

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: September 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	In This Edition...
<p>September ACT AOD Sector Forum The ACT AOD sector forum is for AOD workers and is hosted by a different AOD service each month. <i>Date:</i> Thursday 24 September 2009 <i>Time:</i> 9.15am for arrivals. 9.30 - 11.30am for forum. <i>Venue:</i> To be confirmed. For more information or to RSVP contact Amanda Bode, Project Officer on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.</p> <p>ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy: Semester 2, 2009 For Semester 2, 2009 limited funding has been allocated to support AOD workers in non-government services to undertake training and assessment opportunities through the Canberra Institute of Technology in order to meet the ACT Minimum Qualification Strategy. 39 workers will be undertaking the remaining units of the Certificate IV in AOD Work in Semester 2, 2009 to meet the ACT Minimum Qualification. Class dates are:</p> <p>Stream 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Monday 31 August, Tuesday 1 September, Wednesday 2 September . Monday 28, Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 September . Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 November . Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 December <p>Stream 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Monday 7, Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 September . Monday 12, Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 October . Monday 16, Tuesday 17, Wednesday 18 November . Monday 14, Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 December <p>For further information please contact the ACT AOD Sector Project Team on info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>See also: Training and Professional Development section for the 'ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar'</p>	<p>News from the ACT AOD Sector Project</p> <p>Update on Project activities.</p> <p>ACT AOD Sector Forum Update</p> <p>Information from services that attended the AOD sector monthly forum.</p> <p>Sector Activities and Events</p> <p>Launches, key weeks, international days and program and service activities.</p> <p>News from the Executive Directors' Group</p> <p>Information from the EDs' group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.</p> <p>Sector Development</p> <p>Information on networks, resources, websites, factsheets and tools for workers.</p> <p>Training and Professional Development</p> <p>Training for the AOD and allied sectors, including upcoming seminars, conferences, bus tours, courses and other professional development opportunities.</p> <p>Interstate Conferences and Symposia</p> <p>Information on interstate conferences relevant to the AOD sector.</p> <p>Policy Activities</p> <p>Information on key policy activities affecting the AOD sector.</p> <p>Policy, Reports and Research</p> <p>New research, reports and inquiry findings.</p> <p>Media</p> <p>Media releases and news items relevant to the ACT AOD Sector.</p> <p>Consumer Participation</p> <p>Information items about consumer participation that are relevant to the AOD sector and workers.</p> <p>Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors</p> <p>Information from and about allied sectors that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.</p> <p>Employment Opportunities</p> <p>Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD and allied sectors.</p> <p>Grants and Funding Opportunities</p> <p>Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.</p>
<h3>ACT AOD Sector Forum Update</h3>	
<p>This section reports on information shared by services, programs and workers who attend the ACT AOD Sector Forum in August 2009.</p>	
<p>AOD Unit, ACT Corrective Services <i>Service spokesperson: Shelley Cox</i> <i>Phone: (02) 6207 0862, Email: shelley-ann.cox@act.gov.au</i></p> <p>Some groups currently being run by the AOD Unit in the Alexander Maconochie Centre include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First steps – 6 session relapse prevention program (Indigenous specific content for this group is under development). • Back in control – 16 session relapse prevention program. • Solaris Therapeutic Community in partnership with ADFACT. <p>The Unit are also currently reviewing their capacity to provide stand alone groups for specific topics including CBT.</p>	
<p>Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP), ACT Health <i>Service spokesperson: Gabrielle Sledge</i> <i>Phone: (02) 6205 8387, Email: gabrielle.sledge@act.gov.au</i></p> <p>Provides support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access and participate in all AOD services including mainstream and Indigenous services.</p>	
<p>DIRECTIONS ACT <i>Service spokesperson: Jo Smith</i> <i>Phone: 6122 8000, Email: jos@directionsact.com</i></p> <p>Some programs currently being offered by DIRECTIONS ACT include:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Althea Wellness Centre • Comorbidity Program • Counselling Services • Needle and Syringe Program • Community Education • Counselling Services • Arcadia House Detox and Withdrawal Services • Treatment Support Service 	

For more information on DIRECTIONS ACT visit www.directionsact.com

Employment Support Services, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)

Service spokesperson: Marie Walshe

Email: marie.walshe@adfact.org

ADFACT's Employment Support Services involves a partnership with Campbell Page for delivery of specialist AOD interventions to job seekers. Interventions include screening, assessment, group programs such as CBT, anger management and relapse prevention, as well as consultancy and counselling services. The Program is currently undergoing further development, and it is expected to be delivered at ADFACT and Campbell Page hubs throughout the ACT and southern NSW. The Program is currently only accepting referrals from Campbell Page.

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation

Service spokesperson: Selina Walker

Phone: 6231 9555, Email: selina@gugan-gulwan.com.au

Some programs currently being run by Gugan Gulwan include:

- . Drop In: 9am - 5pm, Monday to Thursday and 1pm - 5pm Friday
- . Young Mens' Mentoring Group: 4 - 7pm Wednesdays
- . Young Mums' Group: 10am - 2pm Tuesdays
- . Numeracy and Literacy Class: 10am - 3pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- . Young Women's Group: 4 - 7pm Mondays
- . School Holiday Program: This program is operated each school holidays and is the only Indigenous specific program available to young people attending school. A number of programs are run within this service including; sport and recreation, cultural activities and information sessions. There are two age groups catered for, those being 8 - 12 years, and 13 - 16 years.

Lesleys Place, Toora Women Inc

Service spokesperson: Roberta Elferikh

Phone: (02) 6241 7233, Email: lesleys@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.

