

ACT AOD Sector Project eBulletin: April 2010

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

ACT AOD Sector Peak Establishment Update

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association is not-for-profit and is the peak body representing alcohol, tobacco and other drug services in the Australian Capital Territory. Significant work has continued to be done by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association of the ACT's Committee to create an independent, incorporated ACT AOD Sector Peak Body by 1 July 2010, using transparent and inclusive processes. The Committee met twice in March, some key activities include:

- Discussions and developments have continued with the Youth Coalition of the ACT regarding transitioning the ACT AOD Sector Project into the new peak body.
- Policy and procedure development
- Progressing the launch of the peak
- Finalising incorporation processes
- Developing stakeholder communication strategies

The Committee will be meeting twice a month until the transitional work has been completed where the peak is fully staffed and functioning on 1 July 2010. Anne Kirwan, President, ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association can be contacted on anne.kirwan@catholiccare.cg.org.au If you would like further information or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact: Carrie Fowle, ACT AOD Sector Project, (Secretariat and support) on (02) 6247 3540 or carrie@aodsector.org.au.

News from the ACT AOD Sector Project

ACT AOD Minimum Qualification Strategy: Semester 1, 2010

The ACT is currently in the process of implementing a Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS) for the AOD sector. Under the MQS, all AOD workers of ACT Health funded AOD services should either possess the specified minimum qualification or have an agreed plan and timeline with their organisation, to meet the minimum qualification. The following classes will be held for participants enrolled in the Canberra Institute of Technology training for workers with partial completion of the ACT AOD Minimum Qualification:

- Monday 29, Tuesday 30, Wednesday 31 March.
- Monday 3, Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5 May.
- Monday 31 May, Tuesday 1 June, Wednesday 2 June.

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

April ACT AOD Sector Forum

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

- Provide an opportunity for ACT AOD workers to network and share information such as referring clients, service vacancies and waiting lists, and the impact of changes to services.
- Learn about developments in, and relevant to, the sector.
- Access professional development opportunities, information and resources.
- Support professional peer networks.
- Improve referrals, service knowledge and visit other AOD services.
- Provide information about, and give workers an opportunity to have input into the ACT AOD Sector Project.

Date: 22 April 2010

Time: 9.30 - 11.30am

Venue: TBC

Guest Speaker: Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

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

The ACT AOD Services Directory: Version 4

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

www.aodsector.org.au/public/activities/directory.htm.

For more information contact info@aodsector.org.au or (02) 6247 3540.

About the ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project, auspiced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT, is a capacity building Project that began in 2007 and is funded by ACT Health. The Project aims to build the capacity and identity of the ACT AOD sector, foster intra and cross-sectoral relationships, and improve outcomes while maintaining respect for the diversity of services and for people who are affected by AOD.

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

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Information from and

Drug Action Week 2010 Update

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

Drug Action Week 2010

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

Drug Action Week is a national week of activities to raise awareness about alcohol and other drug issues and to promote the achievements of those who work to reduce drug related harm. The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) has launched Drug Action Week (DAW) 2010 with the new theme of "Looking After YOUR Mind!". This year, Drug Action Week will run from Sunday, 20 June through to Saturday, 26 June. ADCA is calling on organisations to get involved by registering an event on the DAW website www.drugactionweek.org.au.

Media Release: Register NOW! For Drug Action Week 2010

12 March 2010

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

More than 50 events have been registered for Drug Action Week (DAW) 2010 as momentum builds for the 14th national community campaign to raise awareness of the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. Organisations across the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and NGO sectors, and the community can register an event on the DAW website (www.drugactionweek.org.au) up until 4 June 2010 to receive FREE promotional material to celebrate DAW from 20 to 26 June 2010.... DAW 2010 will be launched in Canberra on Tuesday, 15 June.....

Visit www.drugactionweek.org.au/inner.php?page_id=4 to view the full media release.

Drug Action Week 2010 Fact Sheet

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)

ADCA has produced a fact sheet that outlines the history of Drug Action Week and also provides information on how to register and run a successful Drug Action Week 2010 event. Download the [Drug Action Week Fact Sheet](#).

Invitation to the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group Meeting

The AOD Sector Project is coordinating the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group that will be involved in the development of activities for Drug Action Week. The Planning Group is open to anyone in the AOD and allied sectors.

Dates: Thursday 1 April 2010, Thursday 6 May 2010, Thursday 3 June 2010

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Venue: 46 Clianthus St, O'Connor

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

If you are not able to attend the meetings, you can still participate in the group through being signed up to the mailing list, informing the group of planned activities to go on the ACT Drug Action Week Calendar of Events and raising items for discussion. If you are interested in participating in the group in this way please contact Ben Frommel on (02) 6247 3540 or daw@aodsector.org.au.

ACT Drug Action Week 2010 Launch

ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project in partnership with the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group will be hosting an ACT launch for DAW 2010. The Launch will be held at the ACT Legislative Assembly on Friday 18 June 2010. ACT AOD services will have service information stalls at the Launch. Please contact Ben Frommel on (02) 6247 3540 or daw@aodsector.org.au for more information.

Third Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference

ACT AOD Sector Project

The ACT AOD Sector Project, in collaboration with the ACT AOD sector and the ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group will be hosting the Third Annual ACT AOD Sector Conference - All things Being Equal: Burdens of Harm. The conference will be held at the National Library of Australia on Wednesday 23 June 2010. Please contact Ben Frommel on (02) 6247 3540 or conference@aodsector.org.au for more information.

ACT AOD Forum Update

This section reports on information shared by services, programs and workers who attended the ACT AOD Sector Forum in March 2010. In total 19 workers attended the forum and the following six services submitted information update forms:

Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army

Service Spokesperson: Bob O'Heir

Phone: 6295 1256, *Email:* bob.o'heir@ae.salvationarmy.org

Current activities include:

- The development of a family support service.
- The ongoing development of the Canberra Recovery Services Choir.
- The development of an assessment process at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Canberra Recovery Services also has a vacant caseworker position and a short term window of bed availability.

Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT

Service Spokesperson: Tim Green

Phone: 6292 2733, *Email:* timothy.g@adfact.org

Karralika has taken on a full time Family Support Worker and is currently interviewing for 3 case worker positions.

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

Service Spokesperson: Geoff Ward

Phone: 6279 1670, *Email:* geoffw@cahma.org.au

- The CAHMA weekly radio show "News from the Drug War Front" has recently been extended from 30 to 60 minutes. It goes to air live every tuesday morning 11am – 12pm on 2xx 98.3 FM.
- The Pharmacotherapy Advocacy and Action Team (PHAAT) is a group of ACT consumers on methadone or buprenorphine who meet once

about allied sectors that is relevant to the AOD sector and workers.

