



atoda annual report

2015-2016

ATODA

Alcohol Tobacco & Other Drug
Association ACT

About the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT

ATODA's vision is an ACT community with the lowest possible levels of alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) related harm, as a result of the ATOD and related sectors evidence-informed prevention, treatment and harm reduction policies and services.

ATODA works collaboratively to provide expertise and leadership in the areas of social policy, sector and workforce development, research, coordination, partnerships, communication, education, information and resources. ATODA is an evidence informed organisation.

The ways we work, and the outcomes we strive to achieve, reflect our commitment to the values of population health, human rights, social justice and reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

The mission of ATODA is to be the peak body representing and supporting the ATOD sector and community in the ACT.

Documents accompanying this annual report

ATODA's 2015 - 2016 annual report should be read in conjunction with several accompanying documents including our:

- Reconciliation Action Plan 2014 - 2017
- Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017
- Financial Statements 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

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.

atoda annual report //



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Reporting on the Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017 //

The strategic plan outlines the vision, values, strategic goals, outcomes and decision-making processes of the organisation from 2014 – 2017. Throughout this annual report, each activity is cross referenced to the strategic outcomes and strategic priorities of ATODA (below) to demonstrate our progress.

Our values

Human Rights // Social Justice // Reconciliation

The specialist lenses we use

Cultural security // Responding to the needs of those who most bear the burdens of harm
Harm minimisation, including supply, demand and harm reduction // Prevention and early intervention
Population health // Evidence // Capacity building // Health promotion

The ways we work

Leadership // Accountable // Collaborative // Inclusive // Reliable
Responsive // Reflective // Effective // Efficient // Innovative // Integrity

Our strategic outcomes (2014 – 2017)

High quality services // Evidence-informed practice // Cohesive specialist sector

Our strategic priorities (2014 – 2017)

Improve the quality of service consumer participation // Support the development of the workforce and services // Improve policy, practice, participation and research collaborations
Positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise

President's Report //



It has been a privilege and pleasure for me to be ATODA's inaugural President for the past six years. It is with great pride that I reflect on the organisation's achievements in my final Annual Report as President.

It is hard to imagine that only six years ago we didn't have a peak body for the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). ATODA is now woven into the fabric of all things alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Territory.

ATODA was borne and built by a sector that is deeply committed to the community, to delivering quality services and to always wanting to do more.

The sector's workers laid the foundations of ATODA by developing and enabling effective capacity building activities through the AOD Sector Project in 2007. The ACT Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Workers Group continues to be a key advisory structure to ATODA, and will mark its 10th anniversary next year.

While ATODA began with minimal infrastructure in a cottage at the base of Mount Ainslie, what it did have was strong support from the sector, ACT Health, a small but committed staff team and a great Board.

ATODA has grown from those humble beginnings into a viable, mature, trusted and well-respected organisation with high impact. The community, sector and government are buoyed by the knowledge that evidence-informed alcohol, tobacco and other drug policy and practice is possible and happening now – and that ATODA is the organisation to turn to help make good things happen.

ATODA has successfully advocated for and enabled:

- Increased funding for specialist alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction services

- Changes in government policy to reflect science
- Evidence generating activities through local and national research partnership projects
- Effective linkages between research, policy, practice and people who use drugs to promote and achieve shared goals
- Public health law reform
- Increased capacity of the sector to respond to ever changing drug availability and consumption patterns, and increasing complexity and demand for services
- Effective communication of the outstanding achievements of our sector
- Collaborations across non-government and government sectors, including health and justice

The leadership and strategic vision of ATODA through the Board and Chief Executive Officer have been integral to this success.

ATODA prides itself on its evidence-informed, non-adversarial, proactive and problem-solving work with the ACT Government and other stakeholders.

I would like to thank all my Board colleagues over the years, the ACT and Australian Governments and particularly I would like to acknowledge the long serving staff team - Carrie Fowlie, Amanda Bode and David McDonald - who have been here since ATODA's inception.

It has truly been an honour to serve as ATODA's inaugural President and I look forward to maintaining strong links with the organisation and the sector as it continues to develop and flourish.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Kirwan'.

Anne Kirwan
President, ATODA

Chief Executive Officer's Report //



The 2015-16 financial year has been one of significant growth and development within the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Through our research efforts this year, we know that the Canberra community, ACT and Australian Governments can be assured that specialist alcohol and other drug (AOD) services deliver high levels of service user satisfaction and positive outcomes. This quality specialist AOD care is being delivered despite increased demand from and complexity within the population.

Our sector has seen a huge increase in people accessing AOD services (up 36% from 2012 to 2015) and the people wanting support are presenting with increasing complexity (e.g. hepatitis C, physical and mental health problems, homelessness, unemployment, child protection issues, contact with the criminal justice system).

While specialist AOD services - and their service users - are currently achieving some outstanding outcomes, the increased demand is not sustainable. This has significant implications for future resourcing and health services planning by the ACT and Australian Governments.

In response to this increased demand, in 2015 the ACT Government identified additional one-off funding to build on its existing investment in the AOD sector, achieving demonstrable increases in service system capacity within 3 months.

Then, in May 2016 for the first time both non-government and government specialist AOD services received recurrent funding through the ACT Budget. This was welcomed, needed and enabled the one-off funds to become recurrent.

In December 2015, the sector welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of an additional \$241 million in new funding for drug treatment and support. However, the announcement that the new Primary Health Networks would commission these services was somewhat surprising and has led to significant uncertainty with regard to implications.

