

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: June 2009

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

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 3

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 just 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: Upcoming Class Dates

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing a Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) for the AOD sector. Under the MQS, all workers of ACT Health funded AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification. In October 2008, ACT Health contracted the ACT AOD Sector Project, which is auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, to administer \$150 000 in funding to support workers to participate in the MQS. 40 applications to register for the AOD 4 Core Competencies (Semester 1, 2009) were successful. The following classes will be held shortly for participants enrolled in each stream of the 4 Core Competencies:

Class dates for Stream 1:

June 1, 2, 3 CHCAOD10A: Work with Clients who have AOD issues

Class dates for Stream 2:

June 15, 16, 17 CHCAOD8C: Assess the Needs of Clients who have AOD issues

July 20, 21, 22 CHCAOD10A: Work with Clients who have AOD issues

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

Evaluation for participants enrolled in the AOD 4 Core Competencies with the Canberra Institute of Technology

The *Working with Clients who are Intoxicated* 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: Assess the Needs of Clients Who have AOD Issues: To access the survey please visit

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=0TqRI_2bqlrSdyWDSS7S8n5w_3d_3d

Stream 2: Working with Clients who are Intoxicated: To access the survey please visit

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9JWOUvOExpUXd_2bV09TvTdQ_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

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

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Information from services that attended the AOD sector monthly forum.

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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.

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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

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

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.

See also:

- [ACT Drug Action Week 2009](#) section for the 'ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group', 'Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT', 'Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference', and 'ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events'
- [Training and Professional Development](#) section for the 'ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar'

ACT Drug Action Week 2009

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

Nationally, DAW is coordinated by the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia. More information on DAW nationally is available from www.drugactionweek.org.au

ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group

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.

Date: Thursday 11 June 2009

Time: 2 - 3pm

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

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

Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT

The ACT AOD Sector Project, in partnership with the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group, will be hosting the ACT Drug Action Week 2009 Launch. Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Health, will launch Drug Action Week in the ACT and Mr David Batts, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, will present some key findings from the results of the National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2007. ACT AOD Services will have information stalls and a light lunch will be provided.

Date: Friday 19 June 2009

Time: 10am - 12pm

Venue: Exhibition Room, ACT Legislative Assembly

RSVP: Essential to daw@aodsector.org.au

Download the [ACT Drug Action Week 2009 Launch Flyer](#).

For more information about the Launch of Drug Action Week in the ACT visit www.aodsector.org.au or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on daw@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

Registrations Open for The Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference: Exploring Relationships between ACT AOD Services and the New Prison

The Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference will focus on the relationship between AOD services and the ACT's new correctional facilities. The conference aims to facilitate access to evidence relating to best practice and seeks to strengthen the capacity, skills and knowledge base of workers.

Date: Wednesday 24 June 2009

Time: 8.30am - 5pm

Venue: National Library of Australia, Parkes Place, Parkes

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.

Registration: Download the [Conference Registration Form](#). Please note that places are limited, so get in quickly. For more information download the [Second Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference Program](#), visit www.aodsector.org.au or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on conference@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events

A calendar has been produced through the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group providing information on over 30 activities that have been organised for Drug Action Week in the ACT. Hard copies of the calendar have been distributed to the AOD, youth, mental health and community sectors and Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Download the [ACT Drug Action Week 2009: Calendar of Events](#) or pick up hard copies from the ACT AOD Sector Project, Youth Coalition of the ACT, 46 Clianthus St. O'Connor.

For more information visit www.aodsector.org.au or contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on daw@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 monthly ACT AOD Sector Forum.

Karralika Program, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)

Service spokesperson: Fiona Scicluna

Phone: (02) 6292 2733

The 12 month Karralika residential rehabilitation program consists of 4 stages (induction, treatment, commitment, transition). The Program accepts males, females, singles, couples and people with children. A mixture of group therapy and case management / education is utilised. 2 psychologists are available on site for clients experiencing comorbid AOD and mental health issues. Karralika also offers workshops and small training groups for other services as needed.

Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP), ACT Health

Service spokesperson: Mackenzie Clare

Phone: (02) 6205 8385

Some services currently being provided by the ADP include:

- Group Programs including Effective Weed Control, Relapse Prevention, Controlling Your Drinking, Mindfulness and Stepping Stones. Please note that there have been some recent changes to the duration of some groups. Download the [ADP Group Programs flyer](#) for more information.
- Collaborating with AOD staff at the Alexander Maconochie Centre for improved case management.
- Collaborating with the Australian Federal Police to develop information resources on binge drinking.

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

Service spokesperson: Joanne Rankin

Phone: (02) 6279 1670, Email: joanner@cahma.org.au

CAHMA recently participated in Hepatitis Awareness Day by hosting an information stall and BBQ on Tuesday 19 May 2009.

