and documenting what practices work.

The Healing Foundation Development Team will be conducting Community Workshops across Australia from May to July 2009 to listen to community ideas for the Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation. The information gathered from these workshops will contribute to the development of the role and structure of the Foundation. Workshops are open to all interested participants.

Date: 27 – 28 July 2009

Venue: Pavillion, 242 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson

Written submissions are also welcome and may be submitted by close of business July 31 2009.

Visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/engagement/HealingFoundationDevelopmentTeam/Pages/default.aspx for more information.

Overdose Awareness Day: August 31 2009

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is inviting services and individuals to participate in Overdose Awareness Day 2009 to remember those who have died from having suffered overdose as well as those who live with permanent injuries from overdose. This year The Salvation Army would like to encourage people to post a tribute to someone lost from an overdose their website from the beginning of August. The website will also offer space for particulars of events that are being conducted on the day.

Visit The Overdose Awareness Day website at www.salvationarmy.org.au/crisisservices

News from the Executive Directors' Group

Below are some of the items the ACT AOD Executive Directors' / Chief Executive Officers' Group progressed in June 2009:

- . Progressed the cross-sectoral Comorbidity Smoke-free Proposal to be submitted to ACT Health.
- . Discussed the sector's input into the *ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014* which has been released for public consultation. The Ted Noffs Foundation ACT is leading this work with the sector.
- . Discussed the sector's input into the *People with Disability in the ACT: Strategic Priorities 2009 – 2014 Consultation Paper* discussion paper which has been released for public consultation. CAHMA is leading this work with the sector.
- . Discussed the sector's input into the:
 - o *The Mental Health Promotion Prevention and Early Intervention Framework - Building a Strong Foundation: A Framework for Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT 2009–2014*; and
 - o *The Draft Suicide Prevention Strategy - Managing the Risk of Suicide Two: A Suicide Prevention Strategy 2006–2008* which have been released for public consultation. DIRECTIONS ACT is leading this work with the sector.
- . Begun discussions on how the sector can further progress its work with culturally and linguistically diverse clients and services.
- . Discussed strengthening coordination and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in regards to criminal justice system.
- . Discussed the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy and further strengthening the sector's relationship with the Canberra Institute of Technology.
- . Discussed the development of ACT AOD Sector Awards to be held in December 2009.

For further information about the ACT AOD Executive Directors Group visit www.aodsector.org.au/public/about/actedg.htm

Sector Development

Consultation on the National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS) Strengthening Families Program

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD), on behalf of the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

The ANCD is seeking input on the development of a new phase of the NIDS Strengthening Families Program from organisations that either work with people affected by substance misuse who may have children, or with families and/or children who may be affected by substance misuse. This could include organisations in the alcohol and other drugs sector as well as those in family support and child protection service sectors. The consultation is primarily focused on collecting views on the most appropriate service models, programs and investments that should be made within the context of available funding to provide the best outcomes for families and children at risk.

This is an important opportunity to ensure that your views are considered by FaHCSIA when redesigning and refocusing the Strengthening Families Program. To participate you will need to answer a number of questions that will take approximately 10 minutes of your time. Questions can be accessed at

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OBugC5Kykk6gp0JA7wbjQ_3d_3d

To assist in answering the questions a background discussion paper is also provided at www.ncnd.org.au/assets/pdf/Consultation_Background_Paper.pdf

The closing date for answers is close of business, **Monday 6 July 2009**.

Helping someone with problem cannabis use: Mental Health First Aid Guidelines

Orygen Youth Health for the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC)

New first aid guidelines for problem cannabis use have been released to help the community identify and assist users who are developing a problem with cannabis use or are in a cannabis-related crisis. The guidelines have been developed in response to the growing body of evidence that links cannabis use to a range of physical and mental health problems. They are designed to inform members of the community how to recognise when someone's cannabis use has become a problem, how to provide initial support and information, and how to guide the user to seek professional help.

Visit <http://ncpic.org.au/ncpic/news/ncpic-news/article/helping-someone-with-problem-cannabis-use-mental-health-first-aid-guidelines> for more information.

Would you like to start a journal club but don't know how to do so?

Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA)

ADCA's National Drugs Sector Information Service (NDSIS) has created a webpage to assist people working in the AOD sector who would like to start journal clubs. A journal club is a group of individuals who meet regularly to critically evaluate recent articles from the literature. The clubs are usually based around a particular subject and can be used for several purposes such as to introduce and raise awareness of current, relevant research literature; promote the understanding of research and research jargon; promote the critical analysis of new research; and promote informed debate on current topics of research. They make it possible for experienced team members to share knowledge and expertise with newer members of the team.

The NDSIS webpage provides practical tips to starting a journal club, users' guides to evidence-based practice, users' guides to medical literature, and tips on how to make a start. Email the NDSIS at <http://ndsis.adca.org.au/journalclubs> for a free 'Journal Club Pack' which includes articles giving more information on journal clubs, some sample articles for a club meeting, and suggestions on how to plan your first meetings. The Manager of ADCA's NDSIS, Ms Jane Shelling, has kindly offered to assist Canberra-based AOD workers to establish their journal clubs. Email jane.shelling@adca.org.au or phone her at 6215 9800.

New Campaign and Website: www.highsnlows.com.au

Australian Drug Foundation, Orygen Youth Health and the Department of Human Services, Victoria

highsnlows is a new campaign and website about cannabis and mental health. The campaign will roll out over the next five months and will feature a series of animated short films following four young people's experiences with cannabis. These films encourage the audience to think about how their mental health and wellbeing may be affected by cannabis use. The website includes:

- . An anonymous and professional Q&A service that provides clear, unbiased, non-judgmental answers to any questions they may have about cannabis and mental health. The answers are provided by a panel of health professionals.
- . A safe space for visitors to share their stories and experiences.
- . Information about cannabis and mental health.
- . A searchable database of Australian youth-friendly health services and organisations

Australian Youth Forum: Binge Drinking

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Australian Government

The Australian Government is seeking input around what can be done about Binge Drinking through an online survey. The Australian Youth Forum's topic on 'Binge Drinking' has resulted through the 'Violence and Safety' discussions at the inaugural youTHINK event, which was held on 20 February 2009. Young people at the event were concerned about the links between alcohol abuse and violence in public places.