Managed Accommodation Program, ACT Corrective Services

Service spokesperson: Simon Porter

Email: simon.porter@act.gov.au

The Managed Accommodation Program (MAP) was set up by ACT Corrective Services three months ago to provide holistic support to clients to reintegrate into the community. The program provides 24 hour support and accommodation in a community house for up to six months, for people under the supervision of Probation and Parole who are also experiencing AOD issues. There is no current waiting list for the program but it is nearly running at capacity. The program has established links with the Therapeutic Community at the AMC. The program also assists clients with employment, centrelink and leisure.

Nexus Program, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)

Service spokesperson: Hamish Watt

Phone: (02) 6163 0200, Email: watt@adfact.org

The Nexus Program provides the Men's Halfway House Program and the Aftercare Program that offers a community based treatment program for people with AOD issues. The Program offers 9 beds, in 2 community based houses. There is no current waiting list, and workers can refer people who have already completed treatment to the Program for an over the phone assessment. The Program provides advocacy, case management, and support for budgeting, living skills and weekly planning.

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

Service spokesperson: Susan Babic

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

WIRED currently provides:

- . Information and support for women about drugs.
- . Support for women with dependency issues.
- . Free confidential counselling.
- . AOD assessments and referrals.
- . Groups including Relapse Prevention (running every Tuesday).
- . 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

Launch: Who Cares?: Exploring the experiences of young people living with a family member who has an AOD issue

Institute of Child Protection Studies

The *Who Cares?* report explores the lives of children and young people living with a family member who has an AOD issue, and their involvement with the service system. The report will be launched by Adjunct Professor Robert Fitzgerald AM Productivity Commission.

Date: Wednesday 9 September

Time: 1 - 2pm

Venue: S3, Signadou, ACU National, 233 Antill St, Watson

RSVP: By Friday 4 September to Pam Floro on 6209 1228

New SMART Recovery Evening Group

DIRECTIONS ACT

SMART Recovery teaches practical skills to help individuals cope with their addiction, enabling them to abstain and achieve a healthy lifestyle balance.

Date: Tuesdays (starting 29 September 2009)

Time: 5.30 - 7pm

Venue: DIRECTIONS ACT, 1 Bradley St Woden

Download the [flyer](#) for more information.

National Hepatitis Health Promotion Awards: Call for nominations

Hepatitis Australia

The following awards will be presented in recognition of excellence in viral hepatitis education, prevention, information provision and support:

- . Award 1. 'Excellence in Viral Hepatitis Health Promotion': This award will be presented to an organisation or individual for the planning, implementation and evaluation of a health promotion project/program, in recognition of 'Excellence in viral hepatitis health promotion.'
- . Award 2. 'Outstanding Service to the Viral Hepatitis Sector': This award will be presented to an individual who has displayed outstanding service to the viral hepatitis sector.

For further information on the National Hepatitis Health Promotion Awards and to make a nomination visit www.hepatitisaustralia.com

News from the Executive Directors' Group

This section reports on information from the Executive Directors (ED's) group that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers. As the minutes from the July meeting were not available at the time of distribution for the previous eBulletin, this months eBulletin includes a summary of activities from July and August 2009.

July 2009:

- . An email was received from Charles Metz regarding new residential rehab Koolamon Restoration. Discussion was had regarding the best way to get more insight into the program and the organisation running it.
- . An update from the recent Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australias National Council meeting was provided.
- . Discussions were had regarding the ED's Group joint responses to the Draft Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Framework and Draft Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- . Discussions were had regarding responses to the Review of ACT Drink Driving Laws and the ACT Health Discussion paper on Issues and Challenges for General Practice and Primary Health Care.

August 2009:

On 28 and 29 July 2009, the ACT AOD Sector Strategic Directions and Governance Workshop was held. A paper was generated from the workshop with an agreement that the following Consensus statement would be taken to organisations' Boards of Management for consideration, and presented at the September 2009 ED's meeting:

- . There was consensus that there should be an ACT AOD Peak body.
- . There was consensus that the structure and governance should include consumer and carer representation with appropriate support and role delineation.
- . There was consensus that the peak body should include government and non government inputs in some form.

The purpose of an AOD specific Peak would be:

To promote and support the AOD sector and its clients and the community through a focus on:

- . Sector development and support (e.g. workforce development)
- . Research and policy development
- . Advocacy and representation
- . Partnership development with other key sectors to support joint action.

Who would be the members of an AOD Peak?

- . Primary stakeholders: specialised AOD service providers/agencies, including government, non-government and private providers, including consumer and carer stakeholders
- . Secondary stakeholders: organisations in other sectors that contribute to outcomes for the AOD sector and for people who access AOD services, and interested individuals.

The drafting of the constitution of the proposed Peak would reflect these notions of primary and secondary stakeholders in membership structures and decision making processes and eligibility criteria for organisations and individuals

What will the peak body look like?

The Peak body will be an AOD sector wide incorporated Association, i.e. it will include Government, non-government and private sector members and consumer and carer representatives.

What happens from here?

- . These agreements are taken back to Boards, agreed consumer and carer groups and ACT Health for consideration.
- . The results of these considerations by individual Boards, ACT Health and agreed consumer and carer groups will be fed back to the EDs Group who will make the final decisions on the new governance arrangements.
- . These reports will be presented to the September meeting of EDs.

Managing the transition

- . The current auspicing arrangements for the Sector Project will be enhanced to articulate the relationships between the Youth Coalition, the Sector Project, the Workers' Group, the EDs Group and the funding bodies to move the sector forward towards the development of a Peak body. This will be done by the time of October EDs Group meeting.
- . A small working party of volunteers representative of EDs, workers and consumer representatives will be formed to work with the Sector Project and EDs to develop a work plan for consideration by EDs with a view to creating a sector peak by July 2010.
- . The EDs Group will approve the work plan and monitor, advice and support its implementation.

