



Alcohol, Tobacco & other  
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

Annual Report 2013



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Drugs Council Tas Inc.

## REPRESENTATION

The ATDC represents the views and needs of its members and provides a united voice for the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs sector.

## LEADERSHIP

By participating in local and national debate the ATDC works with members to advance contemporary responses to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

## SUPPORT

The ATDC offers a range of supports for the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs sector, from workforce development and planning, to advocacy on behalf of its members.



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**I am very pleased to be writing my third Annual Report for the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC). It really does provide an excellent opportunity to step back and consider the year gone and the inspirational work carried out by such a small but effective and responsive team of passionate and professional individuals.**

The ATDC has, this year, continued to strongly voice the view that it is unacceptable to continue underinvestment, and non-recurrent investment, in alcohol and drug prevention and treatment services. Therefore, one of the most important outcomes for this year was the announcement in the recent State budget regarding the continuation of funding to the alcohol, tobacco and other drug community sector under the Future Service Directions Plan. Without this funding, jobs, services and potentially organisations would have been lost across the State.

The ATDC also continued to strengthen its role in ATOD advocacy, policy development, and reform, at a State and National Level, through numerous consultations with members, submissions and active participation in various committees and networks. Some of the key areas this year included the review of the implementation of the Future Service Directions, the review of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968, the Inquiry into alternatives to secure detention for youth in Tasmania, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Preventative Health Care and the Australian Government review of the drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services sector.

The ATDC has continued to support and strengthen the ATOD sector through its annual Workforce Development Survey, which enables understanding of current and future workforce planning needs, and by promoting and facilitating access to heavily subsidised qualifications and other professional development and training opportunities, including the Diploma of Management, the Diploma and Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs, and Skill Sets in Promotion and Prevention, Reflective Practice and Accessing Evidence and Applying in Practice.

In May 2013 the ATDC hosted the Comorbidity Symposium, "Becoming Complexity Capable", with 150 delegates participating from across Tasmania. The program provided a range of perspectives on some of the key discussion points faced in every day work, including consideration of drug use and the social determinants of health, the value of preventative health care, responses to new emerging psychoactive drugs and how we might use social media to improve consumer engagement.

In order to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improving the outcomes for people affected by alcohol and other drugs, to reducing harm and developing the profession the ATDC facilitated the second annual Tasmanian Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Awards. The Awards were presented to four well-deserving recipients by Minister Michelle O'Byrne at Parliament House on the 17 June.

The work of the ATDC would not be possible without the continued commitment and contribution of funding from both the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services, State-wide and Mental Health Services, and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. I thank these Departments for this support.

I also express sincere gratitude to Jann Smith and the team at ATDC. It has been yet another outstandingly busy year, made manageable only by the drive and focus of this team in ensuring the needs of the consumers, individuals and organisations that form a part of the Tasmanian Alcohol and Other Drug Sector are well represented. Well done!

Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board Members. This year Amanda Quealy, Stephen Smith and Shane Aherne joined the Board, with Stuart Smith returning to the Board after a short hiatus. We have had many matters to work through; however it continues to be a pleasure to be part of such an ardent Board, each navigating their role and responsibilities with great skill and attentiveness.

**Ros Atkinson**, President



**ATDC Board Members from left to right:** Grant Herring (Salvation Army), Amanda Quealy (The Hobart Clinic), Stuart Smith (Pathways Inc), David Jackson (GP and Addiction Medicine Specialist), Shane Ahearne (Consumer Representative), Tamara Speed, Treasurer (Anglicare), Sarah Charlton, Vice President (Holyoake), Ros Atkinson, President (Youth and Family Focus Inc), Stephen Brown (Launceston City Mission).  
**Inset photographs: Top right** - Tania Joughin (The Link Youth Health Service) Not pictured - Dr Raimondo Bruno (UTAS).

**Number of Board Meeting Attended by Board Members 2012-13**

Attendance = 1, Non-Attendance = 0

Name of Board Member / Date of Meeting	R Atkinson	T Joughin	S Smith	S Charlton	G Herring	D Jackson	T Speed	A Perkins	R Bruno	A Quealy	S Aherne	S Brown
8/1/2012	1	0	n/a	0	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
8/29/2012	1	0	n/a	1	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
10/31/2012	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	1	n/a
11/28/2012	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	1	1	0	n/a
1/30/2013	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	1	1	1
2/27/2013	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	n/a	0	1	1	1
3/28/2013	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	n/a	1	0	1	1
5/30/2013	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	n/a	0	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Possible # of Meetings</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>



insight



*“Most of the important things I know about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs I’ve learnt from the people I’ve met who use them. The consequences of substance use are complicated; they are multi-layered, and often not immediately visible, so helping to create a peak body that respects the people we meet and strives to listen and learn from our membership, is my view of leadership. ”*

**In 2011 the ATDC developed a three year Strategic Plan, and over the past few years we have made considerable progress towards achieving the outcomes we set ourselves. By 2012-13, the synthesis of leadership, advocacy, representation, and support resulted in a year we can be proud of.**

As a sector, one of the key concerns we faced was the uncertainty of ongoing funding linked to the Future Service Directions Plan. Despite the obvious need for these funds to maintain essential ATOD service provision, it was not until the May 2013 budget announcement, that we knew for sure that jobs and programs were secure.

