

STOP PRESS! CHANGE OF DATES FOR 2011 SYMPOSIUM & AGM. THE ATCA TRAINING AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM WILL NOW BE HELD IN SYDNEY AT THE SALVATION ARMY ELIZABETH STREET ON TUESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER! MARK IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

July 2011



ATCA Conference: Fremantle

The 2011 ATCA Conference, held in Fremantle from 30th May to 3rd June, has been hailed a fantastic success by its 297 attendees.

Delegates were extremely complimentary on most aspects of the conference and workshops which followed, including the venue, the quality of presentations and the information and content presented. It was noted on many occasions that the Organising Committee and ATCA should be very pleased (and proud!) of the results achieved in 2011. There were also a number of valuable comments which will help us to improve in future years, and the Board and Organising Committee are grateful for the constructive criticism which can only help us to improve.



Barry Evans, Justin Lee (CareNZ), Jackie Long (Odyssey, Auckland) and Caroline Henson (Cyrenian House) at the Welcome Celebration

The following data has been compiled from three separate delegate satisfaction questionnaires. All delegates were asked to fill these out and return them at the end of the conference.

Congratulations to everyone involved, on what was an extremely successful and ground breaking ATCA Conference.

"Fantastic Event! The ATCA conferences are a highlight of the year, inspirational and re-energising."

More valuable and practical than 95% of our staff training. The ATCA is representing the TC and wider A&OD sector at government level in a manner we can be proud of and would all be poorer without."

Barry Evans and Lynne Magor-Blatch are my heroes! Many thanks to Carol Daws and the ATCA Organising Committee, and my heartfelt thanks to the residents and staff of Cyrenian House, Serenity Lodge and Palmerston Farm for their part in organising and holding the conference and welcoming us so openly and warmly on the site visits. Wonderful programs!"

The following data has been compiled from 36 conference satisfaction questionnaires.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCESS

30 VERY SATISFIED

2 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

"Would have been good to be tagged before the site visits and the meet and greet drinks so that everyone knew who everyone was."

"A commentary on the bus on where we were passing through - even stuff to do on bus to get to know others."

2 NEUTRAL

1 NO ANSWER

1 VERY DISSATISFIED

There was no comment as to us why.

CONFERENCE CONTENT

28 VERY SATISFIED

"Good diversity of speakers/topics."

"Liked the increased cultural component."

6 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

"Not sure of the benefit of the 20min sessions. Quite disruptive people coming and going & 20 min does not give much time for presentation and question and answering time."

2 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED

"Some more practical sessions on how to overcome barriers to treatment within a TC specifically would have been great".

CONFERENCE QUALITY

28 VERY SATISFIED

"A very well organised and engaging conference. Informative and thought provoking."

6 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

1 NO ANSWER

1 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED

"Times between presentations was not long enough."

CONFERENCE VENUE

27 VERY SATISFIED

"Accommodation and conference venue were superb."

8 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

"Perhaps consider less expensive venue to enable more to attend."

1 VERY DISSATISFIED

"Venue workers unfriendly at night desk."

CONFERENCE FOOD/BEVERAGES

21 VERY SATISFIED

11 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

"Suggestion - alcoholic beverage be purchased by those wishing alcohol. As many participants are TC workers and recovering D&A users, it is not appropriate in this setting. It might keep costs down too."

"There was no gluten free food @morning or afternoon tea." "Too many sweets."

1 NEUTRAL

3 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED

"The lunches provided were very average and should have been of a high quality given the venue."

WELCOME CELEBRATION

20 VERY SATISFIED

"Welcome to the country is the nicest we have ever heard."

5 SOMEWHAT SATISFIED

8 NEUTRAL

2 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED

1 VERY DISSATISFIED

"As a non drinker working in a field where we should be setting an example, I continue to find it insulting to have such a flow of alcohol at these conferences."

CONFERENCE DINNER DANCE

13 VERY SATISFIED

"As usual - the best conference that I attend each year!"

8 SOMEWHAT SATISFIELD

"Difficult to get a soft drink @pre-conference dinner."

"Dinner was bit disappointing food wise, but great evening."

13 DIDN'T ATTEND/NEUTRAL

2 SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED

"I found it alarming that, at a D&A conference, alcohol was/appeared to be a major component."

EO's note:

The concerns in relation to the serving of alcohol raised by some of the delegates are noted. While the organisers arranged for a 'drinks on consumption' account, and minimised the serving of alcohol, a fact which was reflected in the final account, we also noted that the arranged non-alcoholic drinks were not initially provided by the venue.

The ATCA upholds a principle of harm minimisation and, acknowledging that many of our members do not drink alcohol, sought to ensure both the responsible serving of alcohol and the availability of non-alcoholic beverages at both the Welcome Celebration and the Dinner. We were also concerned that this was not undertaken as originally planned, and apologise to delegates.

It was also unfortunate that the gluten free morning and afternoon teas, which were provided, were not clearly marked and that vegetarian meals, again ordered by the Conference Organisers, were not provided to all who requested these.



