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Alcohol, Tobacco & other
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

Latest news from the ATDC

June Bulletin

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From the CEO's Desk

From the CEO - June 2014

Remaining optimistic when the future is described by many commentators as bleak, is not always an easy task. This is hardly news to service providers and consumers in the ATOD sector, but the reason I mention it is that we have spent quite a lot of time this month on a roller-coaster of highs and lows.

Early in May the ATDC conference provided an opportunity to take a look at so many areas of our work and as the wrap-up below indicates delegates really enjoyed and valued the time they invested in this learning and reflection.

Then of course the Federal budget announcements followed and have many of us deeply concerned about the impact on the consumers we all seek to help, and the organisations we support. If the measures described in the article below are all implemented, we are likely to see an increase in demand for assistance and a decrease in funding to provide it. I can assure you the ATDC will work with our colleagues at a State and National level to highlight the impact of any changes to government policy and we will continue to seek increased investment and support for our members and consumers.

Toward the end of the month the report from the Auditor General into the implementation of the Future Services Directions Plan was released, and gave us more to think about. The report acknowledges that some success has been achieved in improving services, however it is unequivocal in stating that many outcomes were either inadequately reached or completely failed to be met. Whilst it is disappointing to have reached this conclusion, I think we now have a real chance to address some of the issues that prevented change in the past.

The recommendations in the report call on the relevant government agencies to work more collaboratively with the non-government sector and to support our role in service provision. With our new State Government currently considering its budget priorities, and wanting to improve efficiencies within the bureaucracy, whilst providing more seamless care and support to Tasmanians, the door could well be open for the development of partnership in planning and delivery of ATOD services in Tasmania. We are currently awaiting the convening of the new AOD Treatment Advisory Group. This could be a "Great Leap Forward" with its membership reflecting a collaborative approach to planning that is very welcome.

Maintaining optimism does take effort so the ATDC is again hosting the ATOD Sector Awards in June. We have a lot to be proud of in this sector and I am very excited that we can publicly recognise the achievements of those individuals who work so hard to prevent and reduce the harms caused by alcohol tobacco and other drug use in our community.

Regards,
Jann

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Consumer Engagement

A Consumer Reference Group Member's Thoughts Post Conference

Hello to all, my name is Brett L and these are a few of my thoughts post the ATDC conference in Hobart on the 7 and 8 May 2014.

Firstly I want to thank Advocacy Tasmania and the ATDC for the opportunity to attend and make a presentation at the conference. I would like to thank Tanya Zollner and Kate Fish for their support throughout this journey. I for one was quite nervous, not so much at the thought of speaking but the content of our subject; the fact that we live every day with constraints on our lives that are decided by others who rarely ever meet us or know of our life situation. For most of our group this was the first Alcohol and other Drugs conference that we have attended in person. While this was a first for us, the core content of the conference is something that we, the consumers, live with every day of our lives.

As consumers we want and are working towards breaking down the often offensive stereotypical view of persons who use drugs and or those on opiate replacement programs, whether for reasons of addiction or pain management. Our goal is to share our real life situations and hopefully along the way we can alter the often harsh opinions that are supported by current policy (TOPP) in Tasmania.

One of the main positives to come out of the ATDC conference was being able to meet the many supportive people who work in the ATOD industry. Most of the people I met at the conference felt that consumer engagement is the necessary next step if positive results are to be achieved in the ATOD sector.

Our goals for the future, as consumers, are to be invited into the discussion that will take place this year regarding the necessary changes that are to be made to the TOPP (Tasmanian Opioid and Pharmacotherapy Program) so we can hopefully assist to contribute to a more user-friendly drug treatment policy, in line with mainland Australia .

I hope the Consumer Reference Group will be able to attend the next ATDC conference to be held in 2016 by which time we will have had a two year period to reflect upon and measure the change, if any, to the lives of those on pharmacotherapy.

At the next conference, will we still be singing the same tunes or will there be real meaningful change in the ATOD sector that will allow the many restrictions placed on our lives to be lifted?