For many months the ATDC advocated for these funds to be made recurrent and whilst we had the verbal support of politicians and senior health officials, the process for funding community sector organisations is structured in such a way as to leave us hanging by a thread before the budget lifeline was released.

This approach to procurement has long been a point of contention between government and non-government agencies. We know that government has a responsibility to ensure public funds are spent appropriately; however we also know that short term contracts, competitive tendering and rigid contracting serve no stakeholder well.

For this reason I am very pleased to be one of two jurisdictional peak body representatives on the Advisory Committee overseeing the national review of alcohol and drug prevention and treatment services. This is a great opportunity to have input to the future of ATOD funding. I am hopeful this review will herald a true reform of federal and state funding and lead to rational service planning approaches and ultimately sustainable funding models for ATOD prevention and treatment services.

The National Compact and the State Partnership Agreement provide, in principle, the frameworks from which we can negotiate far more appropriate time frames around service contracting and reporting however, these partnerships will only be genuine when all parties are committed to a fair and respectful relationship.

To build these relationships takes time and effort and I have dedicated both to working with my colleagues from the Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs, the Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum, the State and Territory Alcohol and Other Drugs Peaks Network and the Alcohol and Drugs Council of Australia. These groups provide leadership to the sector and in this past year the ATDC has been an active participant.

Throughout the year the ATDC has represented the interests of our membership. We contributed to many committees and working groups and prepared a range of submissions to government enquiries and consultations. Details of these are all available on the ATDC website so I encourage you to visit the site regularly to keep abreast of the array of issues we comment upon.

Drawing community attention to the issues we deal with in the sector has also been a priority for the ATDC this year. A full review of our communications strategy has been undertaken and we have achieved a far greater level of media and stakeholder engagement this year. Once again our stakeholder survey told us we have met the expectations of our membership and that the key priority areas should include continuing the push for greater investment in prevention, promotion and early intervention (PPEI), improving access to treatment for people in prison, both pre and post release, and quality frameworks and standards for the sector.

In responding to these priorities, the ATDC remains firmly committed to the Tasmanian ATOD PPEI Strategic Framework *Everybody's Business*. We will continue to support our members and the Alcohol and Drug Service to implement effective, evidence based approaches, but as we all know in order to create change at this level, financial investment is necessary and this should not be at the expense of treatment services. As we have previously, the ATDC will continue to lobby government for appropriate investment in our sector for PPEI.

It has been predominantly through our workforce development and capacity building activity that improved access to treatment for people engaged with the justice system has been tackled. Our

members that provide residential rehabilitation, assessment and counselling and youth services have all at some time raised, with the ATDC, the value of improving the network and linkages between Department of Justice and Community Sector ATOD providers. Through a range of strategies the ATDC aims to facilitate the growth of these linkages by, for example, mapping referral pathways and streamlining communications, increasing the understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of each other's practice and engaging in shared training activities.

The sector tapped into a key national priority when identifying quality frameworks and standards as an area for the ATDC to focus. The development of an ATOD specific quality framework will be undertaken during the 2013-14 financial year by a project team from Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. The ATDC will participate the assisting consultation with the sector, and through the national advisory committee overseeing this work.

Being guided by the strategic plan the ATDC has been able to build momentum around its goal to seek and include consumer input in planning, governance and review processes. I have also been very pleased to be able to support the work of our members as they continue to increase the capacity of both their workforce and users of their services to increase levels of consumer representation and participation.

Each year, upon completing my contribution to the annual report I'm surprised by how much has been achieved by the team. I'm sure you will agree with me that the ATDC is very fortunate to have had Ella, Lynne, Amanda, Vern and Jonathan, all of whom share great capacity and ability within their respective roles. I feel very fortunate to have them as my colleagues, and although Ella moved on in July 2013 to take up a senior management position, I am confident she takes with her a little community sector wisdom that will hold her in good stead in the future.

The ATDC Board plays an important role in the success of the peak body. They give their time and expertise to a range of issues across policy, workforce and capacity building. They support me in my role

and I extend my thanks to them all. We have been very pleased to have grown the membership in 2012-13 and welcome those organisational and individual members. In 2014 the Board will review and renew the Strategic Plan so I look forward to meeting with all our members as we set the vision for 2014-17 and make plans for how to get there.

This is also a time where I would like to take the opportunity to thank our many stakeholders, including our core funding agency the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Alcohol and Drug Service. This has no doubt been a time of significant change for our colleagues at ADS who made the transition to the Southern Tasmanian Health Organisation on 1 July 2013.

In addition the Department of Health and Ageing provide funding for the Sector Capacity Building Project and I look forward to the continuation of a solid working relationship with our State Departmental officers and their colleagues in Canberra.

I trust you will agree with me that the ATDC is a strong and effective peak body. Together, I am confident we will continue to deliver a high standard of service to the membership and as a result to Tasmanian's who wish to access support and treatment for alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues.

**Jann Smith**, Chief Executive Officer

insight



*"My commitment to social justice led me to the alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector, where justice and population health are so closely entwined. My role with the ATDC gave me the opportunity to work directly with consumers and service providing organisations, as well as contributing to local and national policy development and debate."*

**The policy and research program has continued apace over the last twelve months. The program and position are well established and there is a solid and thorough work plan set for this important area of the ATDC's activities.**

The ATDC takes every opportunity to make valuable contributions to the work of Government through writing submissions to various enquiries and consultation processes.