A comorbidity workshop was also recently facilitated with guest speakers from Mental Illness Education ACT. The workshop went well and CAHMA hopes to hold more with a mental health focus in the future.

Some other activities currently being provided by CAHMA include:

- Pharmacotherapy Advocacy and Action Team (PHAAT): Meets 12 - 1pm on the last Thursday of each month. Anyone on methadone or buprenorphine is welcome to attend. Lunch is provided.
- Peer Education Client Contact and Information Service: 10am - 12pm, Wednesdays at the NSP on Moore Street.
- Free Healthy Lunch and BBQ: 12.30pm - 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month in Garema Place.

Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc

Service spokesperson: Natalie Liosatos

Phone: (02) 6241 7233, Email: lesleyscoord@toora.org.au

Lesleys Place currently provides:

- Supported accommodation for women and accompanying children.
- Pre and post detox support.
- Outreach support.

Contact Lesleys Place to discuss availability of outreach support and other services.

Sobering Up Shelter, Centacare

Service spokesperson: Debora Ashcroft

Phone: (02) 6162 6836, Email: soberingupshelter@centacare-canberra.org

Some activities currently being undertaken by the Sobering Up Shelter include:

- Strengthening relationships with ACT hospitals and ambulance service to support referrals of intoxicated persons requiring care and / or observation throughout the night.
- Providing overnight support, care and monitoring for people recovering from AOD intoxication. Referrals are welcome from community services or members of the public.

Women's Information, Resources and Education on Drugs and Dependency (WIREDD), Toora Women Inc

Service spokesperson: Dara Luzaic

Phone: (02) 6248 8600, Email: wiredd@toora.org.au

WIREDD currently provides:

- Information and support for women about drugs.
- Support for women with dependency issues.
- Free confidential counselling.
- AOD assessments and referrals.
- Groups including the Family of Origin Group, Relapse Prevention Group and Art Therapy Group for women who use ice.
- Advocacy.
- Education and training to the community.
- Outreach support to the Alcohol and Drug Program Withdrawal Unit, Toora Day Refuge, Arcadia House, the Psychiatric Services Unit, and Belconnen and Symonston Remand Centres.
- Drop In, available 11am – 4pm, Mondays, Thursday and Fridays; and 2pm – 4pm on Tuesdays for women and accompanying children.

Sector Activities and Events

Mental Disorder & Addiction: I can't fit in anywhere

Christians for an Ethical Society (CES)

The CES conducts public forums to raise the level of knowledge and understanding of the community on key social justice issues. The following guest speakers will present at the forum:

- Professor Ian Webster AO, Emeritus Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW
- Deb Wybron, Convenor, ACT Women and Prison Group

Date: Wednesday 3 June 2009

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Cnr Kings Ave & Blackall St, Barton

Cost: \$5 Donation requested to cover hall costs

For information visit www.ces.org.au/ces_forums.htm or contact Heather McLaren on (02) 6291 4537 or

chair@ces.org.au

Invitation to the National Drug & Alcohol Awards 2009

Ted Noffs Foundation (TNF), the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), the Australian Drug

Foundation (ADF), the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

Now in their sixth year, the National Drug and Alcohol Awards honour the dedication and innovation of those working within the AOD sector around Australia. Award finalists and winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner at the culmination of Drug Action Week.

Date: Friday 26 June 2009

Venue: Great Hall, Parliament House

Cost: Tickets are on sale for \$55 per person or \$550 for a table of 10.

For more information or to secure tickets visit www.drugawards.org.au/bookings/index.html

National Reconciliation Week: 27 May - 3 June 2009

Reconciliation Australia

Each year National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the First Australians. It is the ideal time for everyone to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme for National Reconciliation Week this year is 'See the person, not the stereotype'.

For more information on the week and activities visit www.reconciliation.org.au

NAIDOC Week Family and Community Day

Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation are co-hosting a Family and Community Day to celebrate NAIDOC week. 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.

National Human Rights Consultation

Australian Government

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

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

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

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

News from the Executive Directors Group

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

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

- Received an update from the ACT AOD Sector Project regarding recent activities.
- Ongoing discussion of coordinating the sectors work with the AMC including agencies provision of post release support capabilities.
- Ongoing discussion regarding governance and the future development of the sector. Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 July have been identified as days for the sector to progress this discussion.
- Ongoing discussion regarding ACT Health Smoke Free Policy with ACT Health, including possible exemptions and development of a proposal to support the implementation of the policy.
- Surveys have been completed for the ACT AOD Sector Qualification and Remuneration Profiling Project and analysis is taking place.
- Discussing coordinating first aid training and identifying funding for ongoing workforce development for the sector.

Sector Development

A Review of Screening, Assessment and Outcome Measures for Drug and Alcohol Settings

Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (NADA)

A new resource has been commissioned through NADA's Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Information Management Project that aims to be a useful reference resource for organisations researching screening and measurement of treatment outcomes for clients with drug and alcohol and mental health issues.

