



2012 – 2013 ***Annual Report***

1 JULY 2012 – 30 JUNE 2013

***We acknowledge
the Traditional Owners
and continuing custodians
of the lands of the ACT
and we pay our respects
to the Elders, their families
and ancestors.***

Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc. (ATODA) is the peak body representing the non-government and government alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) sector in the ACT. ATODA seeks to promote health through the prevention and reduction of the harms associated with ATOD.

ATODA works collaboratively to provide expertise and leadership in the areas of social policy, sector and workforce development, research, coordination, partnerships, communication, information and resources. ATODA is an evidence informed organisation that is committed to the principles of public health, human rights and social justice.



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Documents accompanying this annual report

ATODA's 2012–2013 annual report should be read in conjunction with several accompanying documents including our:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Strategic Plan
- Financial Statements 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013

Table of Contents

ALCOHOL TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG ASSOCIATION ACT	2	The ACT ATOD Services Directory	25
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4	The Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference	26
OUR BOARD, STAFF AND CONSULTANTS	7	The ACT ATOD eBulletin and Research eBulletin	28
EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	8	The Comorbidity Bus Tours	30
OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND SPONSORS	10	The ACT ATOD Awards	31
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	13	Collaboration across State and Territory ATOD Peak Bodies	32
Advocacy and Policy	14	The ACT ATOD Sector Reconciliation Working Group	33
The Screening Project	16	Expert, Evidence-Based, Customisable ACT ATOD Education and Training	34
The Consumer Participation Project	19	www.atoda.org.au	35
The ACT ATOD Workers Group	22	Subsidised Nicotine Replacement Therapy for Workers	36
The ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS)	23	Training and Professional Development Calendar	37
ACT Drug Action Week 2013	24	Forums and Workshops	38
		Additional Activities	40
		FINANCIAL REPORT	43

President's Report

ATODA's third year of operation has again been very impressive.

ATODA is now recognised as an organisation that:

- Has strong connections with its membership, stakeholders and across ACT Government directorates;
- Understands, and can support the translation of, the evidence base into the ACT context; and
- Is a 'go-to' organisation to collaboratively develop solutions to alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems.
- Committing to review the *Liquor Act 2010* after two years of operation, including to review the health outcomes from the reforms;
- Funding an alcohol and other drug outpatient service as an integral part of the treatment system; and,
- Preventing and reducing opioid overdose by implementing and evaluating Australia's first training program that includes prescription naloxone to detainees upon release and other Canberrans who are potential overdose victims.

As you will read in this annual report, it is also an organisation that dedicates much of its resources to strengthening and supporting the sector it represents. This annual report confirms the operational and strategic strength of ATODA.

The ACT continues to be a leader in evidence based policy and practice. On behalf of the ATODA Board, I acknowledge the ACT Government for sharing this commitment with us and for its leadership, including:

- Prioritising targeted tobacco interventions for disadvantaged Canberrans, including funding supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people who are accessing alcohol and drug treatment;
- A continued commitment to preventing and reducing blood-borne virus transmission (including working towards providing access to sterile injecting equipment in the Alexander Maconochie Centre);

For each of these initiatives ATODA has been involved along the way, collaborating with stakeholders to identify the most effective ways of supporting Canberrans and utilising limited resources.

The organisation has reached an important strategic point in its development, and I refer you to the section of this report that highlights some of the strategies ATODA has implemented to achieve the goals from the strategic plan.

The achievements in this annual report are outcomes of the collective effort of the sector.

I also acknowledge my fellow Board members, the membership, the Secretariat and the entire sector for our shared commitment to improving, preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms in the ACT.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and contributions to the community, each other and the sector.

I would also like to acknowledge the ever-dedicated ATODA staff team, particularly Carrie Fowlie, Amanda Bode, Dave Corby and David McDonald.

We are grateful for the essential and ongoing support from the ACT Government and the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing; and I also thank their staff for their efforts and commitment to our organisation and sector.

I would like to remind the membership and stakeholders that, unbelievably, ATODA's extensive policy and advocacy work is predominantly unfunded. I'm sure you, like I, find it impressive that despite this obstacle the ATOD sector has a strong and well-respected voice in the ACT. I have been particularly impressed with ATODA's engagement with its membership and key stakeholders to make strong cases for reform, which are often then reflected in legislation, policy and practice.

I reflect on the challenging times ahead with the significant concurrent national and ACT reform agendas. Over the past three years ATODA has worked to strengthen the sector to stand strong through both the opportunities and challenges reform can bring.

Together we can now better articulate, and contribute to, the evidence base from which we work and have platforms to showcase our good practice. We know we are a strong sector when we can harness our strengths and have the confidence, commitment and passion to always strive to improve our work.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Nicole Wiggins, ATODA's Vice President. She has worked tirelessly for over 12 years as the

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS ATODA HAS WORKED TO STRENGTHEN THE SECTOR TO STAND STRONG THROUGH BOTH THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES REFORM CAN BRING.

head of the ACT's drug user organisation, the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy. She was pivotal in establishing ATODA and has been on the Board since day one. In December, she will begin a new chapter, we wish her all the best. Nicole, we are grateful for your expertise, generosity and compassion.



Anne Kirwan
President, ATODA

STRATEGIES TO PROGRESS THE GOALS OF THE ATODA STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal # 1 A well governed and managed ACT ATOD sector peak body, representing a strong and diverse membership, and actively engaged with the stakeholders we represent.

- We have enhanced the Board's processes and structures to support decision-making and leadership within the organisation and the sector.
- We have strengthened ATODA's membership base and the support provided to our members.
- We continue to develop sustainable and diverse funding for the activities of the organisation.
- We work collaboratively with the state, territory and national ATOD peak bodies on issues of national and shared importance.
- We work collaboratively across the organisation to enhance operational processes.
- We continue to develop ATODA towards an 'employer of choice' and an industrial-relations leader within the sector.

Goal # 2 An evidence-informed organisation that supports the development and implementation of research, policy and practice within the ACT ATOD sector.

- We are engaged with researchers and expert consultants to support ATODA's access to, engagement with, and contributions towards the evidence base.
- We have engaged with researchers and research institutions to enhance evidence based practices within the sector.
- We have promoted and supported evidence informed policy development and implementation.
- We have promoted and supported evidence informed practice.

Goal # 3 A responsive organisation that provides leadership as part of an ACT sector that is well equipped to prevent, reduce and respond to the harms associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

- We have aligned ATODA's work with the *ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010–2014* and other relevant ACT Government and national strategies and policies.
- We have conducted consultations and engaged with the membership and key stakeholders to identify strategic priorities, key issues and actions.
- We have developed strategic partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders.
- We have engaged in strategies to represent the sector's views, challenges and strengths in various forums.
- We have, and will continue to engage with members and stakeholders to develop ATODA's core documentation including the next Strategic Plan, including through a survey to inform a strategic planning workshop at our Annual General Meeting in November 2013.