In the last year we have made submissions to several enquiries, including:

- The Children's Commissioner's targeted consultation into alternatives to secure detention for young people in Tasmania;
- The Children and Youth Services (DHHS) consultation: A Continuum of Care to prevent youth offending and re-offending;
- The Alcohol and Drug Services (DHHS) review of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968;
- The Parliamentary Inquiry into preventative health care (Social Determinants of Health);
- The Department of Premier & Cabinet consultation into community engagement.

Writing considered responses to these types of consultation processes is a vital part of the work of any Peak body, particularly so when it comes to the ATOD sector. This is because without people and organisations talking about the harms associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug misuse, they can be overlooked.

By raising the issues related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms, the ATDC ensures the issue is not forgotten and that it is always included in the mix in broader policy debates such as those concerning other social determinants of health.

Governments around the nation and the world are beginning to act on the social determinants of health. It is becoming more widely understood that population health is inevitably influenced by multiple factors, many of which do not sit neatly within the 'Health' portfolio.

The social determinants of health, which include factors such as secure housing, employment, education, family support and access to the resources necessary for effective social inclusion together determine individual and thereby community health.

They must be front of mind for policy makers across all areas of government, if we are to work towards the most productive, healthy and cohesive society we can achieve.

It is impossible to deal with one aspect of a person's life without addressing others. For example, it's difficult to deal with somebody's long term unemployment without also looking at issues of education, training and support. Similarly, it is difficult to deal effectively with an individual's substance dependence if they are concurrently homeless.

By having a voice in these areas and ensuring ATOD issues are not forgotten, the ATDC ensures that these broader debates are well informed and lead to more well-rounded community driven outcomes.

In June 2013, the Hepatitis and HIV Working Group endorsed the ATDC discussion paper on the Tasmanian NSP Program. The group has a broad membership including various divisions of the Department of Health, community sector representation from organisations including the ATDC, TasCAHRD, Anglicare and Scarlet Alliance as well representations from the Pharmacy Guild and Tas Medicare Local.

This group's endorsement of the paper not only shows broad support for an expansion of the Tasmanian NSP program, but it also displays widespread confidence in the work of the ATDC. The NSP Paper assesses the current Tasmanian NSP Program against world's best practice. It is encouraging to know the Tasmanian program compares relatively well, but there is always more that can be done. The paper makes several recommendations, including:

- Not losing sight of the public health success of NSP programs in reducing incidence of blood borne viruses in the community;
- That funding to the Tasmanian program must be maintained and increase to allow for expanded service delivery;

- That the Tasmanian NSP program continues to distribute equipment free of charge to clients;
- That after-hours access to free sterile injecting equipment must be increased;
- That the program must address the regional gaps in service;
- That the group supports initiatives to establish an NSP in correctional facilities;

Promoting the recommendations of the paper will be an ATDC priority over the coming year.

One of the tasks of the ATDC is to provide a budget priority statement to Government each year, with recommendations on how the Government should direct their ATOD spending for the following year and forward estimates.

The main focus of our last budget priority statement was the DHHS Future Service Directions funding which was due to expire at the end of June 2013. The Future Service Directions Plan funded a range of ATOD programs and services across both state government and the community sector.

If the funding had ceased, we estimated there would have been over 20 jobs lost across the ATOD community sector in Tasmania and there would also have been a drastic effect on service delivery. We know many community sector service providers would have had to reduce their services, or more tightly limit the eligibility criteria for individual programs. We also know that some services would have had to close their doors entirely.

The ATDC ensured that the implementation of the funding was reviewed before the planned ending of the funding in June 2013. This involved the ATDC CEO and Policy Officer along with senior staff from Alcohol and Drug Services (DHHS) meeting with each funded organisation to receive feedback on the changes to the sector since the funding was implemented five years ago.

The overwhelming feedback is that the funding has made a positive difference to ATOD service delivery in Tasmania and that to lose the funding would have had an extremely negative effect on the sector and the Tasmanians who rely on the services provided.

Being involved with, and supporting, the sector activities during Drug Action Week (DAW) is always a highlight of the year. Once again the Tasmanian sector pulled together over 30 events which were run state wide.

The ATDC held two events for Drug Action Week in 2013. The first was the presentation of the 2013 Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Sector Awards.

The other ATDC event for DAW 2013 was a one off screening of the gripping new film from the United States called *The House I Live In*. The film is highly acclaimed and was the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2012.

The film charts the history of the “war on drugs” in the United States. From Nixon who declared that “America’s public enemy number one was drug abuse”, through the “Just Say No” days of Regan, and Bill Clinton who advocated for a “three strikes and you are out” drug policy.

So the themes of the film fitted well into the theme for Drug Action Week this year and also into the broader work of the ATDC in looking at drug policy, law reform and the social determinants of health.

Last year saw the ATDC’s constitution amended to expressly provide for consumer representation on the Board of Governance. This is a fantastic step as it makes sure that the consumer voice is heard at every level of policy development and work.

The ATDC is committed to encouraging and increasing consumer representation at all levels across the sector including policy and governance as well as service delivery and structure.