The Primary Health Networks' focus is on primary health care whereas AOD treatment extends beyond primary health care. This means that as commissioning bodies for AOD treatment the Primary Health Networks have needed to work beyond their scope of current expertise, governance and membership arrangements. Consequently, ATODA and the sector had to immediately

divert significant unplanned resources to undertake capacity building work with Primary Health Networks.

Almost 12 months has passed since the Australian Government's allocation of new and additional AOD treatment funding, however this has not yet resulted in a single additional episode of care in the ACT. Over the past year ATODA has worked tirelessly through these new policy and funding processes to ensure that the new funding gets to the people who need it the most. Our commitment to ensuring that the funding is deployed effectively to build sector capacity and achieve positive outcomes will continue into the new year.

Alongside this significant body of work, ATODA has continued to deliver a strong core-business capacity building program, as demonstrated throughout this annual report.

We were particularly thrilled to co-host the Canberra Satellite of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy Conference in May. This brought some of the world's best AOD minds to Canberra and created an opportunity for the ACT sector to learn about groundbreaking domestic and international initiatives that will inform local policy and practice.

ATODA is fortunate to have such ready access to its members and stakeholders, with whom staff engage daily. This has enabled ATODA to be a dynamic organisation responsive to its members, its context and the evidence.

I am ever grateful to work for the community and in this sector. I thank my colleagues within the sector, the government, the community - and especially ATODA's outstanding staff and Board.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the stewardship of Anne Kirwan as ATODA's inaugural President. Her six years of service leaves us in a place of strength, where our sector is more connected, responsive and professional than it has ever been before. We wish Anne all the best in her future endeavours.

Carrie Fowlie
Chief Executive Officer

Our Board, Staff & Consultants



Board

A Board was elected from the membership at ATODA's sixth Annual General Meeting in November 2015.

Anne Kirwan	President	CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
Sharon Tuffin	Vice President	Karralika Programs Inc
Gerard Byrne	Treasurer	Salvation Army
Jill Hughes	Secretary	Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
Fiona Trevelyan	Member	Directions
Sione Crawford	Member	Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy (to March 2016)
Chris Gough	Member	Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy (from March 2016)
Susan Clarke-Lindfield	Member	Toora Women Inc
Rebecca Wood	Member	ACT ATOD Workers Group Representative
Dr Mofizul Islam	Member	Research School of Population Health, Australian National University

Staff

ATODA staff (4.2 full time equivalent) included:

Carrie Fowlie	Executive Officer	Julie Robert	Communications and Project Officer
Amanda Bode	Project Manager	Asmara Jammali-Blasi	Project Officer
Dave Corby	Office Manager	Mathieu Leclerc	Project Officer (casual)
Anke van der Sterren	Researcher and Project Manager		

Consultants

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

David McDonald	Social Research & Evaluation	Linda Jenner	360Edge
Annie Bleeker	Training and Consultancy	Nicole Lee	360Edge
ReGen Uniting Care		Siggins Miller	
Department of Health of WA		Tamalpais Matrix Systems	
Kathleen Orr	Odyssey House Victoria	3V Consulting Services	
Katie Fraser	Legal consultant	Tracey Greenburg	Australian Community Workers Association
Kinnford Consulting			

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

Blue Blood Solutions / Lee Jackson Design / Lesley Porroj / MCS Accounting / Gil-Jones Barker Solicitors

Full, Associate & Individual Members



1. ACT Shelter
2. AIDS Action Council
3. Alcohol and Drug Programs, ACT Corrective Services
4. Alcohol and Drug Service, ACT Health
5. Bleeker, A
6. Byrne, S
7. Caldicott, D
8. Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
9. Canberra Recovery Service, Salvation Army
10. Directions Health Services
11. Families ACT
12. Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
13. Family Drug Support
14. Health Care Consumers' Association ACT
15. Hepatitis ACT
16. Karralika Programs Inc
17. Maddox, R.
18. McDonald, D.
19. Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
20. Mental Health Foundation (ACT)
21. Olsen, A.
22. Research School of Population Health, The Australian National University
23. Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra and Goulburn
24. Street Law, Welfare Rights and Legal Centre
25. Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
26. Volunteering ACT
27. WIREDD, Lesley's Place and Marzenna, Toora Women Inc
28. Wellways Australia
29. Youth Coalition of the ACT

Our Funders, Partners & Sponsors



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

Funders, Sponsors & Supporters

- Members of ATODA
- Mr Simon Corbell MLA, Minister for Health
- Gil-Jones Barker Solicitors
- AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
- Department of Health, Australian Government
- ACT Education and Training Directorate
- Health Promotion Branch, ACT Health
- Policy and Government Relations, ACT Health
- Carers ACT
- Carolyn Stubley, We Help Ourselves
- CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
- Centre for Research Excellence into Injecting Drug Use
- Chemist on Northbourne
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Develin's City Chemist
- Directions Health Services
- Dr Anna Olsen, Research School of Population Health, ANU
- Dr Caitlyn Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
- Dr David Caldicott, ACT Investigation of Novel Substances (ACTINOS) Group
- Dr Jenny Chalmers, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales
- Dr Raglan Maddox, CeRAPH, UC
- Dr Ray Lovett, AIATISIS

