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The program for the conference is now available at the conference web site. Please check the site for updates by **clicking here**.

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From the CEO's Desk

From the CEO - May 2014

Preparations for the ATDC 2014 Conference are full steam ahead and it's not too late to register if by some oversight you have not yet managed to find the time.

I am very excited about the opportunity the Conference brings us, in that it allows time to think, listen, talk, question and importantly learn about the most contemporary issues facing our field of work. This year the program focusses on setting the scene for the future as we enter a period where I hope we will see the consolidation of so many changes that have been impacting the sector for several years.

In the coming months we will see the completion of a national review of commonwealth funding for alcohol and drug prevention and treatment services. The outcome of this review may herald a unique opportunity for a significant shift in the way the state and federal government assess, plan and fund AOD providers. Whilst we would be perhaps overly optimistic to expect significant additional investment in the sector I can only hope that the Australian government will recognise the essential value we add to the health system and ensure our members are funded accordingly.

At a State level, we continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services on the development of the outcomes purchasing framework. In principle, this framework will contribute to the continual improvement of our service delivery as we focus on the effectiveness of our interventions. At the same time, we are of course very conscious of the importance of ensuring that the implementation of the outcomes purchasing approach does not increase red tape or place unreasonable burden upon providers. With David Gardiner (ATDC) on the implementation working group, I am looking forward to seeing this project roll out.

Hope to see you next week.

Jann Smith

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Sector Update

DHHS Funded Community Sector Outcomes Purchasing Framework

The Community Sector Relations Unit (CSRU) within the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services has led the development of the DHHS Funded Community Sector Outcomes Purchasing Framework. The Framework is consistent with national and international directions in health and community service delivery where there is an increasing focus on monitoring and measuring client and population level outcomes.

A working group of representatives from across DHHS and from the Community Sector Peaks Network contributed to the development of the Framework. During the developmental stage the Department held a number of consultative workshops to obtain feedback and test the model by developing examples of "commissioning for outcomes" statements against current funding programs. The workshops involved Departmental Program managers, funding agreement managers and representatives from across the community sector. Essentially "commissioning for outcomes" statements tell the story of the types of client and population outcomes that funded programs and services are trying to achieve. The statements include a number of indicators that enable services and funders to assess what results are being achieved for clients and the Tasmanian community alike.

This article will be the first in a series about the Outcomes Purchasing Framework and upcoming topics will provide information about the implementation process across all DHHS funded community sector organisations and within the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector. The Department has provided a commitment to the funded community services sector that implementation will be a staged, longer-term process, that will be led by the relevant DHHS program area, depending on their readiness and respective Funding Agreement renegotiation timeframes.

To date the CSRU has issued two updates about the Framework explaining the background to the project and outlining its purpose. Copies of the Updates are located on the ATDC website together with a copy of the finalised Framework and a summary overview. Please click here to download the documents.

For further information please contact with Jann Smith (janns@atdc.org.au) or David Gardiner (davidg@atdc.org.au).

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ATDC Supports and Recognises Excellence

On 24 March 2014, at the TasTAFE awards ceremony, Trevor Ashby was presented with the award for Outstanding Achievement in Certificate IV in Alcohol & Other Drugs.

The ATDC provided the trophy, which was presented to Trevor by the ATDC's CEO, Jann Smith. Trevor also received a book voucher to recognise his efforts to achieve excellence.

Recognition of and rewarding excellence are critically important components of workforce strategy, at the sector level as well as at the individual workplace level.

The ATDC initiated sector wide recognition and celebration of excellence

in the inaugural Tasmanian ATOD awards in 2012 and we look forward to the selection of award recipients for the 2014 awards from the nominations which have been received recently.

Our 2013 Tasmanian ATOD Award recipients have been planning and undertaking the professional development, for which they each received a \$500 cheque, and our ATOD Excellence in Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Work Award recipient, Peter Cairns, will share some of his work practices in a presentation

ATDC Stakeholder Survey 2014

During April the ATDC conducted its annual stakeholder survey for 2014. The survey closed on Wednesday 30 April and was completed by almost 140 people. The winner of the double pass to the movies is Debbie Hollinger from Anglicare.