Our Board, Staff and Consultants

Board

A Board was elected from the membership at ATODA's second Annual General Meeting in November 2012, including a nominated ACT ATOD Workers Group representative, members included:

Anne Kirwan	<i>President</i>	CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
Nicole Wiggins	<i>Vice President</i>	Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
Gerard Byrne	<i>Treasurer</i>	Salvation Army
Vera Van De Velde	<i>Secretary</i>	Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
Kate Pensa	<i>Member</i>	Directions
Ronan O'Connor	<i>Member</i>	Ted Noffs Foundation
Camilla Rowland	<i>Member</i>	Karralika Programs Inc.
Paulina Hellec	<i>Member</i>	Toora Women Inc
Dawn Bainbridge	<i>Member</i>	ACT ATOD Workers Group Representative

Staff

ATODA staff (4 full time equivalent) included:

Carrie Fowlie	<i>Executive Officer</i>
Amanda Bode	<i>Project Manager</i>
Dave Corby	<i>Office Manager</i>
Dianna Smith	<i>Project Manager</i>
Julie Robert	<i>Communications and Project Officer</i>

Consultants

ATODA engages consultants and evaluators to provide expert advice and support to the organisation:

David McDonald	Katie Fraser
Raymond Lovett	Adam Bode
Annie Bleeker	Dave Baxter

Support

ATODA would also like to acknowledge the financial and IT support from:

Lesley Poorj
Tony Bandle, Bandle McAneney & Co
Eric Warner & Robert Spencer, Epimedia

Executive Officer's Report

ATODA's third year of operation has been as dynamic and constructive as its first two — but something has changed.

The impact ATODA is having can be felt, for example through the many invitations it receives from government and non-government stakeholders to provide input, and the positive ways in which this input is received. This impact is a result of the sector's active engagement and commitment to developing meaningful solutions for its community, in its work and with its peak.

The year has been full of reform, with more on the horizon. However, the ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector knows how to embrace reform on its own terms. For example, the specialist services actively engaged in the ACT Government's *Review of the Need to Expand Drug Rehabilitation Services in the ACT* and then conducted a series of workshops to prioritise the recommendations across the sector. The sector openly shares information, ideas and learnings, it acknowledges constraints and actively seeks opportunities for continuous improvement.

ATODA has maintained its focus on providing capacity building initiatives, as seen throughout this annual report. To extend the organisation's commitment to ongoing quality improvement, ATODA has engaged in an external evaluation of its role in building the capacity of alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment and support services in partnership with the other jurisdictional peaks. Concurrently, ATODA sought to actively engage in the whirlwind that is ACT and national alcohol, tobacco and other drug advocacy and policy development.

The ongoing support of the membership and sector is deeply appreciated, as are the contributions of ACT Government policy staff. The core non-government and government partnership is a testament to our sector — a vibrant, effective model upon which external stakeholders remark.

ATODA's achievements remain possible because of the leadership and guidance of the ATODA Board, particularly the President, Anne Kirwan and Vice President, Nicole Wiggins. I too wish Nicole all the best and would like to thank Nicole for her mentorship, wisdom and tireless dedication.

I would like to especially thank all the ATODA Secretariat staff for their efforts, particularly Amanda Bode, Dave Corby and David McDonald.

This year has seen the strengthening and consolidation of ATODA's position as a respected and trusted peak body, whose views are valued in improving health and stimulating informed debate. The sector is buzzing with energy, confidence and possibility, and has marked its achievements along the way.

It is a great honour and privilege to be part of a sector that is a constructive contributor and strives to do what it does best — achieve better health and wellbeing for Canberrans.



Carrie Fowle
Executive Officer, ATODA

Full, Associate and Individual Members and their ATOD Programs

1. ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre
2. ACT Shelter
3. AIDS Action Council
4. Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
5. Alcohol and Drug Programs including Solaris Therapeutic Community, ACT Corrective Services, Justice and Community Safety Directorate
6. A. Bleeker
7. Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
8. Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
9. Directions
10. Families ACT
11. Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
12. Health Care Consumers Association
13. Hello Sunday Morning
14. Karralika Programs Inc
15. Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
16. Mental Health Foundation
17. Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria
18. Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
19. StreetLaw
20. Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
21. Volunteering ACT
22. WIREDD, Lesleys Place and Marzenna, Toora Women Inc
23. Youth Coalition of the ACT

Our Funders, Partners and Sponsors

ATODA acknowledges its funders, partners and sponsors for their generous support, including:

FUNDERS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

- Members of ATODA
- Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister and Minister for Health
- Mr Jeremy Hansen MLA, Opposition Health Minister
- Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA, ACT Greens Health Spokesperson
- Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Corrections
- Dr Chris Bourke MLA
- AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
- Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Government
- Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
- Health Promotion Branch, ACT Health
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Government
- Policy and Government Relations, ACT Health

PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

- ACT Ambulance Service
- ACT Corrective Services
- ACT Council of Social Service
- ACT Health
- ACT Hepatitis Resource Centre
- ACT Medicare Local
- ACT Mental Health Consumer Network
- ACT Shelter
- Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA)
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)
- Associate Professor Lynne Magor-Blatch, University of Canberra
- Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT (AADANT)
- Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- Australian National Council on Drugs
- Australian Pharmacy Erindale
- Burnet Institute
- Calvary Inpatient Unit (Ward 2N), Calvary Hospital

- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
- Capital Chemist Dickson
- Develin's City Chemist
- Directions
- Dr Caitlin Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program, University of New South Wales
- Dr Monica Barrat, National Drug Research Institute
- Dr Nicholas Carrah, University of Queensland
- Dr Phyll Dance, NCEPH, Australian National University
- Dr Sally Rooke, National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre
- Dr Stefan Gruenert, CEO, Odyssey House Victoria
- Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA), South Australian Government
- Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
- Families ACT
- Family Drug Support
- Gagan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- headspace ACT
- Health Care Consumers Association
- Interchange General Practice
- Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Government
- Justice Richard Refshauge
- Karralika Programs Inc
- Mr David McDonald and Mrs Noela McDonald, Social Research and Evaluation
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- Mental Health Services, ACT Government
- Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria
- Mr Adrian Marron, Canberra Institute of Technology
- Mr Brian and Mrs Marion McConnell, Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
- Mr Laurence Alvis, ReGen UnitingCare
- Mr Matt Gleeson, ReGen
- Mr Ray Lovett, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies & National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University
- Mr Tony Brown, Newcastle Community Drug Action Team
- Mr Tony Trimmingham OAM
- Mrs Agnes Shea OAM
- Ms Annie Bleeker, Consultant

- Ms Annie Madden, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League
- Ms Pam Boyer, Mental Illness Education ACT
- Ms Selina Walker, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Ms Keischa Jamieson, Ms Shaye Graham, Beyond Today Performers
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)
- National Drugs Sector Information Service, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia
- Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA)
- Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS)
- Odyssey House
- Professor Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program
- Professor Dan Lubman, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
- Professor Debra Rickwood, University of Canberra & headspace National
- Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute
- Professor Richard Midford, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, Edith Cowan University
- Professor Ron Borland, Cancer Council Victoria
- Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute
- Public Health Association of Australia (ACT Branch)
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
- ReGen UnitingCare
- Richmond Fellowship of the ACT
- Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
- Street Law
- Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, ACT Government
- The Connection
- Toora Women Inc
- Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA)
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- Woden Pharmasave Pharmacy
- Youth Coalition of the ACT

The Year in Review

The activities of ATODA in its third year of operation have been many, particularly for such a small staff team.