Currently, Tasmania is the only state or territory in Australia that does not have a consumer organisation. The ATDC supports the establishment of an independent, well funded, consumer led and run representative organisation established in Tasmania and will continue to support the efforts across the sector to make this happen.

In 2012-13 the ATDC continued to represent the interests of the ATOD community sector on a number of committees and groups including:

- HIV and Hepatitis Working Group
- Court Mandated Diversion Working Group
- TasCOSS Social Policy Council
- Tasmanian Community Sector Policy Network
- Interagency Collaboration Group
- Tobacco Coalition
- Smoke Free Tasmania
- Alcohol Advisory Group
- Interagency Working Group on Drugs
- ADS Clinical Specialty Group
- Tasmanian Peaks Network and Government Strategic Forum
- ADCA Policy Forum
- ADDA Review Steering Committee
- Alcohol and Other Drug Steering Committee
- Social Determinants of Health Action Network
- Australian State & Territory AOD Peak Body Policy Network
- State & Territory AOD Peak Body CEO Network
- Statewide Youth Collaborative Group
- Glenorchy City Council Binge Drinking Steering Committee

The 2013 Stakeholder Survey provided valuable feedback on the work of the ATDC over the previous year and also identified priorities for the future. As usual we asked respondents to identify the top priority areas for the policy work of the ATDC for the forthcoming year.

This year the top two were:

- PPEI (promotion, prevention and early intervention; and
- Correctional Health issues (drug treatment in prison and post release)

**Ella Haddad**, Policy & Research Officer



insight



*"The satisfaction in knowing that my Workforce and Development work helps the sector do what it does better brings me back day after day. We still have a long way to go, many bridges to cross, but if there is the will, we can do it."*

### **T**he 2012-13 year has seen some great steps forward for ATOD workforce planning and development.

The focus of the ATDC has been to work collaboratively with a number of other organisations making a wide range of professional development opportunities, at a variety of levels, more accessible to not only our member organisations but also to the wider sector.

Three successful bids from the Skills Fund, in conjunction with different training providers, attracted more than \$200,000 to the sector to subsidise ATOD qualifications for both job seekers and existing workers, and ATOD skill sets and management qualifications for existing workers. The overwhelming response received reinforces the ongoing need for ATDC's effort to access funding of this nature.

The offering of the Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs to jobseekers state-wide was a significant achievement. The lack of regional opportunities for jobseekers to undertake ATOD qualifications has been problematic for some time. Negotiations between ATDC and the Polytechnic resulted in innovative approaches to filling this gap and providing equitable access to training for our regional jobseekers.

Evidence to support the need for funding for existing workers was largely provided by sector responses to the ATDC 2012 workforce survey of member organisations. 209 individuals from ATDC member organisations responded to the survey, providing data that has already proved useful, not only as mentioned above in identifying priorities for training through the Skills Fund but also identifying priorities for professional development offered by ATDC. Analysis of the data is complete and the report is being finalised.

The data from the survey has also been utilised in the development of the Minimum ATOD Qualifications Position Paper which has been one of the workforce development foci after completing consultation on the Discussion Paper with the ATDC board and members. We anticipate the position paper will be finalised in the coming months.

The survey data will be further used in the development of the Tasmanian ATOD Workforce Plan, a joint project with the Alcohol and Drug Service workforce staff, commenced in the past year, which will provide the strategic direction and framework for workforce development activities for the next few years.

A developing relationship with the University of Tasmania's school of social work has progressed several initiatives. We have achieved formal recognition of the Diploma of Community Services (Alcohol, other drugs and mental health) as articulation to the Bachelor of Social Work. 1.25 years of credit toward that degree is granted to those who have completed this diploma. This is a significant benefit to those wishing to progress from vocational to tertiary qualifications.

Additionally we are working with the University towards ensuring some exposure of students to ATOD content within their social work degree.

Working with the university to promote their offer of a HECS waiver for 2013 to eligible students entering the social work component of the Bachelor of Social Work has enabled 2 of our members to take advantage of this valuable offer, with many more showing interest.

The very recent announcement of a HECS waiver for eligible sector workers to undertake Professional Honours in Human Services Practice as a part time course will no doubt generate great interest. Further exciting opportunities with UTas are on the verge of being announced as this report is being written, and may well be with the sector by the time this goes to print.

ATDC also continues to liaise with the UTas School of Nursing and Midwifery in respect of the Graduate Certificate in Addiction Studies for Health Professionals.

Training and professional development opportunities conducted by the ATDC numbered 14 separate scheduled training sessions, attended by 242 individuals totalling 317 separate registrations. These sessions helped participants develop skills and knowledge in relation to trauma, suicide prevention, counselling, cultural awareness and cannabis. The opportunity to work with the Mental Health Council of Tasmania to bring Mental Health and Cannabis training to both our sectors enhanced the engagement in this training and provided excellent opportunities for networking.

Additionally, 14 scheduled skill sets offered in partnership with the Tasmanian Skills Institute attracted 151 enrolments into this nationally recognised training and assessment.

