



The ATCA Conference Advisory Committee and the ATCA Board are excited to announce the dates and venue for this year's ATCA Conference!

After a long break – we are returning to Adelaide. The conference will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in the heart of Adelaide, and will commence with site visits on **Monday 28th October**. These will be followed with conference sessions on **Tuesday 29th – Thursday 31st October**. This year's theme, **TCs 2019: The Future is Today**, invites us to reflect on the past and the current models, while looking forward to the future – with new models and innovations.

Wednesday 30th October will provide delegates with a special opportunity to **Focus on Restorative Practices**, with presentations from keynote speakers working with clients within the justice system and in partnership to provide options that provide clients and participants with the chance of restoring hope.

Many of our ATCA members are involved with the justice system – managing therapeutic communities within prisons (Solaris at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), Canberra; Wandoo Prison, WA and partnership programs with Odyssey in Auckland and Christchurch, and Te Utuhina Manaakitanga Trust in Rotorua, New Zealand). Higher Ground and Odyssey in Auckland are also in partnership with the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Courts (Waitakere District Court and Auckland District Court) in New Zealand.

Many TCs are also working with very successfully with diversionary programs.

Keynote Speakers and Presenters

The Conference Advisory Committee, together with conference organiser, Conference Online, is developing an exciting program over the four days.

The following are now confirmed keynote speakers and presenters:



Naya Arbiter

Naya Arbiter began her work at Amity (USA) in 1981 and has been responsible for the total transformation of this organisation and its recognition nationally and internationally as one of the most innovative and effective. She has developed restorative paradigms for those marginalised through addiction, poverty, racism, sexism, trauma, and violence. She has been recognised for the development of pro-social strategies for people that represent populations that have confounded the mainstream; her efforts in prisons have evidenced the highest recidivism reduction with the most criminogenic population ever studied.

Naya has authored 14 volumes of TC curriculum, which foster personal growth, emotional literacy, and social responsibility. She has served on the Inter-American Commission for Drug Policy; Vice-President of Therapeutic Communities of America; Chair of the Standards and Goals Committee of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities; and she has served on numerous scientific committee

advisory boards including that of the National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study (NTIES). Naya was also chosen as one of the conferees for the White House Conference for a Drug Free America by President Regan. In 2013 Naya was the second American and the first woman to receive the prestigious Acknowledgment Award of the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities, given to those recognised to have made the greatest contribution to the ongoing development of the therapeutic community methodology. Naya is currently the Vice-President of Services for Amity Foundation.

A native New Yorker, Naya Arbiter spent her adolescence between New York, Bolivia, and Mexico. She moved to the American Southwest and became involved in using and smuggling drugs over the Mexican/ Arizona border. Arrested in Mexico and incarcerated, but released before her 18th birthday, she was given a well-constructed chance by a courageous probation officer, who arranged for her to go to the first American TC (Synanon). Her life's work has been to construct chances for those in seemingly impossible situations. She lives in Arizona with her husband of 41 years, three cats, three dogs, three parrots, and hope.



Rod Mullen

Rod Mullen began his work in therapeutic communities in 1967, when he was a non-resident member of Synanon, shortly after graduating from the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, he

was involved in civil rights and anti-war activities and was arrested in the Free Speech Movement.

In 1968 he moved into Synanon, serving over the next twelve years in a variety of positions—Director of several of Synanon's facilities in California, as well as its in-house school. He joined his wife, Naya Arbiter, at Amity in 1982, and together they built what had been a small, troubled non-profit organisation into one respected both nationally and internationally.

Rod served as Chief Executive Officer for thirty-four years and is currently serving as Amity's President. He is focused on leadership development, training, and modelling a large teaching and therapeutic community in which all employees are deeply committed and involved in the community, no

matter what their jobs. He currently resides in Tucson, Arizona.



Professor Rick Sarre

Rick Sarre is Professor and Dean of Law in the School of Law, University of South Australia, having taught law and criminology in four countries for over thirty years. He has degrees in law

and criminology from Adelaide, Toronto, and Canberra, and an honorary doctorate from Umeå University, Sweden. He is a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, and sits on the management committee of Restorative Practices International (South Australia).



Rāwiri Pene

Matua Rāwiri Pene, (Ngā Puhi, Tainui) is the AODT Courts' Pou Oranga (the Courts' tikanga cultural adviser and recovery role model – an innovation of the AODT Courts in Aotearoa). Rā brings his

extensive lived experience of recovery with his knowledge of Te Reo Māori me ona Tikanga to the role. He has worked in the addiction field as a clinical and cultural facilitator, practitioner and adviser for many years. Currently Rā also works for Higher Ground/Papa Taumata in Te Atatu, Auckland.