Employment

Opportunities: Employment opportunities in the ACT AOD sector.

Grants and Funding

Opportunities: Upcoming grants, funding opportunities and tenders.

a month at the CAHMA office (last Thursday of every month, 12 – 1pm. Lunch and juice provided). Anyone interested in becoming a consumer representative for PHAAT on Opioid Treatment Advisory Committee (OTAC) can call (02) 6279 1670 or drop in to CAHMA.

Lesleys Place, TOORA Women Inc

Service Spokesperson: Natalie Liosatos

Phone: 6241 7233, Email: lesleysplacecoord@toora.org.au

Lesleys place currently offers:

- 3 month residential service for women and accompanying children leaving supervised withdrawal.
- Halfway house for women and accompanying children for up to 12 months.
- Outreach to women in the community.

WIRED, TOORA Women Inc

Service Spokesperson: Paulina Hellec

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

Some programs currently being offered by WIRED include:

- Information and support for women about drugs
- Confidential free counselling
- Drop in
- Groups
- Outreach

The Women relapse prevention group will restart on 6 April 2010.

AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health

Service Spokesperson: John Didlick and Marty Owen

Phone: 6205 0909, Email: john.didlick@act.gov.au; marty.owen@act.gov.au

The AOD Policy Unit flagged the following items:

- Submissions from the AOD sector and elsewhere have been received following community consultation for the draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy and are informing consideration of amendments and additional items for the action plan.
- The evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre has commenced.
- The Opioid Maintenance Treatment Guidelines will be in print for prescribers and pharmacies within the next month.
- The Liquor Bill 2010 Exposure Draft is available for public consultation at the following web address:
[www.jcs.act.gov.au/eLibrary/papers/Liquor Bill.pdf](http://www.jcs.act.gov.au/eLibrary/papers/Liquor%20Bill.pdf)
- The Roadside Drug Testing Discussion Paper is available for public consultation at the following web address:
[www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/186549/Drug Driving in the Territory an overview of issues and options.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/186549/Drug_Driving_in_the_Territory_an_overview_of_issues_and_options.pdf)
- The top line findings of the ACT AOD Service Users Satisfaction Survey have been released.

Sector Activities and Events

2xx Community Radio: News from the Drug War Front

Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation (CAHMA)

CAHMA hosts a radio program on 2xx 98.3 FM, every Tuesday at 11:30am. The radio show explores what is happening in the world of drugs and discusses current issues such as drug law reform, consumer rights, harm reduction and treatment options.

For further information call (02) 6279 1670 or e-mail info@cahma.org.au.

National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2010

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

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

Date: 25 June 2010

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: The Sebel and Citigate Hotel, King George Square, Brisbane

Cost: \$55 per person, \$550 for a table of ten (inc. GST)

Registration: Tickets are now on sale

Nominations for the 2010 Awards close **Wednesday 28 April 2010**.

For further information visit www.drugawards.org.au or contact the event manager on (02) 6215 9802 or info@drugawards.org.au.

News from the Executive Directors' Group

The ACT AOD Executive Directors Group met on 16 March 2010. Some key items being progressed include:

- Participation in the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia's Federal Council.
- Discussion of the ACT Alcohol & Other Drug Services Service User Satisfaction Survey 2010 Initial Top-Line Findings.
- Discussion of the Review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set, including organising an AOD sector workshop with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare scheduled for April.
- Discussion and participation in the National Centre for Education and Training in Addictions' national survey on Vocational Education and Training as an AOD Workforce Development Strategy.
- A submission from the non-government members of the Group to the draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010 – 2014 and the draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy were completed and provided to the ACT Government.
- Participation on the ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy Implementation and Evaluation Group.

- The ACT AOD Workers Group and Sector Project reported on activities.
- Other items discussed included: ACT Drug Action Week 2010, including the launch and conference and the ACT AOD Sector Minimum Qualification Strategy.

Carol Mead, Chair, ACT AOD Executive Directors Group can be contacted on (02) 6122 8000 or carolm@directionsact.com.

Youth Week 2010 Update

National Youth Week 10 - 18 April 2010

National Youth Week, the annual celebration of young people throughout Australia, will be held from 10 - 18 April 2010. The ACT Youth Week Coordinator for 2010 is Anna Voronoff. For more information on National Youth Week in the ACT, contact Anna on (02) 6247 3540 or youthweek@youthcoalition.net. Visit <http://youthweek.com/2010> to view the National Youth Week website.

National Youth Week in the ACT Calendar of Events

The final ACT Calendar of Events is now available, and provides an overview of all the activities being run for young people in the ACT, both during and in the lead-up to, Youth Week. Download the [ACT Youth Week Calendar of Events](#).

Youth Week Promotional Merchandise

Promotional merchandise for Youth Week 2010 is now available, and includes posters and mobile phone accessories. To arrange to pick up merchandise for your Youth Week event, contact Anna Voronoff on (02) 6247 3540 or youthweek@youthcoalition.net.

National Youth Week Expo: Friday 9 April 2010

The Annual National Youth Week Expo will be held at Garema Place in Civic, from 4 - 8pm on Friday 9 April 2010. The Expo aims to promote young people, their art and music; and engages youth and other community services to provide information and activities for and about young people. The Expo will have exhibitions, information stalls, performances, demonstrations, live music and theatre for and by young people aged 12 - 25 years. For more information contact Anna on (02) 6247 3540 or youthweek@youthcoalition.net.

Gugan Gulwan Open Day and Launch of Strategic Plan

Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation is hosting an open day which is a chance for the ACT Services to come together, set up information stalls about their service and network. Gugan Gulwan Youth Centre and The Ironbark Café will have a BBQ sausage sizzle including kangaroo sausages, emu, crocodile and other traditional foods. Gugan Gulwan will also launch its strategic plan at the open day from 11 - 11:30am.

Date: Thursday 8 April 2010

Time: 10 am – 2 pm

Venue: Grattan Court, Wanniasa ACT

Cost: Free

Download the [Strategic Plan Launch Invitation](#).

For further information on the open day visit www.gugan-gulwan.com.au or contact Teletha on (02) 6231 9555 or teletha@gugan-gulwan.com.au.