Partners & Collaborators

- ACT Corrective Services
- ACT Council of Social Services (ACTCOSS)
- ACT Health
- ACT Investigation of Novel Substances (ACTINOS) Group
- ACT Mental Health Consumer Network
- Ainslie Village, Argyle Housing
- Alcohol and Drug Policy Unit, ACT Health
- Alcohol and Drug Service, ACT Health
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC)
- Annie Bleeker Consultant
- Associate Professor Jan Breckenridge, Gendered Violence Research Network, University of New South Wales
- Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT (AADANT)
- Australian Illicit and Injecting Drug Users League
- Burnet Institute
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)
- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)
- Canberra Recovery Services, Salvation Army
- Cancer Council NSW
- Capital Chemist Dickson
- Capital Chemist Tuggeranong Square
- Capital Health Network
- Dr Rebecca McKetin, Centre for Research on Ageing, Health & Wellbeing (CRAHW), The Australian National University
- Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) and the WHO Collaborating Centre
- Drug Policy Modelling Program
- Erindale Australian Pharmacy
- Families ACT
- Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform
- Family Drug Support
- Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- Health Promotion, Health Improvement Branch, ACT Health
- Health Protection Service, ACT Health
- Hepatitis ACT
- Interchange General Practice
- Jennifer Harland, Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia and Karralika Programs Inc
- Justice Health Services, ACT Government
- Kari Lancaster, Drug Policy Modelling Program
- Karralika Programs Inc
- Maayu Mali Moree Aboriginal Residential Rehabilitation Service
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT
- Mental Health Services, ACT Government
- Agnes Shea OAM, Ngunnawal Elder
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)

Continued... Our Funders, Partners & Sponsors

- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)
- Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA)
- NSW / ACT Alcohol Policy Alliance
- Odyssey House Victoria
- Optimal Pharmacy Plus Jamison
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia, ACT Branch
- Pharmasave Woden Pharmacy
- Professor Alex Stevens, University of Kent
- Professor Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program
- Professor Beau Kilmer, RAND
- Professor Margaret Hamilton
- Professor Priscillia Hunt, RAND
- Professor Paul Dietze, Burnet Institute
- Professor Simon Lenton, National Drug Research Institute
- Public Health Association of Australia
- Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
- RAND, USA
- School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University
- Sione Crawford
- Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
- Social Research & Evaluation
- South Australian Network for Drug and Alcohol Agencies (SANDAS)
- St Vincent de Paul Society NSW Support Services
- Ted Noffs Foundation ACT
- The Connection
- The Salvation Army
- Toora Women Inc
- Uniting Care ReGen
- University of Kent, UK
- University of Newcastle
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- We Help Ourselves
- Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service
- Wellways Australia
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (WANADA)
- Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- Your Discount Chemist, Griffith
- Youth Coalition of the ACT
- Youth Justice
- Yurauna Centre, Canberra Institute of Technology

The year in review: Capacity Building //



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

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

Improving the health of Canberrans



by strengthening tobacco management practices in health and community sector settings that support disadvantaged people

Tobacco management activities

ATODA shares the ACT government's commitment to reducing the ACT's smoking rate to below 10% by 2018. In order to meaningfully achieve this, our projects and resources focus on sub-populations with high smoking rates that are experiencing disadvantage.

We CAN Project - Communities Accessing all-types of Nicotine Replacement Therapy

On 1 July 2015, ATODA launched the *We CAN Program—Communities Accessing all-types of NRT*. This Program aims to reduce smoking among people utilising specialist alcohol and other drug non-government organisations (NGOs) in the ACT by providing subsidised access to all-types of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). Service users of ATOD organisations who smoke are offered a voucher that can be redeemed at local community pharmacies for 8-12 weeks worth of any types of NRT (e.g. patches, gum, lozenges, spray, strips, inhalator).

The *We CAN Program* is being trialled in seven organisations at a single service site within each organisation (as chosen by the organisation). Each site is paired with a community pharmacy where their vouchers can be redeemed.

During the first twelve months of the Project (at 30 June 2016), vouchers have been provided to 218 people accessing the participating ATOD services.

Of these people, the average age is 34 years and 62% are male. A high proportion of vouchers (82%) have been redeemed at a pharmacy; of the vouchers that have been redeemed, 79% have been used for combination NRT (patches plus one or more of the other intermittent types).

The Program will be both internally and independently evaluated (by 360Edge Pty Ltd) through the collection of operational data and surveys with participating service users, and workers in ATOD NGOs and pharmacies.

NRT for Workers Project

ATODA continues to offer access to subsidised nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to people who smoke who are ATOD, youth or mental health workers in the non-government, not for profit sector of the ACT and/or members of ATODA. This is to help them manage their tobacco consumption at work, engage with smoke-free environment policies, and support quit attempts at no cost to the individual employee. During the 2015–16 year there were 13 rounds of subsidised NRT provided to workers in these sectors.

Tackling Nicotine Together (TNT) - Systems Change for Smoke-free Drug & Alcohol Centres

ATODA partnered with the University of Newcastle, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), the Cancer Council NSW, and the Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies NSW (NADA) to include the ACT as a jurisdiction in the National Health and

Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funded Tackling Nicotine Together (TNT) project.

TNT is a cluster randomised controlled trial examining the effectiveness of an organisational systems change intervention at increasing smoking cessation rates in 33 drug and alcohol treatment centres, including 8 in the ACT.

The Project provided intervention services with nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) that workers could provide to service users at no cost; and smoking cessation and NRT training. While the primary outcome measure for the trial is client

smoking cessation rates at 6 months follow-up, the project is also collecting data on staff attitudes towards addressing smoking, and organisational smoking-related policies and practices.

During 2015–16, the research team has been analysing the data from the project (data collection was completed in July 2015). A paper describing the study protocol was published in June 2016 (Bonevski, B. et al. (2016). 'An organisational change intervention for increasing the delivery of smoking cessation support in addiction treatment centres: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial', *Trials*, 17:290).