Branka Trajovski (Toora Women Inc), Angie Keir, Dawn Bainbridge, Pat Saul and Melissa Doran from Karralika Programs at the Dinner

"High regard and in awe of what the committee arranged and how 'full' the programme was.

Set the standard. Was an exceptional week, exhausting but thought provoking. A fitting way to celebrate 25 years.

Excellent planning and then operating the plan to such a high level. Well done. I'd come back to Fremantle and Conference arranged by this team."



Ted Wilkes, Conference Dinner speaker, playing the didgeridoo

The following is information gathered from a further 69 Delegate Satisfaction Questionnaires

SITE VISITS

"The tours to local TCs were a highlight."

"The site visits were the best!"

"The site visit to TCs was great - the TC residents were wonderful and staff welcoming. The bus however, was very old, uncomfortable and I felt unsafe in an old school bus that the windows of the driver frosted up and the windows leaked!"

"Very much appreciated the site visits."

"Involvement of residents from Cyrenian house/Serenity Lodge was a highlight of the conference for me."

"Thank you for tour - wonderful. The residents and staff deserve acknowledgement."

"The guided tour of the three residential services was excellent. Cyrenian House and Saranna Program is great."

DELEGATE SATISFACTION QUESTIONNAIRE THE THREE MOST BENEFICIAL SESSIONS

The following is a summation of the most commented on/popular sessions. There is a possible 10 points in each category.

Ken Minkoff 28 Delegates returned Ken as one of their favourite 3.

Content	254/280
Presentation	260/280
Speaker	250/280
Relevance	254/280
Learning Opportunity	245/280

Christie Cline 15 Delegates returned Chris as one of their favourite 3.

Content	129/150
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Presentation	140/150
Speaker	139/150
Relevance	134/150
Learning Opportunity	125/150

Father and Son Roundtable 9 Delegates returned this discussion as one of their favourite 3.

Content	84/90
Presentation	88/90
Speaker	84/90
Relevance	78/90
Learning Opportunity	79/90

Danny and Jonathon Ford 8 Delegates returned this plenary session as one of their favourite 3.

Content	72/80
Presentation	76/80
Speaker	76/80
Relevance	78/80
Learning Opportunity	78/80

Ken Minkoff

"Very clear and concise. Easy to follow. Motivational."

"Knowledge, translation into real responses to situations with HOPE."

"Excellent content and presentation."

"Enthusiastic, practical, reality based with positive focus on strengths."

"Simplified working with people with complex needs."

"Talking about reality from worker to client and client to worker. Brought tears to my eyes."



Christie Cline & Ken Minkoff with Palmerston CEO, Sheila McHale

Christie Cline

"Powerful story - strong message."

"Left me feeling inspired to work differently with clients."



Fathers and Sons

"Real people able to present from a real base."
 "Honest, emotive, challenging and realistic."
 "A huge round of applause and very inspirational."
 "Extremely courageous!!!"
 "The bravery, the emotion, the harsh reality and effects on families."

Danny and Jonathon Ford

"The most engaging and humorous; a solid argument from experience without needing facts and figures."
 "The awareness of Aboriginal ways of working cultural ways."



Charl Van Wyk - "engaging and concise."

"THIS CONFERENCE WAS SO GOOD WE HAD TROUBLE WAGGING TO GO SHOPPING."
 "WE HAVE LEARNT SO MUCH AND WILL UTILISE THIS TO IMPROVE OUR SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY."
 "RESTORED MY FAITH AND ENTHUSIASM"
 "POWERFUL, ENLIGHTENING AND EDUCATIONAL"
 "I REALLY ENJOYED BEING PART OF THIS CONFERENCE AND BEING INTRODUCED TO THE WONDERFUL CONCEPT OF TCs."
 "EXCELLENT CONFERENCE, THANK YOU!"

Following the conference, the following emails were received from delegates who attended the conference –

Thanks for the opportunity of attending what was one of the best conferences in my career life of over 20 years. I have been to many, and many good ones, however, for relevance and value, this one surpassed them all. Of course it helps when one can attend a conference such as this at the early stages of implementation of a new TC, ours being only eight months old.

In relation to our TC, the conference was both incredibly encouraging as to how far along the track we are, and that we have Community as Method working significantly well, and also encouraging in that some of the changes we particularly were keen to make here at TBTB – e.g., Strength based assessment and focus particularly, are in line with best practice.



Tony Trimingham, Theo Chang and Trenton Langfield, from Family Drug Support

OTHER 'SPECIAL' MENTIONS:

Lynne Magor-Blatch - "very well researched, articulate and informative." "dynamic" "quality of content in the planning/construction of data to quantify costs/time of treatment - very interesting."

Carol Daws - "humble, honest and caring speaker. Gave a great story inspiring hope into clients."

Garth Poppo - "a vision for people suffering with methadone addiction." "forward thinker."