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

Sector Development

New Resource Catalogue Released

Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)

The Spring 2009 issue of the ADF resource catalogue includes a couple of new resources as well as many old favourites. New resources include:

- . Drug use & mental health: Two issues in the same bag
- . The Straight Talk Manual

For more information or to view the catalogue visit www.bookshop.adf.org.au

Smoke and Drive and You're As Good As Drug: Don't Dope and Drive Posters

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC)

NCPIC has recently produced a new poster to raise awareness of the risks involved in smoking cannabis and driving – 'Smoke and drive and you're as good as drunk'. Fifteen thousand posters are to be distributed across the country through a range of sectors, including health, education and law enforcement. Australians are well aware that drink driving is dangerous but there is a lack of awareness around the risks associated with driving under the influence of cannabis. Research shows however, that driving 'stoned' can increase the chance of having an accident by up to 300%.

NCPIC are also distributing 50,000 postcards, based on the poster artwork, through Avant Card, targeting the student and youth demographic in universities, TAFEs, high schools and student-frequented venues. Promotional products including key rings, mouse mats and bumper stickers are also available to support the poster distribution.

To order copies of the poster free-of-charge, please visit <http://ncpic.org.au/workforce/cannabisinfo/resources/>

Borderline Personality Disorder in the ACT Webpage

Mental Health Foundation

The Borderline Personality Disorder Working Party has developed a webpage that is dedicated to Borderline Personality Disorder in the ACT. It contains information on the condition, services, resources and a range of other topics, all relating to the ACT and Queanbeyan.

Visit www.mhf.org.au/mhf/Whatis.aspx?a=25&s=124&c=300 to view the website.

The Australian (illicit) Drug Policy Timeline: 1985-2009

Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP)

The DPMP Australian (illicit) Drug Policy Timeline: 1985-2009 has been updated for the period January-June 2009. The timeline provides a list of key events, policy and legislative changes that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and 30 June 2009. Events are listed by jurisdiction, at the national and state/territory level.

Visit www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au/dpmpweb.nsf/page/Drug+Policy+Timeline to view the Timeline.

AOD Jobs Website

Of Substance

Alcohol and other drug sector employers can now advertise vacant positions to a targeted market through Of Substance, a publication that reaches around 35,000 readers in the sectors that work with drug and alcohol issues. As a special introductory offer, all job ads will be listed free of charge until mid-September. After mid-September 2009 a fee of \$99 (including GST) for a 30-day listing will apply.

Visit www.drugsectorjobs.com.au for more information.

Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

The Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit is a set of good practice standards developed to assist community service organisations improve the quality of their services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities and to improve the organisation's knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Download the Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit at www.actcoss.org.au/publications/Publications_2009/2109PAP.pdf

2009 Women's Health Information Survey

Women's Centre for Health Matters

The survey includes questions about where women look for health/wellbeing information, how trustworthy/useful they think this information is and what the barriers are to accessing information about their health and wellbeing. They also want to gather information about the preferences that ACT women have when using General Practitioners (GPs) and other sources of health and wellbeing information.

Visit www.wchm.org.au/Surveys.htm to complete the survey. Responses must be submitted by Wednesday 16 September 2009.

Training and Professional Development

ACT Training and Professional Development Calendar (September - October 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

Professional Development Workshops

Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)

This year's ATCA Conference (see next item) includes a unique opportunity for professional development through the inclusion of five workshops – all of which have been endorsed for professional development points by the Australian Psychological Society. Presentations include:

- . Sex and drugs and Rock'n Roll: Teenage heaven or teenage hell? Implications for Treatment by Simon Crowe, Professor of Neuroscience and Clinical Neuropsychology, La Trobe University
- . The Parenting Centre: A New Model for Clinical Work with Young People by Bob Jacobs, Registered Clinical Psychologist and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner
- . When Love is Not Enough: Vulnerable Families, Intergenerational Patterns, Addiction and Healing by Lauren Porter, Co-Director, Centre for Attachment
- . Addiction and Change: Motivational Interviewing and Beyond by Joel Porter, Director, Pacific Centre for Motivation and Change
- . Working in the Therapeutic Community: What makes the community therapeutic by Lynne Magor-Blatch, Registered Psychologist, National Convener of the Australian Psychological Society's Psychology and Substance Use Interest Group

For further information including dates, times, venues, cost and registration download the [Professional Development Workshops Program](#).

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

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

Cost: Full fee \$340, Concession \$140.

For more information visit www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/conferences.html

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

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

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) Annual Conference: Drugs, Crime and their Impact on the Community

Australian Institute of Criminology

This conference will provide an opportunity for individuals and relevant agencies to engage in discussion about current drug, alcohol and crime-related issues as well as future policy and research priorities. The major themes of the conference include drug and alcohol trends among offenders, the links between mental health and drugs among women, the role of geography in understanding crime and drug markets, the impact of drugs on communities and the role of criminal justice interventions in reducing drug-related crime.

Date: 10 - 11 September 2009

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Adelaide, South Australia

Cost: Two day Conference ticket \$240, one day ticket \$120

Visit www.aic.gov.au/events/aic%20upcoming%20events/2009/duma.aspx to view more information on the conference and to register.

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 (Symposium) & 29 September (Conference) 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.

For more information visit <http://guest.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.

Date: 1 - 2 October 2009

Venue: RACV Club, Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria

Cost: Standard registrations \$420, Single day registrations \$252.