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services and evidence-informed practice
- **priority** of developing the workforce and services, and improving policy practice, participation and research collaborations



Providing a central point for information

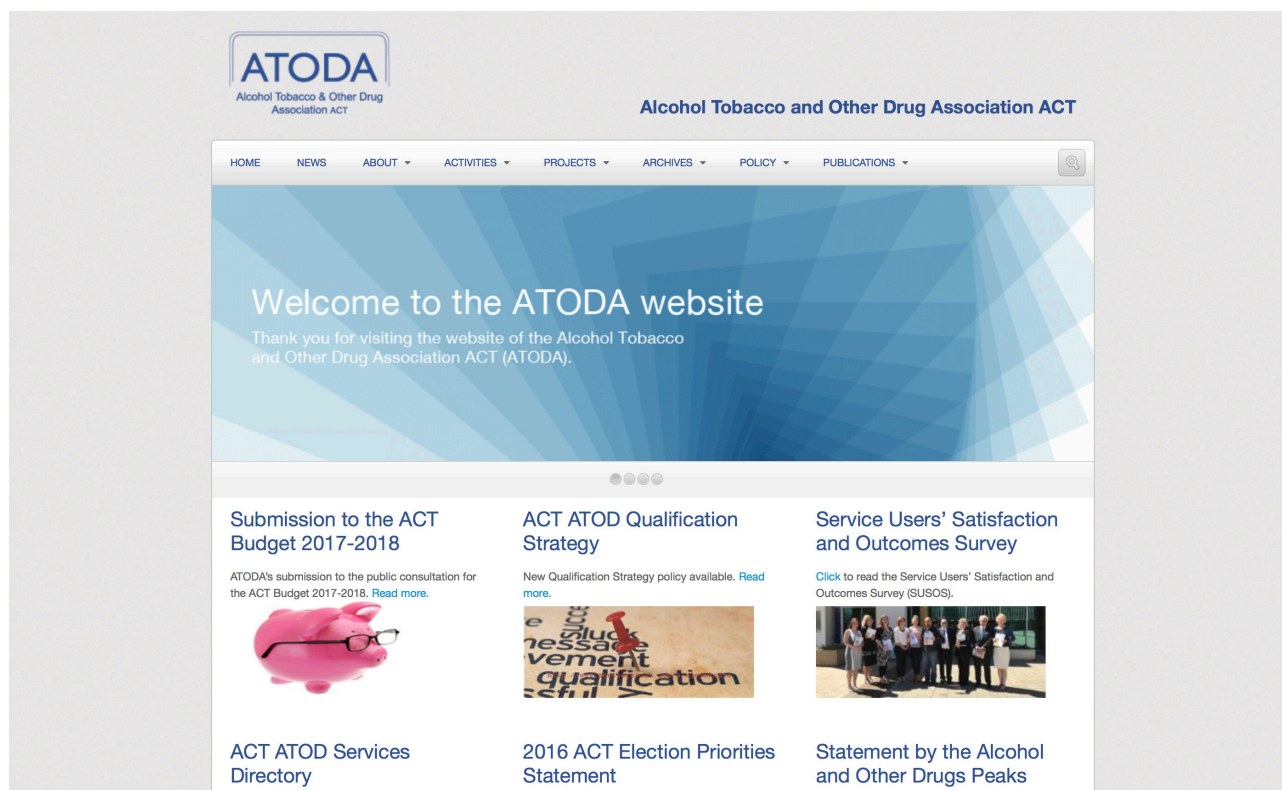


about, and for, the ACT ATOD sector

// www.atoda.org.au

The ATODA website provides current and detailed information on the organisation, activities, projects, policy, publications about, and for, the ACT ATOD sector and allied stakeholders. The website is regularly updated and thus presents the latest news and events happening in the sector.

The website remains an essential communication mechanism for ATODA and the sector more broadly and is a key tool by which stakeholders can engage with ATODA's work. The popularity of the website has increased over the past 12 months with over 12,500 visits made by 8,377 unique visitors for nearly 26,000 pages viewed.



This activity progresses our **strategic outcome** of a cohesive specialist sector in the ATODA Strategic Plan.

Supporting high quality services



by strengthening our competent, evidence-based and professional workforce // Qualification Strategy

The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Qualification Strategy aims to ensure the development and maintenance of a competent and professional specialist workforce in the ACT. It also aims to ensure that all ATOD workers in the ACT have a shared minimum knowledge and skill base.

The three main components of the Strategy are: the 4 Core Competencies (AOD specialised units of the Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs), the Remaining Units (non ATOD content of the Certificate IV in AOD) and First Aid Training.

The Strategy has maintained a focus on the provision of education and training through AOD specialist industry providers. A total of 57 scholarships were provided in this financial year including 35 participants who completed training for the 4 Core Competencies and 22 for First Aid.

Following the completion of the training, participants are receiving a nationally recognised Statement of Attainment. All of the training is coordinated by ATODA and fully subsidised for participating ATOD workers.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services, evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services



Building capacity to respond to emergency situations



AOD Focused First Aid Training Pilot

ATODA partnered with Uniting Care ReGen to provide subsidised access to a senior first aid qualification with specialist framing related to preventing alcohol, tobacco and other drug harm (e.g. overdose). Training was provided to 2 groups:

- Consumers of specialist AOD services
- Workers in specialist AOD services

Participants who successfully completed the training received a nationally recognised Statement of Attainment for each unit of the training including: *'HLTAID003: Provide First Aid (for Alcohol and Other Drug Workers/ Consumers)'* and *'HLTAID001: Provide CPR'*.

The provision of accredited training to the consumer group was undertaken in partnership with the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy. It was demonstrated to have the added benefits of providing further pathways to vocational education and training for participants; providing a qualification that participants could add to their curriculum vitae, and acting as a protective factor by increasing the individuals' capacity to address their (and their peers) alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services, evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services

Improving the health of Canberrans



by strengthening the response to increasing methamphetamine related harms // Methamphetamine training

ATODA partnered with Odyssey House Victoria to deliver the nationally recognised accredited course: *'10524NAT Course In Working with Clients with Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Issues'* with workers from specialist ATOD services in the ACT.