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Sector Update

2014 ATDC Conference – Wrap Up



It is almost a month after the event and the team at the ATDC have finally settled back into normal life after the 2014 conference. What a big couple of days it was! Thank you all for your extremely positive feedback in relation to the conference and for providing us with your comments via Survey Monkey to ensure that we can continue to provide you with these types of opportunities into the future.

The breadth and diversity of the program for this year's conference resulted in a wide range of issues and topics being discussed over the two days. Dr Beau Kilmer's opening keynote address focusing on design considerations for legalisation of cannabis was an excellent start to the program offering an opportunity for reflection. Dr Adrian Carter introduced delegates to the concept of addiction neuroethics, followed by Dr Robert Ali sharing with us his experience of increasing medication assisted treatment for opioid dependence in South Australia. The first day concluded with a range of concurrent sessions on a variety of topics including, the consequences of policy decisions in relation to consumer experiences, a new approach to reducing recidivist drink-drivers in the US, how we can use an integrated framework to work with high-risk families and what consumer leadership will look like into the future.

Day two opened with a plenary session presented by Dr Carla Treloar from NSW on the role of trust in drug treatment settings, followed by Brad Pearce from ATDC's equivalent organisation in Victoria, VAADA, discussing the current Victorian sector reform and enlightening us of what the future holds for Victoria. The second day continued again with a comprehensive range of concurrent sessions looking at topics such as correctional primary health issues for people who use drugs, the impact of energy drinks combined with alcohol use, the use of syringe filters as a harm reduction method and also looking at what a recidivist drink-driving court might look like in Tasmania. Professor Sharon Dawe then led us through a presentation that challenged delegate's reactions in relation to maternal substance abuse. The second day closed with a panel discussion looking at Australia's love affair with alcohol and what the implications might be for raising the legal drinking age to 21 in Australia.

The ATDC team would like to extend a very big thank you to Professor Steve Alsop from the National Drug Research Institute in WA for his excellent facilitation of the two days of the 2014 conference. His insightful and knowledgeable commentary alongside his Scottish charm were a highlight of the conference

Thank you again to all of the delegates of the 2014 ATDC Conference, we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you all again at the 2016 conference!

Federal Budget 2014

On Tuesday 13 May the Federal Government released the Budget for 2014-15. The Budget has been roundly criticised as mean and unfair by many commentators. There are a number of areas within the budget which are likely to impact upon the ATOD sector specifically and upon the broader health and community services sector.

Some of the initiatives that the Federal Government will use to reduce national expenditure include:

- The introduction of a GP visit co-payment of \$7 per visit.
- For people under 30 who are commencing Newstart or Youth Allowance some waiting periods (up to six months) may be applied in some circumstances depending on previous work history.
- People under 24 who are unable to find work will have to depend on the Youth Allowance, rather than Newstart.
- People under 35 who are deemed capable of some work will be moved from the Disability Support Pension to Newstart or Youth Allowance.

Indications in the budget also point to a reduction in flexible funds for the 2015-16 financial year, with the Government pausing indexation and focusing on achieving budget efficiencies.

These initiatives are part of a broader suite of budgetary cuts which will impact significantly on the social security and safety net infrastructure that exists to support poorer Australians. It is anticipated that a number of these measures will be felt particularly in Tasmania, given our demographic, employment and socio-economic profile. The cumulative effect of these changes will be felt hardest by those on low incomes and vulnerable individuals and families. It is likely that as a consequence government and community sector organisations are likely to experience and increase in demand for services at a time when they will have a decreased capacity to respond.

View the full set of Federal Government Budget papers by [clicking here](#).

The Australian National Council on Drugs has compiled a Federal Budget briefing paper for the AOD sector.

The document can be downloaded from the ANCD website by [clicking here](#).

This year the Tasmanian State Budget will be announced on 28 August.

Tasmanian Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Awards

The Tasmanian Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Awards were instigated in 2012 to recognise, promote and reward outstanding practice in the ATOD field in Tasmania.