Sector Development

ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Services Service User Satisfaction Survey 2010 - Initial Top-line Findings

Social Research and Evaluation Pty Ltd

A Service User Satisfaction Survey was conducted in the ACT alcohol and other drug agencies, both government and non-government, on 19 November 2009. A brief, initial report presenting the top-line findings of the survey has been produced. The project is funded by ACT Health and was developed, and implemented, with the support of the Executive Directors/CEOs of the ACT's alcohol and other drug treatment and support agencies, both government and non-government. The final full report will be available in June. Download the [Initial Top-line Findings](#).

Alcohol and Drug Program Group Schedule 2010

Alcohol and Drug Program, ACT Health

The Alcohol and Drug Program has released its group schedule for 2010. This schedule outlines five groups the Alcohol and Drug Program run to increase support for clients. The groups include: Relapse Prevention Program, Stepping Stones to Success, Mindfulness, Meditation & Stress Management Group, Controlling Your Drinking and Effective Weed Control. Download the [Alcohol and Drug Program Group Schedule 2010](#).

DIRECTIONS ACT Autumn Edition Newsletter

DIRECTIONS ACT

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

Download the [DIRECTIONS ACT Newsletter](#).

Improved Services Initiative Newsletter

Collaboration between Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations (or equivalent), funded under the initiative

The summer edition of the national newsletter for the Improved Services Initiative has been released. The newsletter contains information about the way in which the Improved Services Initiative funding is being used to achieve integrated comorbidity capacity within non-government Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services across Australia. Download the [Improved Services Initiative Newsletter](#).

CentreLines February 2010

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

CentreLines is a newsletter from the National Centres for Drug and Alcohol Research and the February edition contains details and selected abstracts of the most recent publications from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), Sydney. The February edition features an article by Dr Katherine Mills about the new Commonwealth guidelines on managing comorbidity in alcohol and other drug treatment settings. Visit [http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/CL_2009/\\$file/CentreLines+Feb+2010.pdf](http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/NDARCWeb.nsf/resources/CL_2009/$file/CentreLines+Feb+2010.pdf) to view the February edition of CentreLines.

'Of Substance' March 2010 Edition Available

Of Substance Magazine

The March 2010 Edition of 'Of Substance' Magazine, the national magazine on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, is now available. This issue includes articles on smoking bans, legal approaches to various drugs, people in custody, needle and syringe programs, the impact of disasters on AOD use, and engaging culturally diverse communities. Visit www.ofsubstance.org.au to view the latest issue.

Free Drug Sector Job Advertising

Of Substance magazine

Of Substance magazine is offering alcohol and other drug sector employers a free opportunity to advertise vacant positions through the Of Substance online jobs board. The website is currently being upgraded to reach a larger target audience and while this upgrade occurs ads on the website will be listed free for up to 30 days. Visit www.drugsectorjobs.com.au to view the jobs board or post a vacant position.

Volatile Substance Use (VSU) Guideline

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH)

The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) in the Department of Health and Ageing has commissioned the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to produce a systematically developed clinical practice guideline for the management of volatile substance use (VSU). The Guideline will be applicable in primary health, emergency, mental health, and alcohol and drug service settings. A draft of the Guideline will be available for public comment on the NHMRC website in late 2010. All submissions from this public consultation will be considered by the development committee before the release of the final guideline in 2011. To register to receive updates on the progress of the guideline, including notification of the availability of the draft guideline for comment, email details to vsu@nhmrc.gov.au or visit www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics for further information.

Life Matters Program - Intravenous drug use and HIV

ABC Radio

On 18 March, 2010 Professor Louisa Degenhardt (Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales) was interviewed on the Life Matters Program about Intravenous Drug Use and HIV. Professor Louisa Degenhardt discussed the findings of a recent Australian review of clean needle and methadone programs around the globe conducted by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC). The review found that many countries are not doing enough to stop the spread of HIV. Visit www.abc.net.au/rn/lifematters/stories/2010/2848649.htm to download or stream the audio of the program.

Social Inclusion Publications Webpage

Australian Government

The Australian Government has compiled a wide range of resources and publications on social inclusion policy and practices in Australia. The webpage includes Australian Government publications, Australian Social Inclusion board publications, research papers and conference presentations on social inclusion. Visit www.socialinclusion.gov.au/Resources/Pages/Resources.aspx to view the publications webpage.

National Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation Australia

National Reconciliation Week 2010 will run from 27 May to 3 June. The week celebrates the rich culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and focuses on what still needs to be done to turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Indigenous people. The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2010 is Reconciliation: Let's see it through! Visit www.reconciliation.org.au for more information.

National Compact: Working Together

Australian Government

The National Compact: working together is an Australian Government initiative and outlines how the Government and the Third Sector of community and not-for-profit organisations want to work together in new ways based on partnership and respect. The compact is the result of extensive consultation between the Government and the Sector. All not-for-profit organisations are invited to sign up to the compact.

For further information visit www.nationalcompact.gov.au/

Bringing them Home – Oral History Interviews Website

National Library of Australia

The website features oral history interviews with people who were involved in or affected by the removal of Indigenous children from their families. The Bringing Them Home interviews are being made available - in collaboration with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and in consultation with the people interviewed or their next of kin.

To access the interviews visit www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/bringing-them-home-online.html.

National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal and Register Launch

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) have launched a new national Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal that will provide links to current Australian guidelines developed by governments, professional colleges, specialty societies and non-government agencies. In addition to the Portal, the NHMRC has developed a national clinical practice Guidelines in Development Register. This Register contains information about clinical practice guidelines that are planned or currently being developed in Australia. To access the Portal and Register visit www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au.

Portable Long Service Leave

ACT Long Service Leave Authority

The new Community Sector Portable Long Service Leave Scheme will commence on 1 July 2010 in accordance with the provisions of the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act 2009 which was passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly in December 2009.

Visit www.actslsb.act.gov.au/community.pdf for more information about this scheme in the community sector.

Training and Professional Development

Training and Professional Development Calendar – Call for Submissions

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

The Training and Professional Development Calendar is produced bi-monthly by the Youth Coalition of the ACT in partnership with the ACT AOD Sector Project; and is calling for submissions for the period of May - June 2010. The Training Calendar provides training and professional development opportunities for workers in the youth, alcohol and other drug, mental health, family support and community sectors. This calendar

has an average distribution of over 400 in the ACT and surrounding areas to workers in these fields.

To view previous Training Calendars, visit: www.youthcoalition.net/sector/trainingcalendar.html.

To include your training in the calendar for May - June, email katrina@youthcoalition.net or call the Youth Coalition on (02) 6247 3540 to provide the following details:

- Name of training / course
- Date(s) of training / course
- Contact person, phone number and email address for RSVP
- Cost of training / course

Please submit your training details for this calendar by **Wednesday 7th April 2010**.

