



**CHANGE OF DATE FOR
The 2016 Australasian Therapeutic
Communities Association (ATCA)
Gathering - *"come sit together"***

***The ATCA 30th Anniversary Conference
will now take place in Melbourne from
21 – 23 November 2016***

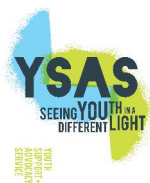
**The ATCA Gathering 2016: *"come sit together"*-
*Working together with Aboriginal health
organisations*** will bring together people from across
the alcohol and other drugs sector and will provide a
forum to highlight and foster interagency
partnerships that improve outcomes for clients,
especially Aboriginal clients. It is an important
opportunity for ATCA members and their staff to
exchange best practice and learn from one another.

This year's conference will steer away from the
traditional conference format to one of a gathering
with the theme of *"come sit together"* bringing
together *"mainstream"* alcohol and other drug
treatment and support programs and Aboriginal
health organisations that work together to bring about
positive outcomes for first nations clients, their
children, their families, their mobs and the
community.



The conference organising
committee this year is made

up of: Odyssey House Victoria, Windana, Youth Support and Assistance Service (YSAS), the Salvation



Army and for the very first time, Ngwala Willumbong Inc. VACCHO has come on board to support the development of the conference as a genuine first people's event hosted by what is referred to as a "mainstream" association.



Registrations are now open and information available on the special ATCA Events website at: www.events.atca.com.au

When you open the Events website, you will see all the conference information presented – registration fees for members and non-members, with Early Bird available until 31 August, and registration fee inclusive of the three-day conference program, including site visits and Welcome Event on Monday 21 November. This will then be followed by the conference program on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 November.



Also included in the registration fee is the James A. Pitt Oration, which this year will be delivered by Aboriginal journalist,

Mr Stan Grant, one of Australia's finest storytellers and public speakers. Registration for this event may be purchased separately for those not attending the full conference. This event will take place on Wednesday 23 November, which is the third and final day of the conference.

The Conference Dinner will take place on the evening of Tuesday 22 November, and bookings for this are separate to the registration fee. As in previous years, this is an important event in the ATCA calendar as it will include the awards ceremony. A reminder that award nominations are now open until 5 September 2016 – so please consider your nominations now – it is important that we honour and celebrate the many people who contribute to the TC movement.

The opportunity for delegates to visit some of our therapeutic communities and other services is an important part of the ATCA Conference program. This year we are offering two fantastic opportunities for delegates to visit services in Victoria. Please choose one of the options below.

Buses will depart from the Rydges Hotel on Monday morning and journey to the first of the programs listed for each tour (Windana Site visit 1; and Birribi Site visit 2). Costs for each of these is included in your registration fee, and will include bus travel, morning/afternoon teas, and lunch. You will have the opportunity to meet with staff and residents of each of these unique programs and discuss the variety of services offered.



Site visit 1
The Windana Therapeutic Community is a 40 bed residential facility located on a 40 acre property in Maryknoll, Victoria. The

program is delivered through four different phases over a period of 6-12 months. Residents of all phases live together in shared accommodation across five separate houses to support each other through the program.



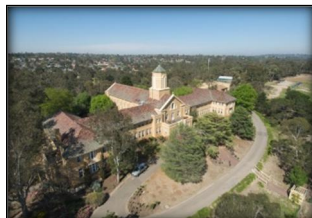
Bunjilwarra provides a 12 bed residential rehabilitation and healing service for Aboriginal young people (male and female) aged between 16

and 25 years. It is a purpose-built, statewide service situated on a 1.7 hectare site in Hastings, Victoria.

Site Visit 2



Birribi (YSAS) provides a structured, experiential environment based on therapeutic community principles for vulnerable young people managing their alcohol and drug use. Birribi is a 15-bed residential program, located in the north-east of Melbourne, providing a holistic program comprising a mix of group and individual therapy, recreational, vocational and educational activities, with an overall focus on community living and shared responsibility



Odyssey House is a 113 bed therapeutic community that integrates a 32 bed family program into its operations. Following a social psychiatric model

of recovery, the program offers a comprehensive assessment of medical, psychological, and psychiatric need and follows a balanced daily routine of maintenance/ work related activity, passive and active recreational pursuits, good nutrition and adequate rest.

Odyssey has beds allocated specifically for parents with accompanying children from birth to age twelve. Onsite child care and family sensitive practice are central to program planning.