Other: Anex has secured two separate scholarship opportunities to assist frontline workers attend the Conference and the pre-Conference training sessions. For more information about these scholarships please go to www.australiandrugsconference.org.au/scholarships.htm

Visit the www.australiandrugsconference.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 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. Additionally, further information on Indigenous scholarships is available at www.ceitc.org.au/Oceaniatc2009. Applications close 11 September 2009.

Date: 7 - 9 October 2009

Venue: TBC, Darwin

Cost: Full registration: \$550

More information is available at www.oceaniatc2009.org

Drug Policy Modelling Program Research Symposium

Drug Policy Modelling Program

The Symposium will feature sessions on better government responses, perspectives on drug markets, and violence, drugs and crime.

Date: Tuesday 13 October 2009

Venue: The Sebel, 28 Albion St, Surry Hills, NSW

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

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 as film, yarnning 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/

Australia's Welfare 2009 Conference

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

A one-day conference providing a forum for discussion and debate on issues around social inclusion, as well as how well the needs of all Australians are being met by government services and programs designed to promote well-being.

Date: Tuesday 17 November

Venue: Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, Crawford St, Queanbeyan, NSW

Cost: Concession \$150, Non Government Organisation \$250, full fee \$350

Visit <http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=7be89b98-74da-47c9-bca4-a617198cc580> for further information and registration details.

Policy Activities

Working with Vulnerable People Checks

ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services

ACT Minister for Community Services, Katy Gallagher MLA, has released a community discussion paper on a proposed centralised system for background checking of people working with vulnerable people in the ACT. The paper, A Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) Checking System for the ACT, is the first step towards the ACT Government's commitment to reducing the risk of sexual, physical, emotional or financial harm or neglect of vulnerable people, through the establishment of mandatory minimum background checking standards. There is currently no consistent process for background checking in the ACT.

Copies of the discussion paper, factsheets and an online forum can be accessed at www.dhcs.act.gov.au/publications/wwvpc

If you would like to request a hardcopy of the discussion paper or to discuss aspects of the proposed checking system contact Mathew Munro, Policy Manager, ACT Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services on 6205 8329 or workingwithvulnerablepeople@act.gov.au.

The closing date for submissions is 12 October 2009.

Consultation on the next ACT Women's Plan

Office for Women, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, (DHCS)

The ACT Women's Plan (2004-2009) is due to expire in September 2009. It provides a strategic policy framework for working with the community to improve the status of all women and girls. It was developed in response to a recommendation from the Legislative Assembly's Select Committee on the Status of Women in the ACT Report, and identified as a strategic action under Building Our Community - The Canberra Social Plan.

The discussion paper Looking Forward – informing a new plan for ACT women and girls has been prepared to commence the consultation phase of the development of the next iteration of the ACT Women's Plan and will provide an avenue for the community, individuals and organisations to provide feedback on the current Plan. A companion paper, Taking Stock: reporting on the ACT Women's Plan (2004-09) Indicators of Success provides a more extensive detail on progress against the Plan's Indicators of Success.

Written responses close on 30 September 2009.

Visit www.dhcs.act.gov.au/women for more information or contact Fiona Barker on (02) 6207 2552 or fiona.baker@act.gov.au.

The Social Inclusion Agenda and the Not-For-Profit Sector: National Compact

Australian Government

The Australian Government, as part of its social inclusion agenda, is exploring ways to develop a national compact - an agreement between the Australian Government and the non-profit sector, outlining how the two will work together to improve and strengthen their relationship. A national compact could also provide a framework for building sector capacity and a platform for discussion between the Australian Government and the sector about how to achieve objectives that will benefit the community.

The Australian Government has developed a consultation paper, toolkit, and initiated an online forum to support individuals and services to participate in the development of the National Compact. The Consultation Toolkit supports stakeholders to engage their own stakeholder groups and collect structured feedback on the compact.

Visit www.socialinclusion.gov.au/compact/Pages/default.aspx for more information.

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>.

Does increasing trading hours for bars and clubs increase or reduce harm?

Researchers from the Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Victoria BC, Canada, and the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, reviewed evidence from a number of studies published since 1965 in the United Kingdom, North America, New Zealand and Australia regarding 'the impact of relaxation of

trading hours on a variety of indices of alcohol consumption and related harms'. They found that 'where increased trading hours have actually occurred...they are associated with increased consumption and related harms'. For instance, some studies identified 'positive associations between length of trading hours and interpersonal violence'. The conclusion of the review is that 'the balance of reliable evidence from the available international literature suggests that extended late-night trading hours lead to increased consumption and related harms'.

Stockwell, T & Chikritzis, T 2009, 'Do relaxed trading hours for bars and clubs mean more relaxed drinking? A review of international research on the impacts of changes to permitted hours of drinking', *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, vol. 11, no. 3, pp. 153-70. The full text of the article is available in pdf at <http://carbc.ca/portals/0/resources/090426TradingHrs.pdf>.

Does standard drink labelling influence young people to drink less?

Some years ago, on the recommendation of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy, Australia adopted a policy requiring the inclusion of standard drink information on all alcohol beverages. This was done as research had shown that such labelling could be of assistance to those drinkers who wished to drink within NHMRC low risk drinking guidelines. Recently, researchers from the Centre for Health Initiatives, University of Wollongong, used focus groups among university undergraduates to investigate 'whether young people use this information in a way that decreases, or increases, alcohol-related harms'.

The result of the focus group discussions was that 'The majority of the participants reported that they are aware of the existence of standard drink labelling; notice standard drink labels; and take these into account when choosing what to purchase. However, this was predominantly to help them choose the strongest drinks for the lowest cost'. The researchers' conclusion was that the study 'provides initial evidence to support the view that standard drink labelling, in isolation of other modifications to product packaging and marketing, is likely to serve to further increase heavy drinking among young people'.