Visit www.youth.gov.au/ayf/Ideas/TopicsList.aspx to participate in the survey. The survey will close Sunday 5 July 2009.

National Events Calendar

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF)

The AERF invites everyone to put any conferences, workshops, seminars or anything else interesting to the AOD sector or the general public on our website. All you have to do is visit www.aerf.com.au/showcase/calendar.aspx and click on the 'list your event' link.

Survey Concerning Child and Parent Sensitive Work Practice in the AOD Field

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), in conjunction with the Australian Centre for Child Protection

Child and parent sensitive work practice involves identifying and addressing the needs of adult clients as parents, and the needs of their children as a part of the treatment/counselling process. The aim of child and parent sensitive work practice is to improve client outcomes and ensure the safety and well-being of their children.

An online survey has been developed to allow workers to share their thoughts and work practices concerning this issue. It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey.

To access the survey visit www.surveymk.com/s.aspx?sm=raTP1mjH45vq3H69_2FHDV9g_3d_3d

Survey: Experiences and Expectations of General Practice in the ACT

Health Care Consumers Association (HCCA)

HCCA invites stakeholders to complete an online survey, to assist in developing a better understanding of consumer experiences and expectations of general practice in the ACT. The HCCA will use the results to advocate for consumers in the ACT, will make the results publicly available and also share the results with the GP Task Force. The survey takes 10 minutes to complete, and is anonymous.

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Y9DI4VVUU4v7_2bV6jISO7jA_3d_3d to complete the survey.

Submission to the Five Year Review of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

ACTCOSS has released a report on the first five years of the ACT Human Rights Act 2004, its impact on the community sector and those living with disadvantage. The report makes 12 recommendations to improve the Act and build a true human rights culture here in the ACT. The report is being provided to Government for consideration as part of the Attorney-General's mandated review of the Act - due before the end of June 2009.

View the [Submission](#).

Community Engagement Consultations

Chief Minister's Department, ACT Government

The Chief Minister's Department has recently commissioned a project that is seeking feedback about how it might improve the way it consults and engages with the community. As part of that project it has set up an independently moderated website for members of the community to offer their views on – and talk to others about – the strengths or weaknesses of any consultation processes they have been involved in, their preferred ways of being consulted, and how the ACT Government can ensure their consultation processes are as inclusive as possible. There is also the option of taking a very short, one question survey.

Visit www.bangthetable.com/actconsultations to access the website.

It's a Viral Life - training resource for people who are working with those affected by hepatitis C

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)

It's a Viral Life is a website of stories that have been written by people living with hepatitis C most of whom are, or have been, illicit drug users.

Visit www.aivl.org.au/avirallife/ to view the website.

Directory of Mental Health Services in the ACT

Mental Health Foundation ACT

This Directory lists all mental health services in the ACT and other services that may assist in recovery, resilience, support, maintaining wellbeing, improving quality of life and helping people to reach their potential. An updated version is produced every 3 months.

To view the Directory visit www.mhf.org.au/mhf/Directory.aspx?a=9&s=44&c=10

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (July - August 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 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

What about me? 2009

Disability, Housing & Community Services, Mental Health ACT and ACT Health

This child-focused workshop aims to enhance the practice of those who work with children in vulnerable families. The workshop is designed to increase your awareness, confidence and ability to work with children and young people living in families where there is parental mental illness.

Date: 2 July 2009

Time: 9am - 4.30pm

Venue: Beaufort Room, Nature Conservation House, cnr Benjamin Way and Emu Bank, Belconnen

Registration: Download the [registration form](#).

Download the [What about me? flyer](#) for more information.

Harassment and Bullying

ACT Human Rights Commission held jointly with ACT Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Commissioner

This workshop provides a comprehensive discussion of workplace bullying and harassment under both discrimination and OHS law.

Date: 7 July 2009

Time: 9.30am - 1pm

Venue: Level 9, 12 Moore St, Canberra City

Cost: \$200

Registration: A registration form is available online at www.hrc.act.gov.au

Introduction to the Human Rights Act

ACT Human Rights Commission

The *Human Rights Act 2004* guarantees key civil and political rights for people in the ACT. This workshop will provide participants with:

- . An understanding of the purpose and operation of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.
- . An understanding of the way the Human Rights Act 2004 may reasonably limit rights.
- . An overview of the work of the Human Rights Commission in the area of human rights.
- . General information regarding the effect of new amendments to the *Human Rights Act 2004* that require public authorities to act and make decisions in accordance with human rights.

Date: 14 July 2009

Time: 9.30am - 1pm

Venue: Level 9, 12 Moore St, Canberra City

Cost: \$200

Registration: A registration form is available online at www.hrc.act.gov.au

Introduction to the Discrimination Act

ACT Human Rights Commission

This workshop will:

- . Provide participants with a general understanding of the purpose, scope and operation of the *Discrimination Act 1991*.
- . Outline what constitutes unlawful discrimination in the ACT and the difference between direct and indirect discrimination.
- . Highlight the expectations you might need to know about discrimination.
- . Discuss sexual harassment, vilification and victimisation.
- . Discuss different types of liability and how this affects individuals and organisations.
- . Examine various current discrimination cases and look at the discrimination issues arising from each case.
- . Outline the role of the ACT Human Rights Commission and our complaints handling process.