Registrations and bookings this year will be all done on line. When you are ready to register, please click on the link shown on the ATCA Events page and you will be taken directly to *Conferences on line* to complete the registration process. You can register and pay by credit card (either individually or as a group) or by direct deposit. The payment will be receipted on booking and you will be provided with a booking reference in case you need to make any changes.

Please note the conditions of registration are as usual: **Registration Cancellations & Amendments** must be notified in writing to the ATCA Executive Officer via email to atca@atca.com.au

Cancellations or changes received before **22 October 2016** will receive a refund less 20% administration fee. Refunds (less administration fee) for cancellations received in writing after **22 October 2016** will only be made in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the ATCA Board in consultation with the Conference Organising Committee.

Substitutions: As an alternative to cancellation, your registration may be transferred to another person without incurring any penalty. The ATCA Executive Officer must be advised of the transfer in writing. Please email the name, position, phone and email address of the new delegate to atca@atca.com.au. There will be no refunds for the Conference Dinner purchased by the original delegate.

This year's conference will be a unique event and we are excited to invite you to register now through the special ATCA Events website: www.events.atca.com.au

ATCA Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

The 2016 conference offers a number of sponsorship opportunities for individuals and organisations to contribute to the work of ATCA and to recognise and support the valuable contribution of staff, volunteers and others to the work that we do. The Sponsorship Prospectus can be downloaded from www.events.atca.com.au or a copy can be provided by emailing atca@atca.com.au

This year, opportunities range from the large to the small contribution – from Platinum Sponsor to funding refreshment breaks, delegate badges and satchel inserts.

Sponsorship Packages will contain various levels of exposure and will be offered as:

For the Event	GST exclusive
Platinum	\$25,000
Gold	\$15,000
Silver	\$10,000
Bronze	\$5,000

ATCA Awards

Significant Contribution:	\$500 per award
TC Programs and Initiatives	
Significant Contribution:	\$500 per award
Individual Award	

Other Sponsorship Opportunities

Gala Dinner	\$6,000
Travel Scholarships	Available upon negotiation
Welcome Event	\$2,500
Site Visits	\$3,000
Plenary Session	\$3,000
Non-seated Lunch	\$3,000
Refreshment Break	\$2,000
Professional Development	\$3,000
Audio-visual	\$5,000
Name Badge	\$1,500
Satchel Inserts	\$300

Exhibition

Trade Exhibitor	\$2,500*
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Advertising

Quarter page	\$250
Half page	\$500
Full page	\$900

*For small or charitable organisations, there is the opportunity to negotiate a package to suit your specific needs. Please contact us for more information.

If you know of any possible supporters or sponsors, please forward their details and alter them to the Sponsorship Prospectus at www.events.atca.com.au

Call for Abstracts for the 2016 ATCA Conference

The Conference Committee of the ATCA 30th Anniversary Gathering warmly invites you to submit abstracts for oral presentations and posters. As well as these tried and true ways of showcasing your work, there will be two new forums available; message stick sessions and the Yarning Circle. The closing date for all submissions is 15 July 2016.

ATCA recognizes that not all innovation comes from research but from the need to tackle a persistent problem, using creativity, imagination and ingenuity. If you've got a story, message or anecdote to share then these sessions might be for you. We strongly encourage people that have not presented at an ATCA gathering before to use these sessions as well as the celebrities among us!

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 programmes to other practitioners in the field.

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

Presentation Types:

Oral Presentations: Oral presentations take place in chaired sessions and are 20 minutes in length plus 5 minutes' question time.

Please ensure the file you send is named the same as your presentation. Abstracts should be submitted in Microsoft Word Format (not Vista) in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Name of the presentation and the name of the presenter

- Abstract submission document must have the same name as the presentation topic
- Maximum of 250 words
- Biographies maximum of 100 words.

Message Stick: Selected presenters will have allocated up to 5 minutes within a chaired session (a limit of four slides would be advisable to meet this timeframe if you are using PowerPoint). On completion of each presentation the Message Stick will be passed to the next presenter. A prize will be awarded for best presentation. Your submission should include:

- Name of the presentation and the name of the presenter
- Presentation topic
- Brief overview of presentation
- Biographies maximum of 100 words

A message stick is a form of communication traditionally used by Indigenous Australians. It is usually a solid piece of wood, around 20–30cm in length, etched with angular lines and dots. Traditionally, message sticks were passed between different clans and language groups to establish information and transmit messages. They were often used to invite neighbouring groups to corroborees, set-fights and ball games.