Mental Health First Aid

Lifeline Canberra

Mental Health First Aid is a 12 hour program that will run from 29 – 30 April 2010. It is an accredited training program with a certified trainer. The course equips workers to identify when clients may have a mental health condition and provides skills on how to respond appropriately and effectively.

Visit www.act.lifeline.org.au/WhatWeDo/CorporateandCommunityTraining/tabid/155/Default.aspx to find out more about the training or contact Lifeline on (02) 6247 0655 or training@act.lifeline.org.au.

Introduction to the Discrimination Act Workshop

ACT Human Rights Commission

This course is designed to increase people's knowledge of their rights and/or responsibilities under the Discrimination Act 1991. This course is also designed to guide staff in the development of their policies and procedures that relate to preventing discrimination in the workplace.

Date: Thursday 8 April 2010

Time: 9.30am - 1pm

Venue: Level 9/12 Moore St Canberra City

Registration: Essential

Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/calendar/site/eventview.php?id=34 for more information or to register for the training.

Solution-Oriented Brief Therapy

Vyne @ OzHelp

This two-day training is a skills based and practical course which outlines and explores the solution-oriented brief therapy approach to working with clients.

Date: 15 - 16 April 2010

Time: 9am – 5pm

Venue: Venue details provided on receipt of registration

Cost: \$380

Registration: Essential, by April 1 2010

Visit www.ozhelp.org.au/documents/SolutionOrientedBriefTherapyCourseFlyerwithDates2010revised.pdf for more information or to register for the training.

Aboriginal Culture, History and Heritage Training - Part I and II

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

Part I aims to give participants a general introduction into the recent history of Aboriginal people in Australia. Part II builds on the initial training and aims to provide an opportunity to further advance skills when working with Aboriginal people and community. This two part training is open to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers.

Date: Part I - Thursday 20 May 2010, Part II - Thursday 27 May 2010

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

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

Cost: \$48 SAAP Service, \$158 ACTCOSS members, \$197.50 non-members, \$237 government/corporate

For further information or to register download the [Part I Registration Form](#) and the [Part II Registration Form](#) or contact Lisa on lisa@actcross.org.au or (02) 6202 7200.

Introduction to Health Records and Privacy Workshop

ACT Human Rights Commission

The ACT Human Rights Commission is conducting a workshop outlining rights and responsibilities in relation to health information. It will cover issues related to privacy and access to health records. The workshop will also assist consumers to gain a better understanding of their rights relating to their medical information.

Date: Tuesday 11 May 2010

Time: 10am - 12pm

Venue: Level 9/12 Moore St Canberra City

Registration: Essential

Visit www.hrc.act.gov.au/calendar/site/eventview.php?id=35 for more information or to register for the training.

Building on the Capital – Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD)

The Conference will focus on new treatment, prevention and policy in the areas of alcohol and other drug research. The Conference will consist of

content relevant to the Asia Pacific region and will also look at local issues such as the Alexander Maconochie Centre and the community opioid maintenance treatment program.

Date: 28 November – 1 December 2010

Venue: National Convention Centre, 31 Constitution Avenue, Canberra ACT

Registration: Registration will open in April 2010.

Call for abstracts close **Friday 28 May 2010**.

For more information on the Conference visit www.apsadconference.com.au/ or email apsad@wsm.com.au.

Comorbidity Bus Tour A - Wednesday 7 April 2010 (Fully Booked)

Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Youth Coalition is running Comorbidity Bus Tour A on Wednesday 7 April. The bus tour will visit a variety of mental health, alcohol and other drug (AOD) and community agencies across the ACT. Services visited on the Bus Tour A include:

- Karralika Therapeutic Community Program
- Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Mental Health Foundation
- DIRECTIONS ACT
- Psychiatric Services Unit (PSU)
- Opioid Treatment Services, ADP
- Canberra Recovery Services
- Ainslie Village
- Sobering Up Shelter
- The Rainbow

Date: Wednesday 7 April 2010

Time: 8.15am - 5pm

Cost: There is a small fee to cover operating costs, which is \$20 for Youth Coalition members, \$25 for non-members and \$35 for government workers. To enquire about membership please contact info@youthcoalition.net.

Registration: Registration is essential.

Please contact Katrina at bustour@youthcoalition.net to express your interest to participate in the tour. Please note: The tours are popular and book out rapidly. The Youth Coalition aims to get a diverse range of services and sectors represented on the tour to facilitate networking and foster partnerships. Workers and other professionals with direct client contact get priority, and the Youth Coalition tries to have only one service representative per tour due to the size of the bus and to facilitate networking.

ACTCOSS Workshop: Industrial Relations reforms and the community sector

ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)

This workshop will provide information to community organisations about numerous recent industrial relations changes affecting the Community Sector. The workshop will be targeted at employers in ACT community service agencies.

Date: Wednesday 14 April 2010

Time: 1.30 - 4.30pm

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

Cost: \$37 members, \$46.25 non-members, \$55.50 government/corporate.

Visit www.actcoss.org.au/flyer/IRReforms-Apr10.pdf or call (02) 6202 7200 for more information.

Seminar Series 1, 2010 - Indigenous Wellbeing

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

This series will provide a range of seminars around the subject of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing. All seminars are free.

Date: Monday lunchtimes weekly – March to June (excluding public holidays)

Time: 12.30 - 2pm

Venue: AIATSIS, Mabo room, Acton Peninsula, Canberra

The Seminar series will also be broadcast live on www.aiatsis.gov.au.

For more information visit www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/seminarseries/series1.html or contact Cressida Fforde on cressida.fferde@aiatsis.gov.au or (02) 6261 4221.

Interstate Conferences and Symposiums

National Anxiety and Depression Conference 2010

Reconnexion

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

Date: 17 – 18 May, 2010

Venue: The Sebel – Albert Park, Melbourne

Cost: \$445 (early bird)

Registration: Early Bird Registration closes **31 March, 2010**

Visit www.reconnexion.org.au/www/464/1001127/displayarticle/conference-2010--1010900.html or email janet@reconnexion.org.au for more information.

Diversity in Health 2010 Conference

Centre for Culture, Ethnicity and Health and Diversity Health Institute

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

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

Date: 7-9 June, 2010

Venue: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Cost: \$300 full rate, \$250 not-for-profit (early bird)

Registration: Early bird registrations close **25 April 2010**.

