



ATCA E-news September 2024

Executive Officers Update

Dear Colleagues,

This month, the ATCA facilitated its TC training in Sydney. 37 staff from member services across Australia attended, including from WHOS, Odyssey House NSW, Hope Community Services (Western Australia), Ted Noffs, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, The Farm, Karralika and The Glen. The feedback from the training was overwhelmingly positive and it was great to see so many workers participate and eager to learn more about working in TCs. Our next TC Training is scheduled for Canberra on the 20th-23rd January 2025. For more details and to register, refer to the ATCA events section below.

The ATCA has continued to work on preparations for our upcoming symposium and AGM. The symposium and AGM will be held on 19th November in Melbourne and will feature engaging speakers, insightful panel discussions and an interactive workshop. To view the draft program and register, please check the ATCA Events section below. More details will be released shortly.

This month, we were also excited to unite with the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Residential Rehabilitation Network (ADARRN) to release a joint media statement, advocating for vital drug treatment services at the NSW Drug Summit. To read the joint media release and the ATCA's NSW Drug Summit Position Paper click on the link [here](#).

Warm regards,

Michelle Ridley, EO
atca@atca.com.au



ATCA events

ATCA Symposium 2024

Therapeutic Communities Today: Adaptation & Impact

9am-4.30pm 19th November, Melbourne

We are looking forward to holding the ATCA symposium in Melbourne on the 19th November. We have added more presentations and panel speakers to the program. To see the draft program and to register for the event click on the link www.atca.com.au/events. More details will be announced soon.

Panels includes: Culture, connection and TCs & Residential Rehab Services 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. **Panelists:** Jocelyn Dhu (Deputy CEO, DASA), Chad Onley (The Glen), Daniel Wilson (Senior Aboriginal Advisor, Odyssey House Victoria). **Panel Moderator:** Steve Morris (Operations Manager, The Glen).

Leading the Way: TC Leaders Discuss Growth, Challenges, and Future Directions. Panelists will explore today's therapeutic communities, identify opportunities for growth, tackle challenges, and share their insights and ideas for advancing TCs into the future. **Panelists:** Dr. Stefan Gruenert (CEO, Odyssey Victoria), Andrea McCloud (CEO, Windana), Eloise Page (CEO, DASA) & Mark Ferry (COO Ted Noffs Foundation)

Presentations include: Understanding Cultural Context: Enhancing practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with presentations from Jocelyn Dhu (Deputy CEO, DASA),

Engaging people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities Teguh Syahbahar (Manager, Odyssey House NSW Multicultural Program), Steve Morris (The Glen), Chad Onley (The Glen) & Joe Coyte (The Glen).

To see the draft program and to register for the event click on the link www.atca.com.au/events

ATCA member ticket price = \$100 Non-member ticket price = \$130

ATCA TC Training Canberra

The ATCA has TC Training scheduled for Canberra from the 20th - 23rd January 2025. To register for this training please click on the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WM5V6LT>. Please note, that this training will proceed depending on the number of participants enrolled. We will confirm in early December if we have the required enrollments to go ahead, so please register as soon as possible, we are really keen to facilitate this training for our members.

TC and Meet Our Members

We are very grateful to Goldbridge Rehabilitation Services for being part of this months member service profile and sharing details about the amazing work they're doing. We also thank Toni Eachus for her insightful contributions to our worker profile.

Service Showcase - Goldbridge Rehabilitation Services (Queensland)

Service overview: Goldbridge Rehabilitation Services is in Southport on the Gold Coast, within the Kombumerri land, which is part of the Yugambah language speaking nation in Queensland. Our facility is right in the heart of the CBD. Goldbridge is certified by the ATCA and was actually the first TC in Australasia to undertake and be accredited with the TC standards in 2015.

Our residents: We work with people of all genders aged 21 to 65+. Our average age is currently 42 years. Goldbridge can accommodate 28 residents in the TC and was first established in 1987. We provide a results-driven program focused on personal change, enhanced psychological well-being and social functioning.

Our staff: Goldbridge employs a multi-disciplinary team of experienced professionals, including people in the fields of psychology, social work, medicine and education, as well as Goldbridge graduates who have gone through certification in Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) and Mental Health (MH) work. Goldbridge aims to have 50% of the staff team as lived experience people.

Service highlights: On 26th June 2024 Goldbridge celebrated 35 years of service. We held an open day and welcomed visitors from Commonwealth Health, Queensland Health and local Government. In addition, Goldbridge met all of its deliverables of its Reflect RAP earlier this year and has started work on its next RAP, the Innovate RAP.

Resident's journey: To see a video featuring one of our residents stories click on the link <https://goldbridge.com.au/goldbridge-rehabilitation-services-information-services/>



Member worker spotlight



Toni Eachus, Operations Manager/Deputy CEO - Goldbridge

How long have you been working with your organisation and what is your role? I started with Goldbridge in January 2007 as an AOD Worker in the TC. Later I became the TC Team Leader, then Coordinator and for the last 6 years have been the Operations Manager/Deputy CEO.

How did your career develop to bring you to your current role? Born in Manchester, in the UK I started life in the fashion industry working as a designer and pattern cutter. After having my first child I decided to re-train as a teacher with the plan to teach fashion and design. However, these jobs are very limited, so I began working in the prison education system teaching art, literacy and numeracy. This led me to working with disengaged adults including those affected by problematic alcohol and other drug use. After moving from the UK to the Gold Coast in late 2006, I saw a small advert for an AOD Worker at Goldbridge. The selection criteria included facilitation skills so I figured with my teaching experience with marginalised people I should apply, and the rest is history.