Alfred Howitt wrote of the Wurundjeri people of the Melbourne area:

The oldest man (Headman) having made such a message stick hands it to the old man nearest to him, who inspects it and, if necessary, adds further marks and gives corresponding instructions. Finally, the stick having passed from one to the other of the old men present is handed to the messenger, who has received his verbal message in connection with it. If any duration of time is connected with the message, or if an enumeration of stages or camps is made, a method is used.

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. Submissions should include:

- Name of presenter/s (to lead discussion)
- Yarning theme and description
- Biographies maximum of 100 words

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...

But 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.

Poster Presentations: Posters will be displayed at the conference venue and a prize will be awarded to the best poster. Submissions to include:

- Name of the presentation and the name of the presenter/organisation
- Presentation topic
- Brief overview of presentation

**CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF
ABSTRACTS IS 15 JULY 2016**

Clearly indicate the contact person for all correspondence and include their full name, organisation, phone number and email address. Abstracts submitted will be published as submitted. Copy should be checked for accuracy and misspelling prior to submission.

Abstract acceptance and programme scheduling will be communicated via email only to the main contact person. Abstracts submitted with your application must be able to demonstrate the practical application of evidence available. The evidence may range from impact evaluation and action research, to independent research.

Confirmation of submission:

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

Abstract review notification:

Abstract review notification, programme scheduling and allocated presentation format will be communicated to the corresponding authors email address by Friday 19 August 2016. Please note, the details provided, as the author contact should be for the nominated main contact for your abstract. All correspondence relating to the submission will be

directed to this person, and they should in turn distribute to any/all co-presenters.

Abstracts should be sent to: abstracts@atca.com.au

**Calling for your 2016 ATCA Award
Nominations**

Nominations are now open for the 2016 awards. Please consider nominating to the categories of significant contribution by an individual and program; and putting forward staff who have devoted 10 or more years to the TC movement – remember this may be across different TCs and different job positions – and does include volunteers who provide valuable support to our services.

The award for Significant Contribution to the Therapeutic Community Movement in Australasia: Program, Service or Intervention recognises an exemplary or commendable contribution to the Therapeutic Community movement in Australasia made by a program or intervention.

The criteria for this award is based on current best practice; has found to be effective on a range of measures, including the improvement of social and psychological functioning; and is making a meaningful contribution.

The award of **Significant Contribution to the Therapeutic Community Movement in Australasia by an Individual**, recognises the individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Therapeutic Community movement in Australasia over a considerable period of time. These people have worked tirelessly over a number of years to promote and develop the therapeutic community approach to treatment within the sector.

**All nomination forms are available from the ATCA website or by emailing atca@atca.com.au.
Nomination close on Monday 5 September 2016 –
please get your nominations in within good time.
Don't miss out!**

**Certification under the ATCA
Standard**

The 2015 AGM passed a number of changes to the ATCA Constitution to open up the membership to NGO residential rehabilitation services and those in the

private sector working to develop therapeutic communities. Our prime concern is one of quality.

In opening up the membership in this way, we are providing the opportunity for all residential rehabilitation programs to embrace a quality assurance process and to become certified in terms of their residential service component under the ATCA Standard. This does not override the necessity for core standards, but supports and enhances the organisation's core function.

Currently, the Certifying Assessment Body (CAB) which has the licence to conduct audits under the ATCA Standard is the Institute for Healthy Communities Inc (IHCA). In addition to conducting audits utilising the ATCA Standard, IHCA can be contracted to undertake a full accreditation process – and some of our TCs are already engaged with IHCA.

However, if you are engaged in a process with another group, this is perfectly fine – we have developed the ATCA Standard so that you will not have any duplication. To assist in this process, we have contracted with Breaking New Ground to develop the ATCA Quality Portal, which saves up to 80% of the time spent on quality standards assessment and compliance reporting, and avoids duplication when working with multiple standards.

The Portal is a tailored version of the Standards and Performance Pathways (SPP) to meet the needs of organisations providing therapeutic communities and residential rehabilitation services. ATCA members receive a 15% discount on their subscription to the Portal. **If you work with multiple standards**, the SPP streamlines the work by only requiring you to complete an assessment once. It then does the rest of

the work for you by automatically completing corresponding assessments in other standards. **For organisations seeking accreditation**, the SPP is a great tool to use in preparing your organisation for the external review process. Accessing this information via the ATCA website provides the opportunity to **take a free, two-week trial**, and the **watch a video to see how it works**.



