



ATCA E-news August 2024

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Executive Officers Update

Dear Colleagues,

This month, ATCA has been busy preparing for our upcoming symposium, with support from our Victorian members. We are excited to announce that the initial program is now available and registrations are open. The symposium will be held on 19th November in Melbourne and will feature engaging speakers, insightful panel discussions and an interactive workshop. It will also provide invaluable networking opportunities with ATCA members and colleagues. To view the draft program and register, please check the ATCA Events section below.

ATCA is pleased to announce that registrations are now open for our TC Training Course in Canberra, scheduled from Monday, 21st to Thursday, 24th January 2025. Our Sydney TC Training, happening next week, is fully booked, so we're excited to offer another session early next year. For more details and to register, refer to the ATCA events section below.

We are also excited to share that our NSW Drug Summit Position Paper has been released. Developed in consultation with members, this paper outlines our key recommendations for enhancing drug treatment services in NSW to better meet community needs. Since its release, ATCA has met with key government officials to discuss our recommendations and opportunities for ATCA and its members to participate in the Drug Summit. To read our Position Paper, click [here](#).

Lastly, ATCA would like to acknowledge International Overdose Awareness Day on 31st August. IOAD is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind. This year's theme, "Together We Can," highlights the power of our community when we stand united. For more information, visit www.overdoseday.com.

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 excited to release the symposium's initial program that features 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.

Panels so far include: Leading the Way: TC Leaders Discuss Growth, Challenges, and Future Directions

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

Presentations include: Understanding Cultural Context: Enhancing practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

with presentations from Jocelyn Dhu (Deputy CEO, DASA), Natalie Purchase (Program Manager, The Glen for Women), and Sarah Sammons (Operations Manager, The Glen for Women)

Workshop: Improving Engagement and Impact in Therapeutic Communities – World Café Workshop

Carol Daws (CEO, Cyrenian House & Deputy Chair, ATCA Board) & Michelle Ridley (EO, ATCA) will facilitate this workshop giving participants the opportunity to share insights, experiences and innovative ideas for improving engagement and impact in TCs. This workshop will explore critical aspects of service delivery, with participants rotating through topics such as enhancing service access and retention, and supporting people to achieve successful treatment outcomes and maintain these post discharge.

To see the draft program and to register for the event click on the link www.atca.com.au/events ATCA member price = \$100 Non-member price = \$130

ATCA TC Training Canberra

We are excited to announce dates for TC Training in Canberra from the 21st to 24th January. 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 Yaandina for being part of this months member service profile and sharing the great work they are doing. We also thank Julie Mobbs for her insightful contributions to our worker profile.

Service Showcase

Yaandina Therapeutic Community (Western Australia)

Service overview: Yaandina's Turner River Rehabilitation Centre (TRRC) is a 24-bed facility located in the Pilbara. Using the Therapeutic Community model, we are certified by the ACTA and Culturally Secure Practice Standards. Walking Together... Ngalikuru Jinangu Wakaku... the way we enact, that is by staff walking alongside the residents on their healing journey. It also means partnering with diverse stakeholders who share our values. We believe rehabilitation is about restoration i.e. healing and growth. We are committed to assisting residents to reclaim their dignity, personal and cultural pride by engaging in Turner River's program.

Our residents: The Therapeutic community assists men, women and their families who want to change their circumstances, particularly relating to their drug and/or alcohol use. Primarily we service Aboriginal consumers.

Our staff: The Team is supported by the Roebourne detox unit in preparing new members with low medical detox and information for entering TRRC. The team at TRRC include AOD practitioners, support workers, clinicians, a chef and maintenance person. In keeping with TC model for example the chef is involved presenting sessions on healthy nutrition and our maintenance officer collaborates with residents on things such as gardening. Everybody is part of the community and supports the goals of our residents.

Service highlights: TRRC will be celebrating its 10th Birthday in November 2024 an exciting milestone. The facility sits uniquely alongside a river bed in the vibrant scrub land approximately 30kms from South Hedland.

Resident's journey: Earlier this year, two residents successfully graduated from the TRRC program and transitioned into our Transitional Housing and Support Program (THASP). Their journey reflects remarkable progress and dedication. To be eligible for THASP, residents must graduate from TRRC and secure full-time employment or be engaged in full-time study. Both graduates have met these criteria and are now taking significant steps toward their future. As part of their transition, the residents have relocated to the THASP house in South Hedland. They have been actively engaged with the Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation, where they have been offered a paid 12-week construction course. This training not only provides them with valuable skills but also includes daily transport assistance to ensure they can attend the training consistently. Upon completion of this course, both residents are well-positioned to start full-time employment in the construction industry, marking a significant milestone in their personal and professional development





Member worker spotlight

Julie Mobbs, Manager – AOD Services, Yaandina

How long have you been working with your organisation and what is your role? I have been with Yaandina's Turner River Rehabilitation Centre since March 2017, having relocated from Perth. Currently, I serve as the AOD Manager.

How did your career develop to bring you to your current role? With over 20 years of dedicated service in the community services sector, I have consistently advanced my career through continuous education, specialised training, and strategic career moves. My journey began as an Administrative Officer in a non-profit organisation focused on supporting individuals facing homelessness.

Can you describe a typical workday for you? My workday begins with arriving on-site and greeting the staff and residents. I make it a priority to foster a welcoming environment for everyone. Following this, I attend the morning staff handover meeting at 8:30am. During this meeting, we review the daily program, which is organised and detailed on our daily sheet. This helps us ensure that everyone is aligned on the day's tasks and any special requirements or changes are communicated effectively with all staff present. As the day progresses, I often meet with the CEO for a check-in. During these meetings, we discuss updates from management meetings and focus on current priorities, such as progress on funding reports, especially relevant at this time of year.

