



ATCA E-news July 2024

Executive Officers Update

Dear Colleagues,

This week, we were deeply saddened to hear of Carole Taylor's passing. Carole served as an ATCA Board member for nearly a decade, and her contributions to both the Association and the broader AOD sector were immense. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy of dedication, passion, and advocacy will continue to inspire everyone who knew her. The ATCA sends our deepest sympathy to Carole's family, community and all DASA staff.

This month, the ATCA has been working on preparations for our symposium, with help from our Victorian members Odyssey House Victoria and Windana. The event will take place at the Amora Hotel in Richmond, Melbourne, on Tuesday, 19th November and promises to feature engaging speakers, an insightful panel discussion and interactive workshop. It will also provide invaluable networking opportunities with colleagues and members from across the ATCA. On the same day, we will hold our AGM, so please save the date. We will be releasing the full program very soon.

In this edition of our e-news, we are excited to introduce a new feature - the member service and worker profile. Each month, we will showcase a member service and staff member to highlight the great work our members are doing and share information about their services. If you would like to be a part of our member service and worker spotlight or have other information to share about your service please email us. We are keen to ensure this e-newsletter reflects our members' activities and achievements.

Warm regards,

Michelle Ridley, EO
atca@atca.com.au



TC and member news



Vale Carole Taylor.

Carole served as an ATCA Board member for nearly a decade and was the CEO of DASA from 2014 to 2022. She commenced her professional journey in the field of politics, finishing that part of her career as a Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff to the Hon Peter Staples in the Hawke, Keating Governments. After leaving government Carole was the CEO of five not for profit organisations, as well as working in her own business. She started her work in the Northern Territory working solely in remote areas. Carole was always a very strong representative on round tables and expert advisory groups, representing remote areas and peoples of Australia, especially the Aboriginal communities and people she was deeply connected with, and the sectors in which she worked. Carole's passion was for Aboriginal health, wellbeing and governance of Aboriginal

organisations bound for self-determination. Carole will be dearly missed. Vale Carole Taylor.

Meet Our Members

We are very grateful to DASA for being our first featured member service and to Prasadi for her thoughtful insights in our worker profile. This month, it is especially fitting to highlight DASA, given the tireless work and leadership that Carole Taylor contributed to the organisation. Carole left a strong and enduring legacy at DASA, and her influence continues to inspire and guide the ongoing work of the team.

Service Showcase

Aranda House Therapeutic Community (Alice Springs, Northern Territory)

Service overview: Aranda House Therapeutic Community (TC) is a 20-bed residential facility located in Alice Springs. Residents are encouraged to be actively involved in their own personal recovery, in a supportive and caring environment. Importantly, we operate with the view *'our residents don't live in our workplace, we work in their home'*. Aranda House also offers non-medical/low acuity withdrawal residential services, as well as co-managed withdrawal if medical support is needed. We provide case management, group therapy, sport, recreation, healthy lifestyle activities and external services are also engaged to provide support. Residents play an active role in the running of Aranda House, leading meetings, carrying out household jobs, contributing to phase up decision making and taking on leadership roles. Aranda House often has a high number of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander residents and our programs are reflective of this, including bush outings and cultural activities. Residents can also access the Aboriginal Outreach and Methamphetamine Outreach Teams, and can graduate into the transitional and independent residential programs.

Our residents: We have a majority of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander residents and a high numbers of residents engaged with the justice system. Alcohol is the most common drug of concern, followed by methamphetamine and cannabis.

Our staff: Aranda House employs a coordinator, three case managers, an assessment & intake worker & a team of TC support workers.

A residents inspiring journey: Sharon (name changed for anonymity), a proud Eastern Arrernte woman, has been a client of DASA for several years. She recently completed Aranda House TC program and then moved to the Transition Program and then into our Independent Living Program, where she has a lease, pays rent and bills, and works as a cleaner at a local gym. Sharon continues to receive support from the Aranda Case Management and Aboriginal Outreach Teams and with their support, she got a bike and assembled it herself with all the additions she needed. Although it hasn't always been easy learning a work - life balance, Sharon has remained resilient, stayed employed, and focused on her goals. She aims to have her own home and car, and serve as a role model to her peers in the future. Next month, she will take on a small paid role at DASA, delivering the Welcome to Country at a major training event.



Member worker spotlight

Prasadi Priyanka, DASA, Alice Springs



How long have you been working with your organisation and what is your role? At the end of this year, I will have been with DASA at Aranda House for 10 years. Currently, I serve as Residential Services Coordinator.

How did your career develop to bring you to your current role? My journey started as a Therapeutic Community Support Worker for 3 years, progressing to a Case Manager for almost 6 years, which significantly shaped my current role.

Can you describe a typical workday for you? My typical workday is dynamic and revolves around ensuring the smooth operation of our Aranda House residential facility, while supporting the recovery journey of our residents. Throughout the day, I remain accessible to residents and staff, providing guidance, encouragement and support as needed.

What do you find most rewarding about your role? The most rewarding aspect of my role is witnessing the transformation and progress of our residents on their journey to recovery. Supporting residents in achieving long-term recovery is what makes my role as a Residential Services Coordinator in an AOD therapeutic community incredibly fulfilling and worthwhile.

