



Regional ATDC Member Meetings – December 2014

Summary of Outcomes

December Meetings

In early December the fourth and final series of ATDC member meetings for 2014 was held across the State. Jann Smith, ATDC Chief Executive Officer, facilitated the meetings that were held on:

- Monday 1 December at Anglicare in Devonport
- Tuesday 2 December at Anglicare in Launceston
- Wednesday 3 December at the Salvation Army Bridge Centre in New Town.

Each meeting was well attended although numbers were down slightly at the Hobart meeting. The ATDC is grateful to the member organisations that hosted the meetings and appreciates the support shown by the numerous members who participated in the meetings that were held throughout the year.

During the December meetings copies of the 2014 ATDC Annual Report and the ATDC Strategic Plan 2015-18 were tabled and disseminated to members. Meeting participants were also alerted to the fact that the Tasmanian State Government is currently compiling an Illicit Drug Action Plan to complement existing action plans for alcohol and tobacco. The Action Plan will be considered during future member meetings in 2015.

Actions Arising from Previous Meetings

The two-hour meetings recapped on the actions arising from the previous meetings and noted progress to date. It was understood that despite some matters not being resolved that they have been maintained on the ATDC's agenda for future action. The following matters were specifically discussed:

- The consultation which occurred during the August member meetings where participants endorsed the five recommendations within the Advocacy Tasmania Inc (ATI) position paper: *The Unintended Consequences of Pharmacotherapy Policy in Tasmania*. By way of follow-up ATI will contact alcohol and other drug community sector organisations and consumers in early 2015 to seek formal endorsement of the recommendations contained within the position paper.



Alcohol, Tobacco & other
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

Street: Suite 1, Level 1, 175 Collins Street, Hobart TAS 7000
Postal: PO Box 4702, Bathurst Street Post Office, Hobart TAS 7000
Phone: 03 6231 5002
Fax: 03 6231 6099

www.atdc.org.au

- The ATDC has been liaising with potential speakers to enable an information session focused on driving and prescription drug misuse to be held in early 2015.
- The ATDC has continued to liaise with Tasmania Medicare Local to identify ways to work collaboratively with GPs, practice staff and other primary care health professionals to reduce stigma and discrimination toward people who use drugs. During the member meetings the groups specifically considered the issue of increasing the number of GPs involved in pharmacotherapy as authorised prescribers.

ATDC, Strategic and Regional Issues

The key topics discussed during the meeting included:

- **Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI)**
Olivia Mitchell, the ATDC PPEI Project Officer, attended the member meetings in Devonport and Launceston to provide an overview of the PPEI Strategic Framework (*Everybody's Business*) and the work that is being undertaken by the ATDC to compile an implementation plan. During her work Olivia is meeting with sector representatives and many other key stakeholders to gather information about the types of promotion, prevention and early intervention activities that are currently underway. Members revealed that they are frequently approached to deliver ATOD related presentations to schools and community groups. The group also discussed the importance of credible evidence based messages being delivered in a consistent manner but with the capacity for tailoring based on the needs and expectations of different audiences. It was also revealed that a single up-to-date repository of PPEI resources would be highly valued by the sector. The members present understood that at this stage there are no additional or specific funds allocated to the implementation of the PPEI Strategic Framework.
- **Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania**
Meeting participants discussed the *Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania* that was publicly released by the Minister for Health on Thursday 27 November. It was acknowledged that the Department has progressed the review quite quickly and that the eleven recommendations build on previous work related to the review of the implementation of the Future Service Directions as well as the compliance audit that was undertaken by the Tasmanian Audit Office. The recommendations are wide ranging and cover issues such as service capacity and workforce skills, service governance arrangements, information management systems and data collections, and the role of promotion, prevention and early intervention initiatives. At this stage there have not been any messages



regarding funding or the implementation of Review recommendations. Copies of the Review are available on the DHHS website.

- **Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) National Consultation**

Jann Smith, along with other key sector and stakeholder representatives, will be attending a national consultation that is being conducted by AIVL, the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, regarding needle and syringe programs (NSPs). The consultation will be held in Sydney in mid-December and will consider NSPs in regional and remote areas, what is effective about current programs and what, if any, gaps exist in terms of program access and availability. During discussion members highlighted the value of opportunistic brief interventions as well as the current funding constraints that impact on the hours of operation for the program within Tasmania.

- **DHHS Outcomes Purchasing Framework and ATOD Sector Contract Renegotiation**

The State Alcohol and Drug Service has arranged a one-day workshop in mid-December to progress the implementation of the Outcomes Purchasing Framework into the upcoming cycle of contract renegotiation between the Department and the ATOD sector. The Framework should see a shift away from monitoring and reporting on activity and throughput levels with an increased emphasis on the results that are achieved by the sector for both clients and the broader community. The workshop will focus on the development of commissioning for outcomes statements and key performance indicators. During the workshop there will also be a need to consider the future arrangements regarding outcomes measurement and reporting tools and information management systems within services.

- **ATDC Budget Priority Statement for 2015-16**

The meetings discussed the preparation and submission of budget priority statements on behalf of the sector. The following issues were explored for inclusion in the upcoming BPS:

- Funding for a consumer/drug user organisation or organisations within Tasmania
- Therapeutic justice options such as the establishment of drink driving courts within Tasmania and increased court mandated diversion for young people
- Ongoing investment in promotion, prevention and early intervention activities
- Tackling opioid overdose by enabling the availability of Naloxone
- Conducting the review of the Tasmanian Opioid Prevention Policy by an independent consultant and with appropriate input from drug users and those engaged with the program
- Increasing the funding level for needle and syringe programs (NSP) within the community including the consideration of creating an NSP within the prison



- Streamlined access to pharmacotherapy post prison release
- Increased investment in a range of services including the availability of residential rehabilitation beds, outreach services and therapeutic counselling
- Funding for a project officer to support the key AOD governance body the Expert Advisory Group
- Invest in the data and information management systems across the entire ATOD sector to enable the collection and analysis of quality information

Next Steps and Actions Arising

Throughout the year the ATDC progressed a number of actions that were identified at the member meetings held during 2014. Many of these activities were undertaken by either the ATDC or partner organisations. During the final series of meetings held in December a couple of actions emerged:

- Incorporating member feedback and advice into the preparation of a Budget Priorities Statement for 2015-16.
- Representing member views at the NSP national consultations being conducted by AIVL in December 2014.

At the end of 2014 a small number of actions were carried forward from earlier meetings:

- Coordinating an information session focused on driving and prescription drug misuse.
- Addressing the ongoing priority issue of post release and prison through-care options.
- Engaging with Tasmania Medicare Local/Primary Health Care Network to consider ways to work with GPs and other primary care health professionals to reduce stigma and discrimination toward people who use drugs.

March 2015 Meeting Dates

Location:	Burnie	Launceston	Hobart
Date:	Monday 2 March	Tuesday 3 March	Wednesday 4 March
Time:	1:30pm – 3:30pm	9.30am – 11.30am	9.30am -11.30am
Venue:	Youth, Family & Community Connections 129 Wilson Street, Burnie	Anglicare 122 Elizabeth St Launceston	The Salvation Army Bridge Centre 63 – 68 Creek Road, New Town