

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALASIAN THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION

14 – 18 October 2013
Mercure Gold Coast

Register now!

ATCA 2013 Building Communities



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS EXTENDED UNTIL MONDAY 19 AUGUST!

Keynote speaker and international guest, **Rowdy Yates**, will talk on *Precious Inheritance: the enduring legacy of the therapeutic community and its role and value in a changing world.*



The ATCA Conference is now only 10 weeks away and the Conference Organising Committee, led by Mitchell Giles, has brought together a fabulous program. The full conference details can be found on the ATCA website – simply log on to www.atca.com.au and click onto the conference link to be taken to the conference website.

It is over fifty years since the establishment of the first drug-free therapeutic community. Whether by design or default, the therapeutic community for the treatment of addiction in Europe and Australasia was built upon earlier experiments in radical psychiatry and in the treatment and care of troubled and troubling youth.

This year's theme, *Building Communities*, invites and challenges us to engage in a wide ranging dialogue around the phenomenon of community – one that courageously explores the options and implications of moving beyond a restricted and limiting conceptualization of the term.

Rowdy's paper considers the early experiments in educational and correctional management of difficult children and the ground-breaking work of such radical psychiatrists as Maxwell Jones, R. D. Laing and Bertram Mandelbrote and the adoption of the basic principles of their work in the birth of the drug-free therapeutic community.

In addition to showcasing an impressive line-up of national and international speakers, *Building Communities* will provide opportunities for networking, peer support and professional development through conference sessions and short workshops during the conference and a day of professional development opportunities on Friday following the conference.

Much has changed in the past 50 years and the therapeutic community finds itself in a dangerous and often hostile environment. This paper explores the future role of the therapeutic community as the 'go-to' intervention for the most difficult presentations and a senior partner in the new recovery movement. In order to survive in the current climate, the therapeutic community must be strong enough to revisit and rejuvenate its early passion; bold enough to integrate new ideas and approaches without undermining the core model;

If you haven't yet booked – get your registrations in fast! The Early Bird deadline has been extended, but this is an opportunity not to be missed!

and brave enough to reject those which cannot be integrated.



David Best, Associate Professor of Addiction Studies at Monash University and Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, will focus on *Social Connections and Identity Transitions*, while **Kate Carnell**,

Chief Executive Officer of *beyondblue*, will bring to the conference a discussion on ways in which we might increase understanding and decrease the stigma that is sometimes associated with depression and anxiety, thereby delivering better outcomes for those who experience these conditions, and their families.

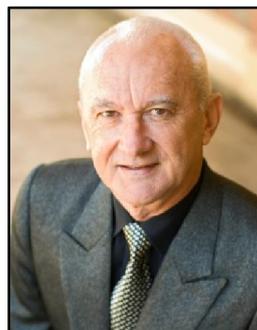


She will bring to the conference experience of working across the health sector, and provide us with thoughts and direction on working in partnership with clients with comorbidities.

The program is now on the ATCA website, along with the registration form. Note that this year the dinner is included in the cost of registration, which therefore represents a decrease on last year's registration fee of \$600 with dinner included. Registering for the entire conference provides entry to the Welcome Celebration, the Awards Dinner and the bus tours on Monday to TCs on the Gold Coast (Goldbridge, Mirikai and Fairhaven) and Brisbane (Logan House and Moonya). Please indicate which tour you would like to be included on at the time of registration.

Professional Development Workshops Announced to follow ATCA Conference

Three professional development workshops have been announced and will take place on Friday 18 October. **Bec Davey and Barry Evans** will present on the **ATCA Standard: Reviewer Training**. The ATCA Standard is in the final stages of certification by the Joint



Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ). This provides two opportunities for ATCA members:

1. To undertake a peer review as a separate process to accreditation as a quality assurance tool.
2. To utilise the ATCA

Standard as part of an accreditation framework. This will mean undertaking a service review through a Certified Assessment Body (CAB), which is licensed to apply the ATCA Standard to the residential component of the organisation's services. As the ATCA will retain the licence of the ATCA Standard, only ATCA members who are certified will be engaged by external CABs as part of an accreditation review team.