The 'Year in Review' in this annual report has a particular focus on capacity building, sector and workforce development, information and resources, and support activities. These are the funded activities of the organisation.

ATODA is also engaged in a significant amount of advocacy and policy work. These activities are predominantly unfunded.

For further information please visit www.atoda.org.au

Ensuring the ACT ATOD sector has a strong voice in evidence-based and socially just decision-making

Advocacy and Policy

ATODA seeks to embed advocacy and acknowledges a policy component in all aspects of its work. Below are some specific examples of advocacy and policy work undertaken.

Identifying and advocating for funding to address ATOD service system priorities:

- **Such as:** advocacy and policy through the ACT Budget 2013–14 Consultation.
- **Activities included:** discussion papers, consultations, submission, analysis, representation, media, advocacy, communications, meetings and giving evidence to the Select Committee on Estimates.
- **Progress:** ATOD specific resources were explicitly allocated in the 2013–2014 ACT Budget and through other ACT funding sources, including partial funding for alcohol and other drug outpatient services model for the ACT & Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tobacco control.

Countering the promulgation of treatment that is not evidence-based:

- **Such as:** advocating for Canberrans with opioid dependence to no longer be referred to treatment for Naltrexone sustained release implants.
- **Activities included:** a position statement, communications, letters, meetings, representation and advocacy.

- **Progress:** the Opioid Treatment Advisory Committee (OTAC) developed a position statement; there is increased awareness of the issue within the sector; and ACT specific information about the evidence base is available in the public domain for consumers, families and workers.

Preventing and reducing the transmission of blood borne viruses with a particular focus on hepatitis:

- **Such as:** advocating for Australia's first Needle and Syringe Program in prison at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, the ACT's adult prison.
- **Activities included:** collaborations, submissions, Question & Answer document, letters, representation, media, consultations, meetings, advocacy and presentations.
- **Progress:** the ACT Government has renewed its commitment to a one-for-one exchange within the prison which is reflected in the *Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood-Borne Viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) 2013–2017*.

Preventing and reducing the harms from opioid overdose:

- **Such as:** supporting the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy and the Implementing Expanded Naloxone Availability in the ACT (I-ENAACT) Committee to implement and evaluate Australia's first opioid overdose education program that includes prescription naloxone to potential overdose victims.

- **Activities included:** collaborations, research project, chairing and secretariat support, evaluation support, communications, advocacy, representation, presentations, meetings and staffing.
- **Progress:** Stage 1 of the program projected to be completed by the end of 2013 and an ongoing commitment has been made for the continuation of the program in the ACT.

Strengthening prevention and alternatives within the justice system:

- **Such as:** advocating for reforms to the ACT infringements scheme, including provisions for waivers, payment by instalments, the inclusion of ATOD-specific fines and the development of an ACT Community and Work Order Program.
- **Activities included:** collaborations, discussion paper, budget submission, representation, letters, advocacy, communication, consultation and meetings.
- **Progress:** Partial reform to infringements scheme (limited to traffic fines) and development of a Community and Work Order Program, which includes ATOD services.

Promoting safety through reducing impaired driving:

- **Such as:** advocating for an alcohol ignition interlocks program, which includes a therapeutic component.
- **Activities included:** discussion paper, submissions, representation, meetings, communications, consultation and advocacy.
- **Progress:** legislation developed and passed, with the program currently in development as a partnership between the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and ACT Health.

Promoting viable and effective treatment services:

- **Such as:** advocating for specialist ATOD services and service consumers through the ACT Government's *Review of the need to expand drug and alcohol rehabilitation services*.
- **Activities included:** submission, workshops, communication, implementation plan, representation, meetings, advocacy, consultations and communications.
- **Progress:** Review undertaken which included consultation with various consumer groups, workers and services; ACT Government response released; and specialist services engaged in identifying priority areas for action through the ACT ATOD Specialist Executive Group.

The Screening Project

In recent years, the ACT's specialist alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment (ATOD) and support services have sought to strengthen their capacity to screen for ATOD and associated issues (including mental and physical health), implement brief interventions, match treatment and support needs, communicate services and referral pathways and provide ATOD information, including that with a harm reduction focus.

Building on this work, ATODA and its key partners (including specialist ATOD treatment and support services) sought to identify the range of opportunities to strengthen evidence-based and consistent screening across health and community services in the ACT through developing and implementing an ongoing Screening Project.

Screening and brief intervention provide a structured approach to undertake early intervention and provide brief support to people who are experiencing, or are at risk of developing, ATOD issues. This intervention can be useful across a range of health and community settings and provides an evidence based and practical approach for workers within these services.

Some key activities included:

Development of the ACT version of eASSIST (in partnership with Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia)

The ACT e-ASSIST was developed through a partnership between Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) and is an electronic version of the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST), designed by the World Health Organization.

The ASSIST is designed for primary health care providers to screen for the use of tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine type stimulants, sedatives, hallucinogens, inhalants, opioids and 'other' drugs. Upon completion, the screen is scored and feedback on each drug is given to the consumer based on his or her individual scores. The ASSIST was favourably evaluated in several large scale, international studies. The ACT version of the e-ASSIST has been made accessible through ATODA, who can provide associated training and establish a Memorandum of Understanding for its use with interested stakeholders.

Development and delivery of tailored ATOD information, screening and brief intervention training, including the ACT eASSIST

In partnership with Annie Bleeker Consulting a range of training modules were developed to provide:

- Training in the ACT eASSIST.
- Basic information on how to conduct a brief intervention.
- Information on ACT ATOD sector referral options.

Approximately 12 services participated in the training over the previous 12 months.

ACT eASSIST Implementation Pilot

ATODA, in partnership with 6 ACT specialist ATOD services conducted an implementation pilot of the ACT e-ASSIST, which was completed in February 2013.

Through the e-ASSIST Implementation Pilot it was hypothesised that:

- A higher proportion of people in contact with ACT ATOD agencies (in the first instance) will be screened and given a targeted brief intervention, including harm reduction information, if warranted.

- People will be better matched and referred to ACT ATOD services based on identified risk and the severity of the problems they are experiencing (in line with the continuum of care approach identified in the ACT Comorbidity Strategy).
- Efficiencies will be found, as screening will reduce the number of unnecessary assessment-only interventions.
- Higher satisfaction of staff and agencies will be attained regarding efficient and effective use of resources (in line with previously identified efficiencies).
- Service consumers will receive regular feedback related to harm attributable to different risk categories.
- Services will be better placed to implement outcome measurement, related to screening, in line with Commonwealth Government funding requirements.
- As a mechanism for facilitating referrals, participating agencies will use more consistent language describing the results of screening.

