

E Tū Kāhikatea Standing Strong: Navigating Change & Building Resilience

**Conference 2025
25 - 27 NOV
JW Marriott, Auckland, New Zealand**

Join us at the **ATCA Conference**, on the **25-27 November 2025** in Auckland, New Zealand. The conference will attract delegates from across the ATCA membership, broader alcohol and other drug sector and other health and community services. Showcasing innovative practices, interventions, and research aimed at enhancing client outcomes, this event will introduce new ideas and provide valuable networking opportunities.

E Tū Kāhikatea

Standing Strong: Navigating Change & Building Resilience

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25 November - Local member site visits. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to visit Odyssey House Auckland and Higher Ground to experience their work firsthand.

26 - 27 November - Conference proceedings. The conference program will be announced after abstracts are finalised. To find out more about submitting an abstract, see details below.

FIRST KEYNOTE ANNOUNCEMENTS! MORE TO COME SOON!



Dr David Best is Professor and Director of the Centre for Addiction Recovery Research (CARR) at Leeds Trinity University, Honorary Professor of Regulation and Global Governance at The Australian National University, Adjunct Associate Professor of Addiction Science at Monash University (Melbourne) and Affiliate Senior Scientist at the Public Health Institute in California. He is also a founding member of the College of Lived Experience Recovery Organisations in the UK and of the Inclusive Recovery Cities movement where he is chair of Inclusive Recovery Cities UK. Trained as a psychologist and criminologist, he has worked in practice, research and policy in the areas of addiction recovery and rehabilitation of offenders. He has authored or co-edited eight books on addiction recovery and desistance from offending and has written more than 250 peer-reviewed journal publications and around 70 book chapters and technical reports. He is one of the leading academics in the area of addiction recovery and a key innovator in developing recovery capital measurement tools and methods.

David's keynote: 'The role of TCs in building community recovery capital: An outside in model' will explore creating the conditions that maximise the opportunities for recovery from a TC perspective, and the idea of Community Connections and Community Recovery Capital.



Dr Andre McLachlan, Ngāti Apa and Muaūpoko (PhD; PGDipClinPsych; PGDip HealthSci) is a Clinical Psychologist and Addictions practitioner based in the Waikato. He has a range of research, lecturing and workforce development roles. Andre is a father of six, including Tamariki with Te Iho Tātai-ā-Rongo (FASD). He has specialist interests in Indigenous approaches to Mental Health, Trauma, Addictions and Neurodiversity. Andre enjoys creating and delivering interactive workshops that enhance peoples engagement in new learning and increases motivation to learn more and directly apply new skills to their practice.

Andre's keynote: 'Te Whare o Oro: Neurodiversity in the healing space - A Māori approach' will provide a framework for exploring neurodevelopment, neurodiversity and the impact of trauma. We will discuss ways of discussing neurodevelopment, needs and healing responses from a Māori perspective; along with some of the innovative resources to support practice. Te Whare o Oro incorporates the structural features, roles and whakapapa kōrero (history and stories) of a whare tupuna (ancestral meeting house), using traditional kupu whakarite (metaphor) to discuss the structure and function of the roro (Brain).



Abstracts

ATCA invites abstract submissions for oral, lightning round, and poster presentations, and workshops for the 2025 ATCA Conference. This is an opportunity for you to showcase your innovative practice or research.

Conference theme

The conference theme celebrates the strength, innovation, and resilience of TCs, the workforce, and those accessing our services in an ever-evolving landscape. It acknowledges the power of standing together through change and challenges. E Tū Kāhikatea translates to 'Stand Tall Like the Kāhikatea'. The Kāhikatea, is one of the tallest trees in New Zealand, living in the low wetlands and stands tall by intertwining its roots with others. *"It's this interconnectedness that enables it to withstand storms and droughts and is a powerful metaphor symbolising resilience and standing strong together"* (Peter Sciascia, Pou Matua, Cultural Lead, Odyssey House, Auckland).

Abstracts/presentations may focus on any topic related to the conference theme. The theme aims to highlight ATCA members and the broader sectors achievements and innovations, with a focus on:

- Sustaining change: Interventions, services and research supporting long-term recovery
- Nurturing growth: Innovations in the Therapeutic Community approach - residential and community-based
- Safe spaces, Strong Communities: Culturally safe and inclusive practices
- Standing strong together: Building a resilient workforce, for stronger TCs, clients and communities
- Voices of experience: The Power of Peer Support and Lived Experience
- Building bridges: Collaborative and cross sector approaches

Abstract submission process

- To read the Abstract guidelines click on the link <https://atca.com.au/resources/>
- Abstracts must be submitted online, using the application link <https://form.jotform.com/250727283039863>
- Abstracts must be submitted by **5pm, Monday 16 June 2025**

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More details about the conference to be announced soon.

If you have any questions please contact atca@atca.com.au

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