This workshop will offer accredited training in the application of the ATCA Standard, providing the opportunity for engagement to review residential services in Australia and New Zealand. Workshop materials will include all the documentation required to undertake a review, including an assessment tool and detailed notes to assist in documentation of the review. Only those who become accredited under the ATCA training will have access to these materials.

Joel Porter will present on **Using Motivational Interviewing (MI) with Groups**.

MI is a widely used therapeutic approach for a range of mental health,



behavioural health, and substance abuse issues. This interactive workshop will provide an overview of using MI in a group counseling format. Various issues and strategies will be explored relating to adapting MI to groups, including design and implementation issues as well as tips for group leadership. The four phases of MI will be explored, and each phase practiced.

This workshop will assist participants to:

- Develop a working knowledge of MI concepts and practices
- Understand the key issues in therapeutic groups

- Understand group practice of MI compared to individual practice
- Be aware of the range of MI groups design options
- Understand the four phases of MI groups
- Be aware of the various practice exercises used in MI groups
- Experience/observe MI groups in action

Lynne Magor-Blatch is offering a workshop applicable for new staff to the TC, as well as more experienced staff who are wanting a 'refresher' in the TC model. The workshop will include:



- The evolution of the TC – where are we now?
- How residents change in the TC – use of therapeutic tools, work as therapy, achieving the balance in the program
- Peer and interpersonal relationships
- Promoting healthy relationships
- Staff roles in the TC and contemporary practice regarding staff as rational authority, role modelling

The workshop will also include practice activities, and involve the use of case studies to roleplay therapeutic sessions, with an emphasis on use in therapeutic group counselling.

The cost of each of these full day workshops is \$185.00. If you have already registered for the conference and would now like to add in a workshop, bookings are welcome. If you have not yet registered for the conference, please add this to your booking when you send through your registration.

**REVIEW OF THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES SECTOR
COMMUNIQUÉ No. 1 - 29 JULY 2013**

Following the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund and Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program funding rounds that were finalised in early 2012, the former Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, requested that the Department of Health and Ageing undertake a review of the drug and alcohol prevention and treatment services sector.

The department conducted an open tender process to engage a consultant to undertake the review, with a team from the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) at the University of New South Wales, headed by Professor Alison Ritter, being the successful tenderer.

An Advisory Committee has been established to provide expert advice to government regarding the review. The list of members of the Advisory Committee, and their area of representation, is attached.

The Advisory Committee met face-to-face for the first time in Canberra on 23 July 2013. Its role is to:

- contribute expert knowledge and advice to the review;
- provide advice on existing and emerging issues in relation to the alcohol and other drug treatment sector; and
- facilitate stakeholder engagement and partnerships within the alcohol and other drug sector.

At the meeting Professor Ritter outlined the proposed project plan including the planned methodology, communication strategy and consultation strategy. The Advisory Committee considered the project plan in depth and offered constructive comments and suggestions. Critically, the project methodology was endorsed by the Advisory Committee. Work on the Review will now get underway in earnest.

The Review aims to achieve:

- clarity as to the range of services currently funded by governments, their distribution and the demographic groups targeted by these services;
- a common understanding amongst governments and the sector of current and future service needs and where there may be service gaps, either in relation to service type, geographic area and/or demographic groups;
- clarity as to the type and timing of drug and alcohol funding activities undertaken by governments; and
- the development of a resource/tools to help focus future government funding activities to ensure existing levels of resources (and any growth funding) are used as efficiently and effectively as possible to deliver quality, sustainable drug and alcohol services that

respond to the needs of individuals, families and communities.

The Review Advisory Committee was also briefed on three associated projects commissioned by the department which will inform the Review process and outcomes. These projects are the:

- *Quality Framework for Australian Government funded drug and alcohol treatment services*, led by Professor Dan Lubman at Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre. The quality framework aims to complement work completed or currently underway by governments within the drug and alcohol treatment services sector to better understand and improve service quality and inform future planning needs.

