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Alcohol, Tobacco & other  
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

## Latest news from the ATDC

November Bulletin

1 November 2014

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## Consumer Engagement

### Advocacy Tasmania Appoints New Consumer Engagement Officer

**Tamara Lawson is Advocacy Tasmania Inc's new Consumer Engagement Officer.**

Tamara has a Diploma in Community Service and a background in Community Mental Health and Youth work.

The Consumer Engagement Program has a Statewide Consumer Reference Group which helps to inform the direction of the program. This group has had a majority Hobart based membership to date but we are currently working on expanding in the Northern regions to ensure a consistent statewide balance.

The Consumer Reference Groups aim to support and enhance consumer engagement and participation throughout Government and Non-Government Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Services in Tasmania. The group offers a comfortable, confidential and non-judgemental forum for ATOD service consumers to share their views and experiences.

If any service consumers are interested in joining or attending a meeting please contact:

Tamara Lawson, Consumer Engagement Officer

**E-mail: [t.lawson@advocacytasmania.org.au](mailto:t.lawson@advocacytasmania.org.au)**

**Phone: 1800 005 131**

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## Sector Update

### Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Release New Report

**The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare recently released a new report: *Alcohol and other drug treatment and diversion from the Australian criminal justice system: 2012-13.***

The publication provides:

- an overview of drug diversion programs in Australia as well as diversion and drug treatment services
- an overview of diversion clients referred to AOD treatment services, how they compare with non-diversion clients receiving AOD treatment, and the treatment they receive.
- a number of key issues for diversion policy

Key findings from the report include:

- That in the 10 years to 2012–13, the number of treatment episodes provided to clients diverted from the criminal justice system into alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment for drug or drug-related offences more than doubled, while treatment episodes for other clients increased only marginally.
- Nationally, there were 24,069 clients who had been diverted into AOD treatment, comprising 24% of all clients.
- About 1 in 4 clients had been diverted from the criminal justice system.
- Diversion clients were younger and more likely to be male than non-diversion clients, and less likely to be Indigenous
- Diversion treatment episodes were about twice as likely to involve cannabis as the principal drug of concern compared with episodes for non-diversion clients
- Police diversion episodes had less intensive treatment types compared with court diversion episodes

A full copy of the AIHW publication can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

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## Targeting Tobacco Project Support for Community Sector to Help Clients Quit Smoking

**Cancer Council's Targeting Tobacco Project, funded by the Australian Government through Tasmania Medicare Local, is encouraging community sector workers to take the first step in helping people living on low incomes and/or with mental illness to quit smoking.**

Evidence shows that people with mental illness live an average 16 years less and women 12 years less than the general population and research suggests this is due to smoking.

The Targeting Tobacco Project is currently supporting workplaces implement changes to address smoking as part of day-to-day work. It offers free training, resources and advice to community service organisations to help encourage their clients to stub out for good.

Organisations can also refer their clients to the Quitline to discuss how they might go about quitting. Simply call 137 848 or send a fax referral with your clients' details.

To register your organisation's interest in Targeting Tobacco or to find out more about how smoking impacts your clients, please visit [www.quittas.org.au](http://www.quittas.org.au) or call Carolyn Baker on 6242 8109.

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## The Unintended Consequences of Pharmacotherapy in Tasmania

**Advocacy Tasmania Inc. is seeking formal sector support for its recent position paper 'The Unintended Consequences of Pharmacotherapy Policy in Tasmania'.**

You can access the paper on the ATI website by [clicking here](#).

If you want your organisation to be a signatory to a Communique which asks for better consumer engagement in relation to pharmacotherapy policy and practice, please contact Kate Fish via email at [k.fish@advocacytasmania.org.au](mailto:k.fish@advocacytasmania.org.au) or by phone on 03 6331 0740 extension 223.

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## Employers of Choice Awards 2015

**If you have a great place to work, consider entering these annual awards. If you know of an organisation that provides outstanding support for its staff, please let them know about the Awards.**

Entries for the 2015 Employer of Choice Awards are open until 11 December 2014.

Entry forms and guidelines can be obtained from the Department of State Growth by phoning Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026, or accessing the <http://www.skills.tas.gov.au/eoc/awards>

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## Rethink - Mental Health Project - Call for Submissions Open

**The Rethink Mental Health Project is a key part of the government's election commitment - "A long term plan for mental health".**

This is a commitment to develop an integrated Tasmanian mental health system that provides support in

the right place, at the right time and with clear signposts about where and how to get help.