Date: 23 July 2009

Time: 9.30am - 1pm

Venue: Level 9, 12 Moore St, Canberra City

Cost: \$200

Registration: A registration form is available online at www.hrc.act.gov.au

Introduction to Narrative Therapy Training

Integrated Family Support Project (IFSP), ACT Government

David Newman and Carolyn Markey from the Dulwich Centre in Adelaide will be facilitating an introduction to Narrative Therapy for IFSP coordinators. If spaces are not all filled by IFSP case coordinators, other community sector workers can access the training, at no cost.

Date: 27 - 28 July 2009

Time: 9.30am - 5pm (TBC)

Venue: Tuggeranong Child and Family Centre, 159 Anketell St, Tuggeranong

Cost: Free

RSVP: Essential, by 17 July 2009. Contact Carolyn Farthing on (02) 6205 4361 or carolyn.farthing@act.gov.au

Download the [training flyer](#).

Therapeutic Communities (TC) : Getting better all the time - Partnerships, practice and collaboration

Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association

The focus of the 2009 Conference is on Evidence-Based Practice within the TC and other settings in which we work. The Conference will attract delegates from TCs, other AOD, Mental Health, Youth and Family sectors. It will particularly address the populations with whom we work & focus on the Conference themes of Comorbidity, Indigenous Cultural Issues, Families –including discussion of childcare programs, Youth and Correctional settings.

Date: 14 - 17 September

Venue: The Rydges Hotel, Capital Hill, Canberra

Cost: Full registration \$550, Day Registration \$185.

Registration: Visit www.atca.com.au/home.htm for information on registration.

National Indigenous Studies Conference 2009: Early Registration

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

The Conference titled *Perspectives on Urban Life: Connections and Reconnections* will consider a range of questions for Indigenous people living in urban and semi-urban/regional areas. The Conference provides an opportunity for a diverse range of people to discuss issues of relevance for today's urban Indigenous population, including community members and organisations, Traditional Owners, policy makers, service and industry providers, government agencies, consultants, academics and researchers.

Date: 29 September - 1 October 2009

Venue: The Manning Clark Centre, Australian National University, Canberra

Registration: A reduced rate for registrations before 31 July 2009 is available.

For more information visit www.aiatsis.gov.au/research_program/events2/conference_2009

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

Thinking Drinking 3: Action for Change

Australian Drug Foundation

This Conference will build on the outcomes of Thinking Drinking 1 (2005) and 2 (2007) and will provide a valuable opportunity to review, examine and debate the current evidence and best practice on addressing the drivers of drinking culture. The key outcome sought is an agreed Agenda for Action to unite, support and guide all our efforts to reduce alcohol related harm. This conference will be relevant and useful for those concerned with policy change; health, welfare, liquor licensing and enforcement, community education and development, and more.

Date: 5 - 7 August 2009

Venue: Brisbane Hilton, 190 Elizabeth St, Brisbane, Queensland

Cost: Full Registration \$790, Day Registration \$330, Concession Full Registration \$440.

Registration: Information available at www.adf.org.au/browse.asp?ContainerID=thinkingdrinkin3

Indigenous Young People, Crime and Justice Conference

Australian Institute of Criminology in partnership with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the NSW Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

The overrepresentation of Indigenous young people in the criminal justice system has been identified as one of Australia's most significant social problems (Snowball 2008).

This conference aims to identify and share the research and practice most relevant to addressing this problem. It has a major focus on Indigenous children and young people who interact with the criminal justice system early and/or repeatedly, who are likely to have complex needs and require highly targeted and joined up responses across the

justice and other interrelated systems such as education, child protection, family support, and cultural services.

Date: 31 August - 1 September 2009

Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Parramatta, New South Wales

Cost: Early Bird Registrations \$490, Day Registration \$360, Concession \$310.

Registration: Early Bird Registrations are available until 6 July 2009. Register online at

https://communicationlink.com.au/AIC_Conflink/Common/Registration.aspx?ConferenceID=3

For more information visit www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2009-indigenouyouth/

1st National Cannabis Conference

The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC)

NCPIC is pleased to announce that the Centre will be convening the first National Cannabis Conference in 2009. Full details of the conference program, including workshop sessions, and registration details are available online at <http://ncpic.org.au/workforce/cannabis-conference/>

Date: 7 - 8 September 2009

Venue: Coles Theatre, Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo, Sydney, New South Wales

Cost: Early Bird Full Registration: \$425

Registration: Early bird registrations are available until 31 July.

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre Annual Symposium & Drug Trends Conference 2009

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

2009 Annual Symposium:

The 2009 Annual Symposium will again highlight research projects undertaken at NDARC and will be of interest to policy makers; clinicians and other health professionals working in the AOD field including front-line workers; researchers; community organisations and leaders. Invited speakers will update the field on the activities of the National Preventative Health Task Force as it relates to the AOD sector and responses to alcohol related issues across levels of government.

National Drug Trends Conference: What's new in illicit drug use in Australia?

The National Drug Trends Conference will present recent findings in illicit drug use, markets and related harms across Australia. Convened by Australia's largest drug monitoring systems, the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS), the one day conference will include the first release of the 2009 findings, in addition to discussion of emerging trends in illicit drug use and what these mean for policy as well as other related issues (risk taking, health issues, alcohol, aggression and gambling) in Australia.

Date: 28 & 29 September 2009

Venue: Powerhouse Museum, 500 Harris St, Ultimo, New South Wales

Registration: Closes 24 September 2009.

Cost: Annual Symposium \$210, Drug Trends Conference \$210 or both \$250. Discounted prices are available for registrations received prior to Friday 31 July 2009.