Jones, SC & Gregory, P 2009, 'The impact of more visible standard drink labelling on youth alcohol consumption: helping young people drink (ir)responsibly?' *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 3, pp. 230-4.

Are web-based self-help resources effective in reducing problem drinking?

Drinking Less (DL) is a Dutch language 'free-access anonymous interactive web-based self-help intervention without therapeutic guidance for problem drinkers in the community'. While it has been 'tested in a randomized controlled trial and shown effective 6 months later', Dutch researchers have investigated whether the impact of the intervention 'is sustained in terms of improved drinking outcomes when the intervention is made available to the public'. 378 problem drinkers took part in an 'online pretest-posttest survey', the majority of whom 'had never had professional help for their alcohol problems'. After six months, 19% 'were drinking successfully within the Dutch guideline for low-risk drinking' and 'the group as a whole had significantly curbed its mean alcohol consumption by 7.4 units a week'. The researchers concluded that 'web-based self-help [for problem drinkers] could function well within a public health approach' which is important 'in view of the large-scale availability of DL at reasonable cost'.

Riper, H, Kramer, J, Conijn, B, Smit, F, Schippers, G & Cuijpers, P 2009, 'Translating effective web-based self-help for problem drinking into the real world', *Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research*, vol. 33, no. 8, pp. 1401-8. The article is summarised and discussed at *Addiction Science Made Easy*, www.attcnetwork.org/explore/priorityareas/science/tools/asmeDetails.asp?ID=616.

How effective is injectable heroin for opioid dependent people who haven't benefited from methadone maintenance treatment?

Carefully controlled trials in a number of European countries have demonstrated that opioid-dependent people who fail to benefit from methadone maintenance treatment do well when maintained on injectable diacetylmorphine (pharmaceutical-grade heroin). This finding has now been confirmed in the North American Opiate Medication Initiative (NAOMI) trial. The participants were people who engaged in long-term, treatment-refractory opioid use and had previously relapsed from methadone maintenance treatment. They were randomly assigned to receive oral methadone or injectable opioids, with most of the latter group receiving diacetylmorphine but a small number receiving hydromorphone. The provision of the injectable opioids was implemented on a double-blind basis, i.e., neither the participants nor the staff knew whether diacetylmorphine or hydromorphone was being as dispensed to them. The primary outcomes, assessed at 12 months, were retention in treatment or drug-free status and a reduction in illicit drug use or other illegal activity.

The results were clear. The retention rate in treatment in the diacetylmorphine group was 88% compared with 54% in the oral methadone group. The reduction in rates of illicit drug use or other illegal activity was 67% in the diacetylmorphine group and 48% in the methadone group. The most common serious adverse events among those who received diacetylmorphine injections were overdoses (in 10 participants) and seizures (in 6). Prescribed opioids were self-administered at the treatment service, these adverse events were dealt with promptly and all participants recovered satisfactorily.

Interestingly, the participants who received injectable opioids were not able to differentiate between diacetylmorphine and hydromorphone. One implication of this is that further research is required to determine if maintenance on injectable hydromorphone produces outcomes as positive as those from maintenance on diacetylmorphine, among opioid dependent people who have not benefited from standard therapies. The researchers concluded that 'Injectable diacetylmorphine was more effective than oral methadone [among people who do not benefit from oral methadone treatment]. Because of a risk of overdoses and seizures, diacetylmorphine maintenance therapy should be delivered in settings where prompt medical intervention is available'.

Oviedo-Joekes, E, Brissette, S, Marsh, DC, Lauzon, P, Guh, D, Anis, A & Schechter, MT 2009, 'Diacetylmorphine versus methadone for the treatment of opioid addiction', *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 361, no. 8, pp. 777-86.

'ACT women and prisons: invisible bars: the stories behind the stats'

'This paper presents the stories of six ACT women with a variety of lived prison experiences...Information was also gathered from eight ACT women's service providers who regularly support women with lived experience of prison and institutionalisation. The experiences of all of these women were recorded, and the content analysed using a technique known as "thematic analysis". Through this analysis, 12 core themes and 10 sub-themes were identified in the women's conversations. These themes are discussed and a variety of literature is presented to support and validate the women's experiences. Following this discussion, a section is dedicated to understanding Australia's history of institutionalisation and the impacts it has had on women with lived prison experience. The paper concludes with a statement of commitment from the agencies involved, which details how they will work together to move forward in addressing the unmet needs of these women.'

'The information gathered in this paper provides significant insight into the impact that imprisonment and institutionalisation has had on these women's lives. The Women's Centre for Health Matters (WCHM) and the ACT Women and Prisons Group (WAP) hope that this information will assist counselors, social workers, case managers and other professionals who support women with lived prison experience to better meet their needs. The paper will also be a useful resource for community groups who want to undertake similar activities that allow other marginalised group to have their stories listened to'.

Wybron, D & Dicker, K 2009, *ACT women and prisons: invisible bars: the stories behind the stats*, Women's Centre for Health Matters Inc., Canberra. URL: www.wchm.org.au/WomenAndPrisonsPublications.htm

What resources are available for substance abuse counsellors working with adult clients who may be suicidal?

'Suicide is a leading cause of death among people who abuse alcohol and drugs. For many reasons, people in treatment for substance use disorders are at especially high risk of

suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 50: *Addressing Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Substance Abuse Treatment* will assist substance abuse counselors working with adult clients who may be suicidal and will help clinical supervisors and administrators support the work of substance abuse counselors. TIP 50 is organized into three parts:

Part 1 (for counselors) provides the what, why, and how of working with clients in substance abuse treatment who have suicidal thoughts or have attempted suicide.

Part 2 (for administrators) clarifies why program administrators should be concerned about this clinical issue.