The focus is on achieving better outcomes for consumers, their families and carers from existing mental health expenditure and directing resources onto frontline services and support.

The Rethink Mental Health Project will provide an independent analysis of Tasmanian public, private, federal, state and community sector delivered mental health services. It will map existing services and identify gaps and barriers and it will make recommendations for system reform and strategic investment into services, workforce and capital infrastructure.

The result will be a long term plan for mental health in Tasmania that guides investment into the next decade.

The need to explore new long-term supported accommodations for people with mental illness, along with the need to develop a comprehensive plan for the mental health of older people has also been recognised by the Government. The Rethink Project will consider both of these areas.

The project will be highly consultative, seeking views from consumers, their families and carers, clinicians, service providers and other key stakeholders.

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania is playing a lead role in the Rethink Project, working in partnership with the Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Directorate.

A Steering Committee has been established to support the Project. Consumers, families and carers, community sector organisations, clinicians, acute and primary health care are represented on this Committee.

A Discussion paper has been prepared to start the discussion about our mental health service system, what it looks like now, what it should look like into the future and what should be in our a long term plan for mental health in Tasmania.

**[Download a copy of the Discussion Paper here.](#)**

If you would like a hard copy of the discussion paper, please call 03 6230 7722

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## **Review of Comorbidity Guidelines**

**The NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use (CREMS) at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to update and revise the *'Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings'*.**

Originally published in 2009, this hugely popular resource aimed to provide alcohol and other drug (AOD) workers with evidence-based information on the management of comorbid mental health conditions in AOD settings. Since publication in December 2009, over 10,000 hard-copies and electronic copies have been distributed to clinicians and treatment services across Australia.

This revision will bring the Guidelines up to date with the most current evidence. The project is being undertaken by Dr Christina Marel, A/Prof Katherine Mills, Prof Maree Teesson, Mr Mark Deady, Dr Frances Kay-Lambkin, and Prof Amanda Baker.

If you are interested in participating in the forum via webinar please RSVP to Dr Christina Marel **[c.marel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.marel@unsw.edu.au)** to register.

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## **Call for Volunteers - TasCAHRD**

TasCAHRD works with HIV and Hep C key affected populations (men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, sex workers, Aboriginal people, people in prison, culturally and linguistically diverse people), but more importantly the organisation invites them and their supporters to be a part of their work.

To read about TasCAHRD's current volunteering opportunities please [click here](#).

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## Upcoming Training, Events & Conferences

### ATDC Information Session: Findings from the 2014 Drug Trends Projects

- Details:** Presented by Dr Raimondo Bruno, Associate Professor, University of Tasmania. The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and the Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System (EDRS) are national illicit drug monitoring systems intended to provide a strategic early warning framework, identifying emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. We often hear anecdotal evidence about changes in drug use patterns, popularity of drugs and most frequent dosage methods, however whilst this on the ground information is key in putting together the overall picture of drug use in Tasmania, it is also important to have the data to support the anecdotal evidence. The drug trends projects give us this information.
- Venue:** "Andrew Inglis Clarke Moot Court" - Law Lecture Theatre 3, Law School, University of Tasmania (Sandy Bay Campus)
- Date:** 10:00am - 11:00am Thursday 20 November
- Registration:** Please [click here](#) to register

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### Synthetic Cannabinoids

- Details:** Webinar with Prof. Steve Allsop (*Director, National Drug Research Institute*)
- Venue:** Webinar
- Date:** 12:30pm-1:30pm Monday 3 November 2014
- Cost:** Free
- Further information:** Please [click here](#) to read more

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### Introduction to Governance: Everything Financial - North

- Details:** TasCOSS Workshop with Michelle Swallow for those who sit on, or are interested in sitting on, a board or committee of management
- Venue Nth** Launceston
- Date:** 6 November 2014
- Cost:** TasCOSS members \$95, other NFPs \$135, For profit & Govt \$235
- Further information:** Please [click here](#) to read more

**Registration:** Please [click here](#) to register

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## Introduction to Governance: Everything Financial - South

**Details:** TasCOSS Workshop with Michelle Swallow for those who sit on, or are interested in sitting on, a board or committee of management

