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Alcohol, Tobacco & other  
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

Latest news from the ATDC

## ATDC Enews December 2014

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### From the CEO's desk

It seems like the only constant at the moment is change itself! Almost every other week some review or reform of some sort is underway within our national and State health and human services sector. Throughout 2014 the ATDC has represented the interests of our sector (and the consumers that it supports) to different levels of government, departments and Ministers alike.

To adequately and appropriately reflect the sector we established Regional ATDC Member Meetings (RAMMs) that are held each quarter across the State. These meetings have been an invaluable source of knowledge and information to inform our directions and enable us to speak on your behalf. To that end during the year the ATDC has participated in the State Government's reform regarding "Joined Up Human Services" which is being undertaken by Jacquie Petrusma, Minister for Human Services. Earlier in the year the Department of Health and Human Services finalised the DHHS Funded Community Services Commissioning for Outcomes Framework. The implementation of this Framework will see a change in the way that the Department purchases services and monitors results against key performance indicators.

Recently, the ATDC has participated in key planning events during the year such as the consultation sessions regarding the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs forum on Alcohol and Violence, the development of an Illicit Drug Strategy within Tasmania to complement the strategies for tobacco and alcohol.

The last weeks of 2014 have continued apace but have provided a short period of time for reflection on what has once again been another busy year for the ATDC and for our entire sector. Together we have continued to make some great achievements. Our very successful biennial conference which was held in May provided an opportunity to stimulate public debate regarding alcohol and drug use as well as to strengthen the linkages and networks across our sector. The numerous training workshops and information session facilitated by the ATDC during the year built the skills and effectiveness of our workforce.

One of the most gratifying things for me as CEO of the ATDC is knowing that the reason that we exist is to support the sector which provides invaluable support to so many individuals and families through their issues with alcohol and drug use. On behalf of the ATDC team, David, Amanda, Lynne, Nancy and Olivia I extend my thanks to our members, and the consumers with whom we work, for their ongoing willingness to share their knowledge and expertise with us.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to working with all of you again in 2015.

Jann.

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### ATDC Office Closure

The ATDC will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period from 3:00pm on Wednesday 24 December and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2015.

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## ATDC Regional Member Meetings

During early December the ATDC convened the final series of Regional Member meetings for 2014. Meetings were held across the State in Devonport, 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.

During the December meetings members discussed the following matters:

- The release of the final report regarding the Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania
- Implementation of the Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention Strategic Framework
- The National Consultation that is being conducted by AIVL regarding the Needle and Syringe Programs in rural and regional Australia
- The implementation of the DHHS Outcomes Purchasing Framework and the renegotiation of ATOD sector contracts
- The preparation of the ATDC Budget Priorities Statement for the 2015-16 State Budget development process.

A copy of the summary of outcomes from the December meetings is available [here](#).

We look forward to meeting with members again during 2015 with the next round of meetings to be held in early March.

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## Promotion Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Update

*Everybody's Business: A Strategic Framework for Implementing Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Approaches in Averting Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Use* was launched by the Minister for Health in March 2013.

Since then, an ATOD sector PPEI Forum was convened to identify what the sector sees as priorities, and to support the Drug Education Network (DEN) in its work as the Lead Agency.

An ATOD PPEI Implementation Advisory Group has been established which has met on four occasions to date. Membership of this group is diverse and consists of 14 individuals from government agencies, CSOs and a consumer representative.

In late June 2014, the ATDC received funding from DHHS to enable the appointment of a part-time PPEI Project Officer to support the implementation of the ATOD PPEI Strategic Framework. This position was filled in late August 2014 by Olivia Mitchell. The Project Officer works closely with the DEN in the implementation of the PPEI Framework and is currently developing a detailed implementation plan.

Over recent weeks the Project Officer has been meeting with various ATOD sector and other stakeholder representatives to gather information about promotion, prevention and early intervention related activities and initiatives. The Project Officer has also recently commenced the drafting of the PPEI Implementation Plan and completed a mapping exercise of all state-wide AOD service providers.

At this stage there are no dedicated resources associated with the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

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## Peaks Capacity Building Network (PCBN) meets in Adelaide – November 2014

The Peaks Capacity Building Network met in Adelaide on Thursday 13 November 2014 following the 2014 Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) Conference. Amanda Street attended on behalf of the ATDC and discussed the future work focused on capacity building in the community AOD sector. A number of common priorities were identified across each of the jurisdictions and the ATDC will be working hard over the next 12 months to progress activities in these areas.