What is a unique and positive aspect of your job compared to similar roles in city areas? This natural environment here in Alice Springs provides us with peaceful and serene backdrop for healing, promoting relaxation and stress reduction among residents.

What hobbies or interests do you enjoy outside of work to help with your self-care? Eleven years ago, I had the privilege of participating in the Gold Coast 10km run, Now, as part of my self-care routine, I am dedicated to training for the upcoming 10km run next year. Alongside my training routine, I prioritise spending quality time with my beautiful family. They are my anchor and source of inspiration, reminding me of the importance of balance and fulfillment beyond work and life.

WHOS RTOD residents finding value in Medication Assisted Recovery Anonymous (MARA) Meetings

Residents of WHOS RTOD (OST stabilisation service) have been attending online MARA groups from the USA. MARA meetings support individuals who use medication as part of their recovery process (www.mara-international.org). Although WHOS is not affiliated with any support groups, the residents of WHOS RTOD have found these meetings especially valuable and have established Australia's first MARA meeting. They have requested that the meeting details be shared so that any other people who will find these meetings helpful can join in. The meeting is held online every Saturday at 7pm and lasts for one hour. For more information, please visit MARA International.



ATCA SYMPOSIUM
& AGM

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

19 NOVEMBER
9.30-4.30pm
Where: Amora Hotel
649 Bridge Road, Richmond
MELBOURNE

MORE DETAILS TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON

NSW & ACT Update

The ATCA welcomes the [NSW Government's confirmation](#) that a Drug Summit will be held over two days in regional NSW in October (locations to be confirmed), and in Sydney on 4th-5th December. The ATCA views the Drug Summit as a crucial opportunity to contribute to the planning of a sustainable NGO AOD treatment sector. The ATCA has prepared a Position Paper to outline our key recommendations for considering ways the NSW Government can enhance drug treatment services to effectively meet the needs of the entire community. Our draft Position Paper has been distributed to our NSW and ACT members for input and feedback, to ensure that we are representing your collective views and experiences. If you would like more information about this please email atca@atca.com.au.

International TC news

NWT jail that became therapeutic community is working, advocates say

The therapeutic community model began its pilot at Hay River's jail in Canada in late 2021, with the aim of helping to rehabilitate people in custody. More than two years later, 35 people have gone through the facility and advocates say it's having a positive impact. To read more about this Canadian TC click on the link <https://cabinradio.ca/190982/news/justice/>

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.eftconference2024

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

World Drug Report 2024 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

The World Drug Report provides a global reference on drug markets, trends and policy developments and offers a wealth of data and analysis. The Report states that cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide (228 million users), followed by opioids (60 million users), amphetamines (30 million users), cocaine (23 million users), and ecstasy (20 million users). To find out more click on the link <https://unis.unvienna.org/unis/en/pressrels/2024/uniscp1177.html>

NDARC National illicit drug indicators project reports

This report presents the most recent and in-depth data on overdose and drug-induced deaths in Australia, covering the period 2003 to 2022. To read the report click [here](#).

Professional development online - elearning and webinars

Strengthening Alcohol and Other Drug, Womens and Disability Sector Responses to Gender-Based Violence

1-3pm Tues 27 August

This event presented by Australian Alcohol and other Drug Council, Australian Women's Health Alliance and Deafness Forum Australia will showcase and explore innovative and collaborative responses, and new directions in responding to gender-based violence across our three sectors. For more details and to register to attend this event click on the link https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I6dYAI8BR7eTUXYyv8jfBQ

Fundamentals of suicidality

Insight eLearning course

This toolkit offers eLearning modules and resources to help workers understand suicidality, communicate effectively about it, and support individuals experiencing suicidality. You are encouraged to download and use the resources provided with those you work with who are experiencing suicidality. Click on the link for more information - <https://insight.qld.edu.au/training>

Resources and practice tools

Feeling deadly, working deadly resources

Due to the large volume of requests from workers and organisations across Australia, NCETA has reprinted their [Feeling deadly, working deadly](#) resource kit, originally launched in 2014. The kit was co-developed to reduce stress and burnout, and enhance well-being amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD workers. If you would like copies and to find out more click on the link www.connections.edu.au

Alcohol and pregnancy resources

NOFASD, in conjunction with the Foundation for Alcohol Research (FARE) and as part of the Every Moment Matters campaign, has created printable resources for AOD Sector workers and a resource for women who are alcohol dependent. These resources help reinforce the best approaches to provide non-judgemental and safe supports for women who are alcohol dependent. Click on the link for more information and to access the resources www.nofasd.org.au/service-providers/alcohol-and-other-drug-sector/

Towards Trauma-Informed Research: A brief overview and practice guide

This [practical guide](#) provides a brief overview of trauma-informed research and reflections on how to 'do' trauma-informed research. It is a useful resource for anyone interested in research about trauma or seeking to minimise the risk of re-traumatisation during the research process. For more information click on the link cmhdaresearchnetwork.com.au

Conferences, symposiums and other events

The Mental Health Services Conference

28–30 August, Canberra

The MHS Conference 2024 will look beyond the mental health system to learn how differing views on mental health can be brought together for wider impact. To find out more click on the link www.themhs.org

International Overdose Awareness Day

31 August 2024

International Overdose Awareness Day (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 is "Together we can", highlighting the power of our community when we all stand together. For information click on the link www.overdoseday.com

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

Job opportunities

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

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.

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