



Planning for the ATCA Conference in Adelaide is well underway – with an exciting program taking place.

The site visits this year will provide an opportunity for a day-long trip to Port Augusta to visit the *Footsteps – Road to Recovery* program, managed by ADAC; or to visit either The Woolshed and Teen Challenge; or ADAC and Uniting Communities. The site visits are always an important part of the conference program and will take place on Monday 28 October.

While there is no cost to attend one of the site visits, you will need to indicate your preference at the time of registration so that we know numbers for bus bookings and catering purposes.

The conference will be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in the heart of Adelaide. Following the site visits on **Monday 28th October**, conference sessions will commence on **Tuesday 29th October**. This year's theme, ***TCs 2019: The Future is Today***, invites us to reflect on the past and 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.

Conference presentations continue on **Thursday 31st October** – and on **Friday 1st November**, we will be offering skills-based workshops.

We are delighted to announce that since the last newsletter, we have confirmed further speakers and presenters.

Keynote Speakers and Presenters

Our invited keynote speakers, who will be with us for the entire conference, are Naya Arbiter and Rod Mullen, whose work with the Amity Foundation in the US will be of keen interest to all delegates.



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.

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.

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.



The program on Tuesday will also include **Gino Vumbaca**, who is the President and Co-Founder of Harm Reduction Australia. He is also a Director of Justice Reinvestment NSW, and it is in this capacity that Gino will be presenting at the conference.

His presentation will set the scene for the Wednesday’s **Focus on Restorative Practices**.

We are also calling for your oral presentations, posters, seminars, yarning circles and table top presentations, which will be included into the Tuesday and Thursday conference program. The Call for Abstracts follows this newsletter – 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.

In addition to the speakers and presenters already advertised, we can now confirm two further speakers –



Matt Wilson is the Statewide Program Manager of the Family Drug Treatment Court in Victoria. Matt has an extensive professional history of more than 20 years across the child and family welfare sector in a range of statutory, non-statutory, clinical, leadership and managerial roles. With a particular interest in addiction, Matt’s professional passion is for the delivery of innovative systemic responses to complex problems impacting

on children, parents and familial systems through driving proactive and creative practice.

The **Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC)** is the only court of its kind in Australia and has been operating within the Family Division of the Children’s Court of Victoria since 2014. Established to enable the Children’s Court of Victoria to respond in a far more effective way to the increasing prevalence and complexity of parental alcohol and drug use in child protection applications coming before the court, the FDTC has now assisted in excess of 150 parent participants.

Findings from two independent evaluations of the FDTC indicate significant advantages over traditional adversarial court approaches to the complexity of parental substance use, with demonstrably more effective, efficient and sustainable outcomes with respect to family reunification being achieved by the FDTC in this context.



Amanda Lambden has been a Solicitor and Barrister for over 20 years, specialising in criminal defence in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

Amanda graduated Law in 1996 at Flinders University and in 1997 she completed GDLP with the University of South Australia. Throughout her career, Amanda has worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and their communities. She has also spent her career working with youth and those with impaired capacity (as a result of mental impairment and addiction).

Amanda gained employment in 1998 with Katherine Regional Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (KRALIS) in the Northern Territory where she spent time working with Indigenous communities and in bush courts. From 1999 - 2000, Amanda worked for Legal Services Commission in South Australia.

Following this, she then worked as a Solicitor for Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) to November 2007, working as the Criminal Practice Manager from 2007.

Amanda then started her own practice in 2008, specialising in criminal defence. Her experience includes representation of accused persons in all

general criminal law, at all stages of proceedings; appearing before the Court of Criminal Appeal, Supreme Court, District Court, Magistrates Court and Youth Court, along with specialist courts including the Treatment Intervention Court, Nunga Court, Family Violence Court, Early Resolution Court, and Section 269 Court.

She has extensive experience representing clients from arrest to murder trials, running Aboriginal Conferences; experience in representing clients at the Parole Board of South Australia and handling complex parole issues; in representing legal aid clients, and clients with diverse social backgrounds.

In 2017 Amanda returned as Criminal Practice Director for Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement. She is currently working in this position today.

Matt and Amanda now join our other confirmed presenters for Wednesday's **Focus on Restorative Practices** –



Rick Sarre, Professor and Dean of Law in the School of Law, University of South Australia.



Matua Rāwiri Pene, (Ngā Puhi, Tainui), 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.

Leigh Garrett, Chief Executive Officer of OARS Community Transitions and the Centre for Restorative Justice in South Australia.



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

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 very soon. 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

2019 Training Courses confirmed for Melbourne and Sydney

The next round of Workforce Development training has been confirmed for Melbourne and Sydney –

commencing this month. The course fees have been held at \$962.50 inc. GST.



Odyssey House in Lower Plenty will be the venue for the first sessions of training in Melbourne on **May 29, 30, 31.**

The second round of Melbourne training will take place at Windana at Maryknoll on **July 3,4,5.**



This will provide participants with a tremendous opportunity to see two of our TCs in action.



We will also be providing training in **Sydney on July 8, 9, 10** and followed by **August 7, 8, 9.** This will take place at **WHOS Rozelle Campus.**

To apply for a place in this training please fill in the application form on Survey Monkey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/986Y5PR>

You will be asked to nominate which venue (Melbourne or Sydney) is preferred.

**For more information, please contact
Executive Officer,
Dr Lynne Magor-Blatch at atca@atca.com.au**

**#TheGlenforWomen “THE GLEN
CENTRE FOR WOMEN GETS THE
GREEN LIGHT”.....**

The people behind Australia’s most successful Aboriginal Community Controlled Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation services, ‘The Glen’, have been given “A Green Light” to open a much needed “Women” service which would be the first of its kind in NSW. In the Federal budget handed down recently, Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt MP has

announced that ‘The Glen’, based on the NSW Central Coast, will receive a total of \$9 million in funding, including \$4.5 million to build the new Women’s facility and \$1.5 million per annum for three years of operational costs.

Minister Hunt said, “The comprehensive feasibility study submitted by The Glen demonstrated a very clear need for a specific centre for women.”



Federal Member for Robertson, Lucy Wicks MP, has advocated strongly for the new service for women after developing a close relationship with the Glen Centre.

“I am beyond excited to be able to announce this incredible funding which will go such a long way towards helping women who might otherwise end up in prison or worse,” Mrs Wicks said.

The Glen is very grateful that this service is now going to be able to give women and families opportunities they would otherwise not have had. The Glen Chairperson, Coral Hennessy said, “We are very grateful for all of the support from the community, corporate and government along the way. We have been overwhelmed by the support from all walks of life and from all sides of politics.”

“The Glen is very grateful for the funding, and we now need to turn our attention to helping these women turn their lives around. This is not about ‘The Glen’, it is about the Women who need this help today. It’s about the Women who are sitting in prison, struggling at home or even on the streets dying. The money is only worth celebrating if we do good things with it. We need to start achieving outcomes for the community, and that work happens now.”



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).

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