The Peaks have also been working on an evaluation of capacity building activities at a national level. This work is being completed by David McDonald, an independent consultant, and will result in a report, presented to the Peaks with evidence supporting the value of capacity building to the sector. The ATDC will keep you updated on the progress of the evaluation report.

The PCBN, along with the evaluator, David McDonald, submitted an abstract to be considered for a poster at the 2014 APSAD conference. The abstract was accepted and subsequently won the Senior Researcher

Award at the conference. The poster is now being displayed in the ATDC meeting room or available by clicking [here](#).

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## Skills Fund Funded Qualifications and Skill Sets

Submissions have been made for the Skills Fund 2015 and two applications have been submitted in conjunction with registered training organisations.

The ATDC has data from the Workforce Survey about worker interest in enrolling in qualifications, but needs more concrete commitment to undertaking this study in 2015.

Expressions of interest may still be submitted for:

- [CHC40408 Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs](#)
- [CHC50408 Diploma of Community Services \(Alcohol other drugs and mental health\)](#)
- ATOD Skill Sets:
  - [CHCMH408B Provide interventions to meet the needs of consumers with mental health and AOD issues](#)
  - [CHCAOD510A Work effectively with clients with complex alcohol and/or other drug issues](#)
- [Diploma of Management](#)
- [Certificate IV in Frontline Management](#)
- [Certificate IV in Training and Assessment](#)

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Training Package Review: Last Chance to Provide Feedback

Fourth (and final) consultations are open until 12 December 2014 for the Community Services Training Package, which includes the alcohol and other drug qualifications.

The ATDC is making a submission on behalf of the sector.

Direct feedback in relation to the draft documents, including specific units, the structure of the qualifications, the skill sets and the consultation paper may be submitted directly via the [Training Package Public Consultation Webpage](#)

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## North West Drug Use Report Released

The Statewide Alcohol and Drug Service has undertaken a review of drug use and service responses in North West Tasmania. The review has found alcohol and cannabis are the drugs of most widespread concern. A component of the review included the analysis of data regarding drug use and the collection of community feedback.

The final report, *Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania*, finds that while methamphetamine use appears to be increasing across Tasmania, there is no evidence of an ice 'epidemic' in the North West.

The report makes a number of recommendations including:

- enhanced service treatment responses by improving access and capacity, including to rehabilitation beds, particular for residents of the North West
- strengthen the capacity of the community to identify and respond to drug use issues
- improve service collaboration
- strengthen governance arrangements, and
- improve mechanisms that impact on the supply of, and demand for, illicit drugs.

Copies of the final report can be downloaded [here](#).

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## University of Tasmania Graduate Certificate in Addiction Studies

Applications for the UTas Graduate Certificate in Addiction Studies are open until early in January for commencement 23 February.

Units are delivered fully online and for 2015 are:

- [CNA547](#) Contexts of Addiction (12.5%)
- [CNA548](#) Assessment and Management of Addictive Disorders (12.5%)
- [CNA549](#) Approaches to Intervention (12.5%)
- [CNA550](#) Self Directed Project in Addiction Studies (12.5%)

Click [here](#) to download the course brochure.

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## Turning Point Graduate Diploma in AOD Studies

Turning Point is offering their Graduate Program in Alcohol and Other Drugs Studies for 2015 and is currently accepting enrolments. For more information, download the [flyer](#) or click [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### Bachelor of Arts with Professional Honours (Human Services Practice)

The first core unit, Professional Communication in Human Services, commences 29 January 2015. For more information, click [here](#)

### Addiction 2015

The Australian and New Zealand Addiction Conference will be held at Outrigger Surfers Paradise in Queensland from 20 – 22 May 2015 with separately bookable workshops on Wednesday 20 May. Relevant dates:

- Abstracts close: 28 January 2015
- Draft program available: 23 February 2015
- Close of early bird: 7 April 2015

For more information, click [here](#)

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## Tasmania Prison Service Healthy Prison, Healthy You Update

The Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) as part of its Healthy Prison, Healthy You initiative is currently in the process of implementing a complete smoking ban across all of its facilities. Smoking is a large part of prison of culture with 80% of inmates across Australia smoking. Tobacco also plays a large part in the black market economy of prisons with goods and services sold for tobacco. A significant proportion of correctional staff also smoke whilst at work.

