



**ATCA Symposium & AGM 2024**  
**Therapeutic Communities Today: Adaptation & Impact**

9.00-4.30pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November  
Amora Riverwalk Hotel Melbourne  
649 Bridge Road, Richmond

## Acknowledgments

The ATCA acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this symposium is being held.

The 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 and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending the symposium.

The ATCA wishes to thank its members and colleagues in the alcohol and other drug sector and other health and human services for their interest and support.

### Symposium organising committee:

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Symposium working committee for their time and invaluable assistance in preparing for the event, Michelle Ridley (Executive Officer, ATCA), Mark Ferry (Treasury, ATCA), Anne Cox (Odyssey House Victoria), Tim Flora (Odyssey House Victoria) and Abigail Krause (Windana).



We also acknowledge the Australian Government Health and Aged Care for their financial support of the ATCA Secretariat.



For more information about the ATCA and Symposium contact:  
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## ATCA Symposium Program 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Amora Riverwalk, Melbourne

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| <b>8.45-9.15</b>   | <b>Registration</b> Tea and Coffee and networking   |
| <b>9.15-9.20</b>   | <b>Acknowledgment of Country</b><br><b>Symposium Welcome &amp; Opening Address Gerard Byrne (ATCA, Chair)</b><br>In his opening address Gerard will reflect on how TCs have adapted to modern challenges and the impact they continue to have on both individuals and communities.  |
| <b>9.20-9.40</b>   | <b>Speed Connect Session facilitators Michelle Ridley (Executive Officer, ATCA) &amp; Gerard Byrne (ATCA, Chair)</b><br>This first session will include a round of speed networking where you'll have the opportunity to meet new colleagues and introduce your role and organisation.  |
| <b>9.40-9.50</b><br><b>Presentation</b>                            | <b>Lived experience perspectives: the impact of Therapeutic Communities</b><br>Odyssey House Victoria will facilitate insights from people who've accessed a TC: their experience, benefits, challenges and more.   |
| <b>9.50-10.45</b><br><br><b>Presentations</b><br><b>9.50-10.05</b> | <b>Understanding Culture: Enhancing practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Communities</b><br><br><b>Culturally inclusive approaches when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in TCs in rural and remote areas Joceyln Dhu (Deputy CEO, DASA).</b> Joceyln (Deputy CEO, DASA) was born and raised in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). She is a proud Arrernte & Banyjima woman, and mother of three children. Jocelyn has worked for DASA for 12 years and prior to this, Jocelyn worked in NT Community Corrections and Territory Families. Jocelyn was a Finalist in the 2024 NT Woman of The Year Awards (First Nations Category). |
| <b>10.05-10.20</b>   | <b>Culturally inclusive approaches for supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing alcohol and other drug issues Steve Morris (The Glen for Men, Operations Manager), Chad Onley (The Glen for Men) and Joe Coyte.</b>   |
| <b>10.20-10.45</b>   | <b>Engaging people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities Teguh Syahbahar (Manager, Odyssey House NSW Multicultural Program)</b>  |
| <b>10.45-11.15</b>   | <b>MORNING TEA AND NETWORKING</b>   |
| <b>Panel</b><br><b>11.15-11:50</b>                                 | <b>Culture, connection and TCs &amp; Residential Rehab Services</b> Panelists will discuss the importance of culture and connection and how workers and organisations can enhance their service delivery when working with First Nations service users.<br><br><b>Panelists:</b> Jocelyn Dhu (Deputy CEO, DASA), Chad Onley (The Glen), Daniel Wilson (Senior Aboriginal Advisor, Odyssey House Victoria). More panelists to be announced soon. <b>Panel Moderator:</b> Steve Morris (Operations Manager, The Glen).  |
| <b>Workshop</b><br><b>11.50-1.00</b>                               | <b>Improving Engagement and Impact in Therapeutic Communities – World Café Workshop Facilitators Carol Daws (CEO, Cyrenian House &amp; Deputy Chair, ATCA Board) &amp; Michelle Ridley.</b> This World Café Workshop will explore critical aspects of service delivery in Therapeutic Communities. Participants will rotate through these topics, sharing insights, experiences, and innovative ideas to enhance service access, retention, and outcomes in Therapeutic Communities.  |

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|                    | <p><b>Pathways to Engagement: Enhancing Service Access:</b> Discuss strategies to promote access and equity to services and improve the initial engagement and intake processes. Explore methods to encourage people to engage with your service.</p> <p><b>Consistent Care: Enhancing Retention and Successful Treatment Outcomes:</b> Identify best practices for supporting people to maintain and complete treatment. Delve into factors that influence duration of stay, occupancy and retention.</p> <p><b>Beyond Completion: Ensuring Long-Term Treatment Outcomes:</b> Examine ways to support people in maintaining their treatment outcomes post-discharge. Discuss the importance of aftercare, cross-sector collaboration, and building robust networks that provide continuous support. Consider the requirements and funding necessary to sustain these collaborative efforts.</p> |
| 1:00-2:00          | LUNCH AND NETWORKING   |
| Panel<br>2.00-2.45 | <p><b>Leading the Way: TC Leaders Discuss Growth, Challenges, and Future Directions</b><br/>TC leaders will explore today's therapeutic communities, identify opportunities for growth, tackle challenges, and share their insights and ideas for advancing TCs into the future.</p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> Dr. Stefan Gruenert (CEO, Odyssey Victoria), Mark O'Brien (General Manager Operations, Windana), Eloise Page (CEO, DASA) &amp; Mark Ferry (COO Ted Noffs Foundation).</p> <p><b>Panel Moderator:</b> Gerard Byrne (Operations Manager, WHOS &amp; Chair, ATCA)</p>   |
| 2.45-3.00          | <p><b>Recap and Reflections</b> Gerard Byrne<br/>Learnings from today and where to next</p>  |
| 3.00-3.30          | AFTERNOON TEA  |
| 3.30-4.30          | <b>Annual General Meeting</b> Join our AGM for a Q & A with the ATCA Board. More details to be announced   |
| 4.30               | Event Close  |

**Register**

To secure your place at the ATCA Symposium, click on the link to register [HERE](#)

**Symposium costs:** ATCA member = \$100 & Non-member = \$130

Morning and afternoon tea and lunch will be provided