Recognition and celebration of excellence within the sector has continued through the past year with the Annual Tasmanian ATOD Awards being expanded to include a fourth category, that of Emerging Researcher. The awards were presented by Minister Michelle O'Byrne at an afternoon tea at Parliament House at the start of drug action week. The presentation was attended by more than 40 sector members who were delighted to share in the achievement and outstanding contributions made to the sector by the four award recipients. The Excellence in Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Work Award, recognising the outstanding work of an individual worker or manager in the field, was awarded to Peter Cairns. The Early Career Award, recognising excellent work performed by someone within the first two years of their career in the field, was awarded to Dominique Smith. The Outstanding Contributions Award, recognising the work of someone who may not necessarily work directly in the ATOD sector, but whose activity plays an important and positive role in the work the sector undertakes, was awarded to Dr Raimondo Bruno. The new Emerging Researcher Award, recognising the importance of quality, evidence based research in the area of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, was awarded to Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron. ATDC congratulates each of the recipients for their dedication and commitment to the sector.

The ATDC further supported excellence in the ATOD field by providing the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Certificate IV in Alcohol & Other Drugs for the 2013 Polytechnic graduation. The award went to Kaitlyn Barlow and we congratulate Kaitlyn and wish her well with her career in the sector.

The ATDC Workforce Development Expert Reference Group has continued to provide valuable input into the development of significant ATDC workforce projects and the input of the individuals who sit on this group is enormously appreciated.

We have continued to work closely with the state's three residential rehabilitation facilities, to enhance communication, cooperation and collaboration and identify and plan for shared workforce development initiatives as well as initiating work with individual organisations to identify training needs and develop organisational training plans.

Participation in a range of external projects relating to workforce development in the ATOD sector has provided opportunities to provide a Tasmanian voice at a national level. As a member of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia Workforce Working Group, contributions have been made to discussions about a national minimum qualifications position. Work was undertaken in conjunction with other state peaks to provide feedback on proposed changes to certificate IV and diploma qualifications to the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council and recent membership of the Subject Matter Expert Group provides an opportunity for more direct input to the direction of the training package review.

Ongoing participation in the Skills Tasmania workforce community of practice provides opportunities to learn from other sectors skills and strategies which can only enhance the workforce planning and development work undertaken for the ATOD sector.

It has been a rewarding 12 months and I look forward to working further with the sector on relevant workforce issues to ensure the ATOD sector has the right skills in the right place at the right time in order to ensure best practice, evidence based client service is delivered to those of our community's most vulnerable members who seek these services.

**Lynne Maher**, ATDC Workforce Development Officer

insight



*"Good communication is my passion, so the chance to work with such a diverse group of people across the ATOD sector continually renews my energy. What better motivation could I need to work with a peak body than the feeling that I can make a difference by helping to facilitate access to the knowledge of experts in our field or the resources that are available."*

**The ATDC welcomed a new round of funding for the Sector Capacity Building Project (formerly the Cross Sectoral and Strategic Partnerships Project) in July 2012. Being a new project there has been a significant amount of activity in the past twelve months. A couple of highlights from the 2012/13 year are listed below.**

The second round of Cross Sector Bus Tours was rolled out statewide between October 2012 and February 2013 with over 70 participants visiting and hearing presentations from over 40 organisations across the State. Feedback on the tours was once again extremely positive with a number of participants commenting on the great opportunity to network and learn more about the broad range of services that exist in Tasmania.

In February 2013 the first annual UTAS/ATDC Research Symposium was held with over 65 attendees from a broad range of services hearing from 5 local researchers on a diverse range of topics including: the use of drug courts around the world; the impact of alcohol and energy drink consumption on risk taking behavior; the impact of the Tasmanian Early Intervention Project; The Cannabis Use Disorder Identification Test – Revised (CUDIT-R): Categorisation and Interpretation; Developing a framework for Opioid Overdose Preventions Strategies in Tasmania. The diversity of presentations gave the audience an insight to different areas of ATOD research happening at a local level. It also provided the audience with the opportunity to interact and discuss future project with the researchers and staff from the University of Tasmania. The event, held in partnership with the University is one that we hope becomes a part of the annual ATDC events calendar.

Since April 2012 the ATDC has been working closely with Mental Health Services regarding the development of the Comorbidity Workplace Exchange Project. The working group has provided advice and oversight for the implementation of the first stage of the project which took place in from April till May 2013. The first stage of the project saw six community sector ATOD workers experience a two day work placement with a southern Mental Health Services team. Feedback has been extremely positive with plans for placements to be offered to workers in the North and North West later this year.

On the 7th May, 150 delegates from across Tasmania met at the third Comorbidity Symposium to be hosted by the ATDC. The one day, biennial event was an excellent opportunity for local workers, policy makers and leading national experts to discuss the complexities involved in working with people with co-existing mental illness, substance misuse and other social issues.

The 2013 Comorbidity Symposium entitled *Becoming Complexity Capable*, aimed to, encourage discussion and promote best practice and innovative research happening across Australia. Professor of Psychopharmacology, Iain McGregor from the University of Sydney provided a key note address discussing the increasing use of prescription drugs, recreational drugs and novel emerging psychoactive drugs. Local health expert, Miriam Herzfeld informed the audience of the distinct linkages between addiction and social and economic disadvantage. The importance of the role of consumers and their families in the development of new programs and initiatives was highlighted by Carolyn Curtis from the Centre for Social Innovation and Change in South Australia. The afternoon session was opened with a panel of Tasmania housing and homelessness experts, facilitated by the executive officer from Shelter Tasmania. Local social media expert, Calan Paske, concluded the day by inspiring the audience with the possibilities of social media in the community sector. Feedback from delegates was overwhelmingly positive with many commenting that the symposium was “the best yet”.

