

## ATCA E-News February

### Executive Officer Update



Dear Colleagues,

As February draws to a close, it's hard to believe how quickly this month has flown. Undoubtedly, it's been a busy time for everyone. At the ATCA we've been preparing for our upcoming member consultation in Canberra, just a few weeks away. This event will provide an invaluable opportunity for the ATCA Board to connect with members in the ACT and gather feedback on how we can best support your important work. If you're an ATCA member and interested in attending the consultation please contact me.

This month, we've also been busy connecting with members across Australia and New Zealand, virtually and in person. I had the pleasure of visiting the Ted Noffs Foundation, where I was inspired by their innovative services, and the staff and young people accessing the program that I had the opportunity to meet.

As we approach International Women's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the exceptional contributions made by women working within ATCA member services. Additionally, I want to recognise the women who seek support for alcohol and other drug issues, acknowledging their courage and resilience.

Lastly, if you would like to provide feedback about the development of Community of Practices for both ATCA members frontline staff and managers or have any other questions or suggestions for the ATCA please feel free to contact me via email at [atca@atca.com.au](mailto:atca@atca.com.au) or on 0403 630 716.

Warm regards,

Michelle Ridley  
ATCA EO

### TC News and research

#### 29th WFTC World Conference

The 29th WFTC World Conference will be held in Brazil on the 13-15 December 2024. Stay tuned for more information and to watch a short video about the upcoming conference click on the link here [www.wftc.org](http://www.wftc.org).

#### The Therapeutic Community: Research and Practice

The Therapeutic Community: Research and Practice brings together the lens of research-based and practice-based research, as well as filling the gaps for professions in behavioral health, neurobiology, corrections and workforce development. To find out more click on the link [www.wftc.org/TC community research & practice](http://www.wftc.org/TC_community_research_&_practice).

### Member News

On 2 February, DASA, in partnership with the Anindilyakwa Land Council & the Aboriginal Justice Unit (NTG), opened the Anindilyakwa Healing Centre on Groote Eylandt. Working to deliver upon the aims of the NT Aboriginal Justice Agreement, the Healing Centre takes a whole-person approach to providing therapeutic alternatives to imprisonment that address the underlying causes of offending. For more details click on the links to an article in the [National Indigenous Times](#) and [www.dasa.org.au](http://www.dasa.org.au).

## Research and reports

### **Declaration of Oviedo: 2024 Global Initiative on Drug Use Prevention**

The Declaration of Oviedo is a global initiative on drug use prevention and includes ten proposals for incorporating effective prevention in drug policies, at a global and local level. The Declaration has now reached 400 supporting organizations, and 82 country focal points, including the ATCA and some of its members. The Declaration will be presented to Member States at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 14-22. For more information and if your organisation would like to support the global initiative, please click on the link [oviedodeclaration.org](https://oviedodeclaration.org)

### **2022-23 National Drug Strategy Household Survey.**

The AIHW has released the findings of its 2022-2023 Survey. More than 21,000 people across Australia took part in the latest National Drug Strategy Household Survey. This report presents findings from the survey and looks at what has changed over the past 20 years. To access the report, click here [www.aihw.gov.au](https://www.aihw.gov.au).

### **Global Drug Survey**

The Global Drug Survey is the world's largest drug survey, with the goal of ensuring that the voice of people who use drugs are considered in government decision-making processes. The anonymous online survey takes between 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Anyone aged 16 or over who has used a drug (including alcohol or tobacco) in the past year is eligible to participate. To take part in the survey click on the link [www.globaldrugsurvey.com](https://www.globaldrugsurvey.com).

## Online training, webinars and other events

### **How Aboriginal wisdom in the FASD space can shift your knowing, being and doing**

13 March 10-11am (Qld time)

Nicole Hewlett presents this webinar about how Aboriginal and Western knowledges can come together and walk alongside each other to build a new knowledge that can offer immense benefits to all Australians impacted by trauma.

To register click on the link <https://insight.qld.edu.au/training>.

### **Chemsex training**

This training module provides an introduction to working with men who engage in chemsex. It provides an overview of the history, terminology, and important considerations for AOD specialist workers. It is suitable for all levels of AOD staff in an organisation. To complete the module, click on the link [QNADA.org.au/LGBTQI+](https://qnada.org.au/LGBTQI+).

## Conferences and other events

### **NCETA Symposium**

7 March, Flinders University Adelaide & online

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) is Australia's national research centre on AOD workforce development. This Symposium will cover key research and workforce development topics, including a panel discussion and keynote speakers. For more details and to register click here [www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

### **Working with men to end family, domestic and intimate partner violence conference**

27-28 March, Melbourne & online

This conference will explore approaches that hold men accountable and empower them to become a part of the solution to breaking the cycle of violence against women and children. For more details click the link [the-hatchery-DFV conference](https://the-hatchery-dfv.com)

### **The FASD Forum '24 Online Conference**

3-4 May 2024, Online

This online conference will discuss what progress has been made in the past 25 years in terms of FASD awareness and provide presentations to improve the lives of people impacted by FASD. For more details click here [www.nofasd.org.au](https://www.nofasd.org.au)

## National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research Symposium 2024

1 March 2024, Hybrid event

The National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research is holding a Research Symposium dedicated to an evidence-based understanding of and responses to youth substance use. This symposium is a. For more details or to register, click [here](#)

## Resources and practice tools

### Developing an online Community of Practice for practitioners working in the alcohol and other drugs sector.

The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use at the University of Sydney is excited to let ATCA members know that the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care have funded the development of an online Community of Practice (CoP) for practitioners working in the Australian AOD sector. The CoP aims to establish a dynamic platform where professionals from across health and social services can exchange knowledge, resources, and ideas regarding the management of co-occurring AOD and mental health conditions. The Matilda Centre is currently seeking expressions of interest from professionals from multiple disciplines across health and social services (eg: AOD workers, psychologists, counsellors, social workers, peer workers, residential support workers, nurses, people with lived or living experience of AOD use, or caring for someone experiencing AOD issues) to provide input via focus groups on the development of this CoP. Click [here](#) to access the EOI and for more details email: Kathleen Palmer (Research Assistant, Matilda Centre) on [kathleen.palmer@sydney.edu.au](mailto:kathleen.palmer@sydney.edu.au).

### Drug Alerts from The Know

Th Know compiles alerts issued across Australia's states and territories, giving consumers, and the people who support them, access to vital information to help keep them safe. Making these alerts nationally available assists in reducing drug related harms to the people that use them, wherever they live. For more details click here [theknow.org.au](http://theknow.org.au).

### WellMob

WellMob provides social, emotional and cultural wellbeing online resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. For more details click on the link [www.wellmob.org.au](http://www.wellmob.org.au).

## Job opportunities

To view positions available at ATCA member services click on the link to the ATCA website [atca.com.au/job-opportunities](http://atca.com.au/job-opportunities). If you're a member and would like to advertise a job on our website please email me the details of the position.

### Contact us to contribute to the ATCA E-News

The ATCA E-News is a way for members, key stakeholders and the wider sector to share news, events and resources. If you have an item you'd like to be included in the E-News, please provide it to [atca@atca.com.au](mailto:atca@atca.com.au).

***If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive it in your inbox please email [atca@atca.com.au](mailto:atca@atca.com.au) to subscribe.***

*The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and skies. We pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging in recognition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and communities of the lands on which our members live and work.*

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