To download the Review of Screening, Assessment and Outcome Measures for Drug and Alcohol Settings resource visit www.nada.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=99&Itemid=37

Tools for Change: A new way of working with families and carers

Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (NADA)

Tools for Change caters to a diverse range of services provided by the AOD sector, and the clients accessing those services. It contains a range of interventions, practice tips, service models, resources and training organisations to assist services in working with families. A CD-Rom is also included which contains useful tools such as template policies for working with families, a family inclusive practice workplace audit, assessment tools, checklists and a list of family and carer support services.

To download Tools for Change visit

www.nada.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=96&Itemid=25

New Methamphetamine Website

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

A new website, www.meth.org.au, which has practical and useful self-help information for methamphetamine users, has been established. Information covered on the website includes a range of topics such as harm reduction, mixing meth with other drugs, maintaining mental health, overdose, and how to cut down or stop using meth. Users can also elect to sign up for free sms or email tips on topics of their choice. The site also has useful links to resources for health professionals, families and friends.

ACT 2009-10 Budget Snapshot

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Each year ACTCOSS prepares a snapshot document to give a short overview of the ACT Budget for the community sector. This year ACTCOSS has concluded that "The Treasurer has stated this is a budget for the times. In these times; times of growing financial unease, of increased pressure on families and individuals - many turn to the community sector for support. However, this Budget fails to address the increasing pressure on community organisations as a result of the financial crisis and has raised significant concerns about long term funding for the sector."

Download the Snapshot from www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Publications_2009/1209PAP.pdf

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (May - June 2009)

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

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

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

Raising the Standard Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop aims to assist in the implementation of quality improvement in organisations. Many organisations are now required to use Raising the Standard as part of their funding agreement. A manual and tool kit are provided as part of the training. Organisations are encouraged to send teams with a limit of 6 people per organisation (this is negotiable).

Date: Friday 5 June 2009

Time: 10am-3:30pm

Venue: Room 2, Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling

Cost: ACTCOSS Members \$44, Non-Members \$50, Corporate/Government \$66

For more information contact Lisa on (02) 6202 7200 or email lisa@actcoss.org.au.

Understanding Procurement Processes

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This interactive workshop will provide an overview of the ACT Government procurement process and will be presented by representatives from ACT Procurement Solutions. The workshop will include the following information:

- How to write a tender response.
- Value for money.
- Timeframes for a tender process and what is involved with evaluating.
- Importance of feedback for pre-tender consultation.
- Where tenders are advertised and how to locate and download tenders, the tender box and the importance of closing times.
- Opportunities and benefits from a debrief.

Date: Thursday 11 June 2009

Time: 9.30am - 12pm

Venue: ACTCOSS, Level 1, 67 Townshend St, Phillip

Cost: \$33 HACC Services, \$50 Members, \$66 Non-members.

Registration: Download the registration form at www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/Procurement-Jun09.pdf or call (02) 6202 7230.

Writing Funding Applications

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This seminar will provide an overview of sources of funding from government and philanthropic organisations; an opportunity to work through some funding applications; and a chance to share ideas and ask questions.

Date: 12 June 2009

Time: 9:30am - 1pm

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

Cost: Members \$88; Non-Members \$100; Corporate Government \$122

For registration information contact Lisa at (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au

Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Workshops

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

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

Dates: Wednesday 17 June 2009

Time: 9am – 4pm

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

Cost: Free

RSVP: To register email DHCSLearning.Development@act.gov.au with your name, organisation and phone number.

[Click here](#) for the workshop flyer.

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

Mediation Training

Conflict Resolution Service ACT

Mediation is progressively being incorporated into legislation and regulations which govern workplaces, commercial and consumer relationships, communities and families. These laws promote mediation as the preferred method of resolving disputes and moving disputants away from adversarial systems towards more collaborative processes. The Conflict Resolution Service's Mediation Training course suits anyone interested in

developing strategies and skills for preventing, managing and resolving disputes, or who may be called upon to provide third party assistance and facilitation.

Date: Course dates are between Thursday 18 June 2009 and Saturday 25 July 2009

Time: 9am-5pm

Venue: Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street, Canberra, ACT

Registration: Closes 1 June 2009.

For more information contact Katrina Spyrides on 0413 677 405 or executive@crs.org.au

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This one-day workshop for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers gives participants a general introduction to the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia.

Date: 26 June 2009

Time: 9:30am - 4:30pm

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

Cost: SAAP Services \$44; ACTCOSS Members \$154; Non-member Community \$192.50; Government/Corporate \$231

For registration information contact Lisa at (02) 6202 7200 or lisa@actcoss.org.au

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

Creating Synergy VI- Creative ways forward in AOD & Mental Health

University of Wollongong

Research consistently demonstrates the need for services to develop more effective working partnerships to address alcohol & other drug misuse within the community. The conference will continue to demonstrate and explore methods of best practice and provide a forum for services to connect and initiate working partnerships.