ACT eASSIST Implementation Pilot Evaluation

Mr David McDonald, Social Research & Evaluation and consultant to ATODA, undertook an evaluation of the ACT eASSIST Implementation Pilot, the findings included:

- The instrument is valuable when used in the settings, and with the target groups, with which it is designed to be used (e.g. Sobering Up Shelter, drop-in settings and during outreach). It is not intended for use after service consumers have already received comprehensive assessments as the basis for their admission.
- The instrument has particular promise for the use in telephone contacts.
- Screening should be tailored and flexibly applied to ensure it meets the needs of service consumers.
- All participating services have expressed keenness to have the instrument embedded into operating procedures in some way (which could include familiarity with the tool to accept referrals from outside agencies and providing leadership in this area).

Screening for substance use and related issues by specialist alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment and support services in the ACT: Discussion paper

LeeJenn Health Consultants were engaged to develop a paper with ATODA that examined the range and feasibility of using screening tools within specialist ATOD treatment and support services and the ATOD sector more broadly.

The discussion paper examined:

- Purpose of screening in specialist ATOD treatment and support services.
- The relationship between triage, screening and assessment.
- Screening instruments available for common issues of concern for ATOD service consumers.
- Follow-up after screening.
- Suitable screening tools for specialist ATOD treatment and support services.
- Suitable triage questions for specialist ATOD treatment and support services.

The Consumer Participation Project

Consumer Participation is broadly defined as the process of involving health consumers in decision-making about health service planning, policy development, priority setting and quality in the delivery of health services. This is reflected in key policy documents including the National Drug Strategy, the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights, ACT Health policy and the *ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010–2014*.

However, it has been found that in practice in the Australian context, despite a significant commitment at government and non-government levels to the principles and practice of consumer participation in general health settings, there is little evidence in the literature of policy frameworks to support consumer participation in the drug treatment context. Further, in the few examples of policies designed to specifically support the involvement of drug treatment consumers, there was little evidence to show how these policies have been implemented in practice. The work undertaken by the Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League is essential in underpinning any developments in this area.

As such, there is a challenge to develop a practical way forward that allows for the effective consumer participation in the ACT ATOD sector.

Some key activities included:

Participation Officer

ATODA and the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy partnered to undertake a 12-month secondment of a staff member to support the Consumer Participation Project and strengthen participation activities in ATODA.

Service Consumer Participation Project Committee

An advisory committee was established to identify consumer participation priority areas, members included the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy, the Health Care Consumers Association, Consumer Consultants, ACT Health and ATODA. The committee looked at current research and evidence, consumer participation in practice and the steps required to progress consumer participation in the ACT, including the Service User Satisfaction Survey, a consumer participation forum and the development of a policy framework.

Service Consumer Workshop: Language

“When Words Hurt — The words we choose matter: reducing stigma through language” workshop was co-facilitated by a consumer and ATODA, it sought to get input from ATOD service consumers on their experiences about:

- What words cause stigma and discrimination
- What words could be used instead

ACT ATOD Sector Service Users’ Satisfaction Survey 2012

The second Service Users’ Satisfaction Survey was conducted across specialist ACT ATOD services in 2012. The survey is a highly collaborative effort between:

- David McDonald, Social Research and Evaluation — consultant
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) — expert advice
- 10 non-government and government specialist ATOD services
- 346 service consumers who participated in the survey
- ATODA — project administrators

The survey had two functions:

- To obtain a snapshot of the levels and patterns of satisfaction of the service users; and
- To provide information on any changes in satisfaction between 2009 and 2012 as this information can be used for monitoring and assessing the outcomes of quality assurance programs implemented by the services that participated in the survey.

Across-the-board increases in levels of satisfaction from 2009 to 2012 were observed, suggesting that the quality enhancement initiatives that have been implemented by the participating organisations in recent years have been effective.

The survey also reflects ATODA’s commitment to seeking to elicit service consumers’ views in the sector, and to ensuring that their contributions are acknowledged. It also further supports the ACT ATOD sectors commitment to continuous quality improvement activities.

ACT ATOD Consumer Participation Forum

The forum sought to engage specialist drug treatment services to progress an evidence-informed approach to service consumer participation across the sector; to discuss the findings from the *ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector Service Users’ Satisfaction Survey 2012 Final Report*; to strengthen the work currently taking place; and progress the development of an ACT ATOD Consumer Participation Policy Framework (as per the priority identified in the *ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010–2014*).

Over 40 people attended the forum, which included guest speakers:

- Nicole Wiggins, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
- Dave Baxter, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
- Matt Gleeson, ReGen
- David McDonald, Social Research and Evaluation
- Annie Bleeker, forum facilitator
- Helene Delany, AOD Policy Unit
- Carrie Fowlie, ATODA

Tackling stigma and discrimination through language: ATODA Board initiative

Following the outcomes of the service consumer forum and other developments in the sector, the ATODA Board acknowledged that one part of tackling stigma and discrimination is to positively influence the language from which it is derived. The Board agreed to proceed with a language project.

Consumer and family participation at the annual conference

As part of ATODA's commitment towards strengthening participation within sector activities, 10% of the conference registrations were provided fully subsidised to consumers and families.

*Supporting worker involvement in sector governance,
capacity building activities and policy development*

The ACT ATOD Workers Group

The ACT ATOD Workers Group (the Workers Group) is involved in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the ATOD sector in the ACT (many of which are reported elsewhere in this Annual Report). The group identifies and seeks to respond to a range of issues relevant to frontline workers.

Each specialist ACT Health funded or delivered ATOD service appoints a representative to the group, with membership recently expanded at the request of some additional ATOD programs that are members of ATODA.

The group implemented a workplan of diverse activities over the last 12 months with secretariat support provided by ATODA. Some priorities included:

- Initiating and informing the Screening Project;
- Providing advice and input into core sector support activities including the ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin and the Directory;
- Coordinating training for ATOD workers (e.g. case note training);
- Appointing and supporting a group member to participate on the ATODA Board.

Now in its 7th year of operation, the Workers Group is an essential component of the ACT ATOD sector governance and acts as a key advisory structure to ATODA.

Further strengthening our competent,
evidence-based and professional workforce

The ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy (MQS)

The ACT ATOD sector is currently in the process of implementing the MQS, which aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional workforce. It also aims to ensure that all workers have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

Significant developments have occurred regarding the MQS over the past year. This has included undertaking a range of pilot activities to explore how the Strategy can better ensure the maintenance of a qualified and professional workforce and meet the needs of a diverse workforce. There has been an increased focus on the provision of education and training through AOD specialist industry providers. Three pilots and a range of other training opportunities have been undertaken in preparation of a review of the MQS policy, which have included:

The MQS is delivered as a collaboration between the training providers, ATODA and ACT ATOD services. As a result of their participation, workers are receiving a qualification and / or statements of attainment specific to the ATOD field which are nationally recognised. All of the training is coordinated by ATODA and fully subsidised for participating ATOD workers.

Training	Provider	Modality
4 Core Competencies	ReGen UnitingCare	Face to face
4 Core Competencies	Odyssey House	Online
Graduate Certificate in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (or equivalent)	University of Queensland, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre	External / online
Remaining units from the Certificate IV in AOD	Canberra Institute of Technology	Face to face
Senior / Level 2 First Aid	St Johns Ambulance Service	Face to face

Raising awareness of ATOD issues and supports in the community, and showcasing the achievements of a dedicated sector

ACT Drug Action Week 2013

Drug Action Week is a week of activities held nationally to raise awareness about alcohol and other drugs issues in Australia. The week also highlights the achievements of the dedicated individuals who work within the ATOD sector to reduce alcohol and drug-related harm. It is an initiative of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA).

