



ATCA E-news December 2024

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Executive Officers Update

Dear members and colleagues,

As 2024 draws to a close, I want to thank our members and the wider AOD sector and stakeholders, for your support throughout the year. It's been a busy year and at the ATCA, we've been proud to engage in a range of activities including:

- * Delivered 4 TC Training programs across Australia, in Perth, Alice Springs, Sydney and Melbourne
- * Facilitated a member consultation in Canberra
- * Provided a [Submission to the Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia](#)
- * [Developed a Position Paper for the NSW Drug Summit and represented our members at the regional and Sydney forums](#)
- * Facilitated the ATCA Symposium in November with over 50 members attending from across Australia and overwhelmingly positive feedback received
- * Met with DoHA government representatives and statewide government officials to advocate for and promote the work of our members

Looking ahead, I'm excited to announce that the 2025 ATCA Conference will be held on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th November at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland, New Zealand. Please save these dates! We'll share more details in the new year, including opportunities to participate and contribute.

To everyone who has worked tirelessly over 2024, thank you for the difference you are making in the lives of people accessing your support. I want to extend special thanks to those who will continue working on the frontline over the Christmas and New Year period. Your commitment does not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for all you do.

On behalf of the ATCA Board and myself, I wish you a happy, safe, and restful festive season. I hope you all take the opportunity to relax and recharge before 2025 begins.

The ATCA office will be closed from the 24th December 2024 through to the 2nd January 2025.

If you have any questions or would like more information about any of the details provided in this newsletter please feel free to contact atca@atca.com.au.

Warm regards,

Michelle Ridley, EO
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ATCA events

ATCA Conference 2025

The ATCA Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th November 2025. More details to be announced soon.



Research and articles

Cannabis in Australia 2024

Penington Institute presents this report which provides a snapshot of the latest research, evidence, attitudes, and experience with respect to the rapidly changing landscape around both medicinal and illicit cannabis use in Australia. This year's report highlights the rapidly evolving community expectations around cannabis. <https://www.penington.org.au/cannabis-in-australia-report-2024/>

People who use drugs and the right to health

This paper by Professor Alison Ritter and Liz Barrett from the University of New South Wales is published in the December issue of Harm Reduction Journal. The researchers emphasise the right to health for people who use drugs, including access to quality healthcare, conditions that promote health, and meaningful participation in healthcare decisions. To read the full paper click on the link <https://harmreductionjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12954-024-01132-5>

Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia annual report

In 2022–23, around 131,500 people aged 10 and over received treatment from alcohol and other drug treatment services. The 4 most common drugs that led clients to seek treatment were alcohol (43% of episodes), amphetamines (24%), cannabis (17%) and heroin (4.5%). The median age of all clients was 36 years.

This report has been updated with financial year data for 2022–23 and is updated on an annual basis. To find out more about this report click on the link <https://www.aihw.gov.au>

Professional development - new resources, elearning and webinars

Cracks in the ice: Methamphetamine-associated psychosis: Information for health workers

To learn more about methamphetamine-associated psychosis (or MAP) check out the Cracks in the Ice website for resources that looks at the common causes and key risk factors for MAP and what symptoms to look out for in clients who use methamphetamine. You'll also learn how to provide ongoing support by educating individuals about MAP, as well as treatment and rehabilitation options. Click on the link here <https://cracksintheice.org.au/methamphetamine-psychosis>

Updated resource: Matching AOD Interventions to the Stages of Change

Dovetail and Insight have recently updated the [Matching AOD interventions to the stages of change](#). The guide may help workers determine which AOD interventions or treatment are most appropriate based on an individual's readiness to change their substance use. For more details click on the link <https://insight.qld.edu.au>

Conferences, symposiums and other events

ATCA Conference 2025

26 - 27 November 2025, Auckland, New Zealand

We are excited to announce that our Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand next year. More details to be announced soon about how you can be involved, including submitting abstracts, keynote speakers and more.

Prevention in Place Conference 2025

6-7 May 2025 Melbourne

Hosted by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF), the national Prevention in Place Conference spans multiple sectors dedicated to strengthening protection factors for better outcomes, in particular youth services, justice, disability, suicide prevention, mental health and alcohol and other drugs. For more information click here <https://www.eventleaf.com/e/adfconference>.

NADA Conference 2025: Strength in community

5–6 June 2025, Sydney

Keynotes confirmed: Dr Tracy Westerman AM and Matt Brown. For more information click on the link <https://nada.org.au/events/>

NCETA Symposium 2025

Save Thursday 15th May 2025 for NCETA's 2025 Symposium that will be delivered face to face and online. More information to be provided soon. Click here for more details <https://nceta.flinders.edu.au>

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.