The Awards acknowledge and celebrate the professionalism of those within the sector and the importance to the broader community of the work undertaken. It is the ATDC's aim that these awards contribute to further enhancing the profile of the sector in the eyes of those working within it, as well as those outside it.

Award recipients receive an engraved trophy and \$500 to spend on professional development activities of their choice.

Our 2013 award recipients have been using their award money well:

- **Excellence in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Work Award recipient, Peter Cairns**, attended a workshop on Forensic Assessment and another on Amphetamine Addiction. Peter shares his expertise in presentations to his colleagues and in various advisory roles.
- **Early Career Award recipient, Dominique Smith**, plans to participate in training in working with young

people in CALD communities and the Bridges out of Poverty workshop.

- **Emerging Researcher Award recipient, Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron**, purchased a number of publications to assist her in her research and teaching and finalised her registration for the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law Conference. Isabelle has shared her expertise in conference and symposium presentations and papers and in organising a workshop on drink-driving.

The 2014 Tasmanian Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Awards Presentations will be held at 2:15pm on Monday 16 June at Parliament House.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to **Lynne Maher**.

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ATDC Regional Member Meetings

During late May the ATDC convened the second series of Regional Member meetings across the State with meetings held in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart. The purpose of the meetings is to provide ATDC members with an opportunity to raise local issues relating to service delivery or policy matters, and to ensure that the strategic direction and planning of the ATDC continues to be informed by the views of the ATDC membership.

Over coming weeks the ATDC will publish a summary of the meeting outcomes which will be provided to participants and uploaded to the ATDC website.

We look forward to meeting with members again during the next series of meetings to be held in August.

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ATDC Workforce Survey

It will soon be time for the ATDC to commence data collection for the biennial workforce survey. The survey will be targeted at all staff in ATDC member organisations and we strongly encourage as much participation as possible.

De-identified data collected from similar workforce surveys in 2010 and 2012 has been compiled and shared with the sector, and other stakeholders, in both printed and electronic (available on the ATDC website) formats. The information collected and has provided data to helped us identify priority topics for information and professional development sessions, as well as attract Skills Funds to subsidise ATOD skill sets and qualifications as well as management qualifications. The data also gives an overall picture of the sector and can help with longer-term workforce planning.

If you work for an ATDC member organisation, we seek your full support in participating in the 2014 Workforce Survey and in bringing it to the attention of your workplace colleagues.

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Review of Alcohol and Other Drug Qualifications

During April, the ATDC conducted statewide workshops to consult with member organisations regarding the industry skills council proposal for changes to the Certificate IV and Diploma ATOD qualifications.

The input from those attending was appreciated enormously, and contributed significantly to the submission to the Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council (CSHISC) regarding the review of the training package qualifications.

Given that the purpose of vocational qualifications is to reflect the needs of industry, and that once the revised qualifications are endorsed late next year the qualifications will be largely set for the following 4-5 years, it is critical to look forward to anticipate future needs.

A number of areas were identified as needing a greater focus within the units of competency, including working with older people with ATOD use issues, interprofessional practice within ATOD, family sensitive practice, increasing complexity, consumer engagement, technology based service delivery, and more.

The ATDC also contributed to a submission to the CHSISC, coordinated by NCETA, from several of the ATOD peaks.

We await the next stage of the qualifications review with anticipation.

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Quit Tasmania Launch New Website and Targetting Tobacco Project

Sector Update



Quit Tasmania has launched a **new and improved evidence-based website** that provides resources to support quitting and allows easy access on smartphones and tablets.

The site provides information organised through the Stages of Change in the quitting journey with a strong focus to support individuals every step of the way.

There are some new interactive site features, including a cost of smoking calculator, a nicotine addiction test and information on how smoking affects the body.

The redeveloped site includes a resource centre containing up-to-date information for health professionals, community workers, and workplaces.

As always, we value any feedback or comments you would like to make about the site and its contents. This can be done either by email admin@quittas.org.au or by contacting Quit Tasmania on 6242 8122.

Quit Tasmania has also recently launched a new series of locally made **television advertisements** promoting the different ways people have been able to quit smoking.