Date: 2 - 3 July 2009

Venue: University of Wollongong

Cost: Full registration for the conference only is \$340

Registration: Available online at

www.unicentre.uow.edu.au/conference/registration/conf_detail.php?conf_id=1086

For more information on the conference and associated workshops visit

www.uow.edu.au/conferences/synergy_vi/index.html

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.

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.austliandrugsconference.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

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>.

How much time do AOD organisations spend preparing funding submissions and meeting government funding requirements?

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) has recently conducted a survey of 71 Australian AOD non-government organisations (NGOs) to 'investigate the impact of submission and reporting requirements from funding bodies on AOD NGOs within Australia'. The survey collected information on 'time spent on completing funding submissions and complying with reporting requirements once funding had been granted'. The results of the survey were published in May 2009.

Over a period of 12 months, the 71 organisations prepared 'a total of 806 submissions and reported on a total of

755 programs/projects...an average of 11.4 submissions being prepared and 11.3 programs/projects being reported on for each organisation'.

The ANCD report lists 11 suggestions to funding bodies including that accounting requirements be simplified in line with standard Australian accounting practices and in keeping with standard accounting packages used by NGOs, and that key performance indicators to be streamlined to be more meaningful.

Australian National Council on Drugs 2009, *The burden of submission writing and reporting for alcohol and other drug non-government organisations*, Australian National Council on Drugs, Canberra, <http://ancd.org.au/>. A 2 page summary, Survey at a glance, is available at the same URL; large page warning: 1.6MB.

Have the tobacco police gone too far?

This is the headline of a recent editorial in the *New Scientist* which draws attention to 'a disturbing trend in the anti-smoking movement'. The editor states 'There are genuine scientific questions over some of the more extreme claims made about the dangers of passive smoking and the best strategies to reduce smoking rates, but a few researchers who have voiced them have seen their reputations smeared and the debate stifled'.

He cites the example of a public health doctor at Boston University, Michael Siegel, who 'questioned assertions that breathing in second-hand smoke for just 30 minutes raised people's risk of a heart attack to that of an active smoker'. The editorial points out 'There is no doubt that passive smoke affects blood flow, even over the very short term. Research in the 1980s showed that 20 minutes' exposure makes blood platelets slightly more sticky, which could theoretically raise the risk of blood clots and hence heart attacks and strokes. Realistically, though, this would only be a danger for those already at high risk...When anti-smoking lobby groups highlight this issue, however, they fail to mention that most people would be OK'.

'Another disputed claim is whether the introduction of smoking bans in indoor public places brings about an immediate drop in heart attacks'.

Doubts are also raised about the validity of claims being made about the danger of third-hand smoke— 'the particles of smoke that linger on smokers' clothes, hair and the carpets and furniture of a room for days, "outgassing" toxic vapours'. A 2004 study showed that 'even if parents only smoke outside the home, detectable levels of cotinine—a metabolite of nicotine—were present in their children's urine'. However the editorial points out 'there is no consensus on whether the cotinine levels are high enough to have any meaningful effect'.

The editorial warns that 'Ensuring the science is rigorous becomes paramount at a time when the anti-smoking clampdown is reaching new levels...Making exaggerated claims will only reduce the movement's impact in regions where smoking bans in indoor public spaces have not yet been introduced'.

Robson, D 2009, 'Have the tobacco police gone too far?', *New Scientist*, no. 2702, 01 April, www.newscientist.com/article/mg20227021.300-have-the-tobacco-police-gone-too-far.html?full=true.

Has there been an increase in the proportion of newborn babies suffering withdrawal symptoms?

A Western Australian study has found that 'There has been a marked increase in neonatal withdrawal syndrome in the past 25 years'. The study examined data on all live births in WA from 1980 to 2005. The researchers found 'The birth prevalence of neonatal withdrawal syndrome increased from 0.97 to a high of 42.2 per 10 000 live births, plateauing after 2002. Mothers with a previous mental health admission, low skill level, Aboriginal status or who smoked during pregnancy were significantly more likely to have an infant with neonatal withdrawal syndrome. These infants were at greater risk for having a substantiated child maltreatment allegation and entering foster care. Increased risk for maltreatment was associated with mothers who were aged <30 years, were from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, Aboriginal status, and had a mental health- or assault-related admission'.

The researchers state that their research 'highlights the need for effective programs for women who use illicit

drugs during pregnancy...Early identification and intervention of drug use during pregnancy are important to reduce obstetric risks with pregnancy providing a unique motivation for women to seek assistance for their drug use. Sustainable, long-term services are needed to support these mothers and prevent poor outcomes for their children'.

