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Alcohol, Tobacco & other
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

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From the CEO's Desk

From the CEO - July 2014

There are so many things to write about this month that I am not sure where to begin. June was another month filled with meetings, media stories and attention on money (more specifically budgets).

I had the opportunity this month to attend a meeting with the Minister for Human Services, the Hon. Jacqui Petrusma, at which she shared with the community sector her commitment to creating joined-up and streamlined support systems for vulnerable and disadvantaged Tasmanians.

Whilst many of us have endured reform for some time, it was positive that we heard from the Minister her acknowledgement of the need for a model appropriate to Tasmania that recognises our unique differences and strengths. She was clear that this is not a matter of supplanting a model from other states and territories.

In addition, we heard from the Minister and her Agency representatives that this will be a long term project, and would focus on co-design with organisations, government, workers, clients, their carers and the general community.

As we embark on this road of reform, the ATDC will be seek to ensure the characteristics of our member organisations, that we value so highly, namely our diversity, our expertise and our value are recognised and sustained.

Several important issues have been aired in the media these past few weeks, firstly a look at the harms associated with prescription opioids, and then a discussion about the medical use of cannabis. Two substance types, both with medicinal properties, both with the potential to cause harm, and one legal the other illegal. I couldn't help but wonder how, as a community, we will resolve this dilemma. Perhaps a place to start is with a return to Aristotle. If we consider the ethical (ethos), emotional (pathos) and logical (logos) elements of our response to the question of drug use, regulation, and treatment we may better understand why we support one view over another.

The Tasmanian state budget will be delivered on 28 August this year. Later than usual as the incoming Liberal government assesses the impact of the Federal budget and changing State circumstances. The ATDC is seeking reassurance from the government that no existing funding to the alcohol and drug sector will be lost, and whilst we appreciate the need to make savings within the health budget overall, I would argue strongly that the alcohol and other drug community sector is already struggling to meet demand for services and as such, consideration needs to be given to increasing our core funding base.

Finally I would like to thank our members and other stakeholders who completed the ATDC Stakeholder Survey a few months ago. We have analysed the results and are pleased to hear from you that the work we do on your behalf is hitting the mark. To view the report please [click here to follow this link](#).

'Til next time regards

Jann

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Consumer Engagement

Advocacy Tasmania Develop Position Paper

Advocacy Tasmania has recently developed a position paper titled *The Unintended Consequences of Pharmacotherapy Policy in Tasmania*. The paper was launched at the ATDC Visions and Values conference in May and is available by [clicking here](#).

Advocacy Tasmania is keen to obtain feedback from ATDC members about the key recommendations of the paper which relate to the meaningful involvement of service users in future developments of the pharmacotherapy program.

Comments or questions can be directed to Kate Fish k.fish@advocacytasmania.org.au

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Sector Update

Collective Impact Practitioners Forum

The ATDC's Sector Capacity Building Project Officer, Amanda Street, attended the one day *Collective Impact Forum* hosted by TasCOSS. The forum was an excellent introduction to the idea of Collective Impact with impressive presentations from [Dr Michael McAfee](#) and [Dawn O'Neil](#) who both shared their experiences of working in a collective impact framework to achieve population level change.

Collective Impact is a framework to tackle deeply entrenched and **complex social problems**. It is an innovative and structured approach to making collaboration work across government, business, philanthropy, non-profit organisations and citizens to achieve significant and lasting social change.

John Kania & Mark Kramer first wrote about collective impact in the [Stanford Social Innovation Review](#) in 2011 and identified five key elements:

- a **common agenda** for change
- Shared approach to data collection and measurement
- **mutually reinforcing activities**
- Open and **continuous communication**
- A **backbone organisation(s)**

Below are a number of links to more information regarding collective impact. For more information about this, please contact Amanda at the ATDC amandas@atdc.org.au

- [Channelling change - making Collective Impact work: Hanley-Brown, Kania and Kramer 2012](#)
- [Wicked problems - Conklin 2008](#)
- [Tackling the big issues - TasCOSS 2014](#)

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2014 ATOD Awards Recipients Announced

The Tasmanian Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Awards, now in their third year, recognise, promote and reward outstanding practice in the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs field in Tasmania.

On 16 June, the 2014 award recipients were announced by the Acting Secretary for the Department of

Health and Human Service, Mr Michael Pervan at a presentation at Parliament House.

Winners received an engraved trophy and \$500 to be spent on professional development.

The four award recipients for 2014 are:

- **Outstanding Contributions Award** - Awarded to Tamara Speed
- **Excellence in Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Work Award** - Awarded to Liz Moore
- **Emerging Researcher Award** - Awarded to Dr Amy Peacock
- **Early Career Award** - Awarded to Debbie Hollinger

Read more by [clicking here](#).

The ATDC warmly congratulates these four people on their dedication and professionalism. They represent so much excellent work that is being done by many within the sector.

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Tasmania Takes Part in Global Day of Action

On Thursday 26 June 2014, activists in more than 50 cities around the world made their voices heard as part of the *Support. Don't Punish.* global day of action which calls on governments to focus on helping people who use drugs so they can achieve a positive and fulfilling life.

"The *Support. Don't Punish.* campaign shines a light on the ineffectiveness of the war on drugs that has been waged for half a century. Instead of punishing people who use drugs we should be offering them services that address any health and social problems that they may have, and at the same time, respect their human rights," said Ann Fordham, Executive Director of the International Drug Policy Consortium, based in London, UK.

Read the ATDC's media release by [clicking here](#).

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ATDC's Web Site To Undergo Facelift!

The online presence of the ATDC is undergoing a somewhat radical transformation with the new look web site being launched during July.