The Cyrenian House Choir performs at the commencement of the ATCA Conference

I valued the depth of input, and the variety of options for the seminars and workshops. Training times for our staff have already been organised to being to

disseminate the training, and to plan towards the future. I recognise it may be a slow process, however very purposefully goal directed, with small steps building to bigger ones. So thanks again.

This was my first conference and I didn't mind missing out on seeing all that Fremantle had to offer, because I found out what different TC's had to offer as well as the information from the magnificent speakers. Hoping I can make the Tasmania experience!!!

Fantastic conference. Much food for thought. Big round of applause for everyone involved in organising the event, and for all the people who attended! Looking forward to the next one.

It was good to meet you and the week also provided an outstanding opportunity for professional development and networking for the 10 team members from Fresh Start who attended. Thanks to you and your team who ensured a smooth running and invaluable conference.

Yes indeed it was one of the better conferences that I have been too for many years. Keep up the good work.

Thank you for the feedback and for all the hard work you and "the team" put in to making the conference as successful as it was.

Our delegation from Odyssey House Victoria thoroughly enjoyed the conference and have come back enthused and recharged after what was a fantastic week.



Stefan Gruenert (Odyssey Vic), Mark Porter (WA Health) and Eric Allan (Odyssey Vic)

Hats off to the organising committee and all the residents and staff of the host agencies for a job well done in a marvellous exhibition of the strength of collaboration.

Thank you once again to all concerned.



The Serenity House Choir brings the conference to an emotional end

It was one of the best I have attended in all the conferences I have been going to in my many years. Thank you all

Awards for Excellence presented

Awards for Excellence in Drug Treatment were presented at the Awards Dinner in Fremantle, with three individuals and one program honored for their significant contribution and two people acknowledged for 10 years service to the therapeutic community movement.

Adrienne Gibbs has worked with Odyssey House Victoria as part of the administration team over a ten year period, undertaking a variety of roles, and particularly working with residents of Odyssey House to process Centrelink payments and to negotiate welfare concerns. She has been an asset to the organisation and is well regarded by colleagues and residents.

Kelvin Dargan commenced work with Banyan House in Darwin as a Support Worker, and has undertaken many roles over the past ten years. For the past three years he has been the Director, with responsibilities for the organisation's services. He provides advice and guidance to the Board and has been actively involved in the development of the Northern Territory's peak body and as a

mentor to staff and residents of Banyan House.



Kelvin Dargan with his certificate for 10 years service and Murray Sutton with his award for Significant Contribution to the TC Movement

The award for significant contribution by a program, service or intervention in Australasia was presented to the Saranna Women's and Children's Program, which is part of the Cyrenian House Program in Perth. The Saranna Program has been providing a unique residential program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women who are affected by alcohol and/or other drug misuse. It is tailored to meet the needs of vulnerable children, providing treatment that engages the 'whole relationship' and addresses issues most relevant to the mother/child dyad.

Individuals receiving awards for Significant Contribution to the Therapeutic Community Movement in Australasia had each worked within the drug treatment sector for many years. The award acknowledges and publicly recognises the exceptional work done by people who have worked tirelessly over a number of years to promote and develop the therapeutic community approach to treatment within the sector.

James McGregor has been at the forefront of improving quality standards in the TC sector and is an Accredited IHCA Reviewer. His commitment to continuous quality improvement has provided many benefits to Mirikai and the Gold Coast Drug Council, where he has worked for the past 15 years, improving consumer input through evaluation, promoting reflection on growth and improved strategic planning and implementing a two yearly policy revision cycle.

The second recipient of the award, Murray Sutton, first commenced work within

Therapeutic Communities in 1999 and was promoted to the position of Coordinator at Mirikai in 2005, a position he has held since that time. He is a firm proponent of 'community as method' and provides a hands-on role within the TC, which provides 40 beds for young dual diagnosis clients. He is well regarded by staff and residents, and provides a wide-ranging liaison role within the community.

The third recipient of this award, Carol Daws, has worked vigorously as a champion of the TC model since 1987, when she first commenced work as a counsellor. Since that time, she has worked in a number of senior roles and was appointed CEO of her organisation in 2002. She was instrumental in moving her service from a residential rehabilitation program to a therapeutic community in 1999 and has since played a key role at state, national and international level.



Carol Daws, who received an award for Significant Contribution, with Nona Glasson, Donna Stambulich and Shonna Grant from the Saranna Women's and Children's Program and Cyrenian House

On a personal level, since 1994 Carol has pursued academic studies as a psychologist, and is a member of the Golden Key Honour Society for Academic Achievement. In 2011 she received full registration as a Clinical Psychologist.

These awards acknowledge and publicly recognise the exceptional work done by people who have worked tirelessly over a number of years to promote and develop the therapeutic community approach to treatment within the sector, as well as the programs which are making a difference in people's lives.

TCs work with a wide range of people, including young people, parents and children. The ATCA awards particularly recognise some of the special populations with whom we work, and all members of the TC 'family' congratulate the programs and individuals who have been recognised in this way.