Part 3 (for clinical supervisors, interested counselors, and administrators) consists of three sections: an analysis of the available literature, an annotated bibliography, and a general bibliography.'

Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (U.S.) 2009, *Addressing suicidal thoughts and behaviors in substance abuse treatment*, Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) no. 50. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 09-4381, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Rockville, MD. URL: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?rid=hstat5.chapter.93877.

What is known about peer-based recovery support?

Peer-based addiction recovery support: history, theory, practice, and scientific evaluation reviews the history, operational principles, service practices, and scientific status of peer-based recovery support (P-BRS) and peer-based recovery support services (P-BRSS) and their future relationship with professionally directed addiction treatment.

The author summarises the key points as follows: 'The organizing principle for providing care for people with alcohol and other drug problems is shifting from pathology and intervention paradigms to a long-term recovery paradigm. Evidence of this shift is seen in a shift in emphasis within addiction treatment from models of biopsychosocial stabilization to models of sustained recovery management. Recovery management models include assertive interventions to shorten addiction careers, lengthen recovery careers, and enhance the quality of individual/family life in long-term recovery. P-BRS and formal P-BRSS constitute central recovery management strategies and a core component of recovery-oriented systems of behavioral health care—with system here defined as a macro-level organization of a community, state, or nation.'

White, WL 2009, *Peer-based addiction recovery support: history, theory, practice, and scientific evaluation*, Great Lakes Addiction Technology Transfer Center, Chicago, Illinois. URL: www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/pdf/White/Peer-Based_Recovery_Support_Services_June_08_09.pdf. Large file warning: 2 MB.

What do the 2008 Australian Drug Trends data tell us?

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) operate annually in all states and territories. In April of each year, the IDRS and EDRS coordinators publish detailed reports about drug trends in Australia.

State and territory reports in the Australian Drug Trends Series provide in-depth analyses of drug trends identified in the IDRS and EDRS for each state and territory, incorporating the regular drug user surveys, key expert surveys and indicator data. The ACT reports for 2008 are now available.

The ACT IDRS report reveals that 'heroin was the drug of choice' for 60% of respondents. 'Polydrug use was almost universal amongst the 2008 sample (97%): 37% of respondents reported heroin to be 'very easy' to obtain. '96% of participants reported lifetime use of any form of methamphetamine, and 74% of the sample reported the recent use of some form of methamphetamine.' 'Recent cocaine use remained stable at 18%'. 97% of the sample 'had ever tried cannabis' and 80% reported recent use.

Cassar, J, Stafford, J & Burns, L 2009, *ACT drug trends 2008: findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)*, Australian Drug Trends Series no. 21, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney. URL: http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/page/National+Reports#EDRS_Jurisdictional

The ACT EDRS report states 'The majority of the sample indicated that they "typically" used other drugs in combination with ecstasy and to facilitate their comedown...Half the sample reported having "binged" (used continuously for 48 hours or more) on ecstasy and other drugs in the six months prior to interview.' 55% of participants 'had recently used methamphetamine'. 74% 'had ever tried cocaine' and 37% reported using it 'in the previous six months'. 86% had used cannabis 'in the six months preceding interview'. 37% reported 'recent use of LSD'.

Rowe, P & Burns, L 2009, *ACT trends in ecstasy and related drug markets 2008: findings from the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)*, Australian Drug Trends Series no. 30, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney. URL: http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/page/National+Reports#EDRS_Jurisdictional.

National reports in the Australian Drug Trends Series contain data from every state and territory along with comparisons of drug trends over time. The national IDRS report for 2008 is now available.

Stafford, J, Sindich, N & Burns, L 2009, *Australian drug trends 2008: findings of the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)*, Australian Drug Trends Series no. 19, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney. URL: <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/page/National+Reports>.

The national EDRS report for 2008 will soon be available at <http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/ndarcweb.nsf/page/National+Reports>.

How harmful is it to smoke cannabis during pregnancy?

Research from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has found that there is evidence to suggest that 'prenatal exposure to cannabis (particularly heavy exposure) has subtle adverse effects, beginning at approximately three years of age, on subsequent cognitive functioning, behaviour, substance use, and mental health in offspring'. These deficits 'could impair a child's academic functioning and may require educational remediation, enrichment or placement to help protect against future learning problems'. The researcher states that 'Prevention efforts directed towards reducing maternal cannabis use during pregnancy could have significant effects in reducing such cognitive impairment. Prevention and intervention programs aimed at reducing prenatal cannabis exposure could also help reduce the percentage of youth who experience mental health conditions and other comorbid problem behaviours, such as substance use and delinquency'.

The researcher concludes that 'Cannabis use is a preventable prenatal risk factor; the findings reviewed from the literature suggest that it is prudent to advise pregnant women, and women thinking of becoming pregnant, of the risks associated with cannabis use during pregnancy'.

Porath-Waller, AJ 2009, *Clearing the smoke on cannabis: maternal cannabis use during pregnancy*, Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Ottawa. URL: www.ccsa.ca/2009%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa0117832009_e.pdf.

What can be done to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous prisoners and juvenile detainees?

A recently published paper prepared by the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) of the Australian Council on Drugs examines Indigenous incarceration and health. 'Indigenous adults are 13 times more likely to be imprisoned' than other Australians, and the health status of Indigenous prisoners 'is likely to be far worse than in the wider community'. Substance misuse contributes to this poor health status: 'the prevalence of tobacco smoking among Indigenous prisoners is more than double that of non-Indigenous

Australians' and 'male Indigenous prisoners are more likely to be dependent on alcohol or cannabis'.