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

Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference

National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC)

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

Date: 16 - 18 June 2010

Venue: Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia

Cost: \$600

Registration: Early Bird registration closes **15 April 2010**.

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

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

Alcohol and Drug Foundation Queensland (ADFQ)

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

Date: 21 - 23 June, 2010

Venue: Sebel Citigate King George Square Hotel, Brisbane

Cost: \$600 (early bird)

Registration: Early Bird Registration closes **4 May, 2010**.

For more information on the Conference visit www.winterschool.info.

6th Reintegration Puzzle Conference: Innovation through Collaboration and Inclusion - Call for Abstracts

Centre for Offender Reintegration, Deakin University

The Reintegration Puzzle Conference brings together people working to support the reintegration of offenders into the community after release from prison. This year's conference will focus on partnerships and innovative practices that are achieving positive outcomes for people involved in the justice system.

Date: 23 - 25 June, 2010

Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

Call for abstracts close **31 March, 2010**. For more information on the Conference visit www.reintegrationpuzzle.com.au.

The 6th National Homelessness Conference Many Ways Home: Towards Ending Homelessness by 2020

Homelessness Australia

The Conference will focus on the Government's White Paper - The Road Home. It aims to bring together all the sectors to discuss whether Australia will meet the national target and what more needs to be done, how the white paper is impacting on service provision and what states and territories are doing in relation to their implementation plans.

Date: 1 - 3 September, 2010

Venue: Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane

Cost: \$625 member, \$725 non-member, \$775 government, \$450 student

Registration: Early bird closes **16 July 2010**

For further information or to register visit <http://nhc.in-sync.com.au/> or contact Beverley Atkins on (02) 6247 7744 or events@homelessnessaustralia.org.au.

Reducing Harm across the Lifespan

Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)

The conference will raise the level of awareness of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs (ATOD) sector issues at the local, state and national level, and aims to link the increasingly emergent preventative health perspectives with the now traditional notion of harm minimisation.

Date: 18 - 20 October, 2010

Venue: Wrest Point Convention Centre, Hobart

Call for abstracts close **24 May, 2010**.

For more information on the conference visit <https://events.conventionwise.com.au/ei/cm.esp?id=9603010000274&pageid=2VT0TF2GB> or contact Christine Murphy on christinem@atdc.org.au.

2010 Creating Synergy Drug and Alcohol Conference

Creating Synergy and NSW Health

The Conference will provide a forum for government and non-government alcohol and other drug researchers, practitioners and policy makers from across NSW to discuss the evidence and models for family inclusive approaches to alcohol and other drug interventions. The Conference theme is Family and Carers.

Date: 3 – 5 November 2010

Venue: University of Wollongong

Call for abstracts close **30 June 2010**. For more information on the conference visit www.creatingsynergy.org.au/.

Policy Activities

Roadside Drug Testing Discussion Paper

Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS), ACT Government

TAMS has released a Discussion Paper which invites individuals and services to provide feedback on the complex issues surrounding roadside drug testing, and its possible implementation in the ACT. The Discussion Paper discusses the nature of drug driving and testing drug driving; a summary of Australian legislative approaches, and reforming the ACT's drug driving laws.

Visit [www.tams.act.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0006/186549/Drug Driving in the Territory an overview of issues and options.pdf](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/186549/Drug_Driving_in_the_Territory_an_overview_of_issues_and_options.pdf) to view the Discussion Paper or for more information contact 13 22 81. Submissions are due by **5pm Friday 23 April 2010**.

Exposure Draft: Liquor Bill 2010

Department of Justice and Community Safety (JACS), ACT Government

The Liquor Bill 2010 introduces new initiatives relating to the culture of binge drinking and minimising violent and anti-social behaviour. The ACT Government has released a draft for public consultation, and is seeking written submissions. The Bill will then be introduced to the ACT Legislative Assembly in the June 2010 sitting. Visit www.jcs.act.gov.au/eLibrary/papers/LiquorBill_consultation.pdf for more information about the consultation process, or contact liquor.review@act.gov.au.

The Exposure Draft is available at www.jcs.act.gov.au/eLibrary/papers/Liquor_Bill.pdf. Submissions are due **6 May 2010**.

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>.

What is the most effective way to stop smoking?

Simon Chapman and Ross MacKenzie from the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney have reviewed the evidence on the success of different methods of smoking cessation and have found that 'two-thirds to three-quarters of ex-smokers stop unaided'. However, 'Most published papers of smoking cessation interventions are studies or reviews of assisted cessation; very few describe the cessation impact of policies or campaigns in which cessation is not assisted at the individual level'. They found that 'The relatively few studies reporting on people who have quit unaided provide important information about factors associated with motivating quit attempts and with successful unaided cessation'. These factors, which can be changed by legislation or public-awareness campaigns, include smoke-free homes and workplaces, family and social support, graphic warnings on cigarette packs, and price increases. They conclude that 'Health authorities should emphasise the positive message that the most successful method used by most ex-smokers is unassisted cessation'.

Chapman, S & MacKenzie, R 2010, 'The global research neglect of unassisted smoking cessation: causes and consequences', *PLoS Medicine*, vol. 7, no. 2, p. e1000216, www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000216

Is there a link between alcohol advertising and under-age drinking?

A recent Melbourne study found that there is 'substantial evidence that children and youth are exposed to and recall alcohol advertising, and increasing evidence of associations between liking alcohol advertisements and under-age drinking'. 287 young people aged 15 to 24 years (secondary school and university students, and employed people) completed questionnaires after viewing a print and a television advertisement. 'The respondents perceived messages in the advertisements regarding several social benefits of consuming alcohol, including that the advertised product would make them more sociable and outgoing, help them have a great time, help them fit in, help them feel more confident, help them feel less nervous, and help them succeed with the opposite sex'. The authors point out that 'Alcohol advertising in Australia...is subject to a self-regulatory code developed and administered by the alcohol industry.' They conclude that 'the current self-regulatory codes are ineffective in protecting young people from messages...that the self-regulatory code was designed to prevent'.

Jones, SC, Gregory, P & Munro, G 2009, 'Adolescent and young adult perceptions of Australian alcohol advertisements' *Journal of Substance Use*, vol. 14, no. 6, pp. 335-52.

Do prison officers find it difficult to reconcile their security and human service roles?