The **Targeting Tobacco Project** in conjunction with Quit Tasmania is offering **free 1 hour briefings** to community service organisations keen to update staff on ways to support staff and clients interested in quitting. Briefings will be held August to December 2014.

For more information please contact Carolyn Baker on 6242 8109, or email cbaker@quittas.org.au

Quit Tasmania recently conducted a survey to find out how community service organisations currently address smoking with their staff and clients. To read the final report please [click here](#).

A Targeting Tobacco Community Worker Kit of helpful resources is being developed and will be provided at briefings to all interested staff.

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Grants

New Department of Social Services Grant Programs and Processes

The Department of Social Services' new grant arrangements bring together 18 programs from five former departments into seven streamlined programs to align social policy functions that span people's entire lives.

In addition to the four existing ageing and aged care programs, there are three new programs for Families and Communities; Housing and Homelessness; and Disability, Mental Health and Carers.

New service agreements will run for five years, application will be simplified and submitted online and the goal is to have one contract with organisations so that administration is reduced.

Applications for funding under the new program arrangements will open on 19 June and close 23 July 2014.

In order to provide for service continuity, some grants will be extended. Extensions will take effect from 1 July 2014.

The DSS website gives useful details of all the realignments and information about extended funding and application processes. [Click here](#) for more information.

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Upcoming Training, Events & Conferences

Assessing Complex AOD Clients

Nationally recognised training and assessment with Louise Dewis delivering the training and TasTAFE undertaking the assessment This training is designed for people working with ATOD clients.

For more information, click on the locations below:

North

Location: **Devonport**

Date: 25 June 2014

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

South

Location: **Hobart**

When: 30 July 2014

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

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

To register, please complete the registration form by [clicking here](#).

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Save the Date for ATOD Skill Sets

Brief Interventions (focusing on alcohol)

Employer/worker contribution: \$160

Devonport: 22 October 2014 **Hobart:** 29 October 2014

Counselling Skills (focusing on Dialectical Behaviour Therapy)

Employer/worker contribution: \$160

Hobart: 20 August 2014

Counselling Skills (focusing on Motivational Interviewing)

Employer/worker contribution: \$160

Devonport: 3 September 2014 **Hobart:** 17 September 2014

This training and assessment is 80% subsidised by the Skills Fund.

To register your interest please [click here](#) for the expression of interest form and email the completed form to **Lynne Maher**.

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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.

If you are undertaking research relevant to the ATOD field, please consider expressing an interest in presenting.

[Click here](#) or talk with Lynne or Amanda at the ATDC on 6231 5002.

Date: Tuesday 2 September 2014.

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Becoming a confident presenter

Join Andrew Colrain, for a fun and informative day, that will change the way you feel about presenting.

Learn skills and techniques to develop your confidence in successful presentations.

One-day workshop: \$300.00

Location: Hobart

Date: 10 June 2014

Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm

For more information contact Nadine - nadine@singletonconsulting.com.au

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Mindfulness at work

Mindfulness at work: An interactive and practical taster session to improve concentration and reduce anxiety and stress in the workplace

Location: Ulverstone

Date: Thurs, 12 June 2014

Time: 9.30am - 11.30am

For more information, [click here](#)

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Working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender intersex parents and their children

Free workshop

Date: 14 June 2014,

Time: 10:00am - 1:15pm

Location: Mole Creek

RSVP: Friday 6 June

For more information please [click here](#)

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Ultimate Self Care for Youth Workers

Five step health and wellbeing plan will help youth workers to develop a life balance which in turn will help you to gain longevity and professionalism in your career in the youth sector. This session is run from 10am til 4pm. The presentation is relevant for youth workers, team leaders and managers in youth service agencies.

Presented by Aaron Garth, Ultimate Youth Worker

Date: June 16 2014

Location: Red Cross, 40 Melville Street Hobart 7001

Cost: \$110+ GST Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided

To book online [please click here](#).