For more information visit <http://quest.event.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=3964b11c-9f48-44c1-8ef8-49313128de97>

Australian Drugs Conference – Drugs in Hard Times

Anex

When social disadvantage, drugs and tough economic conditions converge they can create the perfect storm. Such a maelstrom puts individuals, families, communities and services under intense pressure. These changed times mean an increasing number of Australians may not have the support, skills and other means to stay afloat. Frontline workers deal with the day-to-day reality of hard times – a reality that is often complex and extends beyond issues of drug use.

This conference will look at the effects of tough times and our ability to save lives and build resilience and will focus on improving the ability of frontline services to respond to the complex issues that affect people who use drugs illicitly. Anex is currently calling for abstracts to be submitted by 26 June 2009.

Date: 1 - 2 October 2009

Venue: RACV Club, Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria

Cost: Early bird full registration \$390

Registration: Early bird registration closes 31 July 2009.

Visit the www.australiandrugconference.org.au for more information.

Oceania Tobacco Control Conference: Reducing inequality through tobacco control

The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC)

This conference is held every 2 years and is the peak conference for Tobacco Control in our region, attracting delegates from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

This is an exciting time for Indigenous tobacco control, given the recent funding commitment by Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to reduce the 17 year life expectancy gap for Indigenous people. Reducing smoking prevalence is now understood to be a critical part of reducing this gap.

CEITC is currently calling for abstracts to be submitted by 19 June 2009. CEITC would like to encourage as much Indigenous participation as possible, particularly oral presentations about Indigenous projects, so that news of all the great work going on in projects around Australia can be showcased

Further information on Indigenous scholarships to attend the Conference will be available shortly.

Date: 7 - 9 October 2009

Venue: TBC, Darwin

Cost: Early full registration: \$500

Registration: Early registration closes 24 July 2009.

More information is available at www.oceaniatc2009.org

2009 National Hepatitis Health Promotion Conference

Hepatitis Australia

The conference will feature plenary addresses from health promotion experts, health promotion skills workshops and presentations on viral hepatitis prevention, education, health maintenance and support projects. The theme of the conference is 'Grass Roots to National Action.' The conference will demonstrate effective grass roots health promotion projects and explore issues of working collaboratively to effect change at a national level.

Abstracts are currently being sought for submission by 31 July 2009.

Date: 29 - 30 October 2009

Venue: Grand Chancellor Hotel, 1 Davey St, Hobart, Tasmania

Cost: Free

Registration: Available online at www.hepatitisaustralia.com/events_projects/Registration.html

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2009 Conference

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

This conference will feature an exciting program which includes international and national speakers, focussing on new treatment, prevention and policy in the areas of drug and alcohol research. Featuring original work from this field, the conference program will, for the first time, encourage alternative presentation styles such film, yarning circles and artwork whilst maintaining conventional modes of presentation such as oral and poster presentations, participatory workshops and debates/discussions.

Date: 1 - 4 November

Venue: Darwin Convention Centre, Northern Territory

Cost: Early member full \$720, Early non-member full \$820.

Registration: Early bird registration closes 11 September 2009. Information on registration is available at www.apsadconference.com.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>.

Are governance, sustainability and funding serious problems for AOD NGOs?

The June 2009 *eBulletin* reported on a survey conducted by the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) into the amount of time AOD non-government organisations spend preparing funding submissions and meeting other government funding requirements. A companion ANCD report presents the results of research commissioned by the ANCD into 'governance, sustainability and funding of non-profit, non-government organisations' in the AOD sector. Key issues identified 'include problems with workforce capacity...governance issues [both within organisations and in relation to the broader community]...[and] financial deficits which impede workforce development and service delivery'. Smaller organisations and those working with remote and Indigenous communities have particular problems. Options identified include workforce development for staff, management and the board; strengthening governance; building relationships with government and within the sector; and suggestions for strengthening funding.

Spooner, C & Dadich, A 2009, *Non-government organisations in the alcohol and other drugs sector: issues and options for sustainability*, ANCD Research Paper 17, Australian National Council on Drugs, Canberra, http://ancd.org.au/assets/pdf/rp17_non-government_orgs.pdf.

What can we learn from Portugal's decriminalisation of drugs?

In Portugal in 2001 'all drugs were "decriminalized," not "legalized." Thus, drug possession for personal use and drug usage itself are still legally prohibited, but violations of those prohibitions are deemed to be exclusively administrative violations and are removed completely from the criminal realm. Drug trafficking continues to be prosecuted as a criminal offense'. A report on the effects of this legal change states that 'decriminalization has become increasingly popular in Portugal since 2001...there is no real debate about whether drugs should once again be criminalized. More significantly, none of the nightmare scenarios touted by pre-enactment decriminalization opponents—from rampant increases in drug usage among the young to the transformation of Lisbon into a haven for "drug tourists"—has occurred'.

Further, 'decriminalization has had no adverse effect on drug usage rates in Portugal, which, in numerous categories, are now among the lowest in the EU, particularly when compared with states with stringent criminalization regimes. Although postdecriminalization usage rates have remained roughly the same or even decreased slightly when compared with other EU states, drug-related pathologies—such as sexually transmitted diseases and deaths due to drug usage—have decreased dramatically. Drug policy experts attribute those positive trends to the enhanced ability of the Portuguese government to offer treatment programs to its citizens—enhancements made possible, for numerous reasons, by decriminalization'. The author concludes that 'the Portuguese decriminalization framework has been a resounding success. Within this success lie self-evident lessons that should guide drug policy debates around the world'.

Greenwald, G 2009, *Drug decriminalization in Portugal: lessons for creating fair and successful drug policies*, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.,

www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=10080. Large file warning: 4MB.

How effective is early family training in reducing child behaviour problems?