The national Peaks Capacity Building Network (PCBN) has continued. The PCBN has been involved in the evaluation of the role of Peaks in capacity building currently being developed by a research consultant. It is expected that this work will inform future planning of peak bodies in capacity building within the sector.

Through the SCBP the ATDC has continued to meet with the Department of Health and Ageing at both a State and Federal level. The information from these meetings assists us to ensure information dissemination across jurisdictions is timely and consistent.

Another two editions of JointForces were published during the 2012/13 period and they continue to highlight the excellent work being done by the ATOD and Mental Health sectors in Tasmania.

## SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT (SCBP) 2012/13 (continued)

ATDC Info Sessions have continued to attract interest during the 2012/13 period. A range of issues were discussed at the info sessions including:

- Tobacco Reform: What does it mean for our sector?
- Naloxone: Access and Availability (for Overdose Awareness Day)
- From Prisons to Communities: Transition programs for people living with HIV (international guest speaker, Dr Fredrick Altice)
- Alternatives to Youth Detention
- Introduction to Trauma

The ATDC has been working closely with Advocacy Tasmania to support organisations around consumer engagement and participation within their organisations. We hope to facilitate training later in 2013 focused on meaningful consumer engagement for organisations.

Over the coming months there are a number of projects that the SCBP will be focusing on including:

- Meaningful consumer engagement training (Devonport and Hobart)
- Development of ATDC Regional Member Meetings (Statewide)
- Stage 2 Comorbidity Workplace Exchange Project
- Expansion of the Cross Sector Bus Tours

In its first year, the Sector Capacity Building Project has managed to achieve a number of goals. Continued support from the ATDC membership and the broader sector will ensure that these achievements continue into the second and third year of the project.

**Amanda Street**, ATDC Sector Capacity Building Officer

insight



*"I think that it's important to be involved with an organisation that exists for the benefit of others. ATDC Tas is one such organisation and it works co-operatively with many other like-minded organisations to bring positive change into people's lives. Part of the success of any organisation is sound financial management and that's where I fit in. I continually work to ensure that the ATDC is financially healthy both now and into the future."*

**I joined the ATDC in December 2012. Since that time I have been producing the organisation's enews as well as reviewing our communications activities.**

For an organisation such as ours, effective communications isn't just about what we say, but also about the way we say it.

Over the past few months we have spent some time considering how we, as the peak body for the AOD sector, best present ourselves to our audiences. In turn we are considering how we can best develop our "voice" to more effectively represent our member organisations.

We have been undertaking the following as part of our review process:

- **Revision of our Communications Strategy, Plan and Policies.** Currently a work in progress, this will enable the integration of all of our communications activities with the view to setting goals and measuring outcomes.
- **Development of a new web site with integrated analytics.** The prototyping for the new site is more or less complete and will present a more balanced range of content including the promotion of members as well as editorial commentary on the issues affecting our sector. This will be launched in late 2013.
- **Change of delivery platform for our enews.** We switched from a self-hosted enews platform to the online bulk email