This team includes a number of consultants who will work with the group, and includes Lynne Magor-Blatch and Stefan Gruenert from Odyssey House, as well as Karen Casey and Steve Allsop from WA and others.

- *Patient Pathways* project led initially by Dr Lynda Berends, but now Professor Dan Lubman at Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre. This project documents the current policy context, needs, investment, service types, strengths and challenges of current specialist alcohol and other drug systems in Australia; describes patient journeys through alcohol and other drug treatment, hospital admissions, emergency department contacts, and contacts with the broader social services and legal sector; and describes interventions and linkages between specialist alcohol and other drug systems and primary/community care.
- *National Drug and Alcohol Mapping Project* led initially by Dr Jade Sheen and now Dr Alyse Miller at Monash University, which aims to map drug and alcohol services throughout Australia in accordance with geographical location, referral pathways and treatment services offered. This work will result in a webpage and a smartphone application aimed particularly at consumers, carers and clinicians.

The Advisory Committee acknowledged the high level of sectoral interest in the progress of the Review and is committed to regular and open communications. A

regular communiqué will be prepared following each meeting; this is the first Review communiqué. There will also be a monthly communication to update the sector on the progress of the review.

Membership of the Review Advisory Committee

Membership	Representative
Chair	
First Assistant Secretary, Mental Health and Drug Treatment Division Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing	Sue Campion
MHDAPC representation	
Western Australia	Neil Guard
New South Wales	David McGrath
Sector representation	
Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association	A/Professor Lynne Magor-Blatch
National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee	Scott Wilson
Australian National Council on Drugs	Gino Vumbaca
Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia	David Templeman
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre	Professor Mike Farrell
Australian Medicare Local Alliance	Renee Williams
State and territory peak body representation	
Queensland	Rebecca MacBean
Tasmania	Jann Smith
Consumer representation	
Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)	Annie Madden
Consumer Health Forum of Australia	Jeff Gavin
Homelessness representative nominated by the PM's Council on Homelessness	Ian Carter
Clinical representation	
Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine	A/ Professor Nick Lintzeris
Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia	Jennifer Harland

The Advisory Committee is scheduled to next meet via teleconference in September 2013 to be updated by the project team on the progress of data collection

activities. The Committee will meet face-to-face in early December to consider the first of the working papers developed by the project team.

Once again, it is gratifying to see the ATCA included as a member of the Review Advisory Committee, and it will certainly be our aim to represent the concerns of all our members, our TCs and other services, residents in treatment and families.

The ATCA Conference will provide an opportunity to hear more on the review process, when John Shevlin will present an update on all projects, and engage delegates in a discussion with the review consultants, and with David Best in relation to the Quality Assurance Project. These presentations and consultations form part of the first day 'big picture' program, and we invite all members to take advantage of the opportunity to engage in the consultation process and to bring your thoughts, concerns and suggestions to the discussion.

Any enquiries may be directed to the AOD Review Advisory Committee secretariat at: SMTP@health.gov.au.

ATCA Awards

2013 ATCA AWARDS – NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

INFORMATION AVAILABLE NOW ON THE ATCA WEBSITE –

[CLICK 'AWARDS'](#)

3 categories – Significant Contribution – Individual, Significant Contribution – Program or Intervention, and ATCA Recognition Award.

It is important that we recognise the valuable work being carried out by our members. Don't miss the opportunity to nominate your staff, programs and interventions for an ATCA Award. This includes Recognition Awards for staff who have given 10 years service to the TC movement, as well as individuals who have made a significant contribution over a considerable period of time, and programs and interventions that have also made a significant contribution to the TC movement, and the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Nominations close 2 September 2013!