The challenge for the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) is to find common ground to ensure that public health, occupational health and safety and human rights agendas are balanced. The over-arching goal is to significantly improve the health of Tasmanians by reducing the harm caused by tobacco in all its forms and to actively manage the health and safety risks, and risk of litigation, associated with prisoners, detainees and staff being exposed to environmental (second-hand) smoke. It is also aimed at addressing a number of secondary problems connected to smoking in prisons, such as the misuse of matches and lighters to start fires and make weapons, and the use of tobacco as a currency, which can lead to violence.

The new policy will apply to all prisoners and detainees in custody as well as to all staff. This includes those situations outside of prison premises where prisoners and detainees are deemed to be in custody (i.e. temporary leave and temporary removals). No other contractor or visitor will be permitted to smoke on prison property.

The TPS has formed a new Drug Strategy Group to implement this and other strategies including harm minimisation and reduction of illicit drugs into the prison system.

To date the following facilities are now smoke free areas:

- Hobart Reception Prison
- Launceston Reception Prison
- Mary Hutchinson Females Prison
- Transitional unit located within the Risdon Prison Complex

This represents around 20% of prisoner population. The remaining areas of the Risdon Prison Complex and Ron Barwick Minimum security prison will go smoke free on the 31 January 2015. This date will see all areas smoke free with no smoking allowed on any property owned by the TPS.

Prisoners are being offered eight weeks' worth of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) in the form of 21mg patches for eight weeks. So far the uptake has been around 80% with a large majority of prisoners ceasing the NRT after two weeks. Information sessions provided by QUIT Tasmania and DHHS have been offered to all inmates. A folder with information on smoking and quitting along with videos is available to prisoners and staff alike.

Any questions regarding the TPS Healthy Prison, Healthy You initiative can be directed to [RisdonDrug.StrategyGroup@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:RisdonDrug.StrategyGroup@justice.tas.gov.au)

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## Grants

### **Bupa Health Foundation Grants Program** (closes 16 December)

From \$100,000 to \$500,000 for up to 3 years to empower people to prevent or better manage health conditions or empower people to use health education and engagement to tackle health risk factors and promote health lifestyle habits.

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

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## Useful Resources

### **FundAssist Released**

FundAssist is a toolkit designed to help non-government alcohol and other drug organisations prepare, plan and write funding applications. It is designed for both novice and experienced funding application writers.

Prepared by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, with the support of an expert advisory group comprised of representatives of the state ATOD peak bodies, the resource was launched at APSAD on 11 November.

Click [here](#) to go to [FundAssist online](#).

### **Methamphetamine Dependence and Treatment: Clinical Guidelines for Alcohol and Drug Clinicians**

Click [here](#) for this Turning Point resource.

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## Have you seen this report?

### **Tasmanian Tobacco Action Plan - Year 4 Report**

The goal of the *Tasmanian Tobacco Action Plan 2011-2015* is to significantly improve the health of Tasmanians by reducing the harm caused by tobacco in all its forms by:

- preventing uptake of smoking
- encouraging and assisting as many people who smoke to quit as soon as possible
- eliminating harmful exposure to tobacco smoke among non-smokers
- reducing harm associated with continuing use and dependence on tobacco and nicotine
- reducing prevalence of smoking in Tasmania to 10 per cent by 2020.

In order to monitor performance, each year the Tobacco Control Coalition prepares a report for the Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs and the Minister for Health. The report highlights recent achievements and priorities for the future. The Year 4 report is for the 2013-14 financial year period.

A key outcome in Year 4 was the completion of the Tasmanian Population Health Survey (TPHS) 2013 which provides an interim indicator of progress between the three yearly Australian Health Surveys.

A full copy of the report is available [here](#).

### **Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania**

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

### **National Drug Strategy Household Survey detailed report: 2013**

This 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report shows that:

- fewer Australians are smoking daily and are smoking less cigarettes;
- fewer people are exceeding the lifetime risk and single occasion risk guidelines for alcohol use;
- overall illicit drug use has remained stable but some drugs have declined and some have increased;
- alcohol continues to be the drug of most concern to the community but an increasing number of people are concerned about meth/amphetamines.

AIHW catalogue number (**PHE 183**).

Available to order at the AIHW website for **\$58.00** (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>).

View the [media release](#) and download the free [full report](#).

### **Supporting children living with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: practice principles**

Sara McLean, Stewart McDougall, Vicki Russell.

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is a non-diagnostic umbrella term that is used to cover the full range of possible birth defects and developmental issues that can be caused by prenatal exposure to alcohol. This paper describes some of these consequences for children's development and may be useful for practitioners working with children and families where alcohol consumption is of concern.

Click [here](#) to read the paper

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