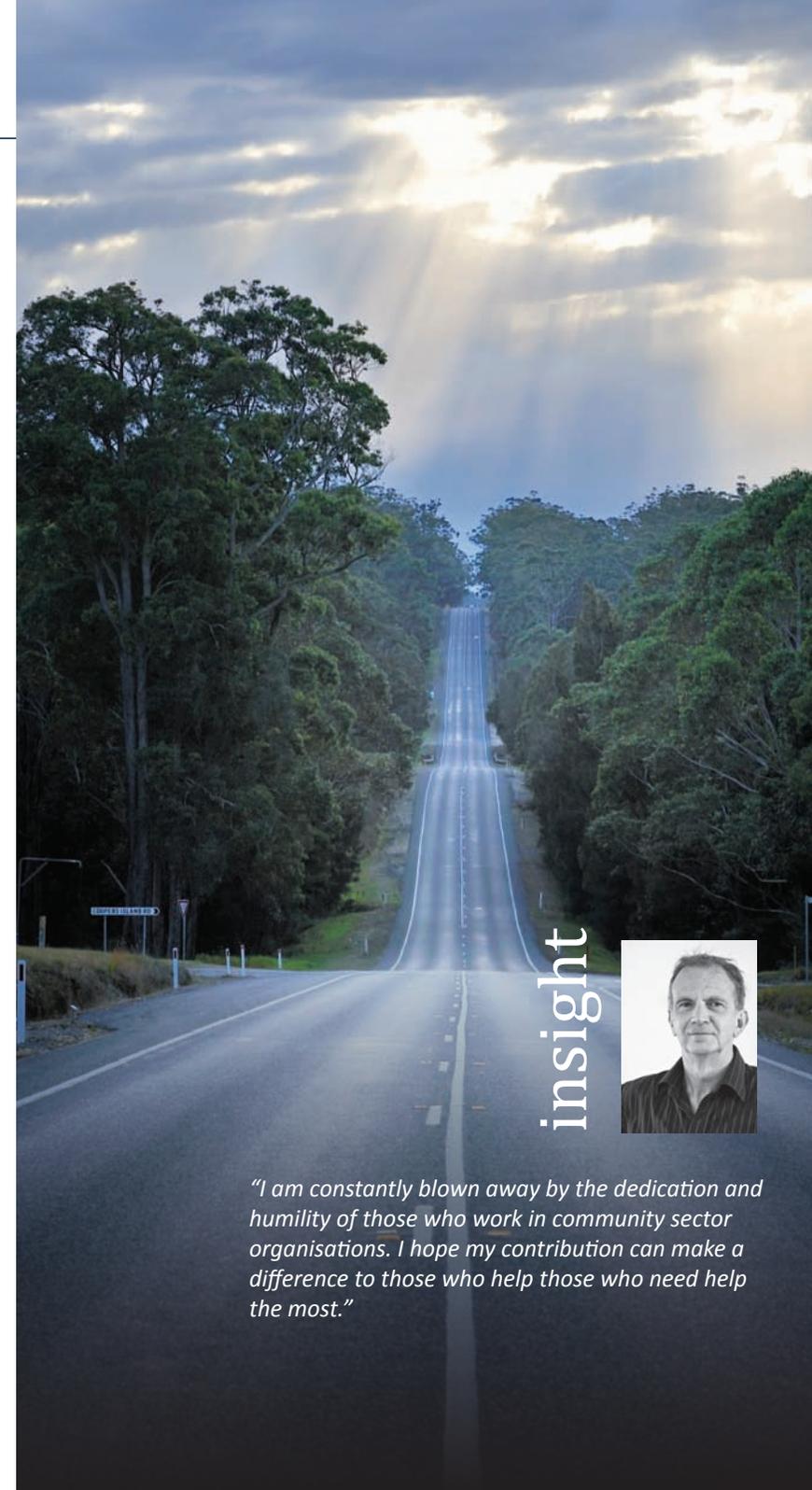
provider, MailChimp, in early 2013. This immediately offered us a more streamlined approach to our publication cycle as well as valuable insights through the integrated analytics that MailChimp offers.

- **Review of social media activities.** In early 2013 we had the opportunity to participate in the Tasmanian government's "Digital Ready" program. Facilitated by a "Digital Ready" consultant who worked with us on-site, the program enabled us to clear away some of the misconceptions we may have had about the use of social media. This review has resulted in our decision to concentrate on leveraging our key messages through the use of Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

One of the major challenges any organisation faces, with regards to its communications output, is its capacity to generate content. Our organisation is very fortunate to have a culture of active content creation with the three project officers as well as our CEO all producing material that is both effective, timely and engaging.

The challenge now is to harness that capacity and maximise its impact to ensure that our organisation continues to provide leadership for our sector and an effective voice to the whole of the Tasmanian community.

**Jonathan Jones**, Information Officer



*"I am constantly blown away by the dedication and humility of those who work in community sector organisations. I hope my contribution can make a difference to those who help those who need help the most."*

# 2012/2013 retrospective



**Above:** Drug Education Network team members Shirleyann Varney, Maia Duggan, Zoe Mirinchuck and James Jenkins raise public awareness.



**Above:** Research Symposium February 2013 attendees from left to right - Amy Peacock, Hanah Graham, Kerry Clarke, Dr Raimondo Bruno, Amanda Street, Liz Moore, Isabelle Bartkoviak-Théron and Jann Smith.



**Above:** A therapist...

**Below:** The ATDC Annual General Meeting May 2012.



**Below:** The Housing Panel at the 2013 Co...



Alcohol, Tobacco & other  
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

The past year has seen the ATDC and its members continue to go about their core business capably, with an increasing number of highlights to celebrate excellence, raising awareness and capacity within the sector and with the general public. It is exciting to see this increase in profile building activities which reflects the ever-increasing professionalism of the sector.



August 2012. The team at Missiondale proudly receive their accreditation as a music community from ATCA.



Above: Sector Capacity Building Bus Tours have been popular in all regions.

Comorbidity Symposium.

Below: The 2013 Comorbidity Symposium.

Below: 2013 ATOD Award recipients - Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron (Emerging Researcher Award), Peter Cairns (Excellence in ATOD Work Award), Minister Michelle O'Byrne, Dominique Smith (Early Career Award) and Hannah Graham (accepting the Outstanding Career Award on behalf of Dr Raimondo Bruno).



# Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Council Inc

Financial Accounts Year Ended 30 June 2013

## Income & Expenditure

	2012-13	2011-12
<b>Income</b>		
Grants Brought Forward from previous Financial Year	27,204.85	172,093.33
Grants Received this Financial Year	570,078.28	516,667.28
Grants Repaid this Financial Year	-4,404.24	-9,924.17
Membership Subscriptions	8,515.00	2,400.00
Bank Interest	6,669.11	11,951.03
Project Management Fees	-	21,080.79
Donation	-	8,425.22
Sundry Income / Sponsorship	2,763.63	27,564.85
Training & Other Events	15,750.10	-
Revenue Carried Forward	-26,103.18	-57,204.85
Profit on Disposal of Assets	-	1,272.72
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>600,473.55</b>	<b>694,326.20</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Admin &amp; Overheads</b>		
Advertising & Publicity	-	1,530.11
Affiliations / Subscriptions / Membership	1,182.97	1,522.27
Audit & Accountancy Fees	3,125.34	2,145.00
Depreciation	9,745.46	11,388.37
Insurance	1,041.94	1,460.64
Office Overheads	27,705.45	23,574.48
Project Management Fees	-	21,080.79
Rent & Associated Costs	29,166.77	25,314.24
Salaries + Oncosts	409,310.27	385,981.10
Staff Development	2,769.95	6,413.73
<b>Equipment / Furniture Purchases</b>		
Equipment / Furniture	3,903.91	2,984.94

# Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Council Inc

Financial Accounts Year Ended 30 June 2013

## Income & Expenditure continued

	2012-13	2011-12
<b>Governance</b>		
AGM & Governance Costs	4,903.72	6,268.51
<b>Travel / Accommodation / Conferences / Other</b>		
Conferences / Seminars / Meetings	1,010.73	4,847.70
Speakers & Consultants / Workshops	75,514.34	155,079.23
Travel & Accommodation	10,170.94	18,720.64
Publications / Resource Production	240.00	521.50
Awards / Prizes	1,899.22	1,585.38
<b>Vehicle Costs</b>	6,087.50	7,592.22
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>		
GST Rounding / Adjustment	-2.98	-2.50
Contributions to Projects / Events	-	4,000.00
Loss on Sale of Assets	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>587,775.53</b>	<b>682,008.35</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>12,698.02</b>	<b>12,317.85</b>

# Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Council Inc

Financial Accounts Year Ended 30 June 2013

## Other Income & Expenditure

	2012-13	2011-12
<b>Other Income</b>		
ATDC Conference		
Funds Brought Forward	37,699.36	60,733.05
Registrations	-	42,404.52
Sponsorship /Exhibitors	-	300.00
Project Contributions	20,000.00	-
Revenue Carried Forward	-57,699.36	-7,699.36
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,738.21</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
ATDC Conference		
Administration & Overheads	-	44,896.37
Venue & Catering Costs	-	47,895.64
Speakers Costs	-	2,946.20
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>95,738.21</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>12,698.02</b>	<b>12,317.85</b>

# Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Council Inc

Financial Accounts Year Ended 30 June 2013

## Balance Sheet

	2012-13	2011-12
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank	127,626.89	109,955.49
Strategic Reserve Account	73,250.44	70,000.00
Petty Cash on hand	400.00	400.00
Trade Debtors	-	115.00
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Computer Equipment	2,990.35	1,222.60
Furniture & Equipment	4,699.24	7,745.42
Motor Vehicle	25,290.81	29,927.84
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>234,257.73</b>	<b>219,366.35</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors	-	1,053.73
Payroll Deductions Payable	4,046.21	8,235.73
Annual Leave Provision	32,015.35	26,183.43
Long Service Leave Provision	6,221.59	5,221.59
GST Payable	4,902.81	3,196.45
Revenue Received in Advance	6,103.18	27,204.85
Revenue in Advance - ATDC Conference	57,699.36	37,699.36
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>110,988.50</b>	<b>108,795.14</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>123,269.23</b>	<b>110,571.21</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	110,571.21	98,253.36
Current Year Operating Surplus/Deficit	12,698.02	12,317.85
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>123,269.23</b>	<b>110,571.21</b>

### Note:

The \$6103.18 under "Revenue Received in Advance" is the commencement income at 1 July 2013 for projects that are either commencing or continuing in 2013-14.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the reporting requirements of the Association Incorporation Act 1964 Tasmania. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Tasmania and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 110	Events Occurring After Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standard Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework in order to meet the needs of the associations members. As such, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

The Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Council (Tas) Inc.

Sector Capacity Building Project

OFFICERS ASSERTION STATEMENT

In the opinion of the committee:

1. The funds and other contributions received for the above Project were spent for the purposes of the Project and in accordance with, and in compliance with, the Agreement executed on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013;
2. The salaries and allowances paid to persons involved in the Project are in accordance with any applicable award or agreement in force under any relevant law on industrial or workplace relations; and
3. At the date of the provision of the Final Report, The Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Council (Tas) Inc. is able to pay all its debts as and when they fall due.



Vice President



Committee Member

Dated at Hobart this 4<sup>TH</sup> day of SEPTEMBER 2013



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the members of Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Council (Tas) Inc.

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose report, of Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Council (Tas) Inc., which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2013, the statement of income & expenditure for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the officers assertion statement.

**Officers Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The officers of Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Council (Tas) Inc. are responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporated Act 1964* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The officers' responsibility also includes such internal control as the officers determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the officers, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Council (Tas) Inc. as at 30 June

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Perth + Adelaide + Hobart + Auckland

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2013 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the *Associations Incorporated Act (1964)*.

**Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the officers' financial reporting requirements under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1964* and as such may be unsuitable for another purpose.

The officers have determined that the financial report shall be prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose as only the accounting standards specifically stated in note 1 to the accounts have been applied in the preparation of this special purpose financial report.

As such, this report should not be distributed or used by parties other than Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug Council (Tas) Inc. and its members.

  
.....  
Michael J Burnett FCA  
Registered Company Auditor  
Partner, Accru+ Hobart  
Lvl 1, 18 Ross Avenue  
ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

Date: 4-9-13 .....

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