A researcher from the University of South Australia interviewed 44 prison officers and auxiliary staff from prisons in Adelaide, Port Augusta and Mount Gambier on the role of prison officers. The custodial role was described as complex: it focussed on either 'control for its own sake, control as a means of keeping prisoners within the walls or control to keep prisoners safe'. The human services role 'involved engaging with the drama of prisoners' lives, being available to chat with them about what was happening, and to provide support when necessary'. She found that many interviewees 'were committed to making a difference to prisoners' lives and had a concern about the extent to which this could be successfully achieved'. She concluded that 'prison officers' work is best described as a complex balancing of custodial and human service roles' and that prison staff 'struggle with the challenges'. Officers who had worked longer periods in prisons were more likely to find that complexity a problem.

King, S 2009, 'Reconciling custodial and human service work: the complex role of the prison officer', *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, vol. 21, no. 2, pp. 257-72.

How successful is Sweden's restrictive drug policy?

A new Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme briefing paper acknowledges that the Swedish example of drug policy is seen as a sound model among people favouring a zero tolerance approach and abstinence-driven treatments for drug use. The author explains 'Sweden seeks to

realize the goal of a society without drug use', and 'whereas enforcement resources in other EU states are directed mainly at networks of supply and distribution, in Sweden the consumer is deemed equally or more worthy of intensive police attention, being viewed as the fundamental unit of the illegal drug market. Likewise, in its treatment interventions, Sweden is untypical in its determination to enforce abstinence upon the recalcitrant drug user, rather than manage the consequences of use and ameliorate their severity'. He concludes that whether or not this restrictive policy is successful depends on the definition of success. Furthermore, 'there are no firm grounds for attributing the low levels of drug use in Sweden to the action of its drug policy measures...Our evidence and analysis indicates that the marginal place of illicit drug consumption in Sweden stems from historical, social and cultural circumstances that are specific to the nation...In terms of the advocacy of the Swedish model and its application in other countries, it would appear that these policies would not be successful, appropriate or perhaps even acceptable elsewhere...As the world becomes more and more interconnected, it seems likely that the political and social conditions underpinning Sweden's zero-tolerance approach will be transformed, leading future generations to look toward alternative ways of dealing with the choices and problems posed by the global presence of diverse intoxicants'.

Hallam, C 2010, *What can we learn from Sweden's drug policy experience?*, The Beckley Foundation Drug Policy Programme, Briefing Paper 20, The Beckley Foundation, Oxford, www.beckleyfoundation.org/pdf/BriefingPaper_20.pdf

How can we move from training to workforce development in the drug and alcohol sector?

The September 2009 volume of Drug and Alcohol Review is a special issue on education and training for health professionals and students in tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. Among the many useful articles is one by researchers from the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction which 'examines not only the features and characteristics of successful training programs and approaches, but also the wider array of systems and structural factors that might act as impediments to the implementation of new knowledge, skills and clinical behaviours'. The paper looks beyond the traditional approach to training to propose 'A workforce development approach [that] requires three levels of action--system-wide, capacity building and professional development to ensure effective responses'.

Roche, AM, Pidd, K & Freeman, T 2009, 'Achieving professional practice change: from training to workforce development', *Drug and Alcohol Review*, vol. 28, no. 5, pp. 550-7.

Would increased expenditure on mental health interventions reduce the rate of deaths related to mental illness?

A study of mortality data covering suicide and mental/behavioural disorders in Australia for the period 1916-2004 found that 'the temporal trend in mental health-related mortality rates (which reflects the longevity of people with mental illness) has worsened through time'. This is in contrast to gains in longevity from all causes of death combined, and from circulatory diseases and motor vehicle crashes specifically. The researchers conclude 'There are several factors that could reverse this trend. First, improved access to interventions or therapies for mental disorders could decrease the mortality analysed here. Second, it is important also that new efficacious therapies for various mental disorders be developed. Furthermore, it is also important that suicide prevention strategies be implemented, particularly for at-risk groups'.

Doessel, D, Williams, R & Whiteford, H 2010, 'The trend in mental health-related mortality rates in Australia 1916-2004: implications for policy', *Australia and New Zealand Health Policy*, vol. 7, no. 1, p. 3, www.anzhealthpolicy.com/content/7/1/3

What resources are available to assist case managers in alcohol and other drug settings?

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre has published clinical treatment guidelines on case management for alcohol and drug clinicians. The guidelines emphasize that 'all models [of case management] share the fundamental principles of collaboration, assessment, planning, advocacy and linking clients with necessary services' and that 'the case manager draws on a range of skills to promote and maintain a supportive alliance with the client'. Copies of the guidelines can be purchased from Turning Point.

Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre 2009, *Case management in alcohol and other drug treatment settings*, Clinical Treatment Guidelines for Alcohol and Drug Clinicians, Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre, Melbourne, www.turningpoint.org.au/library/catalogue_web_09_10.pdf.

How effective are traditional herbal medicines and acupuncture for treating drug dependence?

A systematic review by researchers based in China and the USA aimed to 'evaluate clinical trials and neurochemical mechanisms of the action of traditional herbal remedies and acupuncture for treating drug addiction'. They found that 'Acupuncture showed evidence for clinical efficacy and relevant neurobiological mechanisms in opiate withdrawal, but it showed poor efficacy for alcohol and nicotine withdrawal or relapse prevention, and no large studies supported its efficacy for cocaine in well-designed clinical trials'. Though there have been few clinical trials of herbal remedies, the researchers found some evidence of efficacy. They conclude 'Traditional herbal treatments can complement [sic] pharmacotherapies for drug withdrawal and possibly relapse prevention with less expense and perhaps fewer side effects with notable exceptions'. Prominent exceptions are ginseng and kava. However a discussion of this research by Drug and Alcohol Findings at http://findings.org.uk/count/downloads/download.php?file=Lu_L_2.txt reports on other studies which have found that 'if there are any benefits from acupuncture, they are caused not by the intended mechanisms, but by non-specific factors such as extra therapist contact time or the placebo effect of receiving what seems to be an active therapy'.

Lu, L, Liu, Y, Zhu, W, Shi, J, Liu, Y, Ling, W & Kosten, TR 2009, 'Traditional medicine in the treatment of drug addiction', *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 1-11.

How effective are the CLIMATE Schools drug prevention programs in reducing cannabis use?