Leigh Garrett

Leigh Garrett is the Chief Executive Officer of OARS Community Transitions and the Centre for Restorative Justice. Leigh commenced work with OARS SA in January 1994. OARS is well known for its work in providing

homelessness support, advocacy, counselling, and drug and alcohol treatment for offenders, those at risk of offending, and their families. In 2010 the new business name OARS Community Transitions was created, reflecting the importance of transition points in people's lives and the risks associated with this.

In 1997 Leigh established the Centre for Restorative Justice in SA. The Centre works in courts, schools and businesses to assist in repairing the harm associated with crime and poor behaviour and bullying in schools and workplaces. Leigh also

served as Deputy Chair of the Ministerial Housing Advisory Committee to the South Australian Government.



Gino Vumbaca

Gino Vumbaca is the President and Co-Founder of Harm Reduction Australia. He has extensive experience in the HIV/ AIDS and drug and alcohol fields both in Australia and internationally. He is a Churchill Fellow, has completed a Social Work degree and a Master of Business Administration at the University of Sydney and is a qualified Company Director.

Gino is the former Executive Director of the Australian National Council on Drugs – a position he held for over 15 years – and which provided advice directly to the offices of the previous 4 Australian Prime Ministers, as well as numerous Ministers and senior officials.

Previously Gino worked as the Manager of HIV/AIDS and related services with the NSW Department of Corrective Services, in a variety of drug and alcohol centres as a counsellor and was responsible for coordinating the establishment of the NSW network of needle and syringe exchange programs for the NSW Health Department. He also was involved in the establishment of Australia's first needle and syringe program.

Gino also continues to provide advice on prisons, HIV and drug issues for international organisations such as the United Nations & World Health Organisation. He is also a Director of Justice Reinvestment NSW and President of the largest non-government drug and alcohol organisation in Macau SAR – ARTM.

We have also invited presenters from:

- The Family Drug Treatment Court, Victoria
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS)
- Drug Court NSW
- Nunga Court SA

More details to follow as we confirm further speakers!

Program Outline

This year's conference program is a departure from the usual – and promises to be stimulating, inspiring and educational. It includes visits to all of our SA member services – including a day trip to Port Augusta to visit ADAC's *Footsteps – Road to Recovery* program.

Monday 28 October

Site visits to ATCA member services (delegates choose 1 of 3 tours):

1. The Woolshed and Teen Challenge;
2. Uniting Communities and ADAC; and
3. Footsteps – Road to Recovery (Port Augusta)

Tuesday 29 October

- Conference sessions begin
- Chair's reception

Wednesday 30 October

- **A Focus on Restorative Practices** – This day will focus on the ways in which we work with clients within the criminal justice system – TCs in prison, Drug Courts in Australia and New Zealand, Circle Sentencing and diversionary programs – both in sentencing and post release.
- ATCA Awards Dinner

Thursday 31 October

- Conference sessions continue
- Closing ceremony

Friday 1 November

- Skills-based workshops

The conference website, which will include registration, will go live in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please start your planning process – this will be a fantastic professional development and networking event – we look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide!

The **Call for Abstracts** is now out with a submission date of **Monday 26th August 2019**. This year we will be breaking away from some of the usual presentations – with more audience participation – even at times jumping in with the presenters to provide input to the discussion.

The **Call for Abstracts** follows – or you can submit directly on line at –
https://www.conferenceonline.com/abstract/alogin/?clear=1&warehouse_id=1485

Start planning now to meet in Adelaide on 28 October 2019!



Call for Abstracts!

The 2019 Conference Advisory Committee invites the submission of abstracts for Oral Presentations, Posters, Seminars, Yarning Circles and Table Top Presentations for this year's conference:
ATCA 2019: The Future is Today

The closing date for all submissions is Monday 26th August 2019.

ATCA recognises that not all innovation comes from research but from the need to tackle a persistent problem, using creativity, imagination and ingenuity. If you have a story, message, innovation or anecdote to share, then we strongly encourage and invite you to share your work and ideas with us.

Conference Themes include:

- **Treatment practice:** Partnerships for new ideas and new initiatives
- **Cultural partnerships:** working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pasifika peoples
- **Family and Child Aware Practice:** Whilst the AOD sector is well aware of the impact of co-occurring issues on clients – these have traditionally been perceived through interventions focussed on the individual. Presentations will highlight the importance of relationships between client and family members to treatment outcomes, and the health and wellbeing of the family, and particularly children
- **Continuing care:** Re-thinking community partnerships beyond the walls of residential treatment
- **The Justice System:** Working collaboratively with our partners in the justice system, with a special focus on Restorative Practices, Drug Court and TCs in Prisons
- **Stigma and Discrimination:** Stigma and discrimination can change the way people think of themselves. Presentations will focus on creative, innovative and successful ways you have worked to address these issues for people in your services – including those with disabilities

All submissions will undergo blind review by reviewers appointed by the Conference Advisory Committee.

