



## ATCA E-news November 2024

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### Executive Officers Update

Dear Colleagues,

November has been an incredibly busy and productive month. On the 19th, we held our Symposium at the Amora Hotel in Naarm/Melbourne, bringing together over 60 attendees for a day of networking, discussions and learning. Highlights included presentations and panel discussions on enhancing practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and multicultural communities, as well as future directions for therapeutic communities (TCs). Expert panelists shared invaluable insights on culture, connection, growth, and the challenges ahead. Evaluation feedback from the symposium have been extremely positive. More details and photos from the symposium are featured below.

The ATCA's AGM was also held on the same day. We thank Directors Jenny Boyle, Carol Daws, David Kelly, and Eloise Page for their continued leadership, as they were re-elected unopposed. Anne Cox and Joe Coyte were re-appointed to the Board, and we are grateful for their continued contributions.

Meanwhile, the ATCA has been active at the NSW Drug Summit, attending regional meetings in Griffith and Lismore and preparing for the Sydney sessions on 4–5 December. In preparation, we've engaged with key government leaders, including meetings with the Hon. Kate Washington (Minister for Families and Communities and Disability Inclusion) and the Hon. Rose Jackson's (Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health and Youths) team, emphasising the key recommendations in our Position Paper, the incredible work of our member services and the importance of cross-sector collaboration. For more on our Drug Summit position paper, click the link [here](#).

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](mailto:atca@atca.com.au).

Warm regards,



Michelle Ridley, EO  
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## ATCA events

### ATCA TC Training Canberra

We have a few places available for the ATCA TC Training at Canberra from the 21st-24th January 2025. The TC training is an essential course for people working in TCs in any role and at any level of the organisation. To register for this training please click on the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WM5V6LT>.

### ATCA Conference 2025

The ATCA Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand in late 2025. More details to be announced soon.

### ATCA symposium

#### Therapeutic Communities Today: Adaptation & Impact

On the 19 November the ATCA welcomed over 60 attendees to our Symposium in Naarm/Melbourne. It was a day filled with engaging presentations and insightful panel discussions including a panel featuring Odyssey House Victoria residents, sharing their journeys through treatment and TCs; and a panel about Culture, Connection and TCs & Residential Rehab Services featuring powerful insights from Steve and Chad (The Glen), Daniel (Odyssey House Victoria), and Jocelyn (DASA). Steve, Chad and Jocelyn also provided presentations on culturally inclusive approaches when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Teguh (Odyssey House NSW Multicultural Program) delivered a presentation on enhancing culturally safe practice with multicultural communities. The day concluded with a discussion among TC leaders, exploring growth, challenges, and future directions for the sector.

Evaluation feedback from attendees has been overwhelmingly positive with all evaluation surveys agreeing that the presentations and panel discussion were engaging. Common themes in response to the question, *What was the most valuable takeaway from the event?*, included; valuable insights on culture and culturally safe approaches, opportunities to network and to connect with others, and hearing from current residents about their experiences of TCs. A detailed report of the evaluations and workshop feedback will be provided to attendees and ATCA members in the coming month.

Finally the ATCA would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, presented, and contributed to making the event a success.





## ATCA AGM and Board Update

The ATCA held its 2024 AGM following the symposium in Melbourne, where members reviewed and accepted the annual report, including the Chair's, Treasurer's, and Financial reports. We extend our gratitude to Jenny Boyle, Carol Daws, David Kelly, and Eloise Page, who were re-elected unopposed, for their continued leadership. Anne Cox and Joe Coyte were also re-appointed to the Board, and we deeply appreciate their ongoing contributions. The Board convened the following day to discuss key priorities, including the review of the TC Standards, planning for TC Training in 2025, and preparations for next year's conference. With many exciting projects and activities ahead, the Board and I look forward to collaborating with our members in the coming year. To read and ATCA's 2023-2024 Annual Report click on the link here - <https://atca.com.au/about/>.





## Research and articles

### **Analysis of trends in GHB use and related harms in Australia**

This study by UNSW NDARC aimed to identify trends in GHB use, harms (i.e., GHB-related deaths and hospitalisations) and treatment utilisation in Australia between 2013 and 2024. To see the paper click [www.unsw.edu.au](http://www.unsw.edu.au)

### **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>

### **Changes to vaping in Australia**

This [stakeholder information kit](https://www.ama.com.au/Information%20Kit202024.pdf) (October 2024) provides information on the changes to vaping in Australia under the Therapeutic Goods and Other Legislation Amendment (Vaping Reforms) Act 2024 that came into effect on 1 July 2024, as well as subsequent changes on 1 October 2024. Click on the link for the [kit](https://www.ama.com.au/Information%20Kit202024.pdf)

## Professional development - new resources, elearning and webinars

### **Supporting people with an intellectual disability who use alcohol and other drugs**

Understanding the relationship between intellectual disability and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) can help workers adjust their approach, so they can help people with an intellectual disability access the support they need. Refer to the link for more details <https://adf.org.au/resources/health-professionals/low-literacy-resources/>

### **Matching AOD Interventions to the Stages of Change**

Dovetail and Insight have recently updated the [Matching AOD interventions to the stages of change](https://insight.qld.edu.au). 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>

### **Guidelines to support those working at the intersection of AOD, DFV and mental health**

This ANROWS resource sets out evidence-based guidelines to support the implementation of the Safe & Together approach. It will be useful for any worker practising at the intersections of domestic and family violence, mental health, and AOD. Click on the link [www.anrows.org.au/resources/estie-practice-resource](http://www.anrows.org.au/resources/estie-practice-resource)

### **Neurodiversity and substance use: What clinicians need to know**

The [recorded webinar](#) has a focus on young people and assists workers to consider substance use and addictive behaviours using a developmental perspective, understand the interaction between substance use and

neurodiversity (ADHD and ASD), and reflect on opportunities and challenges in providing care across different treatment settings. <https://comorbidityguidelines.org.au/resources/webinars>

### **Social and emotional wellbeing resource portal**

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation has a range of [culturally safe resources](#) including fact sheets, apps, videos, and more, created by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to support social and emotional wellbeing. Click on the link for more details <https://apo.org.au/node/328196>

## **Conferences, symposiums and other events**

### **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/>

### **Save the Date: 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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