ATCA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the ATCA will take place during the 2013 conference at the Mercure Hotel on Tuesday 16 October. Nominations will be called for four positions, and information will be distributed to members shortly. The AGM will receive the Annual Report of the Association – and we will therefore be calling very soon on our members to provide information on your last year's activities for inclusion in the report.

Members are also reminded that annual membership fees are now due. Thank you to members who have already paid, receipts and certificates of membership will be sent by mail.

It is fantastic to see so many having elected to take up the subscription to the International Journal of Therapeutic Communities. This special offer represents a tremendous savings on the IJTC subscription – and with a number of special editions in the development – the first addressing families, young people and children, and the second focusing on prison-based TCs, we are looking forward to the inclusion of articles from Australia and New Zealand.

TC training



As noted previously, we are currently working in conjunction with Matua Raki, the New Zealand National Addiction Workforce Development group in a project funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Health to develop TC training. The New Zealand survey has now been distributed and during this week the Australian survey will also be distributed.

CEOs and Managers – please ensure this survey is distributed to all staff as it is important we gain as much information as possible to pitch the training programs at the right level.

There are a number of possibilities – including both accredited and non-accredited training, and we would hope to work with the Registered Training Organisations amongst our TC members to roll out the TC training package.

It is likely that the package will comprise both theoretical and practical elements, including placements in a range of TCs – adult, youth and prison-based TCs, together with those working with particular populations – parents with children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and people with co-occurring disorders.



As many will be aware, in some of our jurisdictions (Victoria and ACT currently) minimum qualifications in Certificate IV are now required to gain entry into work in the AOD field. While in other jurisdictions this may not yet be a requirement, it is nevertheless recommended. One option may be to add the TC specialty to the Certificate IV and Diploma courses, so that those working in a TC would do the compulsory core subjects, and then the TC component as a 'block' – in the same way as working in withdrawal and NSPs, mental health, and working with diverse clients is currently offered as separate 'blocks' to the core subjects.

Developing the TC component in this way would also allow us some flexibility in delivery, so that those with other qualifications (including degree courses) would be able to undertake just these aspects (together with the four key AOD competencies if required).

In New Zealand there are also Bachelor-degree level courses in AOD, while in Australia university-based studies in AOD and Mental Health are generally at a Graduate Certificate and post-graduate level. The possibility of developing a university-level course will also be canvassed through the survey.

The NZ Ministry of Health has funded this project, which follows a meeting some time ago that Lynne attended along with Stuart Anderson (who was then CEO of Higher Ground) with NZ Associate Minister of Health, Peter Dunne.

Once again – an exciting development for TCs, and one which the ATCA Board is keen to develop.

ATCA Standard

The ATCA Standard project is now drawing to an exciting conclusion with the Standard in the final certifying stages with JAS-ANZ. The ATCA Standard will then become available for TCs wishing to apply it through an accreditation process with a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB). It could then be undertaken in conjunction with the more generic ISO (International Organization for Standardization) Management Systems audit, meaning an organisation could have all elements of their entire business reviewed at the one time. Additionally, the ATCA will continue to apply the ATCA Standard in its shortened form (review of the essential elements of the TC) as a peer review process.

Importantly, the ATCA Standard has also been developed as a two-tier approach, and is therefore applicable to both TC and other residential rehabilitation programs. What this means in practice, is there are two proposed levels of accreditation under the Standard.

The first is that of a Residential Rehabilitation service and the second, as a Therapeutic Community. To achieve this status, a greater number of elements are required.

As ATCA will retain ownership over the ATCA Standard and maintain the training and accreditation process of reviewers who will be part of any CAB's team, we are offering a workshop for reviewers on Friday 18 October at the conclusion of the ATCA Conference. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer either through the peer review process or as part of a CAB's review team, you MUST have completed the ATCA training in order to be eligible as a Review Team Member.

Please register for this workshop. Although other opportunities will be offered in the future, these will only be offered as new reviewers are required to fulfill the demands of accreditation.

With the work being undertaken by DoHA on the Quality Framework, our work in this area is tremendously important. Thank you for your support.