NIDAC looks at opportunities within the criminal justice system 'to address alcohol and substance misuse problems', and describes pre-arrest, pre-trial and pre-sentence diversion opportunities. To improve the health status of Indigenous prisoners, Aboriginal community-controlled health services and Aboriginal alcohol and drug services 'can provide continuity in the type of care required for Indigenous offenders'. A wide ranging set of recommendations 'apply specifically to Indigenous offenders within the community and the corrections system in order to reduce their unacceptably high level of incarceration and to improve the health, wellbeing and re-integration of Indigenous prisoners and juvenile detainees'. Among these is the recommendation to 'Redirect funding from the construction and operation of any further correctional systems centres to establish a "break the cycle" network of Indigenous- specific residential rehabilitation centres as well as ambulatory rehabilitation services supported by Aboriginal community-controlled health services for courts to utilise as a real and viable alternative to incarceration'.

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee, Australian National Council on Drugs 2009, *Bridges and barriers: addressing Indigenous incarceration and health*, ANCD, Canberra. URL: www.nidac.org.au/publications/pdf/nidac_bridges_and_barriers.pdf

STOP PRESS: The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission recommends that the Commonwealth Government take over responsibility for the policy and public funding of alcohol and drug treatment services

The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, set up by the Rudd Government soon after it took office to 'provide advice on performance benchmarks and practical reforms to the Australian health system', presented its final report to the governments of Australia in June 2009.

Under the heading 'Strengthening the governance of health and health care' the Commissioners recommend that the governments agree to 'a new Healthy Australia Accord that will clearly articulate the agreed and complementary roles and responsibilities of all governments in improving health services and outcomes for the Australian population' [Recommendation 87]. Under this Accord 'The Commonwealth Government would assume full responsibility for the policy and public funding of primary health care services. This includes all existing community health, public dental services, family and child health services, and alcohol and drug treatment services that are currently funded by state, territory and local governments' [Recommendation 88.1].

National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission 2009, *A healthier future for all Australians: final report of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission – June 2009*, National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, Canberra. URL: www.nhhrc.org.au/internet/nhhrc/publishing.nsf/Content/nhhrc-report

Media

Australian Institute of Criminology Director Appointed

Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

24 June 2009

Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor today announced the appointment of Dr Adam Tomison as Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology...

"Dr Tomison's significant scholarly contributions to research in child protection both nationally and internationally make him an asset to the AIC," Mr O'Connor said.

"I congratulate Dr Tomison on his appointment and welcome his future contribution to the work of the AIC."

Visit

www.ministerhomeaffairs.gov.au/www/ministers/oconnor.nsf/Page/MediaReleases_2009_SecondQuarter_24June2009-AustralianInstituteofCrimonologyDirectorAppointed

to view the full media release.

Treasurer Commences 2010 - 11 ACT Budget Consultation

Katy Gallagher, MLA

24 July 2009

ACT Treasurer, Katy Gallagher MLA, is inviting business, unions, community groups and other stakeholders to get involved in the 2010-11 ACT Budget consultation process and provide their views about the Government's spending priorities.

The Treasurer today released the 2010-11 ACT Budget Consultation paper to start the process of engaging the community in a conversation about the most effective use of government revenue and possible future savings...

The budget consultation paper can be found by logging on to the consultation website at www.treasury.act.gov.au/budgetconsultation. The paper provides information about the budget position and the magnitude of the savings task, highlighting major revenue and expenditure lines and how the ACT performs relative to other jurisdictions.

The Government is starting consultation with the community earlier this year to allow sufficient time to consider all the options.

Submissions close on 28 September 2009 and can be submitted directly through the website, emailed to budgetconsultation@act.gov.au or posted to:

ACT Budget Consultation

Department of Treasury

GPO Box 158

Canberra ACT 2601

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8249&m=52 to view the full media release.

New ACT Government Protocols on Traditional Owners

Jon Stanhope, MLA

6 August 2009

The ACT Government has issued formal protocols regarding recognition of the traditional owners of the land on which Canberra is located, in response to a request from the Government's peak advisory body on the issue, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council.

Chair of the Council, Ms Glenda Hyde, wrote to Chief Minister Jon Stanhope in May expressing the Council's distress at apparent uncertainties in relation to recognition - including the vandalism of a number of signs welcoming visitors to Ngunnawal country.

"The ACT has recognised the Ngunnawal as the traditional owners of this part of the world since it received advice from a special meeting held in 2002, attended by representatives of all known families identifying as traditional custodians at that time," Mr Stanhope said today.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8297 to view the full media release.

Review of Industrial Relations Arrangements for Community Sector Organisations

Katy Gallagher, MLA

20 August 2009

ACT Minister for Community Services, Katy Gallagher MLA, today announced the successful tenderer for the review of the industrial relations arrangements for community sector organisations in the ACT.

Canberra's HBA Consulting has been appointed by the ACT Department of Disability Housing and Community Services to undertake the work.

HBA Consulting has more than 13 years experience in providing advice and assistance on workplace relations matters.

"The review will consider existing community service funding arrangements as well as the wages and conditions provided by community sector organisations to their staff," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=8347 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Consumer Representative Training

Health Care Consumers Association

This training provided over 2 half days, review the following:

- . Consumer rights
- . Why is it important to have a consumer voice in the health system
- . Overview of the ACT Health System and HCCA's role
- . How to be an effective consumer representative – including how committees work, and tips on how to get your message across effectively
- . How to build your understanding of the consumer perspective: tools you can use to enhance your representative role.

Date: Tuesday 8 & Tuesday 15 September 2009

Venue: Kippax Uniting Church, Cnr Luke st and Hardwick Cres, Holt

RSVP: To register for the training contact HCCA on (02) 6290 1660 or adminofficer@hcca.org.au

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Draft ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014 Released

Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, ACT Government

In May 2009, the ACT Government released a discussion paper inviting submissions to the development of a new ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014.