ATODA coordinates Drug Action Week in the ACT in partnership with participating service.

ACT Drug Action Week Planning Group & Calendar of Events

ATODA coordinated a planning group of ACT stakeholders to undertake over 30 activities across Canberra. Activities were diverse and engaged service consumers, community sector workers, researchers, families, police, schools and university students.

ACT Drug Action Week Launch: Families and Friends

The launch of ACT Drug Action Week 2013 was held at the ACT Legislative Assembly, sponsored by Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister and Minister for Health and launched by Dr Chris Bourke MLA. Guest speakers included:

- Mrs Agnes Shea OAM, Ngunnawal Elder
- Dr Stefan Gruenert, CEO, Odyssey House Victoria
- Mr Tony Trimmingham OAM, CEO, Family Drug Support

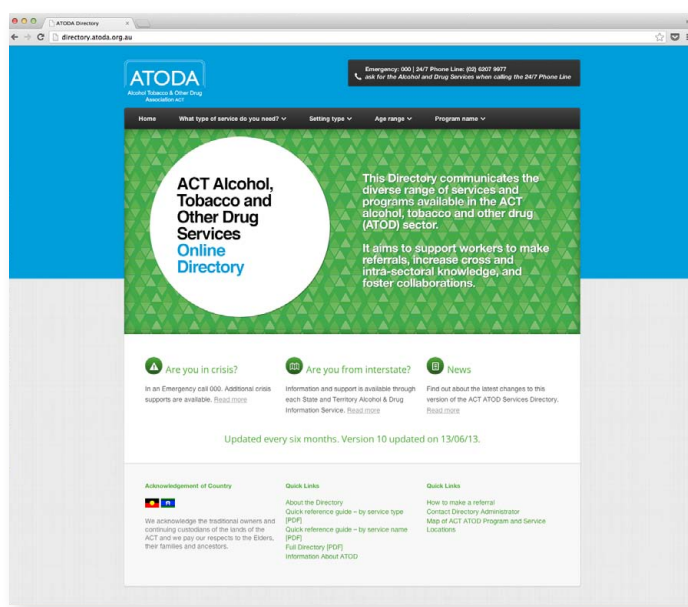
The launch acknowledged the contribution and positive role of families and friends in our community and showcased ATOD support and services for families.

**ACT DRUG
ACTION
WEEK 2013**

Drugs, Communities and Families



The ACT ATOD Services Directory



The ACT ATOD Services Directory communicates the range of programs available in the ACT ATOD sector. It supports workers to make referrals, increases cross and intra sector knowledge and fosters collaborations. The Directory is the most comprehensive of its type in the country.

The Directory was developed in response to the identified need of the ATOD sector, and is a significant collaboration between ATODA, the ACT ATOD Workers Group and Executive Group, with over 35+ specialist ACT ATOD programs profiled.

Significant development work was undertaken by ATODA to move the Directory into a new online format at www.directory.atoda.org.au. Program profiles are searchable by service type, setting type, age range and program name.

Some additional features include:

- Operates on multiple platforms
- All profiles can be exported in pdf, downloaded, printed or emailed
- A quick reference guide for all programs
- An electronic map to view services by location
- Information on how to make a referral
- Information about ATOD and crisis services
- Information about service types
- Additional information on programs that may be relevant (but are outside the scope of the Directory)

Now in its 10th version, the Directory has become a core and sustained sector development activity of the ACT ATOD sector.

The Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference

New and Emerging Technologies: ATOD Research, Policy, Practice and Participation

The conference sought to connect participants with the evidence base about what is effective in the online environment; promote opportunities to consider new and emerging ethical considerations concerning treatment engagement in the online world; to look at what online resources are available that can complement our existing service system response; to showcasing developments in the ACT; and potentially to challenge some assumptions.

The conference brought together over 100 delegates from the various parts of our sector (researchers, practitioners, policy makers, consumers and families) to discuss real world scenarios and to help participants identify where the sector may go next.

The conference again attracted leading researchers, practitioners and policy makers from around Australia to share their knowledge with ACT delegates.

This included:

- Aunty Agnes Shea OAM, Ngunnawal Elder — Welcome To Country
- Professor Debra Rickwood, University of Canberra and headspace — Convenor
- Dr Monica Barrat, National Drug Research Institute — Drugs, internet and society
- Professor Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program — Young people and drug policy
- Ms Pam Boyer, Mental Illness Education ACT — Film development process and screening
- Professor Dan Lubman, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre — Treatment and support
- Ms Annie Madden, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League — Peer support and connections
- Mr Brian McConnell, Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform — Fostering family networks online
- Mr Laurence Alvis, ReGen UnitingCare — Evolution of a traditional drug treatment service



Presentation of Dr Nicholas Carrah, University of Queensland.

- Dr Sally Rooke, National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre — Evolving cannabis information, treatment and support
- Dr Nicholas Carrah, University of Queensland — Facebook and industry
- Professor Ron Borland, Cancer Council Victoria — e-Cigarettes as tobacco harm reduction?
- Ms Selina Walker, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation and Ms Keischa Jamieson, Ms Shaye Graham — Beyond Today performance

To support broad participation, conference registration costs were kept to a minimum, and 10% of registrations were provided free to consumers or family members.

Now in its 6th year, the conference is an essential activity of ACT Drug Action Week and the main opportunity for ACT stakeholders to engage with national and local research expertise.

ATODA gratefully acknowledges that the conference received a grant through 2012-13 AOD Conference Funding Program by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.



Ms Keischa Jameson and Ms Shaye Graham, Beyond Today Performers.

The ACT ATOD eBulletin and Research eBulletin

The monthly ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, publications, events and other information relevant to ATOD and allied workers in the ACT. There are over 500 subscribers to the monthly eBulletin from the ATOD and allied sectors, spanning roles from service workers to researchers to policy makers.