A recently published review assesses research evidence on 'the effects of early family/parent training on child behavior problems including antisocial behavior and delinquency'. This research was undertaken based on evidence that 'early antisocial behavior is a key risk factor for continued delinquency and crime throughout the life course, [and] early family/parent training, among its many functions, has been advanced as an important intervention/prevention effort'.

The reviewers state that 'There are several theories concerning why early family/parent training may cause a reduction in child behaviour problems including antisocial behavior and delinquency (and have other ancillary benefits in non-crime domains over the life course)' and the studies reviewed indicate that 'early family/parent training is an effective intervention for reducing child behavior problems including antisocial behavior and delinquency'. The reviewers conclude that 'early family/parent training should continue to be used to prevent child behavior problems such as conduct problems, antisocial behavior, and delinquency among young persons in the first five years of life. Such programs appear to have few negative effects and some clear benefits for its subjects'.

Piquero, AR, Farrington, DP, Welsh, BC, Tremblay, R, Jennings, WG 2008, 'Effects of early family/parenting programs on antisocial behavior and delinquency', *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, no. 11, online www.campbellcollaboration.org/news/_effective_parent_training_programs.php

Are teenagers who are involved in a 12-Step program more likely to abstain from alcohol and drugs than non-attenders?

A 12-Step program is 'a set of guiding principles outlining a course of action for recovery from addiction, compulsion or other behavioral problems' (Wikipedia) which was originally proposed by Alcoholics Anonymous. American researchers analysed data for 357 adolescents, aged 13–18, who entered treatment at four Kaiser Permanente Northern California chemical dependence programs between March 2000 and May 2002 with follow-up after three years on alcohol and drug use, 12-Step affiliation, social support and frequency of religious service attendance. Kaiser Permanente is a private, managed-care health plan.

The researchers found that '1-year 12-Step attendance predicted 3-year alcohol abstinence... Adolescents attending 10 or more meetings in the previous 6 months were twice, and those involved in three or more activities were more than five times as likely to be abstinent from alcohol and drugs as their counterparts'. Their findings suggest that 'social support mediates the relationship between TSA [12-Step affiliation] and both alcohol and drug abstinence'. They also found that 'frequent religious service attendance mediated only the relationships between TSA and drug, but not alcohol, abstinence'.

Chi, FW, Kaskutas, LA, Sterling, S, Campbell, CI & Weisner, C 2009, 'Twelve-Step affiliation and 3-year substance use outcomes among adolescents: social support and religious service attendance as potential mediators', *Addiction*, vol. Volume 104, no. 6, pp. 927-39.

Annual NSP Survey report released

The report on the 2008 annual NSP Survey, covering the years 2004 to 2008, was released in May this year. This valuable report includes a national summary and summaries of findings relating to each of the States and Territories. A feature chapter on 'Needle and syringe use, re-use and cleaning' reports that 'Reuse of injecting equipment was relatively common with almost half the respondents...reporting recent re-use of a needle, syringe, winged vein infusion set or wheel filter', and of those who reported recent reuse 'reports of cleaning were high with 84%...reporting recent cleaning' of injecting equipment. It is pleasing to note that the number of ACT participants in the Survey has increased from 22 in 2007 to 31 in 2008, though this is still well below the 52 participants in 2006. There is, however, interest in exploring opportunities for increasing participation in the ACT in future years.

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research 2008, *Australian NSP Survey national data report 2004-2008*, NCHCECR, University of New South Wales, Sydney, available online at www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchecr

How effectively do police implement drug diversion strategies?

A new National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund study of the implementation and management of the drug diversion strategies in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria

over the period 2000-2005 has found that 'there is a clear indication that all jurisdictions have fulfilled the objective of implementation'. The researchers report that police officers surveyed showed two contrasting attitudes to drug diversion: 'one that is antithetical to diversion and endorses punitive criminal justice outcomes for minor drug use/possession offences; and one which believes that diversion is appropriate'. However 'many recently recruited police officers were opposed to the diversion strategies', suggesting that 'training should put more emphasis on the primary police mandate of public order maintenance' rather than 'a more law enforcement/crime-fighting attitude to policing'.

Tasmanian and Victorian respondents to the survey reported 'a significantly higher level of discretion than those in South Australia (who are required to divert by legislation). There was an inverse relationship between reported levels of discretion and the likelihood of diverting an offender. The qualitative interviews suggested that the decision to divert or not is a complicated matter that hinging [sic] on various factors including the age, record and attitude of the offender, the type of drug used/possessed (soft or hard), the attitude of the police officer to diversion (positive or negative) and the presence or absence of a benchmark'.

Kellow, A, Hall, R, Richman, M, Alessandrini, M, Bower, M, Julian, R & White, R 2008, *Enhancing the implementation and management of drug diversion strategies in Australian law enforcement agencies: the cases of South Australia Police, Tasmania Police and Victoria Police during the period 2000-2005*, Monograph Series no. 31, National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund, Hobart, www.ndlerf.gov.au/pub.php?type=mono.

Are women's drug use and criminal behaviour different from men's?

An Australian Institute of Criminology study over the period 2003 to 2006 examined involvement in drug use and crime comparing 'female with male police detainees; female police detainees with female prisoners; and Indigenous with non-Indigenous female police detainees'. It found that 'Female police detainees were more socially and occupationally disadvantaged than male detainees and considerably more socially and occupationally disadvantaged than women in the general community'.

Women favoured drugs such as 'amphetamine/methylamphetamine, heroin, benzodiazepines, street methadone and morphine while male police detainees were 'more likely to consume alcohol and use drugs such as cannabis and ecstasy than were female police detainees'. However, 'Regular and dependent alcohol use increased the likelihood of women being involved in violent offending, although not to the same extent as men'. While many women 'were already involved in regular illicit drug use by the time they came to the attention of police', men were more likely to be using alcohol and cannabis on a regular basis but not yet other illicit drugs by the time they were first apprehended for crime'. Women were more likely than men 'to attribute their crime to their illicit drug use'.