ATCA Quality Portal

A quality management system for therapeutic communities and residential rehabilitation service providers

The ATCA Quality Portal is an easy-to-use system that helps you manage quality, risk and compliance. The Portal includes the new ATCA Standard for Therapeutic Communities & Residential Rehabilitation Services, as well as the main sets of community services and health standards.

KEY FEATURES

- **Self-assessment against standards**
Complete self-assessments against the criteria (indicators) of a set of standards. As you work through each assessment, the portal will identify gaps and let you know what the organisation needs to do to achieve completion.
- **External reviews and accreditation**
Prepares your organisation for external review and accreditation, with the ability to submit your results and evidence online.
- **Automatically generated Work Plans**
As you complete assessments, a Work Plan is automatically generated based on the actions required to meet the standard. You can edit and allocate tasks, set due dates and email reminders.
- **Schedule email reminders**
Set email alerts as due-date reminders in your work plan or registers.
- **Risk, compliance and quality registers**
Create, edit and customise registers for risk management, compliance and other quality monitoring. You can tailor registers to your organisation's needs.
- **Document Library**
Upload and manage pre-existing or newly completed documents, then link them to action items to provide evidence of compliance to external reviewers.
- **Immediate solution to multiple standards**
Cross-referencing with all other sets of standards means you can complete multiple sets of standards by completing a single set.
- **Progress tracking**
Displays graphs showing your organisation's progress against industry benchmarks.

KEY BENEFITS

- Increases service delivery capacity.
- Manages and monitors risk and compliance.
- Undertakes gap assessments.
- Work directly online – no need for paper-based reporting.
- A standards update and alert service keeps you on top of changes.
- Builds staff and organisational capacities.
- An immediate solution to multiple standards.
- Red-tape reduction.
- Increases productivity and saves up to 80% of time.

"The SPP has reduced our reporting time significantly. The system is intuitive, I found my way around quite easily."

Ronnie Voigt,
Drug Education Network

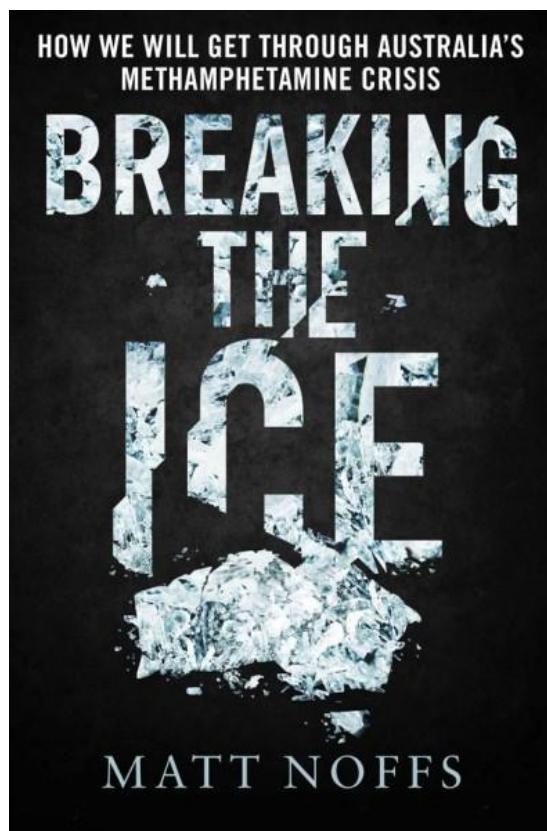
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Email info@ngoservicesonline.com.au

15%
Discount
for ATCA
members

THE ATCA QUALITY PORTAL IS A
TAILORED VERSION OF STANDARDS
AND PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS





News just in from Matt Noffs and soon to be published by HarperCollins, "Breaking the Ice" is more than a focus on ice – this is a book that focuses on our field with interviews with experts, police, researchers, doctors, therapists, users, parents and young people.