Can you describe a typical workday for you? My role is to oversee all program areas to ensure the use of evidence-based and trauma-informed principles, whilst maintaining the TC Model. I also monitor compliance and coordinate internal and external audits to maintain accreditation.

What do you find most rewarding about your role? Seeing people come into the TC and make lifelong changes and going on to achieve a newfound sense of stability, structure, and routine, equipping them with essential tools to navigate life without substance use. In addition, being a part of the TC movement and the TC standards accreditation process. Whilst Audit are a lot of work, I really love the ATCA TC standards as they focus on the clients, the TC model and allow us to reflect on our practice to make sure we are a Therapeutic Community.

What hobbies or interests do you enjoy outside of work to help with your self-care? Outside of work I like to listen to music and enjoy going to concerts, I find music and dancing is a good way to de-stress. I also have a horse. Whilst I am not currently riding him, I do 'Natural horsemanship', which is a horse training technique, that aims to establish a deep understanding and communication between humans and horses. The term 'natural' comes from the emphasis these techniques put on working with a horse's 'natural' instincts and behaviours to develop a partnership based on mutual trust, co-operation, respect, and clear communication similar to how we work with our clients in the TC.

International TC news



The 19th European Federation of Therapeutic Communities Conference was held in Poland from the 24-26th September. The theme of the conference was “Shaping the Future Together”, promoting international collaboration, exchanging experiences and research to develop knowledge, understanding, and skills in the field of therapeutic communities. Over 300 people gathered for the conference from over 20 countries. On the third, last day of the conference the highlight of the event was the speech of prof. George De Leon from the USA, who is considered one of the most prominent authorities in the field of therapeutic communities, who mainly set out the vision for developing therapeutic communities in the near future. For more details visit their official website www.eftccconference2024 or visit their Facebook page at Polska Federacja Społeczności Terapeutycznych



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

Research and reports

Inquiry into the health impacts of AOD in Australia

On 22 August, the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, made a referral to the House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport to commence an inquiry into the health impacts of AOD use in Australia. The inquiry will assess whether current services across the AOD sector are delivering equity for all Australians, value for money, and the best outcomes for individuals, their families, and society, and examine how sectors beyond health can contribute to prevention, early intervention, recovery and reduction of AOD-related harms. The ATCA is currently working on submission which we will submit to the Inquiry soon. If you have any feedback for the ATCA's submission please contact atca@atca.com.au. Submissions will be accepted until Tuesday, 31 December 2024. For full Terms of Reference and inquiry details [click here](#).

Buprenorphine now replaces methadone as the most common medicine for opioid dependence: 10-year trends in opioid agonist treatment medicines in Australia

National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre

In Australia, both methadone and buprenorphine have been subsidised by the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) for the treatment of opioid dependence (termed 'opioid agonist treatment' or OAT) for several decades. In September 2019, a new formulation of long-acting injectable buprenorphine became available on the PBS. Administered weekly or monthly, long-acting injectable buprenorphine provides clients with an alternative option to methadone liquid or sublingual buprenorphine tablets, which are otherwise often provided to clients via daily supervised dosing at their local pharmacy or clinic. This research examined trends in opioid agonist treatment medicines over the past ten years. To read the findings from this research and for more details click on the link <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/>

Professional development - new resources, elearning and webinars

Raise awareness of the redress scheme

The National Redress Scheme is for people who experienced child sexual abuse when they were in an institution. Redress can include a payment, counselling, and/or a direct personal response from the institution acknowledging and apologising for what happened. Workers in the AOD sector may be the first person that clients tell about their experiences of sexual abuse; they are in a strong position to refer people to the scheme or provide basic information about what it offers. Click here for more details www.nationalredress.gov.au/help-support/resources/general-resources

Yarning about Alcohol and Pregnancy Resources

The Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) NSW Health have developed a Yarning about alcohol and pregnancy resource toolkit which identifies several resources that support health workers to have conversations around pregnancy and alcohol with Aboriginal women in a culturally safe way. This toolkit also identifies mainstream pregnancy and alcohol resources and training for health workers as well as links to further information on the assessment and diagnosis of FASD. To refer to the resource click on the link <https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/publications/Pages/yarning-about-alcohol-in-pregnancy-toolkit.aspx>

Insight: Understanding drugs: The basics - Benzodiazepines

The aim of this module is to equip workers with a basic understanding of benzodiazepines, including communication tools for benzodiazepines-specific harm reduction strategies, and implementation strategies and techniques to manage someone who is experiencing benzodiazepines intoxication. Click on the link to find out more https://insight.qld.edu.au/training/L1C4M5_20230201/landing

Conferences, symposiums and other events

Therapeutic Communities Today: Adaptation & Impact - ATCA Symposium

9am- 4.30pm 19th November, Melbourne

ATCA will hold its biannual symposium in Melbourne/Naarm in November which will feature exciting panel discussions, presentations and a workshop. To see the draft program and to register for the event click on the link www.atca.com.au/events. More details will be announced soon.

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

National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs Symposium

Friday 22 November 2024, 9:30am -4:00pm

The 2024 National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs (NCCRED) Symposium will discuss innovations within the alcohol and other drug sector which aim to improve the health outcomes for people who use methamphetamine and emerging drugs of concern. For more information, or to register, click [here](#).

Job opportunities

To view positions available at 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.

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.

Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association
T:(+61) 403 630 716 E: atca@atca.com.au W: www.atca.com.au

[View email in browser](#)