A National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) bulletin describes and evaluates two of the most recent of the CLIMATE Schools drug prevention programs: the Alcohol and Cannabis Module and the Cannabis and Psychostimulant Module. Some ACT schools were involved in the evaluation research. The authors of the bulletin conclude that 'The innovative design of the CLIMATE Schools drug prevention program has been found to be effective in increasing cannabis-related knowledge, and decreasing the cannabis use up to twelve months following the interventions. In addition, the contemporary and novel design and delivery of the courses has been found to be acceptable to students and teachers as a means of delivering drug education. As such, the novel internet-based course, which adopts a specific harm-minimisation goal, provides a promising framework for the provision of school-based prevention programs in the future. (The Climate Schools website <http://v1.crufadschools.org/> states 'Climate Schools provides health education courses which aim to empower students to gain knowledge about their health and wellbeing. This knowledge will assist them in making good choices. Students learn about ways to avoid illness and to optimise their physical and mental health'. Note: the CLIMATE Schools program has now been renamed CRUFAD Schools).

Newton, N, Vogl, L & Teesson, M 2009, *CLIMATE/CRUFAD Schools: cannabis prevention programs*, NCPIC Bulletin Series no. 9, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney, <http://ncpic.org.au/ncpic/publications/bulletins/>

New key resources on the evidence base for alcohol and illicit drugs policy

Since the first edition of this book was published in 2003 it has become the single most important source of evidence-based policy recommendations on alcohol interventions. The research, and its policy implications, have been updated in this second edition. It focuses upon

pricing and taxation, regulating the physical availability of alcohol, modifying the environment in which drinking occurs, drinking-driving countermeasures, marketing restrictions, primary prevention programs in schools and other settings, and treatment and early intervention services. Babor, TF, Caetano, R, Casswell, S, Edwards, G, Giesbrecht, N, Graham, K, Grube, JW, Hill, L, Holder, H, Homel, R, Livingston, M, Osterberg, E, Rehm, J, Room, R & Rossow, I 2010, *Alcohol: no ordinary commodity—research and public policy*, 2nd edn, OUP, Oxford.

This companion volume was published late last year, presenting and analysing the evidence base underlying interventions addressing illicit drugs. This volume is a key resource for anyone interested in illicit drugs policy. It focuses upon primary prevention programs in schools and other settings, supply reduction programs, legal enforcement, treatment interventions, harm reduction approaches and control of the legal market through prescription drug regimes.

Babor, T, Caulkins, JP, Edwards, G, Fischer, B, Foxcroft, DR, Humphreys, K, Obot, IS, Rehm, J, Reuter, P, Room, R, Rossow, I & Strang, J 2009, *Drug policy and the public good*, Oxford University Press, Oxford; New York.

Risk factors and participation in work

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)

This report builds on the previous AIHW report *Chronic disease and participation in work* by showing the association between risk factors and participation in work. The report found that absentee rates for people who reported a risk factor and a chronic disease were significantly higher compared with people reporting no risk factors and no chronic disease.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). 2010. *Risk factors and participation in work*. Cat. no. PHE 122. Canberra: AIHW. URL:

www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10741AIHW.

Media

Ad Campaign Launched to Confront Illicit Drug Use

25 February 2010

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP and The Hon Justine Elliot MP

The Rudd Government today launched the next stage of its hard-hitting \$17 million advertising campaign to combat illicit drug use in Australia..... This campaign aims to tackle drug use by presenting the physical and psychological impacts of illicit drug use. It urges young people to decide against drug use and directs users to support, counselling and treatment services..... The campaign features print, outdoor, radio and in-venue advertisements depict real-life situations.... Further information, fact sheets and advice is available at www.australia.gov.au/drugs or by calling the free national hotline: 1800 250 015. Visit www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr034.htm to view the full media release.

New Walk-in Centre Staff Begin 10 Week Training Program

4 March 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

A major step towards Australia's first public nurse-led Walk-in Centre has been taken this week with 12 staff beginning a training program in preparation for the Centre's opening. "It is wonderful to see these plans coming to life with the Walk-in Centre on track to open in May," ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, said today.... "Walk-in Centres will provide patients with more choice through the provision of additional health services for our community, and hopefully take some of the pressure off our emergency department," Ms Gallagher said. "Walk-in Centres are not replacements for GPs or emergency department care, rather they will provide care for people with one-off, non-serious health concerns.... Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9303&m=52 to view the full media release.

New National Alliance Formed to Reduce Harm from Alcohol

14 March 2010

National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA)

A new national coalition of health and community organisations from across Australia was announced today to reduce alcohol-related harm. Comprising an initial 26 major organisations with a focus on public health and alcohol, the National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA) will focus on reducing alcohol problems in the community.... Initial priorities for the NAAA will be:

- Reforming alcohol taxation.
- Buying-out by government of alcohol sponsorship in sports and the arts.
- Increasing investment in prevention.
- Strengthening the regulating of alcohol advertising.
- Introducing health information labelling on alcohol products and including point-of-sale promotions.
- Tightening controls on the sale and supply of alcohol.....

Visit <http://alcoholpolicycoalition.org.au/http://alcoholpolicycoalition.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/NAAA-Media-Release-final-14-3-10.pdf> to view the full media release.

New Police Chief for the ACT

15 March 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, and Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner, Tony Negus, today announced the appointment of Assistant Commissioner Roman Quaedvlieg, as the new ACT Chief Police Officer.... "Assistant Commissioner Quaedvlieg has been selected as the permanent replacement to fill the Chief Police Officer position, vacated recently by Michael Phelan, who was promoted to AFP Deputy Commissioner, Close Operations Support....

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9325&m=53 to view the full media release.

'Just Ask' campaign to improve consumer health literacy

16 March 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, has joined the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in reminding health care consumers that it is okay to ask your pharmacist for consumer medication information when purchasing prescription medicines. The Pharmacy Guild has begun a two week campaign to inform Canberrans about the availability of consumer medicine information (CMI) and remind consumers that it is better to ask for the information than to be confused about the medications that have been prescribed... "Understanding your medication can lead to better health outcomes so I commend the Pharmacy Guild on this initiative which aims to improve consumer health literacy," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9327&m=52 to view the full media release.

Minister Announces Site for Secure Mental Health Unit

17 March 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

The former Quamby Youth Detention Centre site has been selected as the location for the ACT's new 15 bed Secure Adult Mental Health Inpatient Unit, ACT Health Minister, Katy Gallagher MLA, announced today. The Minister said a comprehensive site selection and community consultation process had been carried out which had considered three possible sites, including Gungahlin Block 440 (adjacent to Wells Station road), Gungahlin Block 775 (adjacent to Bimberi Youth Centre) and Symonston Section 49 Blocks 11&14 (former Quamby site).... "The Government is committed to investing in mental health and ensuring our mental health consumers are well cared for in supportive environments that provide a therapeutic place for healing. This facility is another step towards providing Canberra and the surrounding region with a suite of mental health facilities suited to the community's diverse needs," Ms Gallagher said.