A range of stakeholders contribute regularly to the ebulletin, ensuring its evolution as a 'one stop shop' for all you need to know about the ACT ATOD sector and developments.

eBulletin Alerts

Special alert bulletins were also disseminated to subscribers over the last year including:

- Overdose Awareness Day 2012
- Mental Health Week 2012
- World Hepatitis Day 2012
- End of Year eBulletin 2012 (Collating all the holiday closing hours for ACT ATOD services).
- Annual ACT ATOD Awards eBulletin 2012
- ATODA Annual General Meeting 2012
- Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform Remembrance Ceremony 2012

- 6th Annual ACT ATOD Sector Conference Follow Up 2013
- ACT Drug Action Week 2013 Launch Follow Up
- ACT Budget Alert 2013
- National Reconciliation Week 2013

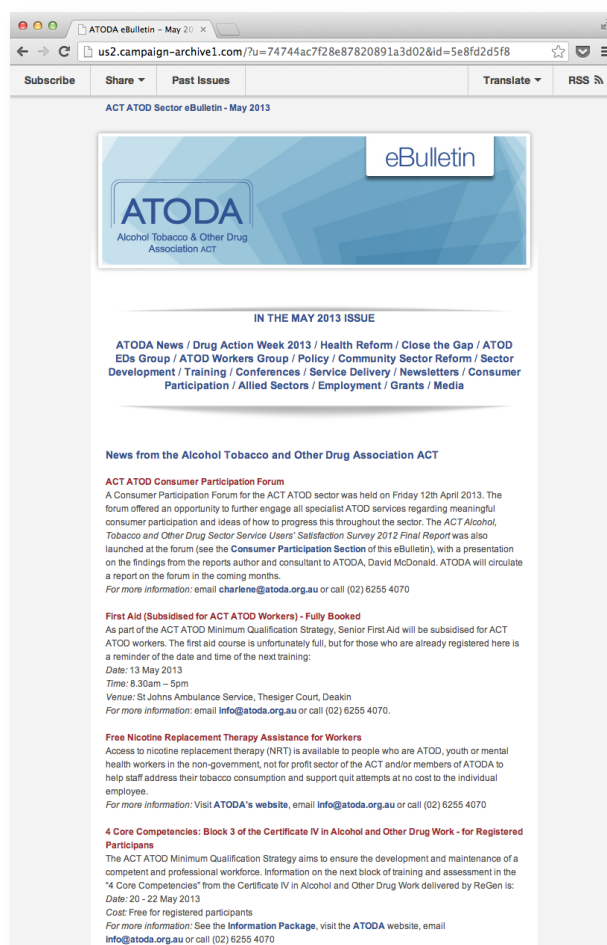
Research eBulletin

The monthly Research eBulletin features newly-published research findings and other research activities of particular relevance to ATOD and allied workers in the ACT. The Research eBulletin is a resource for keeping up-to-date with the evidence base underpinning our ATOD policy and practice. Its contents cover research on demand reduction, harm reduction and supply reduction; prevention, treatment and law enforcement.

The Research eBulletin's evidence summaries are compiled by National Alcohol and Drug Awards Honor Roll member Mr David McDonald; Director, Social Research and Evaluation Pty Ltd; Visiting Fellow, Australian National University's National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; and consultant to ATODA. Where relevant, a statement on the relevance of the research to the ACT context is also provided.

A key section in each Research eBulletin is the ACT Research Spotlight. Those that were promoted in the last 12 months include:

- The extent and nature of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and related harms, in the Australian Capital Territory — Fourth Edition, version 2, July 2012
- ACT Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) 2011
- Supply, demand and harm reduction strategies in Australian prisons: an update
- What do women who inject drugs feel about their health?
- ACT involvement at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Scientific Conference 2012
- The Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the ACT 2006 to 2011
- Are self-harm and drugs related in the Canberra community?
- Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2010–2011: state and territory findings (AIHW)
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Sector Service Users' Satisfaction Survey 2012: final report
- New data on arrests for illicit drug offences in the ACT, 2011–12
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 report – Australian Capital Territory



Increasing the capacity of frontline workers to support people experiencing co-occurring ATOD and mental health problems

The Comorbidity Bus Tours

The Comorbidity Bus Tours are a sector development activity designed to support frontline workers in the ACT not-for-profit and government sectors. The Bus Tours visit a variety of services in the ACT from the ATOD, mental health and youth sectors. 3 tours operate on a rotating basis each fortnight.

The Bus Tours are a substantial cross-sectoral activity, operated as a partnership between Youth Coalition of the ACT (youth sector peak body), the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (mental health sector peak body) and ATODA. Additionally, over 20 ACT ATOD programs collaborate to provide service visits on the bus tours.

Feedback from the Bus Tours continue to be highly positive, with many agencies encouraging new workers to attend the tour as an essential component of their induction. The recent expansion of the frequency and types of tours available is a further testament to their importance to community and government agencies.

Significantly, a special tour was undertaken for the National Mental Health Commissioners on their visit to the ACT in 2013.

The Comorbidity Bus Tours are jointly funded through ACT Health, contributions from each of the partnering peak body and a fee charged to participants.



Recognising individuals' contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of Canberrans through preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms

THE ACT ATOD Awards



ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug AWARDS

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Awards recognise individuals who, during the course of their careers, have made outstanding contributions: to improving the health and well-being of people affected by alcohol, tobacco and other drugs issues; to reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harm; and towards developing the alcohol, tobacco and other drug profession. Individual award recipients were presented with \$600 to spend on a professional development activity of their choice.

The following awards were kindly presented by Dr Chris Bourke MLA

on behalf of the awards sponsor Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister & Minister for Health.

Excellence in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Work Award

Recipient: **Mr Bob O'Heir**

Lifetime Achievements Award

Recipient: **Mr Gerard Rees**

Outstanding Contributions Award

Recipient: **Dr Tuck Meng Soo**

Honour Roll

Inductee: **Mr Peter Watney**

Presentations were also made by Mr Adrian Marron, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Institute of Technology, to participants of the ACT ATOD Minimum Qualification Strategy in 2012.

ATODA gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of ACT Health towards the awards.

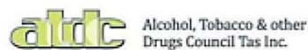


Collaboration across State and Territory ATOD Peak Bodies

Improved engagement with other jurisdictional ATOD peaks has been a significant area of improvement for ATODA over the past 12 months. This has included participation and co-chairing of networking and working groups (on a fortnightly and monthly basis) with a focus on capacity building, policy and strategic planning.

The groups facilitate collaboration, knowledge and information sharing on an ongoing basis with the view to strengthen the sector's capacity, minimise duplication and furthering common strategic interests. The networks have provided mechanisms to:

- Engage with activities lead by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (which has been essential for engagement in the 7 concurrent national projects recently announced),
- Undertake shared activities (including initiating a jointly funded evaluation of *AOD peak bodies' roles in building capacity in the NGO sector*),
- Improve consistency of communication across jurisdictions;
- Provide opportunities for joint advocacy (such as a joint submission with all ATOD peaks and NCETA to the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council consultation on the AOD VET qualifications); and
- Minimise any duplication of activities.



Supporting services to advance reconciliation and culturally secure practice

The ACT ATOD Sector Reconciliation Working Group

ATODA and specialist ATOD services are committed to advancing reconciliation between Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. This includes a commitment to ongoing improvement of mainstream services' cultural competency and the cultural security of practice.

To support this, a Reconciliation Working Group was established to provide a structured and supportive forum for the development and implementation of reconciliation and culturally secure practices within specialist ATOD services. Reconciliation and culturally secure practices have particular resonance for ACT ATOD services in recognition of the need for deliberate actions to address the specific wants and needs of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities affected by ATOD.

ACT ATOD services, ATODA and the AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health participate as members of the group, which has created a safe, positive and collaborative forum for development and to share ideas, successes and challenges.