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Standard Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Course

This course teaches first aid skills for adult members of the public to give initial help to adults experiencing mental health problems, in a mental health crisis situation, or in the early stages of a mental illness.

Instructor: Rod Lambert

Date: Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 July 2014.

Time: 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

Location: The Hobart Clinic, 31 Chipmans Road, Rokeby 7019

Cost: \$200.00

Contact: 0417 367 392 or rodlambert3@dodo.com.au

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Helping You to Manage Older Adults with Complex Care Needs Who Display Behaviours of Concern

A full day session for professionals working with older adults with complex needs including drug and alcohol, dementia care, aged care, brain injury, homelessness or disability.

Presented by: Dr Alice Rota-Bartelink

Date: 2 August 2014

Location: Hobart

Cost: \$250 inc GST

For more information please [click here](#).

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Save the Date - ATCA Conference 13 - 17 October 2014

TCs - Positive Journey, Positive Outcomes

Date: 13 - 17 October 2014

Location: Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach, NSW

Registrations are now open for the 28th Annual ATCA Conference, with earlybird registrations closing on 1 July 2014. The conference program includes renowned keynote and plenary speakers Professor Amanda Baker; Steve Ella, NSW Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeship Coordinator; Associate Professor David Best; and Dr Bosco Rowland.

For more information [please click here](#).

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Positions Vacant

Health Promotions Project Worker - North West and West Coast Tasmania - Youth, Family & Community Connections Inc.

4 days per week until 30 June 2015

For application packages, including position descriptions and selection criteria, contact Anne Heath by email, anne@yfcc.com.au or by telephoning 0418 238 532.

Applications close at 5.00 pm on Monday 30 June 2014. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

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Positions within the Good Sports Tasmania Team

We are recruiting::

- Community Development Officer – North West
- Project Officers (independent Contractors) in the north and north west.

[Click here](#) to view the advertisement on seek.com.au

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Research and Reports

New

Sane Australia StigmaWatch Report

Sane Australia has released a report, *StigmaWatch: Tackling Stigma Against Mental Illness and Suicide in Australia*.

The report is an in-depth review of the StigmaWatch program's history and evolution. The report shows how media reporting has improved, while highlighting the areas that require further attention or campaigns.

Importantly, StigmaWatch does not aim to 'censor' media representation of mental illness and suicide. Rather, StigmaWatch encourages more accurate and responsible reporting and portrayal.

Download a copy of the report from the Sane Australia website by [clicking here](#).

EDRS - Comparison of GLB and Heterosexual Participants

Sutherland R; Burns L. (April 2014) The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System: A comparison of GLB and heterosexual participants, Sydney: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

This paper examines the differences and similarities between gay, lesbian and bisexual (GLB) and heterosexual participants in relation to their drug use, mental health, sexual activity, injecting practices and other risk behaviours. [Click here](#) to go to the web site.

NEW RESOURCES - NADA Benchmarking Guide

This benchmarking guide gives drug and alcohol organisations an introduction to what benchmarking is and how to use benchmarking as a simple quality improvement tool. The guide contains an overview of benchmarking, its benefits and some of the issues involved in making best use of benchmarks; a discussion of different approaches to benchmarking and what is involved; a practical step-by-step guide to introducing benchmarks into your organisation and a guide to selecting benchmarks and indicators that make best use of information already collected by the organisation.

[Click here](#) to download the guide.

2014 Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has released the 2014 Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment. It provides an analysis of the global synthetic drugs market, including amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and new psychoactive substances (NPS).

The report identifies that expanding ATS markets have been a global concern since the late 2000's. It uses scientific evidence and experiences to provide a better understanding of the supply and demand problems of ATS in different contexts.

In its discussion of NPS, the report also examines plant-based psychoactive substances, such as khat. These substances have been used by some communities for hundreds of years. However, there are reports of them now being used more widely and misuse of them is of increasing concern.

[Click here](#) to download the report.

Find interesting articles at online at Scoop.it by [clicking here](#).

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Telephone: 03 6231 5002 **Postal Address:** PO Box 4702, Bathurst Street PO, Hobart TAS 7000

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