What do you find most rewarding about your role? One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is the variety and unpredictability of each day. I truly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing journey of our residents. Working at a residential rehabilitation facility allows me to witness firsthand the progress residents make toward their personal goals, which is incredibly fulfilling. Additionally, I am fortunate to work with a dedicated and supportive team.

What is a unique and positive aspect of your job compared to similar roles in city areas? A unique and positive aspect of working in the Pilbara region compared to similar roles in city areas is the unparalleled connection to nature and culture. The Pilbara offers expansive open spaces and stunning natural landscapes, providing a serene and picturesque commute that contrasts sharply with the congestion and bustle of city traffic. Additionally, the strong cultural presence in the region, particularly with the inclusion of Indigenous workers at Turner River Rehabilitation Center, enriches the work environment with daily cultural experiences and a deeper appreciation of local heritage. This combination of natural beauty and cultural immersion creates a uniquely fulfilling and engaging work experience.

What hobbies or interests do you enjoy outside of work to help with your self-care? Outside of work, I find immense relaxation and personal fulfillment in fishing. This hobby not only provides a peaceful escape but also allows me to immerse myself in the natural beauty of the Pilbara waterways.

International TC news



ATCA at the 2024 Treatment for Substance Use Disorders Conference in Macau, China.

ATCA was invited to present at the 2024 Treatment for Substance Use Disorders Conference held at the University of Macau, China. The conference focused on therapeutic communities (TCs) and featured global representation from Southeast Asia, the Pacific, the United States, Europe, and Australia. Key delegates included officials from the National Narcotics Control Commission of China, President of the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities, President of the Federation Therapeutic Communities of Asia and Philippines, and other leaders of TC organisations worldwide.

The conference covered three main themes: The Importance of TCs in the Recovery Process, Alternatives to Prison, and Aftercare. ATCA's plenary session emphasised the vital role of TCs in recovery, highlighting the exceptional work of our members and the quality of services they provide. We also promoted the ATCA Standard and TC Training, which drew lots of interest from attendees as essential resources for quality-driven TC services. This event was an excellent opportunity to showcase the work of the ATCA and TCs in Australia and New Zealand on a global stage.

At the conference, Gerard Byrne (ATCA Chair) presented Augusto Nogueira (President and CEO of ARTM) pictured left, with the ATCA Standard Certificate for TC and Residential Rehabilitation Services Certificate. In 2023, Gerard and Carol Dawes (Deputy Chair, ATCA) reviewed ARTM's performance against the ATCA Standard, which they successfully met. ARTM provides detoxification and rehabilitation projects utilising the TC model of care. For more information about ARTM click on the link www.artmmacau.com



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

Research and reports

Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2024

Penington Institute publishes Australia's Annual Overdose Report is a comprehensive study of overdose in Australia. The report draws on the most up-to-date data from diverse, verifiable sources. Penington Institute applies rigorous standards of research and analysis to identify current and emerging trends and create a snapshot of the overdose crisis in the Australian context. To read the report click www.penington.org.au

Drug-related hospitalisations in Australia, 2002–2022

Agata Chrzanowska, Nicola Man, Rachel Sutherland, Louisa Degenhardt and Amy Peacock

This bulletin reports on drug-related hospitalisations in Australia from 2002-03 to 2021-22, with a particular focus on opioid, amphetamine-type stimulant, cannabinoid, cocaine and other drug-related hospitalisations. For more details click on the link www.unsw.edu.au/content.pdf

Trends in mental health problems and mental health treatment attendance among a sample of people who regularly inject drugs in Australia, 2019–2023

Natalie Thomas, Jerissa McLachlan, Jennifer Juckel, Catherine Daly and Caroline Salom

The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) is a national drug monitoring system intended to identify emerging trends of local and national concern in illicit drug markets. The aim of this bulletin is to explore trends in mental health and factors associated with mental health treatment attendance among a sample of people who regularly inject drugs recruited from all Australian capital cities in 2019-2023. To read the report click on the link www.unsw.edu.au/research

Professional development online - elearning and webinars

How do we transform lives?

Insight webinars

Wednesday 16 October 2024, 10:00am - 11:00am

In this webinar, presenters Jaime O'Donovan and Kate Jaka will explore the co-creation of the Transform Lives Program utilising clinical case management to support mothers in prison and their family system to lead safe, fulfilling, and dignified lives. In this presentation they will discuss how the model systemically addresses the barriers mother's face across service systems including AOD by utilising integrative and collaborative practice. For more information, or to register, click <https://insight.qld.edu.au>.

Insight: Cannabis withdrawal management

This module provides knowledge about the [cannabis withdrawal state](#), and equips learners with strategies and tools for supporting individuals experiencing withdrawal. The module covers the symptoms and timeline of cannabis withdrawal, options for managing withdrawal and

considerations for withdrawal from synthetic forms of cannabis. Click on the link to find out more <https://insight.qld.edu.au>

Conferences, symposiums and other events

International Overdose Awareness Day - 31 August 2024

International Overdose Awareness Day is hosted by the Penington Institute. Each year on the night of August 31, landmarks all around the world light up purple for International Overdose Awareness Day. It's one of the most visible and powerful ways we can raise awareness of the growing global overdose crisis and pay tribute to those who have tragically lost their lives. Together, we can make a powerful statement – that overdose is preventable, and we are committed to ending overdose in our communities. For more information, click [here](#).

NDARC Annual Research Symposium

Friday, 20 September 2024, Sydney.

The NDARC Annual Symposium is renowned for showcasing the foremost research in the AOD sector and related fields. For more information and to register to attend click on the link www.unsw.edu.au/research/ndarc/news-events

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

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