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9333&m=52 to view the full media release.

Australian Government and Not-for-Profit sector sign up to National Compact

17 March 2010

The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, The Hon Kevin Rudd MP and Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens

Delivering on an election commitment, the National Compact: working together is an agreement setting out how the Rudd Government and the sector want to work together..... All not-for-profit organisations are invited to sign up to the compact. Interested organisations should visit

www.nationalcompact.gov.au/

Visit www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/jm_m_compactlaunch_17march2010.htm to view the full media release.

Government Reforms Court Imposed Fines Recovery Scheme

25 March 2010

Simon Corbell, MLA

Attorney General, Simon Corbell, has today introduced a Bill into the Legislative Assembly to create a new and improved way for the Territory to recoup court imposed fines and to stop people being imprisoned if they cannot pay their fines.... These options include:

- The option for someone to undertake voluntary community work.
- Instalment plans.
- Income assessment through written notice or under warrant.
- The seizure and subsequent sale of personal property.
- Negative reporting to a credit provider.
- Financial institution deduction orders.
- Garnishee orders.
- Voluntary community work orders.
- Imprisonment.

"Imprisonment does have to remain as a last resort but we must ensure that people have other options, before facing incarceration."...

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9351&m=53 to view the full media release.

ACT Health Awarded Healthy Communities Grant

30 March 2010

Katy Gallagher, MLA

ACT Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, announced today that ACT Health had been awarded a Commonwealth grant to help prevent overweight and related chronic conditions amongst disadvantaged adults in the ACT. "The grant will provide initial funding of \$410,000 over 15 months to increase the participation of at-risk adults in dietary education, healthy lifestyle and physical activity programs," Ms Gallagher said....

Visit www.chiefminister.act.gov.au/media.php?v=9366&m=52 to view the full media release.

Consumer Participation

Consumer Participation Resource Kit

Council to Homeless Persons

The Consumer Participation Resource Kit is a resource for organisations providing services to people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or experiencing housing disadvantage. It contains information on ways to engage with service users, to listen to their views, and to develop strategies based on their advice with the aim of improving services.

Visit www.chp.org.au/public_library/cpkit/index.shtml for more information or to download the resource kit.

Youth, Mental Health and Allied Sectors

Health and wellbeing of young Australians: indicator framework and key national indicators bulletin

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

This bulletin previews the reporting framework and key national indicators that will be the basis of the report Young Australians: their health and wellbeing 2011, scheduled for release in 2011. The bulletin presents 71 key national indicators, along with brief justifications explaining the relevance and importance of the indicators to young people's health and wellbeing. Visit www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11294 to view the bulletin.

Drugs and Media Survey

Drug Policy Modelling Program, University of New South Wales

The Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) is conducting a study into the attitudes of Australian youth to media reporting on drugs. Young people aged 16-24 who live in Australia, are encouraged to participate. The survey can be accessed at <http://drugmediasurvey.com/>.

Alexander Maconochie Centre Throughcare Newsletter March 2010

ACT Corrective Services

ACT Corrective Services produces a monthly throughcare newsletter which provides updates on key services, activities and events in relation to the Alexander Maconochie Centre. Download the [March Throughcare Newsletter](#).

Employment Opportunities

Main Receptionist

DIRECTIONS ACT

3 consecutive days 9am to 5pm, \$41,727 pro rata plus salary packaging to \$16,050

DIRECTIONS ACT is looking for a dynamic and motivated team player that enjoys working in a diverse environment. The ideal candidate will be able to display their ability to manage multiple tasks and challenging situations effectively. The purpose of the position will be to provide assistance at reception duties including answering phones, photocopying and faxing, booking appointments, providing referrals and information. The position will also provide support, referral, education and other appropriate interventions to people accessing DIRECTIONS ACT.

Visit www.directionsact.com/pdf/employment/receptionpt_090410.pdf to view the position description and selection criteria.

Applications are due by **COB Friday 9 April 2010**.

Child and Family Support Worker

Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)

ADFACT is looking for a Child and Family Support Worker with a relevant qualification in Children's Services, Cert II or Diploma for a full time position, for six months to replace a staff member on maternity leave. The position involves working with children and their families whose lives have been affected by substance misuse within Karralika Therapeutic Community. The position would suit someone who has been working within Children's Services and would like a challenge and opportunity to be part of a multi disciplinary team and benefit professionally from new skills acquired.

For selection documentation and more information call Kerry Fitzroy on (02) 62919591, 0402 235 599 or email kerry.f@adfact.org.

Applications are due by **Friday 9 April 2010**.

Case Worker

Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army

Canberra Recovery Services is looking for a dedicated and motivated individual with demonstrated case management experience and knowledge of issues impacting on people undergoing alcohol and drug rehabilitation, to assist their clients. Relevant qualifications in Alcohol and Other Drug Work are required.

For more information or to obtain a detailed position description and application kit contact Bob O'Heir on (02) 6295 1256 or email

crs@ae.salvationarmy.org.

Grants and Funding Opportunities

Volunteer Grants 2010

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Volunteer Grants 2010 aim to support volunteers, working with disadvantaged communities and encouraging social inclusion. Funding of between \$1000 and \$5000 is available to eligible non-profit community organisations to assist their volunteers and encourage volunteering.

Visit http://fahcsia.gov.au/sa/volunteers/funding/Pages/volunteer_grants2010.aspx for more information or to apply for the funding.

Applications close **16 April 2010**.

Our Wellness Foundation Grants

Our Wellness Foundation

The Our Wellness Foundation is seeking applications for grants of up to \$20,000 for services and research projects that promote the health and wellbeing of the people in the ACT and surrounding region. Individuals, community organisations, research institutions and health services are encouraged to apply. Visit www.ourwellnessfoundation.org.au/grants/funding-information.html for more information or contact (02) 6244 2963.

Great Ydeas Small Grants Program

YWCA of Canberra

To celebrate International Women's Day, the YWCA has launched this grants program for local women, which aims to offer financial assistance to women in Canberra and the surrounding region to help them develop their skills and enhance their contribution to themselves, their families and the community. Women who have new and innovative ideas are strongly encouraged to apply for a grant, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women or young women (30 years of age or under). The grant could be used for community-based activities, seeding funds for the establishment of a small business, education or training opportunities, or attendance at conferences. The pool of funds available is \$8,000, and applicants can apply for up to \$4,000.

Visit www.ywca-canberra.org.au/ for more information or contact (02) 6175 9900 or canberra@ywca-canberra.org.au. Applications close at

12pm Wednesday 14 April 2010.