The ATDC's CEO, Jann Smith, has welcomed the update saying that the new site will offer easier navigation with the possibility of developing more engaging content.

During the transition from old to new, visitors may experience some downtime but the ATDC hopes to keep this to a minimum. The ATDC invites you to check for the update at www.atdc.org.au in mid July.

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Name Your Enews

We have decided that it's time for our enews to no longer be a nameless visitor to your inbox every month, so by creatively coming up with a catchy name for it you could WIN two movie tickets!

Simply email your suggestions to communications@atdc.org.au with Competition in the subject line. Entries close 28 July 2014 and the winner of the successful entry will be advised by email as well as mentioned in the next edition.

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\$9.2million for a National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and FAS Action Plan

The Federal Government has announced \$9.2million for a national Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and FAS Action Plan.

The funds will be used to tackle what is the highest incidence of FASD or FAS harm in the world in some Australian communities. Babies whose mothers consume alcohol when they are pregnant may be born with a range of irreversible disabilities including cognitive impairment, physical, behavioural and learning disabilities.

Read more by [clicking here](#).

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Skills Fund Subsidised Diploma Places Available for AOD/MH, Management and Human Resources

The following funded places have become available:

- [Diploma of Human Resource Management](#)
- [Diploma of Management](#)

Click on the qualification title for more details.

These qualifications are 80% funded by the Skills Fund, so it's an ideal opportunity to gain valuable skills and nationally recognised qualifications at a heavily discounted price.

For more information, call Lynne at ATDC on 6231 5002 (ext 4) or email lynnem@atdc.org.au

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Professional Honours in Human Services Practice

The School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts at UTas is offering *Professional Honours in Human Services Practice*.

It offers:

- a strong practical focus and **HECS fee waiver** (at least for the August semester) for those enrolling in August 2014 and completing within the allotted time;
- a flexible structure including workshop and online delivery;
- a part time program for up to 3 years.

2014 second semester unit is [Human Services Context Practice](#).

Read more by [clicking here](#).

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Upcoming Training, Events & Conferences

Save the Date - ATDC Research Symposium - 2 September 2014

The symposium, to be held in Hobart, is an opportunity for university students at all levels, and

others who are undertaking research in a field related to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD), to showcase the progress of their work and their findings to date.

[Click here for more information](#) about submitting an expression of interest in presenting, or call Lynne or Amanda on 03 6231 5002.

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Consumer Engagement and Adaptive Leadership Workshops

The ATDC is partnering with TasCOSS, NDS and MHCT to deliver workshops focused on Consumer Engagement and Adaptive Leadership in July and August.

ATDC Members: \$95 per person

Register online for the Consumer Engagement workshop by clicking on your preferred location.

- [Burnie](#)
- [Launceston](#)
- [Hobart](#)

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Assessing Complex AOD Clients

Details: Nationally recognised training and assessment with Louise Dewis delivering the training and TasTAFE undertaking the assessment.

Venue: Hobart

Date: 30 July 2014

Cost: \$232.00 (payable to TasTAFE upon receipt of invoice)

Further information: [Please click here](#)

Registration: Complete the registration form as directed [by clicking here](#).

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Understanding Complex Trauma and Trauma Informed Practice & Understanding

Details: Psychosocial Development
Full day workshop provided by the Lighthouse Institute

Venue: Mole Creek

Date: Friday 18 July 2014

Cost: No charge

Further information: [Read more by clicking here](#).

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Helping You to Manage Older Adults with Complex Care Needs Who

Display Behaviours of Concern

- Details:** A full day session
- Venue:** Hobart
- Date:** 22 August 2014
- Cost:** \$250.00 inc GST
- Who:** Professionals working with older adults with complex needs including drug and alcohol, dementia care, aged care, brain injury, homelessness or disability etc.
- Further information:** Download the flyer by [clicking here](#).
- Registration:** Complete the registration form by [clicking here](#).

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Good Health. Good Business National Conference

- Details:** Actions ideas and evidence to support leading healthier, safer, high performing workplaces
- Venue:** Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart
- Date:** August 21 - 22, 2014
- Cost:** One day \$80.00; 2 days \$150.00
- Who:** Team leaders and manager
- Further information:** [Read more by clicking here](#).

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Project Planning and Grant Writing Workshops

Southern Tasmania

August – October 2014

For further information, contact Vlasta Collins on 6232 7050 or vlasta.collins@dpac.tas.gov.au

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ATCA Conference 2014

Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach, NSW

13 - 17 October 2014

Find out more by [clicking here](#).

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2014 APSAD Conference - Times They Are a Changin'

Adelaide Convention Centre

9 - 12 November 2014

Find out more by [clicking here](#).

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Research and Reports

Isolation for People with Mental Health Issues

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania has released a new report on isolation for people with mental health issues, entitled *Stuck In Myself*.

Read more by [clicking here](#).

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Australian Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre

The Australian Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drugs Centre was launched by Professor Ted Wilkes at the NIDAC conference in Melbourne.

The Knowledge Centre builds on the Substance use section of the *Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet* to provide a dedicated web resource for reducing harms from alcohol and other drug use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Read more by [clicking here](#).

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National Guidelines for Medicated Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence

The release of these guidelines marks a substantial step forward in the evolution of treatment for opioid dependence in Australia. It consolidates four, previously separate, documents into one, and reflects accrued experience with buprenorphine.

More importantly, it seeks to make the guidelines more clearly evidence-based and useful for service providers, policy makers and consumers. The term “medication-assisted treatment of opioid dependence” that has been used in the title is a more encompassing term than “pharmacotherapy” and is increasingly being used to refer to the different treatment approaches that combine medication and psychosocial support for people who are opioid dependent.

Read more by [clicking here](#).

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Online News Feed - Scoop.it

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