The group's activities have included:

- Training in racism prevention strategies, including how to embed these strategies within organisational structures;
- Implementing the *Cultural Awareness Self-Assessment Toolkit: Good practice standards for culturally appropriate community services*;
- Learning about, developing and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans;
- Discussing strategies to strengthen the ACT ATOD Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander workforce; and
- Learning about ATOD specific issues, tools and practices to better support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ATODA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ACT Council of Social Service and the Gulanga Program in co-hosting and supporting the Reconciliation Working Group.



Increasing the capacity and confidence of cross-sectoral workers to support people with ATOD issues within their services; and to refer and engage with ATOD services

Expert, Evidence-Based, Customisable ACT ATOD Education and Training

In many ways the ACT does not have the infrastructure of a major Australian city. This is particularly the case in relation to ATOD specific education and training. Therefore, ATODA has developed a means by which stakeholders can access evidence-based, expert, customised, and industry-delivered ATOD education and training. ATODA has engaged expert trainers and educators across Australia to deliver training and education that can be tailored to an organisation's or program's needs.

A suite of half or full day training packages have been developed that focus:

- ATOD and harm reduction information
- ACT and Australian policies
- ACT ATOD sector orientation and referrals
- Introduction to screening, including training in the ACT eASSIST
- ATOD brief interventions

Training can also be customised to specific target groups or service settings.

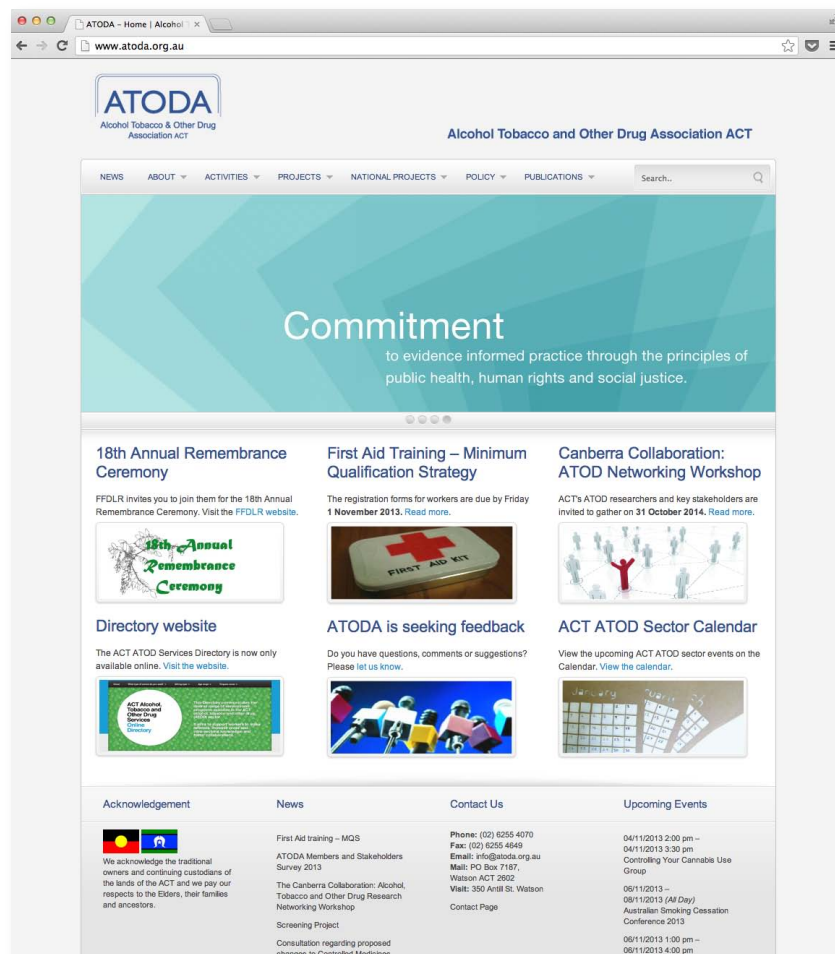
Over 12 services undertook training throughout the previous 12 months, with feedback highly positive about the knowledge and skills acquired as well as the expertise of the trainer Annie Bleeker.

Providing a central point for information about, and for, the ACT ATOD sector

www.atoda.org.au

The ATODA website has grown significantly over the past 12 months. Incorporating information on activities, projects, policy and publications; the website provides a current and detailed place for information about and for the ACT ATOD sector and allied stakeholders. The website has been continuously updated allowing for more regular publication of news and events items.

The website has become an essential communication mechanism for ATODA and the sector more broadly. Over the past 12 months, 5000 unique visitors viewed the ATODA website (overall, there was a total of 22,215 page views). The five most visited pages of the website were: homepage, ACT ATOD Directory, Naloxone, About ATODA and monthly eBulletins.



Subsidised Nicotine Replacement Therapy for Workers

The Nicotine Replacement Therapy project continues to support workers from the ATOD, mental health and youth sectors to manage their tobacco consumption at work and support quit attempts at no cost to the individual worker.

Since its inception, the project has formed partnerships with 4 community pharmacies to provide access to NRT for registered workers. The pharmacies are:

- Develin's City Chemist
- Capital Chemist Dickson
- Pharmasave Woden Pharmacy
- Erindale Australian Pharmacy

A survey of participants has found that 81.5% said that providing cessation options and assistance made them think about quitting.

The project has supported complementary activities including linking workers to the evidence base regarding tobacco management and harm reduction.

Promoting cross-sectoral training and professional development opportunities

Training and Professional Development Calendar

Training and Professional Development Calendar
October – November 2012
 Produced by the Youth Coalition of the ACT
 In partnership with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

October

- 1 Youth Training and Professional Development Day - 10.08
 Canberra Convention Centre, Youth Coalition of the ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actyouthcoalition@act.gov.au
- 2 International Day of Non-Violence
 For information and more information visit www.un.org/observances/16-days-of-non-violence/
- 3 Working with the Courts in a 2012 Work for Progress Participants
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 4 Workforce Festival
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 5 Mental Health Week: Open Your Mind
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 6 10th Annual Nominations Ceremony for Those who Save Lives in 2012
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 7 SAFFL for Alcohol
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 8 Engaging Men in Family Based Programs
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 9 International Day of the Girl
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 10 Open About My Children and Domestic Violence
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 11 Queensland's Inclusion Week
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 12 Changing the Edge of Mental Illness
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 13 World Mental Health Day
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 14 Supporting Self-Help and Mental Health Services
 Canberra Convention Centre, Canberra Community Coalition ACT (02) 6247 3563 or actcc@act.gov.au
- 15 National Day of the Girl
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November

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The Training and Professional Development Calendar is produced bi-monthly as a partnership between ATODA, the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT. It promotes training and professional development opportunities for workers in the ATOD, youth, mental health and allied sectors. The calendar has an average distribution of over 400 in the ACT and is a single source of information to support workers and organisations to plan professional development activities. 100s of training providers, workers and organisations contribute content to the calendar each year.

Over the past year, the calendar partners have produced 6 x bimonthly calendars, posted these directly to agencies in hard copies, and promoted activities through each sector's eBulletins and online calendars, such as www.atoda.org.au/events/month/.

ATODA acknowledges the collaborative funding model of the calendar, which is jointly funded by ATODA, the Youth Coalition of the ACT and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT. ATODA's contribution is funded by ACT Health.

