

ATCA E-News March



Executive Officer Update

Dear Colleagues,

This month, the ATCA Board met in Canberra for its Board meeting and a member consultation event, attended by members providing services in the ACT and surrounding region. Those in attendance provided us with lots of valuable feedback and information on the challenges being faced and initiatives that are being undertaken by ATCA members.

A key theme of the discussions, was the shared desire among members to build deeper connections with fellow member services. This is an area that is very important to the ATCA, and we are actively engaged in several initiatives to facilitate this, notably the Community of Practices, the ATCA Conferences and the biennial Symposium which will be held in Melbourne later this year - with a date to be announced shortly.

At the consultation, we were privileged to have Nicola Childs (Director, AOD Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care) in attendance, who gained insight into the work of ATCA and its members. Subsequently, the DoHA AOD branch have reached out to ATCA expressing eagerness to visit member services. ATCA would like to thank Nicola and her team for their interest and continuous support and to all participating members for their engagement at the consultation event.

Following the member consultation the Board met over two days, and extensive discussions and planning took place regarding various projects, including: finalisation of details for the Alcohol and Other Drugs Skill Set, to be offered to a set number of staff from members through an Expression of Interest process; updating the ATCA TC training course and a review of the ATCA Constitution. The ATCA would like to extend a huge thank you to the Ted Noffs Foundation for graciously hosting the Board meeting at their service, and for providing the impressive artwork that served as the backdrop for our group photo.

Lastly, please reach out to ATCA with any feedback or queries regarding our ongoing projects, your membership, or with any news items or initiatives you would like to share with the ATCA membership. As a member-based organisation, your input is invaluable in informing the activities of the Association and we are keen to hear your suggestions and insights. You can contact me at atca@atca.com.au or on 0403 630 716.

Warm regards,
Michelle Ridley
Executive Officer, ATCA



Photo: ATCA Board and Executive Officer

TC and member news

ATCA TC Training

The ATCA is delivering its TC Training course in the following locations:

Melbourne

Block 1 Thurs 11th April - Fri 12th April & Block 2 Mon 15th April & Tues 16th April

Alice Springs

Tuesday 7th May - Friday 10th May

Perth

Monday 10 June- Thursday 13th June.

The key goal of the TC training is to assist individuals in any position, including the executive team, management, practitioners and students; to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills applicable in the TC environment. The ATCA has modified the training in response to feedback from our members. Understanding the challenges of having staff away for extended periods, we believe this revised format will be more accessible. The TC training is now presented over 4 days (instead of the previous 6) and there are no longer assignment tasks to complete afterwards. Instead, participants will engage in interactive activities throughout the 4-day session to demonstrate their understanding of the course material.

If you are interested in attending one of the upcoming courses there are a couple of places available. Please contact atca@atca.com.au for more details.

Research and reports

AIHW - National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022-23

The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022-23 report provides insights into the use of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and illicit drugs in Australia in 2022 and 2023. To learn more about the findings click on the link - www.aihw.gov.au/reports.

Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2023 (2024)

The Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2023 aims to provide a comprehensive outline of the current health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To read the report click on the link at the Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet <https://apo.org.au>

UNSW Survey on Evidence-based Practices for AOD Services

Researchers at UNSW are conducting a project to understand the barriers and enablers for implementing evidence-based practices to frontline workers in the Australian AOD sector. Participants must be currently employed and working within the Australian AOD sector in a front-line/direct client-facing/service delivery role and be over 18 years old. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey and to take part follow the link <https://redcap.unsw.edu.au/surveys>

Professional development online - elearning and webinars

Working with people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds

eLearning, Insight

The aim of this elearning module is to explore general principles for working with people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Click on the link to complete this elearning module and for other professional development material <https://insight.qld.edu.au>

Beliefs, Bonds, and Barriers: Investigating protective factor among parents who use alcohol or other drugs

Webinar, Dr Zoe Walter / Insight

Wednesday 24 April 2024, 11:00am - 12:00pm (Qld time)

This webinar will be presented by Dr Zoe Walter who will discuss the findings of research conducted with AOD clinicians and parents seeking treatment at AOD services. The manifold influences of substance use on parenting and the multifaceted parenting practices employed by parents to protect their children from these influences will be explored. The key areas of development and needed supports in this space will also be discussed. For more information, or to register, click <https://insight.qld.edu.au>

Wellbeing and Emotional Awareness when working with Complex Trauma

Webinar, BlueKnot

This one and a half hour webinar provides information about wellbeing and self-care when working with clients who have Complex Trauma. For more details click on the link <https://professionals.blueknot.org.au>

Hydromorphone for Opioid Use Disorder: Insights from the Feasibility of Opioid Injecting Trial (Webinar)

Webinar, Penington Institute

03 Apr 2024 1:00 - 2:00 pm (NSW time)

Penington Institute is facilitating a panel discussion on the trial of short-acting injectable opioid treatment – IV hydromorphone. To learn more and register for this event click on the link www.penington.org.au

Resources and practice tools

Vaping resources

For evidence-based, practical resources on vaping click on the link to the <https://insight.qld.edu.au/toolkits/vaping/detail> and the www.health.nsw.gov/vaping

Resources to assist people wanting to change their alcohol use

For tips and tools to support someone to cut back or stop drinking, click on the link to FARE website www.fare.org.au/resources

Alcohol and other drug stigma Why it matters and what you can do about it

Alcohol and Drug Foundation [ADF Stigma background paper.pdf](#)

Conferences and other events

AddictionZ Conference

29 April - 1 May 2024

Hybrid event - Gold Coast, Queensland and online Formerly the Australian and New Zealand Addiction Conference, The AddictionZ 2024 conference will bring together mental and behavioural health professionals, peer and support workers, people with lived experience, as well as government and policy professionals within the AOD sector. For more details click here www.anzmf.asn.au

APSAD 2024

30 October to Friday 1 November 2024, Ngunnawal Country (Canberra, ACT)

The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) is dedicated to promoting improved standards in clinical practice for medical practitioners and other health professionals who deal with alcohol and other drug-related problems in the course of their work. To find out more click on the link www.apsad.com.au

29th WFTC World Conference

13-15 December 2024, Brazil.

For more information, including a short video about the upcoming conference click on the link here www.wftc.org

The FASD Forum'24 Online Conference

3-4 May 2024, Online

This online conference will include presentations to improve the lives of people impacted by FASD. For more details click here www.nofasd.org.au

Job opportunities

To view positions available at ATCA member services click on the link to the ATCA website www.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.

If this newsletter has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive it in your inbox please email atca@atca.com.au to subscribe.

ATCA acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Custodians of this country and its waters. We wish to pay our respects to Elders past and present, to all emerging community leaders, and to all First Nations people reading this message.

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