O'Donnell, M, Nassar, N, Leonard, H, Hagan, R, Mathews, R, Patterson, Y & Stanley, F 2009, 'Increasing prevalence of neonatal withdrawal syndrome: population study of maternal factors and child protection involvement', *Pediatrics*, vol. 123, no. 4, pp. 614-21.

Why do so few cannabis users access specialist treatment?

A report recently published by the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre states that 'While it is the most common illicit drug of dependence, only a minority of individuals with cannabis dependence access specialist treatment'. The report analyses the findings of four studies designed to 'capture a range of opinions on the barriers and facilitators to cannabis treatment'. The researchers found that the typical cannabis user 'believes treatment for cannabis use to be unnecessary, would not be ready to stop using and would feel stigmatised when accessing treatment'. Participants in the studies reported that 'if better information and education on treatment options were available, and that the treatment itself was more easily accessed, entry into cannabis treatment could be facilitated'.

Gates, P, Taplin, S, Copeland, J, Swift, W & Martin, G 2009, *Barriers and facilitators to cannabis treatment*, NCPIC Technical Report No. 1, <http://ncpic.org.au/ncpic/publications/technical-reports>.

Do people use substances more or less during economic downturns?

A recent DrugInfo Clearhouse Newsletter looks at the effect economic recession has on substance use. From studies on the relationship between alcohol use and economic conditions 'it seems that while general alcohol consumption tends to decrease during recession, stress-induced changes in binge drinking behaviour may be a cause for concern'. However, 'The body of research on the relationship between economic conditions and illicit drug use is substantially smaller and largely inconclusive. Some evidence suggests that increases in prices associated with recession can prompt individuals to turn to cheaper forms of their substance of choice'.

DrugInfo Clearinghouse 2009, *Hard times and substance use*, Alcohol and Drug Foundation, www.druginfo.adf.org.au/newsletter.asp?ContainerID=hard_times_and_substance_use.

Would the adoption of safer tattooing practices in prisons reduce harm and improve health and safety?

Illicit tattooing in Canadian federal correctional institutions 'has been associated with high incidence and prevalence rates of blood borne infectious diseases...a risk which is also extended to correctional staff members and to the general public'. In August 2005 Correctional Services Canada (CSC) began a pilot of the Safer Tattooing Practices Initiative to 'explore expanding its infectious disease control program to include Safer Tattooing Practices as a harm reduction initiative'. Tattoo rooms were set up in six federal institutions, and a guidelines document and pamphlets distributed. As well, educational material on the risks of unsafe tattooing practices was provided at CSC's five regional reception centres to all inmates with a new federal offence.

The evaluation of the pilot found that the initiative had resulted in 'an enhanced level of knowledge and awareness amongst staff and inmates regarding blood borne infectious disease prevention and control practices'. Initial results of the initiative indicated there was 'potential to reduce harm, reduce exposure to health risk, and enhance the health and safety of staff members, inmates and the general public with higher risk groups (medium and maximum security institutions for male offenders)'.

Correctional Services Canada, Evaluation Branch, Performance Assurance Sector 2009, *Evaluation report: Correctional Service Canada's Safer Tattooing Practices Pilot Initiative*, File no. 394-2-39, www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/pa/ev-tattooing-394-2-39/index-eng.shtml.

What principles should guide drug dependence treatment?

The USA National Institute on Drug Abuse has issued an update on its *Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment* which is intended 'to address addiction to a wide variety of drugs, including nicotine, alcohol, and illicit and prescription drugs. It is designed to serve as a resource for health care providers, family members, and other stakeholders trying to address the myriad problems faced by patients in need of treatment for drug abuse or addiction'. Thirteen principles are listed including 'effective treatment attends to multiple needs of the individual, not just his or her drug abuse...medications are an important element of treatment for many patients, especially when combined with counseling and other behavioral therapies ...[and] medically assisted detoxification is only the first stage of addiction treatment and by itself does little to change long-term drug abuse'. Also included in this publication is a list of frequently asked questions and answers about drug abuse, information on an evidence-based approach in drug abuse treatment, and a detailed list of resources.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (USA) 2009, *Principles of drug addiction treatment: a research-based guide*, 2nd edn, NIDA, Washington, DC, www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT/PODATIndex.html.

How effective has Canberra's trial of syringe vending machines been?

A trial of the syringe vending machines (SVMs) on the outside walls of four ACT Health Community Health Centres was conducted over the 12-month period February 2005 to January 2006. An account of the evaluation has recently been published in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*. The findings of the evaluation suggest that the trial 'delivered positive outcomes for the clients of the machines, particularly through out-of-business hours availability of sterile injecting equipment, and for the broader community, with no adverse consequences detected'.