*Strengthening linkages between the evidence,
practice and policy*

Forums and Workshops

ATODA has supported the ATOD sector through a range of needs based workshops and forums. In addition to ACT Drug Action Week activities and consumer participation, ATODA also hosted:

ACT Election 2012 Forum

The forum provided an opportunity for stakeholders and ACT Election candidates to discuss evidence based responses to promoting a healthy and safe Canberra through preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harms.

Over 40 people attended the forum, which included guest speakers:

- Justice Richard Refshauge, Chair
- Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister & Minister for Health
- Mr Jeremy Hansen MLA, Opposition Health Minister
- Ms Amanda Bresnan MLA, ACT Greens Health Spokesperson
- Professor Richard Midford, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, Edith Cowan University
- Mr Tony Brown, Newcastle Community Drug Action Team
- Mr Ray Lovett, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies & National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University

Drug education in schools workshop with Professor Richard Midford, Edith Cowan University

This workshop provided an opportunity for school-based educators and the ATOD sector to learn about the Drug Education in Victorian Schools (DEVS) program, which teaches young people the skills they need to make safer decisions about alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs before they reach 18. Findings show that students who have gone through the program are more knowledgeable about drug use; communicate more with their parents about alcohol; drank less; got intoxicated less; and experienced fewer alcohol related harms.

The workshop presented an exciting opportunity to strengthen the ACT's evidence based responses to alcohol, tobacco and other drug education across all ACT schools.

Preventing alcohol-related violence workshop with Mr Tony Brown, Newcastle Community Drug Action Team

The workshop provided an opportunity for stakeholders from Justice and Community Safety, ACT Health and the ATOD sector to discuss developments in Newcastle, where a recent evaluation of the impact of significant restrictions on the trading hours (among other conditions) of a number of problematic premises in the Newcastle central business district found a reduction in the number of assaults, with no evidence of displacement to other neighbourhoods or premises.

The ACT has undertaken significant reforms to the Liquor Act 2010, including greater compliance and monitoring through the Office of Regulatory Services and ACT Policing. However, there remains significant concerns in the community related to alcohol related harms, including violence. The workshop provided opportunities for stakeholders to consider potentially implementing strategies based on the findings from the Newcastle experience, including reducing the number of licensed premises and reduction in trading hours.

Additional Activities

Additional Submissions, Reports and Papers

- Submission to the Consultation on the Future Directions of the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program
- Response to the Draft Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood Borne Viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2012–14
- Next Step Towards Australia's First Prison-Based Needle & Syringe Program: Encouraging stakeholders to make submissions to the Draft Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood Borne Viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2012–2014
- Submission to the Consultation on the Improvements to the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile
- Submission related to the value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice in Australia
- Response to the ACT Government Health Directorate Clinical Services Plan 2012–2017
- Response to the Exposure Draft of the Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2012
- Comments to the ACT Local Hospital Network Council
- Submission to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Drug Strategy Consultations
- 'The Missing Link': Development of a comprehensive alcohol and other drug outpatient services model for the ACT: Discussion paper
- Submission to the Human Rights Audit and Review of Treatment of Women at AMC
- Comments on the Development of ACT Road Safety Action Plan 2014–2017
- ABS Sex Standard Submission
- Establishing a youth sobering up facility in the ACT: discussion paper
- Submission to the Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council consultation on the AOD VET qualifications
- Reducing chronic disease by addressing tobacco use by alcohol and other drug service users through the provision of subsidised nicotine replacement therapy: discussion paper
- Submission to the ACT Health Directorate Strategy for Improving Care and Support for those Living with Chronic Conditions 2012-2017
- Comment on the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF), Detailed Service Model Phase Two, June 2012, Version 1.0.

Conference and Other Presentations

- VAADA Conference — on the Implementing Expanded Naloxone Availability in the ACT Committee
- ACT Consumer Participation Forum presentation
- Poster presentation on Trends in ATOD Service User Satisfaction in the ACT at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Conference
- Presentation on ACT and National ATOD Policy and Programs for ACT Government Health Directorate Comorbidity Training

Additional Representation

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy Group
- ACT ATOD Executive Directors Group
- ACT ATOD Strategy Evaluation Group
- ACT Peaks Forum
- Alcohol and Drugs Services Business Planning Workshop
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Policy Forum
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Federal Council
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Board

- ATOD Peaks CEO's Network
- Community Integration and Governance Group
- Comorbidity Strategy Working Group
- Forum on developing a national population based model for drug and alcohol service planning.
- Housing ACT Anti-Social Behaviour Response Unit Group
- Mental Health Foundation Mindscapes Tobacco and Mental Illness Health Promotion Project Group
- Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services Executive Strategy and Business Planning Committee
- Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services Smokefree Mental Health Implementation Working Group
- International Overdose Awareness Day Committee
- Peaks Capacity Building Network
- Psychiatric Services Unit Smokefree Implementation Working Group
- StreetLaw Advisory Group
- Tobacco Working Group, ACT ATOD Strategy Evaluation Group

Media

ATODA engaged in a range of media activities throughout the year, including various media releases and television, radio and newspaper interviews.

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article on the Canberra Times website. The article is titled "Jail costly way to tackle scourge" and is dated February 12, 2013, by Carrie Fowlie. The article discusses the high cost of incarceration in Australia, particularly for Indigenous people, and mentions that the ACT's youth Indigenous incarceration rate is the third-highest in the country. The article includes a photograph of an art room for detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, showing Indigenous artwork on the walls. To the right of the article, there is a "Most popular" section with a list of five articles, including "Bill Shorten backs scrapping of carbon tax" and "Australia defeating people smugglers says Scott". Below that is a "Most commented" section with a list of six articles, including "Tony Abbott's ALP criticism could affect US" and "Labor set to bury carbon tax".

canberratimes.com.au
The Canberra Times
Federal Politics

Jail costly way to tackle scourge

February 12, 2013
Carrie Fowlie

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Most popular

- 1 Bill Shorten backs scrapping of carbon tax, on ...
- 2 Australian ambassador summoned by Indonesia over ...
- 3 Judge and judgment in the spotlight
- 4 Australia defeating people smugglers says Scott ...
- 5 Abbott and his inner Hulk

Most commented

Rank	Article	Comments
1.	Tony Abbott's ALP criticism could affect US	1104
2.	Labor set to bury carbon tax	733
3.	Howard cabinet ministers who prefer VIP air	607
4.	Tony Abbott's new direct action sceptics	551
5.	Auditors to be paid \$1500 a day to recommend spending cuts	424
6.	Labor must leave lost carbon battle to regather	364

Financial Report

ATODA's 2012-13 financial report is available as a separate document to accompany this annual report. Please visit www.atoda.org.au for electronic copies or contact ATODA on info@atoda.org.au or (02) 6255 4070 for hard copies.

The background features a central dark blue vertical band. On either side, there are patterns of horizontal and vertical stripes in various shades of blue and green. Overlaid on these stripes are large, semi-transparent circles that create a complex, layered geometric effect.

www.atoda.org.au