



MEDIA RELEASE

DRUG TREATMENT EXPERTS MEET IN CANBERRA

Drug treatment experts from across Australia and New Zealand will meet in Canberra over the coming week to discuss new developments in the treatment of alcohol and other drug use and dependency.

Lynne Magor-Blatch, Acting Executive Officer of the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) believes next week's conference will provide new ideas and directions in the treatment of substance use.

“This year's ATCA Conference will bring together more than 200 people to discuss what works in the treatment of substance dependency, to gain new ideas and to develop skills in working with people who have a range of problems stemming from their substance use”, Ms Magor-Blatch stated.

The ATCA is the peak body representing Therapeutic Communities in Australia and New Zealand. Therapeutic Communities provide a wholistic approach to treatment and rehabilitation, working to address the underlying causes of alcohol and other drug abuse, all of which impact on the person's ability to recover. Therapeutic Communities, such as Odyssey House in Sydney and Karralika in the ACT, have been established in Australia for more than three decades. The 40 Therapeutic Communities in Australia and New Zealand successfully treatment more than 3,000 people yearly.

“Therapeutic Communities (TCs) are unique in their treatment method, in that the community itself is the main method of treatment. While staff play a vital role in guiding treatment, there is an important emphasis on self-help and mutual help. TCs also traditionally work with people who have more entrenched and chaotic behaviours than many other treatment services”, Ms Magor-Blatch said today.

TCs are reporting an increase in people presenting with alcohol-related problems, with more than 50% of clients in TCs there because of alcohol-related issues. Amphetamines and cannabis are the next most prevalent drugs, often resulting in significant mental health problems.

For more information contact:
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ATCA Members & Affiliates.

Australian Capital Territory:

- Salvation Army Bridge Programme: Canberra Recovery Services
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT: Karralika
- Ted Noffs Foundation

New South Wales:

- The Buttery, Bangalow
- Kamira Farm, North Wyong
- The Lyndon Community, Canowindra
- Ngara Nura Therapeutic Program, Long Bay Correctional Centre
- Odyssey House McGrath Foundation, Liverpool
- The Peppers, Wagga Wagga
- The Salvation Army Recovery Service Centre, Surry Hills
- The Salvation Army Recovery Services Central Coast (SELAH)
- The Salvation Army Recovery Services Berkeley Vale and Blue Mountains
- Ted Noffs Foundation, Randwick
- Wesley Rehabilitation Services, Miller
- WHOS, Strawberry Hills;
- Wollongong Crisis Centre.

Queensland:

- Gold Coast Drug Council - Mirikai, Burleigh
- Goldbridge, Southport
- Logan House – ADFQ, Chambers Flats
- The Salvation Army Recovery Services, Townsville
- The Salvation Army Rehabilitation Service Centre – Moonya, Red Hill;
- WHOS Najara, Nambour
- Teen Challenge Care Qld. (Affiliate).

Victoria:

- Odyssey House, Lower Plenty
- The Salvation Army, The Basin The Windana Society, St. Kilda
- YSAS, Fitzroy.

Northern Territory:

- Banyan House, Darwin
- Drug and Alcohol Services Association, Alice Springs (DASA).

South Australia:

- The Woolshed, Ashbourne
- Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide Inc.

Western Australia:

- Cyrenian House - WA (Council on Addiction), Northbridge
- Palmerston Association, Northbridge
- Serenity Lodge, Rockingham

Tasmania:

- City Mission Launceston

New Zealand:

- Care NZ, Wellington
- Higher Ground Drug Rehabilitation Trust Te Atatu Peninsula, Waitakere City
- Odyssey House Trust, Christchurch Odyssey House Trust Inc., Auckland