After the introduction of the SVMs, 'a small net increase occurred in the total number of syringes' provided to people who inject illicit drugs, 'without any marked reduction in the numbers provided by NSPs. The author points out that 'This means that NSP clients are continuing to have access to the range of other helping services that the NSPs provide on a face-to-face basis. It appears that the SVMs have supplemented them, not detracted from them'.

The evaluator concludes that 'The primary outcome for clients of installing SVMs in Canberra is that they have supplemented, rather than detracted from, the roles of the pre-existing outlets for sterile injecting equipment. While the face-to-face services of the NSPs continue to be available to [people who inject illicit drugs] ... they also have access to sterile injecting equipment whenever they need it'.

McDonald, D 2009, 'The evaluation of a trial of syringe vending machines in Canberra, Australia', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 336-9.

Can the secondary exchange of sterile injecting equipment provide an opportunity for health promotion?

Secondary exchange of needles and syringes 'refers to the giving or receiving of new sterile needles and syringes to/from another individual that were originally obtained from formal or "safe" sources. It can include trading, purchasing or selling of needles and syringes for money, drugs or other commodities or services; or it can simply involve the giving or receiving outright of needles and syringes'. Researchers from the National Centre for HIV Social Research, University of NSW, studied the extent, patterns and contexts of secondary exchange in south east Sydney, and examined whether secondary exchange is independently associated with blood borne viruses risk practices.

They found that secondary exchange 'is a common activity in south east Sydney but does not appear to be highly organised, usually taking place in small networks of friends and/or partners for altruistic reasons'. They conclude that secondary exchange 'is a practice that could be exploited to expand the reach of current needle distribution programs' to reach people who inject illicit drugs who do not use formal distribution services.

Bryant, J & Hopwood, M 2008, 'Secondary exchange of sterile injecting equipment in a high distribution environment: a mixed method analysis in south east Sydney, Australia', *International Journal of Drug Policy*, vol. 20, no. 4, pp. 324-28.

How many people are receiving pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence?

The *National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2008 report* 'provides information on people accessing pharmacotherapy for the treatment of opioid addiction, the 1,400 prescribers participating in the delivery of pharmacotherapy treatment, and quantitative information about the prescribing sector'.

It reveals that, at 30 June 2008, there were 41,347 pharmacotherapy clients nationally, about 2,500 more than in each of the previous three years, and almost double the 24,657 clients in 1998. In the ACT, the number of people receiving pharmacotherapy increased from 406 to 786 over the ten years. Nationally, 70% of clients were receiving methadone (76% in the ACT) with the rest receiving buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone. Nationally, around 65% of clients received treatment from a private prescriber (28% in the ACT). The appendix contains useful tables of data set out on a state-by-state basis.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, *National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2008 report*, Bulletin no. 72, cat. no. AUS 115, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra, www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10698.

Smoking and Mental Illness, other drug and alcohol addictions and prisons

This report concludes that mental health facilities, drug and alcohol treatment facilities and prisons pose some unique issues in that they are workplaces for some and for others, a place of residence, perhaps against their will. Physical health in general and smoking in particular are not their central role and there may be historical and cultural factors related to smoking which pose challenges. Nevertheless, these are important settings from which a comprehensive approach can radiate. Ensuring that smoking is discouraged and quitting is encouraged within these settings is a critical component of any strategy to reduce the disparities in smoking prevalence. These settings have the capacity to provide education, counselling and access to pharmacotherapies to ensure that those who come into contact with them have access to support and treatment for nicotine dependence.

There is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that most smokers have a desire to quit, regardless of their socioeconomic status, mental health, or anything else. However, the environments which individual smokers encounter and the support available to them differ. A comprehensive approach to ensure equitable access to smoke-free environments and tobacco treatment and support could help to reduce the impact of tobacco amongst the most marginalised populations.

Cancer Institute NSW 2008, *Literature Review: Smoking and Mental Illness, other drug and alcohol addictions and prisons*, cat. no. PR-2008-1, Cancer Institute NSW

Media

Australia's Health Check

11 May 2009

Australian Bureau of Statistics

The National Health Survey of 2007-08 examines the key health issues in Australia. Some of the key health risk factors highlighted in this report are obesity, alcohol consumption and smoking.

Alcohol consumption

Approximately 68% of men and 51% of women consumed alcohol in the week prior to the 2007-08 National Health Survey. Most of these adults (79%) consumed alcohol at a level that poses a low health risk. However, approximately 13% of adults in 2007-08 consumed alcohol at a level, which if continued, would place them at significantly increased health risk. This is a slight reduction from the level measured in 2004-05 when 14% of adults were in this risk group. When looking at the age pattern of high risk drinking, the highest proportion in men

was recorded for those aged 25-34 and 55-64 (both at 17%). While for women the age groups with the highest proportions were 45-54 and 55-64 where 13% were drinking at high or risky levels.