Indigenous women were 'more likely to have used alcohol or cannabis, while non-Indigenous women were more likely 'to have used illicit drugs such as heroin and cocaine'. 'Indigenous women were the more likely to be dependent on alcohol or combined alcohol and illicit drug use.'

The researchers conclude that 'that in order to reduce women's drug use and crime, any interventions or treatment programs need to...address not only drug or alcohol use but also mental health problems and ways to improve the social and occupational disadvantage experienced by many, such as in areas of housing, education, and vocational opportunities'. They state 'It is important that such services be available both in and outside the criminal justice system, in order to help women at risk of becoming enmeshed in a drug-using and criminal lifestyle and to provide women who have become involved in the criminal justice system with the resources necessary to break the cycle'.

Loxley, W & Adams, K 2009, *Women, drug use and crime: findings from the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program*, Research and Public Policy Series, no. 99, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/99/. Large file warning: 1.4 MB.

Are prisoners who are hepatitis C positive more likely to acquire the condition inside or outside prison?

In a study of newly incarcerated prisoners in three South Australian prisons, Miller et al. investigated entry antibody seroprevalence and seroconversion to hepatitis C virus (HCV) and associated risk factors in newly incarcerated prisoners. They found that 'HCV seroprevalence among 662 prison entrants was estimated at 42%. Previous injecting history was highly prevalent at entry (64%) and both community and prison injecting independently predicted entry HCV status. Tattooing was not an important risk factor. While community exposure could not be ruled out, three seroconversions were noted in 148 initially HCV-seronegative individuals occurring in a median 121 days—4.6 per 100 person-years. Prison injecting was infrequently reported, but HCV-seropositive participants were significantly more likely to commence [injecting drug use] in prison than seronegative participants'. They found an 'increased risk for female prisoners' and a 'greater proportion of female prisoners charged with drug-related offences relative to men'. The study also revealed 'significantly increased risk for Indigenous prisoners'. The researchers found that injecting drug use in the community, rather than in prison, was associated with the greatest risk after adjusting for age, sex, and Indigenous status.

Their conclusion was that 'Entry HCV seroprevalence in South Australian prisoners is extremely high and may have contributed to a 'ceiling effect', minimizing the observable seroconversion rate. Greater frequency of injecting among those already infected with HCV represents a significant threat to other prisoners and prison staff'.

Miller, ER, Bi, P, & Ryan, P 2009, 'Hepatitis C virus infection in South Australian prisoners: seroprevalence, seroconversion, and risk factors', *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 201-208.

Do drinking and smoking increase the chance of developing colorectal (bowel) cancer?

Researchers from the George Institute, University of Sydney, have found that alcohol consumption and cigarette smoking are risk factors for colorectal cancer which is 'a major cause of cancer mortality'. They examined 103 studies which estimated 'the relative risk for colorectal cancer with any of the following: alcohol, smoking, diabetes, physical activity, meat, fish, poultry, fruits and vegetables'. The risk of colorectal cancer 'was significantly associated with alcohol: individuals consuming the most alcohol [more than 7 drinks per week] had 60% greater risk of colorectal cancer compared with non- or light drinkers'. Smoking, diabetes, obesity and high meat intakes 'were each associated with a significant 20% increased risk'. However, 'Physical activity was protective against colorectal cancer'. The researchers conclude that 'Public-health strategies that promote modest alcohol consumption, smoking cessation, weight loss, increased physical activity and moderate consumption of red and processed meat are likely to have significant benefits at the population level for reducing the incidence of colorectal cancer'.

Huxley, RR, Ansary-Moghaddam, A, Clifton, P, Czernichow, S, Parr, CL & Woodward, M 2009, 'The impact of dietary and lifestyle risk factors on risk of colorectal cancer: a quantitative overview of the epidemiological evidence', *International Journal of Cancer*, vol. 125, no. 1, pp. 171-80.

What are the latest criminal justice system data covering illicit drugs?

In June the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) released its *Illicit Drug Data Report* for the 2007-08 year. As the ACC explains, 'The Illicit Drug Data Report is produced by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and is recognised as one of the most valuable tools for law enforcement agencies, policy and decision makers, research bodies and other stakeholders in combating illicit drugs. It provides a statistical overview of illicit drug arrests and seizures as well as profiling the current situation, national impact and the emerging trends and threats of illicit drugs in Australia'.

Australian Crime Commission 2009, *Illicit drug data report 2007-08*, Australian Crime Commission, Canberra, www.crimecommission.gov.au/publications/iddr/2007_08.htm (Large file warning: 5.2MB).

Addressing Indigenous Incarceration and Health

Despite the investment by governments to reduce incarceration, Indigenous Australians have continued to fill our correction systems at alarmingly disproportionate rates, making up almost one quarter of Australian's prison population and over half of Indigenous juveniles in corrective institutions.

The paper calls for action to address this 'disturbing problem' revealing Indigenous adults are 13 times more likely to be in prison than other Australians.

The paper also reveals the proportion of adult Indigenous women in prison has increased three fold since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Australian National Council on Drugs, National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee, June 2009, *Bridges and barriers: Addressing Indigenous Incarceration and Health*, Canberra, www.nidac.org.au/

Australian Community Sector Survey 2009

Community services organisations provided assistance to over 3.1 million clients in 2007-2008 reports the Australian Community Sector Survey. Demand for community services across Australia increased by 19% in 2007-2008 compared to the previous year – services in highest demand are long term and crisis housing and health services (including mental health and drug and alcohol services). The Australian Community Sector Survey is the only annual survey providing an overview of the non-profit community

services and welfare sector. Respondent organisations included community and welfare organisations from the membership of ACOSS and the State and Territory Councils of Social Service.