Minister for Health Mr Simon Corbell and ACT Health provided resources to enable this workforce development initiative to occur.

The training aimed to:

- Provide participants with an understanding of how amphetamine-type stimulants work in the brain and the consequential signs of use and withdrawal, and to be able to identify crisis presentations and respond appropriately.
- Provide the skills and knowledge to conduct an intervention with clients using amphetamine-type stimulants utilising specific screening tools, and providing appropriate psycho-educational, client-centered practice and harm reduction strategies.

Pre and post testing of participants showed their confidence and skills increased in relation to: identification and understanding of methamphetamine related issues; providing support and treatment strategies; and conducting education and assessment.

ATODA established a partnership with the Yurauna Centre, Canberra Institute of Technology, to co-host the training. All four training sessions were held in the Yurauna Centre, and trainers from the Centre participated in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific workshops.

These activities progress ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **Values** of reconciliation and social justice
- **outcomes** of high quality services and evidence-informed practice
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services and positive deployment of specialist ATOD expertise



Supporting worker involvement



in sector governance, capacity building activities and policy development // Workers Group

The Workers Group is involved in the development, implementation, coordination, evaluation and promotion of key sector support activities for the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector in the ACT. The group identifies and seeks to respond to a range of issues relevant to frontline workers. The group continues to function as an essential component of the sector's governance and acts as a key advisory structure to ATODA.

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

- Informing ATODA's capacity building and policy activities;
- Coordinating the implementation of the ACT ATOD Workforce Profile;
- Undertaking an update of the ACT ATOD Services Directory;
- Appointing and supporting a group member to participate on the ATODA Board.

Workers Group members are:

- Alcohol and Drug Services, ACT Health
- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT
- AOD Policy Unit, ACT Health
- AOD Program, ACT Corrective Services
- AOD Program, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
- AOD Program, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
- AOD Services, Toora Women
- Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy
- Canberra Recovery Services, The Salvation Army
- Directions Health Service
- Hepatitis ACT
- Karralika Programs
- Sobering Up Shelter, CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn
- Ted Noffs Foundation

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcomes** of high quality services and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services

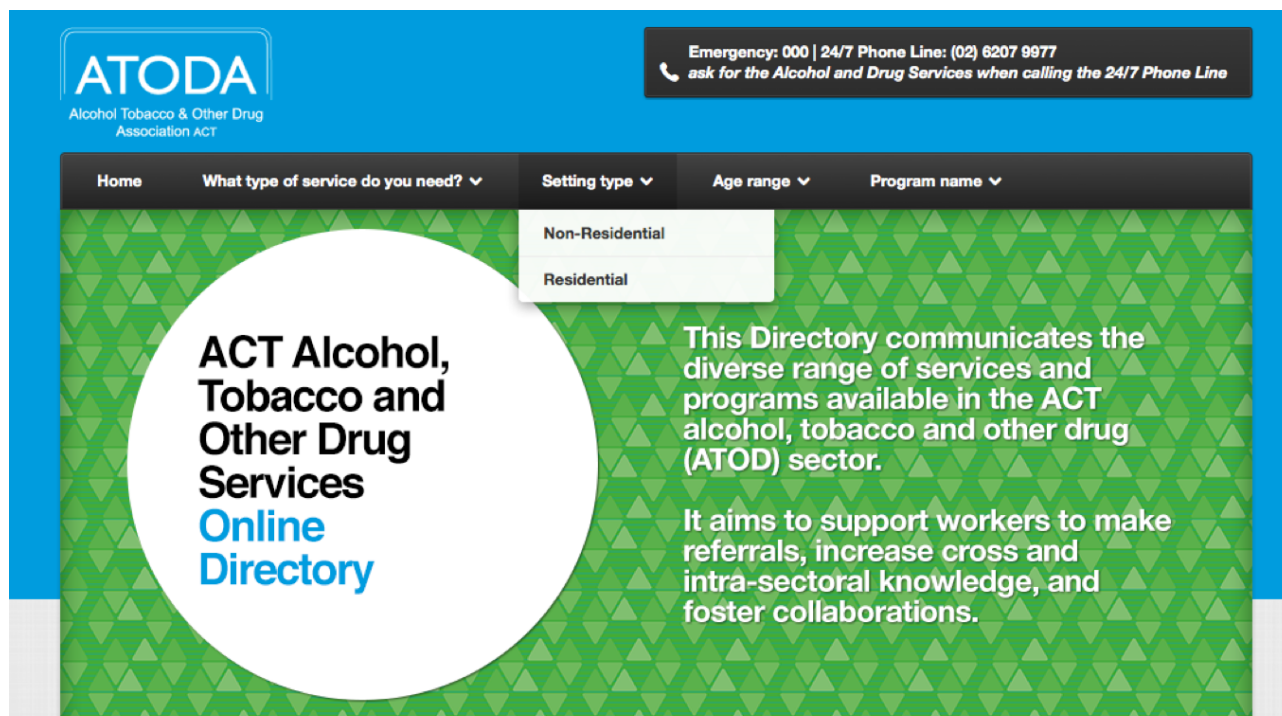
ATODA gratefully acknowledges the input and support of members of the ACT ATOD Workers Group, including Rebecca Wood who was the Workers Group nominee to the ATODA Board.

Improving communication & awareness of, and referral



to specialist ATOD services in the ACT

Services Directory // www.directory.atoda.org.au



The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services Directory communicates the diverse range of services and programs available in the sector. It aims to support workers to make referrals, increase cross and intra-sectoral knowledge, and foster collaborations.