Following these submissions, the Minister for Children and Young People, Andrew Barr MLA, released the draft ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014. The ACT Young People's Plan 2009 - 2014 articulates the ACT Government's commitment to young people, their families and the community. As well as providing a common policy framework for service provision, the Young People's Plan guides the practical implementation of services across government, non-government agencies and within the community.

Individuals and services are invited to provide written feedback on the draft Young People's Plan.

Visit http://youth.act.gov.au/cms/index.php?page=youth_issues for more information, including the draft plan.

Submissions are due by 5pm 8 October 2009.

Outcome Measurement Working Group

Mental Health Community Coalition of the ACT (MHCCACT)

The Outcome Measurement Working Group (OMWG) is investigating the potential for a more systematic approach to Routine Consumer Outcome Measurement in the ACT community mental health sector. The OMWG is a cross sector reference group comprising community organisations, ACT Mental Health and ACT Mental Health Policy. The Working Group would like to receive information about the following:

- . how your organisation currently measures outcomes;
- . the efficacy of the tool that is used;
- . any recommendations for the implementation of routine outcome measurement; and
- . successful practice and procedures regarding routine outcome measurement in your own or other organisations.

For further information, or to participate in the working group contact Martin Thomas via email to martin.thomas@mhccact.org.au or phone (02) 6249 7756.

Employment Opportunities

Client and Family Support Worker & Case Worker Nexus / Outreach Programs

Alcohol and Drug Foundation of the ACT (ADFACT)

There are current vacancies within the ADFACT Karralika and Community Programs. Positions are:

- . Client and Family Support Worker for Karralika and Community Programs
- . Caseworker for the Nexus / Outreach Programs

Remuneration will be within the ADFACT Worker Level 2 range - up to \$47,782. Salary packaging including PBI fringe benefits free threshold is available.

Selection Criteria:

Essential Qualifications and Skills

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

Desirable Skills

- . Ability to liaise and communicate productively with a wide variety of people from all levels of the community
- . Ability to undertake research and evaluation tasks
- . Proven ability to coordinate tasks
- . Proven time management skills

Applications should address the above Selection Criteria and be accompanied by a current Curriculum Vitae. Application enquiries should be directed to Kerry Fitzroy for the Client and Family Support Worker position or Dawn Bainbridge for the Caseworker position on (02) 62922 733 or by email to kerry.f@adfact.org or dawn.b@adfact.org

Alcohol and Other Drug Worker: Weekend Shifts

Arcadia House, DIRECTIONS ACT

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: \$19.92 per hour plus penalties plus salary packaging to \$16,050 and superannuation 9%.

Application close Friday 4 September 2009.

For further information visit www.directionsact.com or contact Diedre Hobson on diedreh@directionsact.com or (02) 6122 8015.

Project Officer

Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF)

The Consumers Health Forum of Australia Inc (CHF) is the national voice for health consumers. As an independent non-government organisation, CHF helps influence Australia's health system by representing and involving consumers in health policy and program development. The Project Officer would be required to undertake project management of specific CHF projects and consultancies, particularly CHF's Chronic Conditions Self-Management Project, which will include the organisation of state and national workshops.

Applications close Friday 4 September 2009.

Visit www.seek.com.au/users/apply/index.ascx?Sequence=11&PageNumber=1&jobid=15883570 for further information including selection criteria.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

National Binge Drinking Strategy - Community Level Initiatives

Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government

The Community Level Initiative is a community based grants round which provides support to establish sustainable partnerships between non government organisations, local government, sporting groups, police and interested parties to work together to develop solutions for youth binge drinking within their own local community. Funding is available for organisations to provide programs in city, urban, regional, rural and remote Australia. Innovative projects and those representing partnerships between community organisations are encouraged.

A total of \$3.6 million is available through this second funding round. For individual project proposals an upper limit of \$150,000 plus GST per grant for up to two years will apply. For organisations wishing to collaborate and submit a joint proposal, an upper limit of \$250,000 plus GST per grant for up to two years will apply.

Visit www.health.gov.au/tenders for more information, or contact the Community Level Initiative Team on 1800 209 312 or communitylevelinitiative@health.gov.au. Submissions are due 21 September 2009.

Building Safer Drinking Cultures Innovation Grant

DrinkWise Australia

DrinkWise is seeking innovative and creative community-based projects that apply new ideas and different approaches to promote positive behaviour change to reduce alcohol misuse. Drawing from a grants pool of \$100,000, DrinkWise will award between \$5,000 and \$25,000 to grants recipients.

The Building Safer Drinking Cultures Innovation Grants are open to not-for-profit organisations and groups, including – but not limited to – schools, universities, local government, parenting groups, sporting clubs and youth groups across Australia.

Visit www.drinkwise.com.au/Corporate/Community-Resources/Community-Grants-Fund.aspx to download the grants guidelines and application form.

Applications close Friday 11 September 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

Volunteer Grants 2009

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Australian Government

Volunteer Grants 2009 provides funding for eligible non-profit organisations to support their volunteers and encourage volunteering by: purchasing practical and tangible small equipment items to help volunteers; and/or contributing towards the reimbursement of volunteers' fuel costs incurred when carrying out their volunteering work, including those who use their cars to transport others to activities, deliver food and assist people in need.

Organisations can apply for grant funding from a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000. Funding is limited and applications will be assessed and prioritised according to how strongly they meet the selection criteria.

Visit www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grant09.aspx for more information or contact the Volunteer Grants Team on 1800 183 374 or vg2009@fahcsia.gov.au.