**Venue South** Hobart

**Date:** 11 November 2014

**Cost:** TasCOSS members \$95, other NFPs \$135, For profit & Govt \$235

**Further information:** Please [click here](#) to read more

**Registration:** Please [click here](#) to register

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## Cannabis and Mental Health

**Details:** Webinar with Kathryn Elkins (Psychologist, Orygen Youth Health)

**Venue:** Webinar

**Date:** 2:00pm - 3:00pm Wednesday 5 November 2014

**Cost:** Free

**Further information:** Please [click here](#) to read more

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## ASIST Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

**Details:** 2-day interactive workshop in suicide first aid aims to enhance people's abilities to help a person at risk to avoid suicide - suitable for anyone 16 years and over.

**Venue:** Nth West The Smithton Hospital Community Room

**Date:** 5 - 6 November 2014

**Cost** Free

**Further information and registration:** Phone 6282 1500 or email [ruralhealthkate@bigpond.com](mailto:ruralhealthkate@bigpond.com) or [admin.south@lifelines Tasmania.org.au](mailto:admin.south@lifelines Tasmania.org.au)

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## Bridges Out of Poverty

**Details:** 2 day workshop presented by Tasmanian Medicare Local for those who work with ATOD clients or clients struggling with anxiety, addiction or depression.

**Venue:** South Brighton

**Date:** 12 and 19 November 2014

**Cost** \$100.00

**Further information:** Please phone Vicki Eather on 6425 0800 or email

[veather@tasmedicarelocal.com.au](mailto:veather@tasmedicarelocal.com.au)

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## How to Create Easy to Read Information

**Details:** Health Promotion South is hosting a workshop on 'How to create easy-to-read information' on Friday 14 November from 10am-3pm at Level 5, 25 Argyle St, Hobart. This practical session explores the theory of developing simple, clear and effective resources for consumers. Morning tea will be provided. Bring your own lunch.

**Venue:** South Hobart

**Date:** 14 November 2014

**Further information:** For more information contact Jennie Gorringer on 6233 6652 or email [jennie.gorringer@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:jennie.gorringer@dhhs.tas.gov.au)

**To register:** Please [click here](#) to RSVP by 4 November 2014

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## Yoga for Addiction and Beyond: Training the Trainers

**Details:** Presented by Liila Haas for those who work with ATOD clients or clients struggling with anxiety, addiction or depression.

**Venue:** Hobart

**Date:** 16 November 2014

**Cost:** \$220.00

**Further information:** Please [click here](#) to read more.

**Registration:** Please [click here](#) to register.

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## New Psychoactive Substances

**Details:** Info Session covering the most common new psychoactive substances that are on our streets.

**Venue:** Nth West The junction hub 64 Stewart Street Devonport

**Date:** 17 November 2014

**Registration:** RSVP by c.o.b Friday 7 November 2014 to [Brittany@yfcc.com.au](mailto:Brittany@yfcc.com.au)

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## Reports

### Drug and alcohol research in the 21st century: critical issues and new directions

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

Teenagers whose parents supply alcohol in early adolescence are three times as likely to be drinking full serves of alcohol at age 16 as children in families that do not supply alcohol, according to this collection of

studies. [Read the report](#)

### **Inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines in Victoria**

Parliament of Victoria

Whilst methamphetamine use as a generic category may have stabilised over the last decade, there has been a significant rise in the use of crystal methamphetamine the more potent and dangerous form of the drug, particularly by young people between 20 and 29 according to this report. [Read the report](#)

### **New Report: Child and Family Sensitive Practice in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector**

25 August 2014

Reflecting a broader international and national focus to support and protect children, there has been growing interest in the needs of alcohol and other drug (AOD) clients' families and their children. The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) commissioned the NCETA to examine policy frameworks that support or restrict the effective implementation of child and family sensitive practices in the AOD sector. Child and family sensitive practice involves service providers addressing the client's parental role and responsibilities and the needs of their children. [Read the report](#)

### **IDRS and EDRS Key Findings for 2014**

The UNSW National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) recently released key findings for 2014 from the Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) and Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) at the National Drug Trends Conference held on Monday 20 October in Sydney.

Copies of IDRS and EDRS reports and the Drug Trends Bulletins are available on the NDARC website.

[Read the report](#)

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