Prof. Ian Webster and Phillip Adams have written introductions to the book, and inside the back cover you will find the following from Sir Richard Branson:

"Matt Noffs casts aside the hysteria and misinformation that sadly seem to get in the way of every effort to have a rational debate about drug use. Instead, Matt takes a fresh look at the issue, informed by years of experience on the frontlines, working with people who use drugs, their families and the medical community. It's a comprehensive, 360-degree analysis of drug use and drug policy in Australia, and it underscores the case for sensible reform that grows stronger every day. The so-called war on drugs has been a colossal failure, and this book offers further proof that we must treat drug use as a public health issue, not as a crime."

Matt says, "Overall we're excited about it and we spent a good chunk of our life on getting it here. So we'd love you to tell everyone about it and most importantly to like this page on Facebook and buy a copy!"

Congratulations Matt – the book is in bookstores from 1st July, but it's 22% if you pre-order!

Here's the link

- <http://www.booktopia.com.au/breaking-the-ice-matt-noffs/prod9781460752166.html>



ABORIGINAL
DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNCIL (SA) INC.

Program Manager
Footsteps – road to recovery

ABOUT THE SERVICE

In February 1993, in response to the Royal Commission Into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC), the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Inc. was established as a statewide peak organization to address harmful alcohol and drug issues amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. ADAC is unique in Australia as it is the only Indigenous alcohol and drug peak body of its kind, representing Aboriginal community organisations across South Australia.

In April 2013, the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA (ADAC), Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHCSA) and Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) formed a consortium to establish a residential rehabilitation service based in Port Augusta to address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with alcohol and drug use problems.

Under the auspice of the ADAC, *Footsteps – road to recovery*, is the only residential rehabilitation facility with a culturally appropriate Aboriginal program in the northwest region of South Australia, covering almost 900,000 kilometres.

The 12-bed service operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Based on a therapeutic community (TC) model of treatment, Footsteps offers a 12-week culturally appropriate program that focuses on the social, psychological and behavioural aspects of harmful alcohol and drug use, using community as the method of healing.

The TC program includes:

- Group therapy
- Counselling
- Recognition of triggers to harmful AOD use
- Life skills development
- Cultural and social activities
- Development of supportive networks

An information pack has been developed for people interested in the position advertised by the organisation.

If you are interested in the position, please contact Sue-Anne Morley at: sue-anne@adac.org.au and request the full information package.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Program Manager – Footsteps - road to recovery

The Role

- Oversee the overall management of service – Footsteps – road to recovery to achieve the vision, plans and objectives of the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council and Consortium.
- Run the residential Therapeutic Community program, managing and supporting staff to provide a comprehensive range of suitable alcohol and drug treatment in alignment with best practices, cultural and community needs.
- Ensure services, policies and procedures are based on the therapeutic community model of treatment and aligned with the Australasian Therapeutic Community Association and ISO9001 quality standards.

Key Relationships

Work co-operatively and productively with:

- Cultural authorities
- Peers, staff, visitors
- Relevant community groups, service providers, organisations and government
- Relevant committees, forums and events

Summary of Key Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for:

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

- Accountability, transparency and conformance with grant agreements, budget outcomes, quality standards
- Compliance with corporate policies, quality practices and all industry, legal and regulatory matters.

- Development and achievement of strategic and business objectives;
- Representing the service at meetings with government, stakeholders and service providers.

MANAGEMENT

- Management, planning, and evaluation of the service, including human resources, financial management, systems and procurement.
- Leadership, mentoring and guidance provided to staff tasked with providing the day-to-day operations of the service.
- Development and implementation of annual operational and risk management plans to meet goals and objectives.
- Development, implementation and continual improvement of organisation policies, WHS practices and procedures.
- Provision of reports in accordance with grant agreements, organisation and incorporation requirements
- Fulfilment of the service's legal, contractual and financial obligations.
- Maintenance and upkeep of the facility.
- Management of data systems including data collection and analysis

SERVICE DELIVERY

- Running of the residential TC program, including managing and supporting staff to provide a comprehensive range of suitable alcohol and drug treatment in alignment with best practices, cultural and community needs.
- Effective service performance that meets key measures according to grant agreements and ADAC plans.
- Quality standards and best practice in alcohol and drug treatment, including the Australasian Therapeutic Community Association (ATCA) Standards.
- Engagement with other relevant stakeholders in the coordination of service delivery.

GENERAL

- Effective and collaborative relationships with relevant stakeholders
- Promotion of the service through media, forums and other communication tools
- Representing the service on behalf of ADAC and the consortium.
- Advocating on behalf of the service and its clients to improve alcohol and drug service delivery.