The Directory was developed in response to the identified need of the ATOD sector, and has been produced as a partnership between ATODA and the Workers Group.

Version 13 was launched in November 2015 and it includes:

- 34 detailed program profiles
- A full Directory and quick reference guides by service name and service types
- An interactive map of service locations
- Additional program profiles from the allied sectors

The website is an effective mechanism for the sector to access information and for ATODA to communicate about ATOD services and programs available in the ACT. In the last year, the online Directory had over 9,400 visitors with 18,390 pages viewed

This activity progresses our **strategic outcomes** of high quality services and a cohesive specialist sector from the ATODA Strategic Plan.

Informing & educating



members and stakeholders // eBulletins and eList



ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin

The monthly ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin is a concise summary of information, important developments, events, reports on ATODA's projects, resources, conferences, funding opportunities and other information relevant to ATOD and allied workers in the ACT. The ACT ATOD Sector eBulletin has over 710 subscribers reaching a diverse range of people involved in the sector from workers, to researchers and policy makers.

The eBulletin is a valuable source of information for anyone who wants to know about everything happening in the ACT ATOD sector.

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. It aims to highlight research developments specific to the ACT ATOD sector.

The Research eBulletin's evidence summaries are compiled by Mr David McDonald — National Alcohol and Drug Awards Honor Roll Inductee, Outstanding Contributions Award Recipient; Director of Social Research and Evaluation, Visiting Fellow at The Australian National University and consultant to ATODA.

Each Research eBulletin includes an ACT Research Spotlight to highlight research undertaken locally or information that has a particular local relevance. Those that were promoted in the last 12 months include:

- ACT contributions to the 10th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP)
- Trends in the ACT drug-related arrests
- Latest data from the National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection and ACT-specific data

- How the ACT is engaging with the challenges of addressing tobacco in addiction treatment settings
- ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile
- The 'We CAN Project': a model to improve access to all-types of nicotine replacement therapy by smokers in specialist alcohol and other drug non-government organisations in the ACT
- ANU-based research: "Six-month outcomes of a web-based intervention for users of amphetamine-type stimulants: randomised controlled trial
- Independent Evaluation of the ACT's Take-home Naloxone Program
- Health-related trends associated with drug use among the 2014 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) participants in the ACT
- Consultation: Draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy
- New ATODA Board and Annual Report
- New Australian Government Drug Policy and Funding Announcements
- ATOD Services Shutdown Periods
- NAIDOC Week 2015
- World Hepatitis Day 2015
- Launch invitation: Independent Evaluation of the "Implementing Expanded Naloxone Availability in the ACT (I-ENAACT) Program' 2010-2014

ATODA gratefully acknowledges David McDonald's contributions to the Research eBulletin.

Alert eBulletin

In addition to the monthly ebulletin, special alert ebulletins were also disseminated, these included:

- New Good Samaritan protections for people who administer naloxone
- International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) 2016 – Canberra Satellite & Sydney Conference
- Vale Brian McConnell
- Where does our sector want to be in 5 years? Develop your ideas for the Strategic Brainstorming Forums
- ACT Budget Consultation: Extension for submissions to 28 October 2015 & contributing to ATODA's submission
- ATODA's 6th Annual General Meeting 2015
- 20th Annual Remembrance Ceremony 'for those who lose their life to illicit drugs'

Update and Drug Talk Mailing Lists

Since the defunding of the Australian Drug Council of Australia (ADCA), ATODA volunteered to monitor and manage the *Update* and *Druggtalk*. Over 830 people are subscribed to the lists.

The Lists help subscribers stay informed of what is happening in the alcohol and other drugs sector, including keeping up to date with current events, research, news, job vacancies, publications and announcements. The Lists also facilitate contact between those working in the sector and provide a forum in which people can seek information from a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

With over 830 subscribers the Lists represent an essential communication mechanism of the Australian ATOD sector.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcome** of evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priority** of improving policy, practice, participation and research collaborations

Contributing to the evidence base



of ATOD policy and practice in the ACT

// ATODA Monograph Series: Workforce Qualification and Remuneration Profile 2014

In 2014, ATODA conducted a profile of the specialist ATOD workforce in the ACT. The purpose was to: monitor and demonstrate outcomes relating to workforce capacity; identify areas in need of further development investment; and to identify, describe and assess a range of issues relevant to the workforce.



The profile was compiled from the results of two surveys administered at each of the nine participating organisations: a Worker's Survey (completed by ATOD workers) and an Organisation Survey (completed by the CEO or a manager). The findings from this profile can be compared to those of the previous three surveys conducted in 2006, 2009 and 2011).

The profile has been published as an ATODA monograph. The monograph series are available here: www.atoda.org.au/atoda-monograph-series

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcome** of evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priority** of improving policy, practice, participation and research collaborations

Defining and influencing



resource allocation priorities // Planning and priority setting

Strategic Brainstorming Forums

ATODA convened strategic brainstorming forums in October 2015 to generate ideas for the sector for the next five years in order to contribute to policy processes such as the ACT Budget and the new ACT and National Drug Strategies.

Input from stakeholders was gained across the following domains:

- Treatment and support
- Workforce development
- Participation of service and drug users, families and friends
- Research
- Harm reduction
- Law reform and enforcement
- Prevention

The morning forum was focused on frontline workers, while the afternoon was oriented towards managers, policy makers, researchers and advocates.

