



## ATCA E-news October 2024

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### Executive Officers Update

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe the end of the year is nearly here! This month at the ATCA we've been busy preparing for our AGM and finalising the annual report, as well as putting the finishing touches on the upcoming ATCA Symposium. Scheduled for 19th November at the Amora Hotel in Melbourne, the Symposium will feature presentations and a panel discussion focused on enhancing practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural communities, and another panel will explore the future of therapeutic communities, identifying opportunities for growth, addressing challenges, and sharing insights for advancing TCs.

This month, we submitted a report to the Inquiry into the Health Impacts of Alcohol and Other Drugs in Australia. Our submission includes seven key recommendations and highlights the valuable work of our member organisations across Australia. To read the full submission click [here](#). Additionally, ATCA will represent our members providing services across NSW at the NSW Regional Drug Summit Forums at the beginning of November. The summit brings together health experts, police, families, and other stakeholders to provide diverse perspectives and inform government strategies to improve health outcomes for those impacted by drugs. To read the ATCA Drug Summit Position paper click on 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  
[atca@atca.com.au](mailto:atca@atca.com.au)



### ATCA events

#### ATCA TC Training Canberra

The ATCA has places available for its TC Training scheduled for 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>.

#### 2024 ATCA Annual General Meeting

**The ATCA gives notice that an Annual General Meeting of its members will be held:**

**Time:** 3.30pm - 4.30pm (following the Symposium event)

**Date:** 19 November 2024

**Place:** Amora Riverwalk Hotel, Richmond, Melbourne

For member delegates to be eligible to vote, membership fees must be paid and current. Contact [atca@atca.com.au](mailto:atca@atca.com.au) for more details and to register attend.

## ATCA Symposium 2024

### Therapeutic Communities Today: Adaptation & Impact

9am-3.30pm 19th November, Amora Riverwalk Hotel, Richmond, Melbourne

We are looking forward to holding the ATCA symposium in Melbourne on the 19th November. To see the program and to register for the event click on the link [www.atca.com.au/events](http://www.atca.com.au/events).

#### Panels includes:

Culture, connection and TCs & Residential Rehab Services. 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: Dr. Stefan Gruenert (CEO, Odyssey Victoria), Andrea McCloud (CEO, Windana), Eloise Page (CEO, DASA) & Mark Ferry (COO Ted Noffs Foundation). Panel Moderator: Gerard Byrne (Chair, ATCA).

For more details and to register click on the link [www.atca.com.au/events](http://www.atca.com.au/events)

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

## ATCA member updates and stories



### Celebrating 30 Years of The Glen: A Spotlight on Their Journey and Impact

The Glen men's program recently celebrated 30 years of providing essential residential rehabilitation services on the Central Coast of NSW. Since it opened, more than 4,000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous men have been through the program. Over 800 guests joined the celebrations, including their community partners, funders, volunteers, staff, and, most importantly, their clients and families.



In addition to this significant anniversary The Glen will be featured on ABC TV's 7:30 Report on 31 October as part of a story on the NSW Drug Summit. The ABC film crew spent three days with The Glen team, capturing their vital work and mission across both centers. To find out more click on the links <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/7-30>, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-10-24/indigenous-led-nsw-rehab-the-glen-for-men-culturally-safe-model> and [www.theglencentre.org.au/the-glen/](http://www.theglencentre.org.au/the-glen/)

### 45 Years of Meals & Healing at Odyssey House Victoria

Odyssey House Victoria celebrated 45 years of serving meals as part of the Lower Plenty therapeutic community! The kitchen has transformed since those early days, now led by Chef Kevin and a dedicated team of residents who prepare fresh, healthy, and delicious meals for 100 people every day. Meals are a time for staff and residents to come together, sharing not just food, but community and support. To find out more about Odyssey House Victoria click on the link <https://odyssey.org.au/>



### **The Importance of Understanding the Individual in Treating Addiction (Episode 3)**

Also in news from Odyssey House Victoria, Stefan Gruenert (CEO Odyssey House, Victoria) discusses the work undertaken by Odyssey House in this podcast, about how they've changed over time to create a more supportive and inclusive environment for people in the LGBTQ+ community, and the importance of finding the correct balance between peer support with lived experience and clinical staff. He also digs into emotional regulation and why it is such a vital part of treating addiction. To hear this podcast click on the link <https://www.ausmed.com.au/organisations/toolbox/podcast>

## **International TC news**

### **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](http://www.wftc.org)

### **World Federation Therapeutic Communities (WFTC) presents opportunities and challenges within the Therapeutic Community to serve vulnerable populations**

In case you missed the 2023 presentation click on the link to find out more <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C7F3Xff3xW0&t=24s>

## **Research and articles**

### **Lowitja Institute: Cultural safety in Australia**

This [discussion paper](#) reflects on the history of First Nations cultural safety in Australia, and on training as a mechanism to embed cultural safety across systems, policies, programs and services. It explores what is currently known about the impact of this on participants' knowledge, skills, and actions. [www.lowitja.org.au/news/discussion-paper-cultural-safety-in-australia/](http://www.lowitja.org.au/news/discussion-paper-cultural-safety-in-australia/)

### **Understanding ADHD and alcohol and other drugs**

People's use of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) can be influenced by many factors, such as their environment, genetics, and overall wellbeing. And while each person's experience is different, there is more information becoming available about the relationship between AOD and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). To find out more refer to the <https://adf.org.au/insights/adhd-and-aod/>

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

This [stakeholder information kit](#) (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

### 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>

### Emerging Minds Learning

Emerging Minds has a range of resources and online learning modules to support practice when working with families, young people and children. To see their new online course: Supporting the mental health of children in out-of-home care and practice paper: Recognising and strengthening the stories of children in care - click on the link <https://emergingminds.com.au/>

### Webinar: Alcohol & Gendered Violence | Kym Valentine, Ingrid Wilson, Nicole Hewlett, Michael Salter

This webinar unpacks the intersection between alcohol and gendered violence, and provides an overview of current evidence from a panel with expertise in public health policy, lived experience and research. Speakers: FARE CEO Caterina Giorgi, celebrated actor and Survivor Advocate Kym Valentine, world-renowned researcher in alcohol-related intimate partner violence Dr Ingrid Wilson, proud Palawa woman and University of Queensland PhD candidate and project manager Nicole Hewlett, UNSW criminology Professor Michael Salter. <https://youtu.be/SCLn7xIYaQg?si=GRINrwtdbMnVXX7->

## 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](http://www.atca.com.au/events). More details will be announced soon.

### *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](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).

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