The information gathered via the survey assists us in continuing to build our effectiveness as the Peak Body for the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector and to influence the future strategic directions and priorities for the organisation. The results from the survey will be analysed and a report will be prepared and released in coming months.

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ATDC Successful Information Session: Understanding Pharmacotherapy

On 8 April 2014, 58 people from across the broader sector attended an informative information session on Understanding Pharmacotherapy at the excellent facilities at CCAMLR.

Dr David Jackson spoke about the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder with Medication, outlining the multifactorial aspects of addiction and clarification of the meaning and nature of addiction, specifically in the context of opioid addiction as well as the comparative merits of Methadone, Buprenorphine and Naloxone and some of the societal context of pharmacotherapy.

Nurse Tina Goodman spoke about Case Coordination in Substitution Pharmacotherapy illustrating good practice methods with her experience from the AOD sector in Victoria.

Feedback from 40 attendees so far indicated a substantial gain in knowledge in the areas covered within the information session as well as overall positive feedback about most aspects of the session.

The value of the ATDC's information sessions in sharing some of the expertise that resides in our sector is inestimable.

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Oxycontin Reformulation Warning

As of 1 April 2014 a new form of Oxycontin® replaced the existing one, which may lead to acute harms for people who inject this drug.

OxyContin® 10 mg, 15 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg tablets will now be formulated with a hydrogelling property (i.e. particles or whole tablets will become gel-like in water); retain controlled release properties even as a gel and be strengthened and resistant to crushing. This new formulation has been developed by the pharmaceutical company so that tablets are resistant both to manipulation and unsanctioned routes of administration (misuse).

The new tablets look very similar to the old ones and are the same colour. The key difference is that the new ones have OP imprinted on the tablet instead of OC. Original stock may be dispensed until pharmacy stock is depleted, so it's likely the impact will occur over the next few days to weeks.

What AOD workers can expect to see:

- Client distress associated with opioid withdrawal due to them not being able to inject reformulated Oxycontin®.
- Acute harms if they inject watch out for local harms such as swelling/pain/infection at injection site as well as potential for chest pain and breathlessness.

AOD workers can respond by:

- Advising clients not to inject the reformulated Oxycontin®, with the OP imprint on the tablet.
- Being ready and prepared for clients seeking treatment for harms associated with use of OP tablets and/or Oxycontin® withdrawal.

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Abolition of Suspended Sentences

On 14 April the Law Society of Tasmania hosted a forum with the new Attorney General, The Honourable Vanessa Goodwin Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, The Honourable Pierre Slicer, Former Tasmania Supreme Court Judge, Associate Professor Lorana Bartels, School of Law and Justice at University of Canberra and Kim Baumeler, Chair of the Law Society Criminal Law Committee.

The forum aimed to explore the new Liberal Government's pre-election commitment to abolishing suspended sentences. On the day, it certainly appeared that there was considerable scepticism among the panel members as to the merit of removing a sentencing option quite often used by magistrates and judges with apparent success. Concerns were raised that the removal of this sentencing option could lead to a significant increase in the number of people incarcerated at the Risdon Prison, and that this would be a very expensive policy if implemented.

On the other hand, the Attorney General spoke about the concurrent need to increase access to alternative sentencing options including therapeutic and community based programs. In light of what we know about problem solving court models, we can only hope that should this reform go ahead, the Government is willing to provide increased investment in the community alcohol and drug programs provided by our members.

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Court Finds Annual Leave Loading Payable Upon Termination

A recent court finding in relation to untaken annual leave under the National Employment Standards (NES) in the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) (FWA) suggests that careful consideration be given to the payments made in respect of untaken paid annual leave when an employee leaves.

Read more by clicking here.

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Upcoming Training, Events & Conferences

Assessing Complex AOD Clients

This course is designed for those who work with ATOD clients

Hobart - 30 July 2014 9:00am - 4:30pm

Devonport - 25 June 2014 - 9:00am - 4:30pm

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

Nationally recognised training and assessment with Louise Dewis training and TasTAFE assessing.

For more information, click on the locations above.

To register, please complete the registration formby **clicking here**.