An independent expert paper for the ACT Primary Health Network's Baseline Needs Assessment

In February 2016, the Capital Health Network (the ACT Primary Health Network), ATODA and ACT Health agreed to work in collaboration to support the development of a needs assessment, planning, commissioning, implementation and evaluation of new AOD treatment funding available through the Capital Health Network.

In acknowledgement of ATODA's expertise and leadership in the AOD sector, the Capital Health Network asked ATODA to develop an independent paper focussed on highlighting specialist AOD treatment and support needs and priorities for the ACT. The paper was co-commissioned by the Capital Health Network and ATODA.

In developing this paper, ATODA engaged with key stakeholders, including all ACT specialist AOD treatment and support services funded by the ACT and/or Australian Government health departments, and ACT Health. The paper was used by the Capital Health Network to inform its Baseline Needs Assessment, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Activity Work Plan and other commissioning activities.

Utilising the Drug and Alcohol Service Planning Model

The Drug and Alcohol Service Planning Model (NSW Ministry of Health 2012) is a planning tool that aims to determine the resources required to meet the needs of people with alcohol and other drug problems.

The model identifies the types of care required by drug type and age group, and the components of that care (termed care packages). It estimates the resources required to deliver that care across a typical population of 100,000 people. The model describes the amount of care that a person should receive over the course of one year (as distinct from an 'episode of care' during that year as utilised in the *ACT Minimum Data Set for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services*).

ACT Health and ATODA invited key stakeholders to a workshop to learn more about the model and to consider its implications for planning for specialist alcohol and drug services in the ACT. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Alison Ritter, Director, Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW.

ACT ATOD Strategy 2016 - 2020

The ACT has a strong history of undertaking evidence-informed alcohol, tobacco and other drug policy and practice. The draft Strategy, produced by the ACT Government for public consultation, reflects a culmination of over twenty years of ACT-specific drug strategies. There have been a number of bold, innovative and complex programs

initiated within the ACT, which have been funded and supported by the ACT Government and other stakeholders. Many of these have been found through formal evaluations to be successful.

ATODA consulted with members and stakeholders to make a detailed submission to the draft ACT ATOD Strategy outlining our vision and priorities for the implementation of evidence based drug policy

Increasing the capacity



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

// Comorbidity Bus Tours

The Comorbidity Bus Tours are a cross-sectoral development activity that aims to increase the capacity of frontline workers to support people experiencing co-occurring ATOD and mental health issues (comorbidity).

The Comorbidity Bus Tours visit a variety of services in the ACT from the ATOD, mental health and youth sectors on three separate tours that operate on a rotating basis fortnightly or once a month. 34 programs collaborate to provide service visits on the tours.

The Comorbidity Bus Tours are a partnership between ATODA, the Youth Coalition of the ACT

(youth sector peak body) and the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT (mental health sector peak body).

Feedback is collated from the participants and remains positive year after year. In the last twelve months 148 workers have participated in the bus tours.

**This activity progresses ATODA's
Strategic Plan's:**

- **outcomes** of high quality services
- **priorities** of developing the workforce and services

Facilitating access



to the latest evidence for the ACT ATOD Sector
// Canberra Satellite: 10th Annual Conference of the
International Society for the Study of Drug Policy



The Canberra Satellite focussed on translating drug policy research into policy and practice, providing international and Australian perspectives on three key national and ACT drug policy topics:

- What is drug policy and why does it matter?
- A global movement towards harm reduction
- Cannabis regulation and law reform: what can be learnt from the USA's research experience?

Speakers included:

- Mr Simon Corbell MLA, ACT Minister for Health
- Professor Alex Stevens, University of Kent, UK and ISSDP President
- Mr Sione Crawford, Former Manager of the Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy and Board Member of the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League

- Professor Margaret Hamilton, Civil Society Task Force, United Nations General Assembly 2016
- Dr David Caldicott, ACT Investigation of Novel Substances (ACTINOS) Group
- Ms Carolyn Stubbley, We Help Ourselves
- Dr Caitlyn Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
- Professor Beau Kilmer, RAND, USA
- Professor Priscillia Hunt, RAND, USA
- Mr David McDonald, Social Research and Evaluation & ATODA
- Ms Carrie Fowlie, CEO, ATODA

100 delegates from the different parts of our sector including researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, consumers and families participated in the Conference.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcome** of evidence-informed practice and a cohesive specialist sector
- **priority** of improving policy, practice, participation and research collaborations



Improving national advocacy,



collaboration and coordination

// Australian Network of AOD State and Territory Peaks

ATODA continued to work closely with our sister peaks across Australia. The Network of peaks represent:

- 435 organisations (primarily non-government), which includes 80% of organisations funded to provide AOD services by the Commonwealth;
- All specialist treatment types (counselling, withdrawal, residential and non-residential rehabilitation, opiate replacement therapy) and harm reduction services;
- \$377,905,578 of State, Territory and Commonwealth AOD services funding investment; and
- 80,000 Australians who receive an episode of care annually.

In addition to the rotating co-chairing of networks and working groups (on a fortnightly and monthly basis) with a focus on capacity building, policy and strategic planning, the Network maintained a focus on positively influencing national policy.

This included welcoming the release of the National 'Ice' Taskforce's Final Report, and the release of the two reviews commissioned by the Australian Government (a) the Drug Policy Modelling Program's *New Horizons* report and (b) the National Drug Research Institute's *Harnessing Good Intentions* report.

The Network also welcomed the multiple announcements made by the Australian Government on 6 December, particularly with regards to increasing funding for specialist alcohol and drug services and the continuation of existing funding contracts until June 2017.

Representation to the Commonwealth Government in this period focused on advocating for harm reduction approaches that were noticeably absent from the National Ice Taskforce final report; encouraging evidence informed and transparent procurement processes for new funding; and demonstrating the importance of security of tenure for drug treatment services through increased contract lengths for NGOTGP and SMSDGF funding.