Applications will be assessed on the following criteria:

- The relevance of the abstract to the themes
- The validity of the evidence on which the presentation is based
- The implications for practitioners implementing the findings
- The relevance of innovative programs to other practitioners in the field.

Presenters are required to register for the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Conference.

Presentation Types:

Oral Presentation: These will take place in chaired sessions and are 15 minutes in length plus 5 minutes question time.

Poster display: poster presentations are visual displays used to communicate a message i.e. research findings, program highlights, etc. Poster presenters will be provided with maximum coverage through dedicated poster sessions during which time presenters are required to stand by their posters. This provides an intimate forum for the exchange of information by allowing more personal discussion between presenter and audience. Posters may be in a traditional format, or as a sort powerpoint presentation on a continuous loop on the presenter's own laptop.

Seminar: Several presenters are encouraged to submit a group of abstracts on a specific topic and share a 90-minute presentation time as they explore the topic in depth. These sessions will be led by a facilitator.

Yarning Circle: The Circle will be permanently accessible as a Cultural Space as well as having times for organised sessions during the conference gathering. These sessions will be led by a main presenter, or group of presenters, and be approximately one hour in duration with the opportunity for multiple speakers on given themes.

Yarning is an informal conversation that is culturally friendly and recognised by Aboriginal people as meaning to talk about something, someone or provide and receive information (Dawn Bessarab, 2012). In our conference context, it is a place where all people can have a casual or deep conversation about something or anything. The truth is always spoken in a yarning circle. Yarning circles are designed so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute in a safe and respectful setting. Our yarning circle will have a few main speakers to lead discussion however, all attendees are encouraged to participate in the conversation if they feel comfortable.

Table Top Presentations: Participants wishing to submit an abstract for a table top presentation should read the information below regarding table tops as many people may not be familiar with this newer style of presenting which encourages and promotes greater networking opportunities (see over page).

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS IS
Monday 26th August 2019, using the attached Abstract form.**

Confirmation of submission:

Immediately following successful submission, confirmation will be sent via email.

Abstract review notification:

Abstract review notification, program scheduling and allocated presentation format will be communicated to the corresponding authors email address by Monday 30th September 2019.

Please note: the nominated lead author will be the person with whom we communicate the outcome, and they should in turn distribute information to any/all co-presenters.

Information about Table Top Presentations

Description

Table tops act as a pathway for networking and sharing of information directly with delegates in an interactive setting. Table Tops involve multiple presenters, with each presenter at a round table of up to 9 participants.

Presentations will be a total of 10 minutes' duration, with five minutes to present, and five minutes for extension, adaptation or discussion of the presentation.

How it works

The room will hold up to 10 tables each with a table number allocated. Each table will have seats for up to 9 delegates and 1 speaker. Each speaker will sit at a seat marked with a 'reserved for table top speaker' sign. There will be a maximum of 10 presenters in each session.

The initial table you sit at is based on the number allocated by your name in the Conference Program. Each presentation has been allocated 10 minutes. It is up to you how you wish to divide your 10 minutes between presenting and discussion time. Once your 10 minutes is up, music will start playing and you will need to move to the next table number then repeat your presentation.

If you are located on Table 10, you move to Table 1 and continue. Presenters will present approximately 6 to 7 times during a session. Only 1 speaker is able to present a table top. Dual presenters are not permitted.

What to Bring

What you bring with you needs to be easily moved from table to table in a short amount of time. We encourage all presenters to provide visual aids such as folders, promotional material, handouts etc.

If you are using an electronic device, it will need to be cable free and have full charge. Power points will not be available to charge devices before, during or after the session. No cabling can be used during the session for the safety of presenters and delegates.

It is recommended that business cards are readily made available by speakers for delegates. Remember that your presentation should be short, engaging and interactive.



Please return to craig@conferenceonline.com.au

Please print or type all information. You can also submit directly on line at:
https://www.conferenceonline.com/abstract/alogin/?clear=1&warehouse_id=1485

Submissions must be received by
Monday 26th August 2019.

TITLE OF PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION TYPE

Oral Presentation

 Poster

 Seminar
 Table Top Presentation

 Yarning Circle

CONFERENCE THEME

AUTHORS and PRESENTERS

Name		Organisation
1		
2		
3		
4		
Contact details of Lead Author		
Name		Email

ABSTRACT (Maximum 250 words)

BIOGRAPHY (100 words)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (e.g., Maximum numbers, room set-up, equipment etc.)