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3rd International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances

15 & 16 May 2014

This is being held in Rome, BUT:

- The great news is you can attend the 3rd NPS International Conference relatively cheaply, and from the comfort of your couch, as long as you have: Computer, Speaker/earphone and a good internet connection.
- The panel of international experts will be examining the latest scientific research in this everchanging world and will aim to highlight the dangers these drugs represent, the importance of knowing their effects and strategies to reduce their use.

Find out more by clicking here.

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Neuropsychological Insights into Triggers for Anger

Facilitator: Associate Professor Warrick Brewer

Cost: \$125.00 +GST **Date:** 15 May 2014 **Time:** 2:00pm-6:00pm

For more information: click here.

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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 etc.

Date: 22 August 2014

Location: Hobart

Cost: \$250.00 inc GST

Presented by: Dr Alice Rota-Bartelink
For more information please click here.

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Working with Aggressive Clients

Neuropsychological insights into triggers for anger with Associate Professor Warrick Brewer.

Facilitated by the Brain Injury Association of Tasmania (BIAT)

Launceston: 13 May 2014, 9:30am - 1:30pm Fee \$125.00 +GST

Register for Launceston by **clicking here**.

Hobart: 15 May 2014 9:30 - 1:30 Fee \$125.00 +GST

Register for Hobart by **clicking here**.

Click here for more information.

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Outcome Measurement Workshop, Burnie, Launceston and Hobart

As part of the TasCOSS NFP Leadership series, a one-day Outcomes Measurement workshop will be held in:

Burnie - Monday 19 May - click here to register

Launceston - Tuesday 20 May - click here to register

Hobart -Wednesday 21 and 23 May - click here to register

Cost: TasCOSS members \$242.00, non-member NFPs \$352.00, private/government \$825.00.

For more information, contact Tim Tabart on (03) 6231 0755 or tim@tascoss.org.au

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Tasmanian Collective Impact practitioners forum - Hobart 6 June

The Collective Impact Practitioners forum will be held on Friday 6 June, 10:00am-5:00pm, in Hobart. The forum will be led by Dawn O'Neill AM, with guest presenter Dr Michael McAfee from the Promise Neighborhoods Institute in the USA.

Contact Tim Tabart at tim@tascoss.org.au or 6231 0755 for more information.

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Free Webinars from the National Cannabis Prevention & Information Centre

Monday 5 May 2014

11:00am-12:00pm AEST 'Cannabis and Driving' with Dr. Peter Gates (Project Coordinator, NCPIC) & Prof. Jan Copeland (Director, NCPIC) and

'Cannabis and Tobacco' with Tracey Greenberg (Smoking Cessation Trainer, NSW Health)

Click here to register

Friday 16 May 2014

1.30pm - 2.30pm AEST 'Cannabis Potency' with Dr. Wendy Swift (Senior Lecturer, UNSW) and 'Cannabis Interventions: counselling to emerging pharmacotherapies' with Prof. Jan Copeland (Director, NCPIC)

Click here to register

Friday 23 May 2014

2:00pm - 3:00pm AEST 'Novel Research and Cannabinoids' with Prof. Iain McGregor (Professor of Psychopharmacology and Director of the Psychopharmacology Laboratory, University of Sydney) and 'Cannabis and Cognitive Function' with A/Prof. Nadia Solowij (A/Prof, School of Psychology, University of Wollongong)

Click here to register

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Interested in a Work Health and Safety Event in Your Workplace?

Do you want up-to-date information about being safe and healthy in your workplace? Or have a particular issue that needs addressing?

Let WorkSafe Tasmania know and they'll send one of their safety advisors, inspectors, safety experts or wellbeing advisors to you. They'll provide resources you can keep and display to ensure everyone is informed and goes home safe at the end of their working day.

For more information click here.

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Research and Reports

Drug and Alcohol Research Connections - First Issue

Drug and Alcohol Research Connections - or Connections for short - is a new online publication from Australia's collaborative network of alcohol and other drug research centres, namely the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA).

For those familiar with the CentreLines newsletter, please note Connections replaces that publication. Access the first issue by **clicking here**.

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