This activity progresses ATODA's Strategic Plan's:

- **outcome** of evidence-informed practice and cohesive specialist sector
- **priority** of developing the workforce and services



Promoting cross-sectoral training



and professional development opportunities

// Training and Professional Development Calendar

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.

The Calendar promotes training and professional development opportunities available to ATOD, youth, mental health, family support, community and government sectors.

The calendar is a resource to support ATOD workers, managers and Executive Directors to plan professional development opportunities in their service. It also provides a resource to advertise relevant training and professional development opportunities to the ATOD and allied sectors, with an average distribution of over 400 in the ACT and surrounding region.

In the last year, the calendar partners have produced six bi-monthly calendars that were distributed to agencies both in hard and electronic copies and promoted through each ATODA monthly eBulletin and available online at <http://www.atoda.org.au/activities/tpdc/>



This activity progresses our **strategic priority** of developing the workforce and services.



Some policy highlights



Public health and legislative amendments focused on people who inject drugs and their families and friends

In July 2015, ATODA convened a key expert roundtable to discuss amending ACT legislation to promote public health and other outcomes for people who inject drugs and their families, friends and the community.

Subsequent to the roundtable, the ACT Government announced 2 legislative amendments that reflect a commitment to evidence-informed drug policy including working with stakeholders to meaningfully and openly grapple with the complex health, social and legal problems that arise from drugs in our community.

These law changes are another important ACT example of how the community benefits when research, policy and consumers collaborate to solve complex problems. Being based on evidence, it is a model that others could follow about how to do public health and drug law reform.

New Good Samaritan Protections for People who Administer Naloxone

On 18 February 2016, the Minister for Health Simon Corbell MLA announced that the Legislative Assembly for the ACT had passed new laws to provide legal protection for people who administer the life-saving overdose reversal medicine naloxone in an emergency situation.

The *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* applies to people administering naloxone, a

medicine which temporarily reverses the effects of opioids, which has been used successfully to reverse the effects of an overdose for more than 40 years.

These law changes are in response to evidence and various recommendations, including from the ACT Naloxone Program Evaluation.

Decriminalisation of Peer Distribution of Sterile Injecting Equipment

On 5 May 2016, the Attorney General Simon Corbell MLA introduced legislation to decriminalise the peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment to help minimise the spread of blood-borne diseases.

The *Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* provides an exemption from a criminal offence for a person who distributes sterile needles and syringes for the purpose of preventing the spread of blood-borne diseases.

These law changes were informed by a research paper by academics at the Faculty of Law at Monash University and UNSW and respects the vital role that people who inject drugs can play in the prevention of blood borne virus epidemics, such as the Hepatitis C epidemic.

Launch of the Independent Evaluation of the ‘Implementing Expanded Naloxone Availability in the ACT (I-ENAACT) Program’ 2011 – 2014

To mark Overdose Awareness Day on 31 August 2015, CAHMA, ACT Health, ATODA, the National Drug Research Institute, the Burnet Institute and Social Research and Evaluation partnered to host a public launch of the independent evaluation of the Implementing Naloxone Available in the ACT (I-ENAACT Program) 2011 – 2014. Officially launched by Mr Simon Corbell, Minister for Health, the Evaluation shows that the ACT program has achieved its objectives in relation to recruitment and training of participants in overdose response, and participants can be trained to administer take-home naloxone in appropriate circumstances. Furthermore, 57 separate episodes of program issued naloxone being used without adverse events were documented. A positive unintended consequence of the program was participants reporting a sense of empowerment, and positive emotional impacts associated with program participation.

Report citation: Olsen A, McDonald D, Lenton S & Dietze P. 2015, *Independent evaluation of the ‘Implementing Expanded Naloxone Availability*

in the ACT (I-ENAACT) Program’, 2011-2014; final report. Melbourne, Centre for Research Into Injecting Drug Use.

Recurrent investment in specialist drug services to respond to increased demand

ATODA undertook a suite of activities to urge the ACT Government to make a recurrent investment of \$1.6 million in all specialist drug services in order to genuinely create more capacity in the drug services system. The advocacy strategies drew attention to the growing public concern about the impacts of methamphetamine and other drug related harms, and the resulting increased demand for ACT drug treatment and support services (a 36% increase in treatment episodes over 5 years from 2010 – 2014).

On 20 May 2016, The ACT Government announced \$6m in additional funding over four years to strengthen drug treatment capacity. Importantly, the investment was targeted at helping to prevent opioid overdose, reduce service waiting times, provide more rehabilitation and deliver services specifically to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ATODA in the Media



In the last year ATODA has been involved with the media on various matters. Some examples are provided below:

- Opioid overdose, Naloxone program and changes to the Good Samaritan Law
 - o Good Samaritan protections for Naloxone (*CityNews*, 19 February 2016)
 - o Calls for trailblazing ACT drug overdose reversal program to be rolled out nationwide (*ABC News*, 31 August 2015)
 - o Drug trial praised for saving more than 50 Canberrans from overdoses (*Canberra Times*, 30 August 2015)
 - o Concern pain relief drug oxycodone over prescribed in Canberra's hospitals (*Canberra Times*, 25 September 2015)
- Drug treatment funding
 - o ACT Budget to provide millions for drug rehab and treatment (*Canberra Times*, 20 May 2016).
- Impact of alcohol on emergency presentation
 - o Emergency department demand increasing at double the population growth (*Canberra Times*, 23 November 2015)

Financial Report

ATODA's 2015 - 16 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) 6249 6358 for hard copies.



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