In children, the ABS found that 24% of 15-17 year old boys and 16% of girls had consumed alcohol in the week prior to the survey. This is the first time the National Health Survey has focussed on children's alcohol consumption. Of those children who drank in the week prior to the survey, 5.9% of boys and 6.6% of girls did so at a risky or high risk level.

Smoking

One in five adults (20%) were current smokers in 2007/8 which was down from 23% in 2004/5. More men than women were current smokers (22% and 18% respectively). The proportion of smokers was highest in the 25-34 age group for males (33%) and for women in the age groups of 25-34 and 35-44 years (22%). Children aged 15-17 were asked the smoking questions for the first time in the 2007/8 NHS. The survey found that 7% of children in this age group currently smoke and 66% of these were males.

Further details are in *National Health Survey: Summary of Results, Australia 2007-8* (cat. no 4364.0) available online at www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4364.0/

The 2009 Federal Budget: A Welcome Commitment to Drug & Alcohol Services in Tough Times

14 May

Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD)

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) has welcomed the Federal Government's 2009 Budget commitment to maintain funding for the comprehensive range of drug and alcohol and related services and programs.

Dr John Herron, the Chairman of the ANCD stated "The ANCD is very pleased to see the significant level of funding that is provided to address drug and alcohol issues has been maintained and in some areas enhanced. The budget clearly recognises the effective contribution made by health and law enforcement services and programs across the country. It is particularly pleasing to see an ongoing and expanded commitment to addressing Indigenous health inequality. The ANCD will continue to work closely with the Government to ensure that these current and new initiatives continue to achieve the goals of the National Drug Strategy."

The 2009–10 Federal Budget included the following funding announcements:

Prevention

Confirmation of a commitment at COAG to fund the single largest investment ever made in health promotion in Australia – focused on tackling the health problems caused by tobacco, obesity and excessive consumption of alcohol.

In partnership with the states and territories, the Australian Government will invest \$872.1 million over six years in preventing lifestyle risks that cause chronic disease.

The agreement will also establish a national preventative health agency to advise Australian Governments on preventative health programs – as suggested by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, the Preventative Health Taskforce and the 2020 Summit.

Indigenous Programs

There will be \$131.1 million over three years for continued regional reform of remote Indigenous primary health care services in the Northern Territory (NT). Some specific elements of the initiative include:

- continuation of the Remote Area Health Corps, which will deliver and support more doctors, nurses and other health professionals;
- continuation of alcohol and other drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

Addressing disadvantage in remote Australia

- \$807.4 million to continue our commitment to closing the gap in the NT and support the safety of women and children, including \$156.6 million for remote policing and substance abuse initiatives, training for new NT police, five permanent police stations and the continued operation of 10 existing stations.
- \$9.0 million to establish a Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services who will work across all

agencies to drive improved service delivery and cut through administrative barriers to deliver practical results for Indigenous Australians.

- \$5.5 million in continued funding for the National Indigenous Violence and Child Abuse Intelligence Task Force to continue its investigations into the nature and extent of violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities.
- \$3.7 million in additional funding as part of the \$30 million Indigenous Communications Program to provide community phones, and in partnership with the states and territories, public internet access facilities and computer training for remote Indigenous communities.
- \$1.5 million for a national Closing the Gap Clearinghouse to collect and disseminate vital evidence on best practice and success factors to identify what is working best.

Closing the Gap – Northern Territory

Remote policing and substance abuse

The Government will provide \$156.6 million over three years for remote policing and substance abuse initiatives. This will provide five new permanent police stations, operational costs to support the 60 additional police placed in the NT and training for new NT Police officers. It will also fund alcohol management plans, signage, licensing inspectors and other activities to reduce substance abuse.

Community law and justice

\$80.2 million over three years will be provided for a range of services to make communities safer and support the justice system including continuing night patrol services in 81 NT communities;

Community safety

The Government will provide \$28.4 million over three years to support youth projects and services to promote positive behaviours among young people in consultation with Indigenous communities.

Enhancing the National Prescribing Service

The Government is expanding the work of the National Prescribing Service (NPS), further enhancing patient safety and quality of care. This will enable the NPS to continue to support the health professionals in safely and appropriately prescribing medicines.

The Government will spend \$21 million over four years to conduct campaigns with health professionals to improve prescribing of medicines which may include antibiotics, anti-psychotics, pain killers and hypno-sedatives.

Sports Anti-Doping Framework

There will be an extra \$21.1 million over four years for the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) to ensure athletes are subject to the same anti-doping rules, sanctions and procedures – both domestically and internationally. It will enable ASADA to meet its international obligations, as specified under the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport, and address increases in workloads caused by changes to the World Anti-Doping Code, which took effect from 1 January 2009. The additional funding will bring the Government's commitment to eliminating doping in sport to \$54.5 million over four years.