Australian Council of Social Service, 2009, *Australian Community Sector Survey: Report 2009, Volume 1 - National*, New South Wales,

www.acoss.org.au/Publications.aspx?displayID=1&subjectID=27

Media

Better Justice for Victims of Sexual Assault and Violence

1 June 2009

Simon Corbell, MLA

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, today announced the commencement of new legislation that is designed to reduce the amount of minor matters in the ACT Supreme Court, and to improve the way the criminal justice system responds to sexual assault crimes.

"The legislation delivers special measures for victims of sexual assault and goes further to include victims of violent offences, making it less stressful and traumatic for them to give their evidence in court proceedings," Mr Corbell said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8070&m=53 to view the full media release.

Health Minister Congratulates Canberra Doctor on National Award for Excellence in Health Care

2 June 2009

Katy Gallagher, MLA

Canberra doctor Peter Sharp has been recognised for his dedication to the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service with a national award for excellence in health care, ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, said today.

The Minister said Dr Sharp had received the Australian Medical Association's prestigious Excellence in Health Care Award at the AMA's national conference on the weekend.

"Dr Sharp has shown great dedication and commitment to the health of the ACT's Aboriginal community and under his leadership, Winnunga Nimmityjah continues to improve the health outcomes of Indigenous Canberrans," Ms Gallagher said.

Prisoner Transfer Process Complete

4 June 2009

John Hargreaves, MLA

Minister for Corrections John Hargreaves has announced that the prisoner transfer process into the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) is now complete, with only one ACT prisoner remaining in NSW to finish a rehabilitation program.

"There are now 160 prisoners at the AMC, which includes 143 males and 17 females. Of these, 96 are sentenced prisoners and 64 are on remand," Minister Hargreaves said.

"I would like to congratulate staff from ACT Corrective Services for their professional approach in handling this vast prisoner movement exercise without incident. The process has taken place in a staged manner over the past 10 weeks to allow for appropriate prisoner placement and an opportunity for staff to refine operations.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8088&m=50 to view the full media release.

On Track: Progress Report on Stimulus Investment

16 June 2009

Jon Stanhope, MLA

Work has begun on the refurbishment of 243 public housing properties across Canberra courtesy of Commonwealth stimulus money, and capital projects right across the school system will begin before the end of the month, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope will tell the Assembly today.

A progress report on the ACT Government's delivery of its \$350 million share of the Commonwealth Government's \$42 billion stimulus package will be tabled in the Chamber, with the Chief Minister confirming that all timetables were being reached and all deadlines had been met.

"The ACT Government is acutely conscious of the importance to our local economy of this stimulus package and of the need to act quickly if we hope to limit the impact of the national economic slowdown on the Territory's economy and jobs," Mr Stanhope said today.

"To that end, we have signed up to deliver an unprecedented, one-off \$350 million Commonwealth investment in our city, our schools, our social housing and our roads."

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8111&m=51 to view the full media release.

Commission makes recommendation for an Australian Human Rights Act

16 June 2009

Australian Human Rights Commission

The Australian Human Rights Commission has lodged its submission to the National Human Rights Consultation, formalising its key recommendation that the Australian Parliament should enact a national Human Rights Act.

Commission President, Catherine Branson QC said, "Australia needs a system of government which makes sure that all people, no matter who they are, what they do, or where they live, have a safety net to protect their fundamental human rights, and a Human Rights Act would assist achievement of this aim".

Visit www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/index.html to view the full media release.

\$1.2 Million for Health Promotion Projects

24 June, 2009

Katy Gallagher, MLA

An African drumming workshop, a parenting program for young mums and painting classes for people with Parkinson's are just some of the innovative community projects to receive funding under the latest Health Promotion Grants Community Funding Round...

"Funding of \$1,252,853 has been allocated through the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program 2009-10 Community Funding Round to not-for-profit, community organisations and government agencies to implement health promotion projects across the ACT," Ms Gallagher said today.

"The program aims to improve the health and well-being of Canberrans by strengthening the capacity of individuals and communities to make healthy choices and take control over the factors which determine health.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8152&m=52 to view the full media release.

New Future for Portable Long Service Leave Authority

25 June, 2009

John Hargreaves, MLA

The Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr John Hargreaves MLA, introduced the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Bill 2009 in the Legislative Assembly today.

"I am very excited to table legislation that will enable new administrative arrangements to be set in place to establish a single integrated ACT Portable Long Service Leave

Authority. This integrated Authority will incorporate the Boards and functions of the ACT Construction Long Service Leave Authority and the ACT Cleaning Industry Long Service

Leave Authority,"

" The new legislation will not only streamline the administration of existing portable long service leave schemes, it will make it easier to establish and implement schemes for additional industries in the ACT" he said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8164 to view the full media release

National Education and Prevention Action Plan on Illicit Drugs in Sports

26 June, 2009

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Sport

The Minister for Sport Kate Ellis today released the Australian Government's \$20.1 million Illicit Drugs in Sport - National Education and Prevention Action Plan to help tackle illicit drug use in sport and in the broader community.

The Action Plan will help sports tackle illicit drug use and also, for the first time, implement a national coordinated approach to use positive sport role models to educate the community, particularly our kids, about the harms associated with illicit drug use..

