

ATCA E-news May 2024

Executive Officers Update



Dear Colleagues,

This week is National Reconciliation Week, and this year's theme "Now More Than Ever", is a powerful reminder that the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must continue. At ATCA, we are committed to reconciliation and central to that commitment, are our organisation's values of integrity, leadership, support, and diversity. We are dedicated to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working within our member services, and alongside all First Nations people and communities, to support the delivery of therapeutic communities and residential and non-residential rehabilitation services that are culturally safe and accessible. Let this week inspire us to strive for genuine unity and reconciliation. More information about events taking place near you can be found [here](#).

This month, the ATCA presented plaques to Garth Popple and James Pitt in recognition of their ATCA Honorary Life Membership award. They were honoured at last year's ATCA conference, and this event provided the opportunity to present them with their plaques. The Honorary Life Membership award is a prestigious recognition of Garth and James' significant contributions to the Association and we wholeheartedly thank them for their ongoing dedication.

The ATCA also continued its focus on workforce development activities this month. We delivered TC training in Alice Springs and have more training planned for Perth next month and Sydney later this year, with details for the Sydney training to be announced soon. Additionally, we sent out Expressions of Interest for the AOD Skill Set Training to each member delegate and received over 55 applications. The ATCA will review all EOIs in the coming weeks, and applicants will be notified of the outcome soon.

In addition to these activities, planning has started for the ATCA symposium, scheduled to be held in Melbourne along with our AGM, later this year. More details about this event will be provided soon. Lastly, if you have any feedback, or questions about any of the ATCA activities, or if you'd like to share any news items with the ATCA membership, please don't hesitate to contact me at atca@atca.com.au.

Warm regards,

Michelle Ridley, EO
atca@atca.com.au



For more information about National Reconciliation Week click on the link www.reconciliation.org.au.

In addition to our regular updates, this month's E-news focuses on providing a range of resources and information designed to enhance service delivery when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

TC and member news



Honorary Life Membership presentation

The ATCA, members of its Board and colleagues from Odyssey House and WHOS attended an afternoon tea to present Garth Popple and James Pitts with their life membership plaques. The Honorary Life Membership award is a great honour of Garth and James' significant contributions to the Association and we wholeheartedly thank them for their ongoing dedication.



ATCA TC Training Alice Springs

The ATCA would like to thank everyone who attended our TC training in Alice Springs this month, including staff from Drug and Alcohol Services Association (DASA), Banyan House and the Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit. The evaluation feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with all participants agreeing that their knowledge about working in TC programs had improved from the training.

Evaluation feedback included *"I have learnt more in these few days than any other course I have attended in 13 years"* and *"This is the best/most engaging training that I have done for a long time"*.

Research and reports

Evaluating an Aboriginal community controlled residential alcohol and other drug services: Use of benchmarking to examine within treatment changes in wellbeing services

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) have an important role in the Australian health-care sector. Using a benchmarking approach, the present study examined within treatment changes on measures of wellbeing for people attending a residential AOD ACCO. The study focused on The Glen and found that The Glen participants demonstrated statistically significant improvements on measures of wellbeing. To read all the

findings from this research conducted by Dr Pete Kelly and colleagues at University of Wollongong, click on the link <https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4919&context=test2021>

The Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation Network (ADARRN) Model of Care

At last years ATCA Conference we were privileged to have Danielle Manton (Senior Lecturer, Indigenous Teaching and Learning, UTS & Board Director, ADARRN) provide a keynote presentation. Danielle presented on ADARRN's Model of care, that represents the collective wisdom and expertise of Aboriginal community-controlled residential rehabilitation services. In 2023 the AMoC was evaluated and to find out more about ADARRN and to read the report click on the link www.adarrn.org.au and to view the slides from Danielle's keynote, click on the link here atca.com.au/atca-conference

Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2023 | A Pennington Institute Report

The Australian drug overdose toll continues its deadly march, with a fatal overdose occurring every four hours. First Nations people have long been drastically overrepresented in the mounting toll, and their unintentional overdose rate is now more than triple that of the non-Indigenous population. So many Australians – 2,231 individuals in 2021 – have lost their lives to a cause we know is preventable. Read the full report click on the link www.pennington.org.au/australias-annual-overdose-report

Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2023

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. The early sections of the Overview present information about the social and cultural context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, social determinants, the structure of the population, and measures of population health including births, deaths and hospitalisations. In this version we have introduced a section for cultural indicators including language. To read more click here healthinfolnet.ecu.edu.au/learn/health-facts

WFTC TCs world services survey 2024

If you haven't completed the WFTC TC survey there is still time. Your feedback is important to the WFTC and will contribute to the data collected and published in the 3rd WFTC Annual Report, 2024. Click on the link to complete the survey <https://docs.google.com/forms>

Professional development online - elearning and webinars

Relationships matter: Walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents

Emerging Minds & CFCA

1-2pm, 29 May, online

This CFC and Emerging Minds [webinar](#) will interest non-Aboriginal practitioners who work with First Nations parents and children. The webinar will explore ways that practitioners can develop a whole of community approach in your work, develop an approach that allows families to identify their stressors and worries, support families to identify motivators, and understand how to take a child-centred approach. Click on the link to register <https://emergingminds.com.au/events>

Promoting culturally appropriate AOD services for Aboriginal women – IWD 2022

This panel forms part of NADA's series of talks for International Women's Day 2022, themed 'Break the bias'. Speakers explore forms of bias Aboriginal women face in seeking support from AOD and community services. Panellists also provide practical tips about ways AOD community services can create safer environments for Aboriginal women in their everyday practice. www.nada.org.au/promoting-culturally-appropriate-aod-services-for-aboriginal-women/

Methamphetamines in pregnancy: clinical care to improve survival, engagement and attachment Turning Point

1-2pm, 29 May, online

This webinar will cover methamphetamine use in pregnancy developing an understanding of pregnancy physiology for mother and baby, and the impact methamphetamines can have on both. Learn about the importance of the first thousand days of development (conception until age 2), and the enormous potential of supporting at risk and vulnerable families at this time. For more details click on the link www.turningpoint.org.au/education/events

Resources and practice tools

Alcohol and Drug Foundation: First Nations resources

The ADF has developed a suite of AOD resources in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers and other community organisations, for working with community members. To find out more about these resources click on the link <https://adf.org.au/resources/indigenous-resources>

Alcohol and other drugs treatment guidelines for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – in a non-Aboriginal setting

The 'Alcohol and other drugs treatment guidelines for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' resource has been developed to support non-Aboriginal service providers in the AOD sector working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To find out more click here <https://nada.org.au/resources>

Stronger You, Stronger Mob Campaign

This campaign was developed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people at the Mental Health Commission in Western Australia, the Strong Spirit Strong Mind Aboriginal Programs Team. Click on the link for more details <https://strongspiritstrongmind.com.au>.

Finding your way: Shared decision making tool for Aboriginal community

This resource provides information about shared decision-making model that can be used by both health professionals and Aboriginal people. For more details click on the link aci.health.nsw.gov.au/shared-decision-making

Conferences and other events

2024 NSW Aboriginal mental health and wellbeing workforce forum

5–6 June, Sydney

The Forum is designed to bring together and connect people involved in Aboriginal Mental Health, Social Emotional Wellbeing and Alcohol and Other Drugs, from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, health services, non-government organisation, and government departments from across NSW. For more details click on the link www.ahmrc.org.au/2024

2024 Indigenous Allied Health Australia National Conference

The IAHA National Conference recognises the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the diversity of our membership, as well as interdisciplinary actions within the allied health sector. IAHA recognises how sustained holistic, strengths-based approaches to health and wellbeing can achieve health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. For more details click on the link www.ahmrc.org.au

19th EFTC Conference

September 24 - 26th 2024 at the European Solidarity Center in Gdańsk, Poland

The theme of the conference is "Shaping the Future Together", promoting international collaboration, exchanging experiences and research to develop knowledge, understanding, and skills in the field of therapeutic communities. For more details visit their official website www.eftcconference2024

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

3rd World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions

23-26 September 2024, Melbourne

The 3rd World Congress on Alcohol and Addictions, hosted jointly by the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism (ISBRA) and the Asia-Pacific Society for Alcohol and Addiction Research (APSAAR) will be held in Melbourne this year. For more details Check the [Congress website](#) for detail

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.org.au

Job opportunities

To view positions available at member services click on the link to the ATCA website www.atca.com.au/job-opportunities. This month we have details for positions at member services including Yaandina_ and WHOS. If you're a member and would like to advertise a job on our website please email me the details.

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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