In summing up tonight's Federal Budget the ANCD Executive Director, Mr Vumbaca said

"Everyone recognises the tough economic times surrounding this budget. The fact that there was a commitment to maintain the hundreds of millions of ongoing funding for service delivery and programs that are addressing substance misuse is a vote of confidence for all the sectors involved in this work. Savings from the drug and alcohol portfolio were limited to less than \$25million over 5 years with savings being made in some minor policy support areas of psychostimulants, co-morbidity and diversion. The effect of these savings will be minimal and not impact at all on the supply, demand and harm reduction programs currently in place. As always the ANCD will work with governments and communities to ensure the provision of any necessary advice and support for the sector to continue to address the many challenges that we will face in the future both in Australia and regionally"

The ANCD is the principal advisory body to Government on drug and alcohol issues. For further information, please contact: Dr John Herron (ANCD Chairman) on 0407 604 302 or Mr Gino Vumbaca (ANCD Executive Director) on 0408 244 552

Consumer Participation

Mental Health ACT Update on Consumer and Carer Participation

Mental Health ACT, ACT Government

Mental Health ACT is undertaking a project to develop a model for engaging consumers and carers across all levels of Mental Health ACT. The Framework that has been developed sets out principles for participation and the structures required for continuous improvements to the quality of relationships between consumers, carers and staff of Mental Health ACT, and the quality of services. The Framework also acknowledges the need for systemic change that will support genuine consumer participation and carer participation, with a focus on organisational development, workforce development and resourcing that will build capacity within Mental Health ACT and the community.

The Framework details strategies for consumer participation and carer participation in policy development, service planning, implementation and evaluation, individual advocacy and systems advocacy, staff development and research.

Download the [Project Monthly Update](#) or visit

www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=da&did=10050411&pid=1151364929 for more information.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

ACT Budget 2009/10: Youth Coalition of the ACT Analysis

Youth Coalition of the ACT

Annually the Youth Coalition of the ACT, the peak body for youth affairs, develops a comprehensive analysis of the ACT Budget. They have acknowledged the challenges faced by the ACT Government in developing the ACT Budget 2009 / 10 in light of the current economic crisis, and welcome the announcement of funding for some key initiatives. However, despite ACT Government assurances to the ACT community that there would be no cuts to services through the Budget 2009 / 10 critical services have in fact been cut by cessation of funding through the Community Inclusion Fund. These include the highly successful Indigenous Numeracy and Literacy Program at the Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, and the drop-in service at the Multicultural Youth Service.

The loss of these services will further isolate some of Canberra's most marginalised young people in an economic environment where risk factors are increasing for all members of the community. The ACT Budget 2009 / 10 contains a number of promising gains for young people, with a particular focus on infrastructure. The Budget features a number of new initiatives for young people aimed at improving access to housing, health services, sport and recreation facilities in regional areas that are in need of investment.

The Youth Coalition of the ACT's ACT Budget 2009 / 10 Analysis is divided into three parts:

- Part 1: Media Releases
- Part 2: Expenditure Initiatives
- Part 3: Capital Initiatives

All 3 parts can be downloaded from www.youthcoalition.net

Employment Opportunities

Alcohol and Other Drug Worker: Weekend Shifts

DIRECTIONS ACT

Arcadia House is a detoxification and withdrawal service which offers a non- medicated approach to detoxification. The Weekend AOD Worker is responsible for supervision of clients, assisting with the program, household duties, and administrative support for Arcadia House. This position is on a 3 month probationary term and then will be offered as a permanent position. The shifts are 12 hours long and rotate fortnightly, so that the employee will work day

shifts one weekend and night shifts on a roster.

Salary Range: \$19.34 per hour plus penalties, plus salary packaging to \$16,000, plus superannuation 9%

Applications Due: Wednesday 3 June 2009 (COB) to hr@directionsact.com

For more information visit www.directionsact.com or contact Susie Walls on susiew@directionsact.com or (02) 6253 3055.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

FebFast Grants Program

FebFast

Following the success of its nationwide 2009 fundraising campaign, FebFast has opened its grants program to support organisations working in research, prevention and service delivery concerning alcohol and other drugs use by young people.

For the past two years, FebFast has conducted a national education, awareness and fundraising campaign that encourages people to forgo their alcohol consumption during February, and at the same time raise funds to support the alcohol and other drugs sector. Funds raised through the program are distributed through an annual grants program. The grants are available for up to \$10,000 each.

Organisations wishing to apply for funding through the 2009 grants program are now invited to submit their expression of interest by visiting <https://www.ourcommunity.com.au/febfastgrants/> and completing the online application form.

Expressions of interest must be received by 5pm Friday 19 June 2009.

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

Counting the Kids Program 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