The Government's Illicit Drugs in Sport - National Education and Prevention Action Plan can be found at

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/sport-natillicitdrugs

Consumer Participation

Consumer and Carer Caucus Meeting

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (MHCC ACT)

MHCC ACT has over 60 Consumer and Carer members who participate in Caucus and related activities. This includes monthly meetings, input into submissions and consultations, and general feedback on policy and service issues. The aim of a Caucus meeting is to provide support for Consumer and Carer Representatives and individuals that have a particular interest in systemic advocacy and influencing policy and service development. Consumers are supported by the Mental Health Consumer Network, and Caucus provides a shared platform for both Consumer and Carer representatives to discuss and act upon identified and emerging issues. Caucus provides a continuing avenue for individual Mental Health Consumers and Carers to discuss policy and sector development issues in a neutral arena and also address issues of participation within the community sector more broadly.

Date: Tuesday 7 July 2009

Time: 5pm (for 5.30 start) - 7pm

Venue: Room 13, Griffin Centre, 20 Genge St, Canberra City

Download the [Caucus Agenda](#)

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014 Discussion Paper

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

The ACT Government has released a discussion paper on the ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014, and invites written comments on the issues raised within it. The ACT Young People's Plan 2009 – 2014 is a key document that will guide the ACT Government's priorities in relation to young people in Canberra, and is due to be released in September 2009. Comments are due by Thursday 23 July 2009.

View the [Discussion Paper](#).

Have your Say on Sites for Young Persons' Facility and Secure Adult Facility

ACT Health, ACT Government

The ACT Government has announced that it will construct two new mental health facilities – a secure adult facility and a young persons' facility – and is now seeking comment on the options for sites. Comments about the site options can be made through the website.

Visit <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=11050096&pid=1244005960> for more information. Written comments are sought by Friday 17 July 2009.

Consultation on Mental Health ACT Documents

Mental Health ACT, ACT Government

Mental Health ACT is currently inviting comment on the following draft documents:

- . Building a Strong Foundation: A Framework for Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT 2009 - 2014
- . Managing the Risk of Suicide Two: A Suicide Prevention Strategy for the ACT 2009 - 2014

Building a Strong Foundation: Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing in the ACT 2009 - 2014 (The Framework) provides a Framework to guide investment in the development and implementation of activities to promote mental health and wellbeing in the ACT over the next five years. *Managing the Risk of Suicide Two: A Suicide Prevention Strategy 2009 - 2014 (The Strategy)* provides a Strategy to guide an integrated, whole-of-community approach to suicide prevention across the lifespan in the ACT. Mental Health ACT will be holding the following public consultations:

Date: Thursday 9 July 2009

Time: 12:00 - 13:30 pm

Venue: ACT Health Health, 1 Moore St, Canberra City, Training Room, 1st floor

Date: Thursday 9 July 2009

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Venue: Griffin Centre, Genge St, Canberra City, Room 7, 1st floor

Date: Wednesday 15 July 2009

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Venue: Tuggeranong Community Centre, Cowlshaw St Tuggeranong Room 2

Date: Tuesday 14 July 2009

Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Venue: Belconnen Community Centre, Swanson Court Belconnen. Meeting Room 2

Visit www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10010771&pid=1244680094 for more information, or contact the Mental Health ACT Policy Unit on (02) 6205 0885 or mentalhealth.policy@act.gov.au. Consultation will close on 21 July 2009.

Employment Opportunities

Case Worker: Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre Therapeutic Community and Post-Release Supported Men's Accommodation

Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT (ADFACT)

ADFACT operates a range of programs including the Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre Therapeutic Community, and Post-Release Supported Men's Accommodation.

The main role of the Case Worker is the delivery of intensive assistance to offenders with alcohol and other drug related problems in a group format within a prison based therapeutic community. Salary will be based on the ADFACT Collective Agreement. Total remuneration package valued from \$40,953 to \$47,782 depending on qualification and demonstrated experience. Salary packaging including PBI Fringe Benefits Free threshold is available.

To fulfill the responsibilities the successful applicants will be required to work within the guidelines of ADFACT.

Selection Criteria:

- . Extensive experience working with drug dependent people including methadone and other pharmacotherapies.
- . Thorough understanding of harm minimisation policies and completed training (Cert 4 in AOD minimum) in AOD dependencies together with a sound knowledge of support interventions within the community.
- . Demonstrated ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team in a case management framework.
- . Well developed interpersonal and communication skills together with effective administration and report writing skills.
- . Sound computer skills.
- . Experience working within a Therapeutic Community would be an advantage.
- . Current Drivers Licence and First Aid Certificate

Applications close 14 July 2009. Please direct inquiries to The Assistant Manager - AMC Therapeutic Community on (02) 6163 0200 or claudia.i@adfact.org

Grants and Funding Opportunities

ACT Multicultural Grants Program 2009-2010

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is currently accepting applications for the 2009-10 Multicultural Grants Program. The aim of the ACT Multicultural Grants Program is to enhance the ACT Community through the development of innovative projects that contribute to sustainable communities by highlighting and promoting cultural diversity and social harmony. The objective of the ACT Multicultural Grants Program is to assist community organisations in:

- . Developing initiatives that will advance multiculturalism in the ACT;
- . Promoting the ACT as a socially cohesive and harmonious community; and,
- . Fostering opportunities for community groups to maintain, develop and express their cultural diversity.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/matsia/multicultural/services/grants/act_multicultural_grants_program for more information. Applications are due by **Friday 10 July 2009**.

Commonwealth Bank Community Grants

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia is accepting applications for community grants up to \$10,000, for programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Australian Children. To be eligible to apply, services need to:

- . Support the health and wellbeing of Australian children;
- . Identify realistic, measurable and achievable project goals and outcomes; and,
- . Be endorsed by the Australian Tax Office with Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

Visit www.commbank.com.au/about-us/in-the-community/employee-giving/staff-community-fund/local-grants.aspx for more information. Applications close on **Friday 31 July 2009**.

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 for more information or contact Jordan Trew on (03) 9420 7626 or email jtrew@odyssey.org.au