

# Improved Services Initiative

Spring 2009 - Issue 1

## IN THIS ISSUE

- An update from the Department of Health and Ageing
- WANADA provide a peak perspective on the Improved Services Initiative in Western Australia
- In NSW, MDECC looks at integrating mental health promotion
- Inner city services team up with a local GP clinic in South Australia
- CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn establish a Medicare ACCESS Program
- Knox Community Health Service collaborate with the local Division of General Practice in Victoria
- Updates from your peaks in Tasmania, Northern Territory and Queensland

### Want to contribute to the next newsletter?

Contact the peak in your local state or territory (details on the back).

## THE NATIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE IMPROVED SERVICES INITIATIVE

### WELCOME

Welcome to the first national newsletter for the *Improved Services for People with Drug and Alcohol Problems and Mental Illness Initiative*.

The *Improved Services Initiative* is a national project which aims to build the capacity of non government drug and alcohol organisations to effectively identify and treat comorbid substance use and mental illness. Capacity building grants were provided to a diverse range of non government drug and alcohol services throughout Australia to undertake this project.

The creation of the Improved Services Initiative National Newsletter is part of ongoing collaboration between the Australian State and Territory AOD peak organisations (or equivalent), who have been funded to support the grant recipients as part of the Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships (CSSSP) Project.

This newsletter provides grant recipients and other stakeholders with opportunities to hear about what other grant recipients are doing and to find out more about related initiatives. We encourage you to make contact with other grant recipients to find out more about their projects and to use the newsletter to promote the work of your organisation under the *Improved Services Initiative*.

### GUEST EDITORIAL *Department of Health and Ageing*

Under the Improved Services Initiative (the Initiative) the Department of Health and Ageing has provided 122 non-government organisation AOD services across Australia with individual capacity building grants of up to \$500,000 until the end of the 2010-11 financial year.

Recently, the Cross Sectoral Support and Strategic Partnerships (CSSSP) project component of the Initiative was provided with a further \$3 million to extend the project until 30 May 2011 to align with the capacity building projects. This funding will allow the CSSSP project to continue supporting the AOD sector in each State and Territory to improve the: capacity of services; linkages across the sector and into the mental health sector; and level of training provided to staff.

As grants under the Initiative are time specific, services should be looking at ways that they can continue to improve services to allow self sustainability after 30 June 2011.

*More from Department of Health and Ageing on page 9*

ACT AOD SECTOR PROJECT  
<http://www.aodsector.org.au>



South Australian Network of Drug & Alcohol Services



network of alcohol & other drugs agencies



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NETWORK OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES



**A** coordinated approach, partnerships and shared knowledge between alcohol and other drug agencies and their counterparts in the mental health field, are some of the positive outcomes for West Australian consumers just 18 months into the federally funded, Improved Services Initiative.

Western Australian AOD agencies showed a keen interest in the project right from the start, with many agencies forming consortia with services that have similar goals, so that benefits can be seen across the whole sector.

“We’re fortunate that agencies have taken a collaborative approach in WA,” says Project Manager Angela Corry. “Agencies recognise the potential benefits to consumers that come from sharing their knowledge and coordinating their efforts.”

Eleven of the grant recipients are based in WA, with half of these agency consortiums. The consortiums have a varied focus with approximately 30 agencies involved. WANADA took a lead role in coordinating the formation of these consortia during the funding application phase and also assisted in recruitment with the placement of joint advertisements in major newspapers.

“Wherever possible, WANADA and the WA agencies have worked together to ensure the most effective use of our time and resources,”

says Angela. “Agencies are acutely aware of how a lack of coordination on mental health and alcohol and other drug issues can impact on consumers.”

WANADA ensures that agencies are aware of current initiatives and that efforts are coordinated through regular lead agency forums and teleconferences. WANADA also hosts and encourages networking events that allow agency workers to exchange information, ideas and contacts.

“Presentations by workers from both non-government alcohol and other drug services and mental health services have increased participants’ awareness of the issues that consumers with a dual diagnosis face and the innovative ways that our nonprofit agencies are working to support them,” says Angela.

The AOD sector in WA is diverse and services are located in metropolitan Perth to Kununurra in the Kimberley. There is a variety of residential and non-residential organisations delivering services to a number of target groups such as Aboriginal people, youth, women and families and local communities.

Mary Ford WANADA’s Aboriginal Network Project Officer commenced a part-time role with the Improved Services project in July 2009. Mary’s primary role is focusing on promoting the needs of Aboriginal people who have

both mental health and AOD issues.

To improve workers’ capacity to work with Aboriginal people on mental health issues, WANADA worked with Palmerston Albany, Ngnowar Aerwah and the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service (OVAHS) Social Support Unit in the East Kimberley to offer Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative (AIMhi) training.

Another training event supported by WANADA was the Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid course where participants from WANADA and the WA Association for Mental Health gained a greater understanding of Aboriginal mental health and how to respond to mental health emergencies.

While WANADA has supported agencies with training events and communications, it has also worked to advocate for better state coordination of responses to the dual diagnosis of AOD and mental health issues.

WANADA’s role in the Improved Services Initiative will continue until 2011 and the team includes, recently appointed Senior Project Officer, Maree Stallard. WANADA aims to ensure that benefits to consumers with comorbid alcohol and other drug use and mental health issues will continue into the future.

To find out more contact WANADA on (08)9420 7236 or [www.wanada.org.au](http://www.wanada.org.au)



Effective leadership and management strategies are required to support organisational change. The Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre (MDECC) is a non government organisation based in Sydney that provides health promotion, early intervention, and counselling/treatment programs to young people, parents and families.

Historically, many drug and alcohol services and mental health services have worked independently. MDECC is a successful grant recipient of the Improved Services Initiative. The Improved Services Initiative aims to build and strengthen links between mental health and drug and alcohol, and integrate mental health promotion into existing drug and alcohol programs offered by the service.

One of the key focus areas in MDECC's plan was staff professional development and support in regards to mental health promotion. Although all staff at MDECC have extensive qualifications and

expertise in the area of drug and alcohol, it was recognised that a high level of skills and knowledge in regards to mental health promotion would be needed to implement the change required. Whilst implementing any level of organisational change, it is important that staff are also supported.

A mental health promotion mentor was contracted to provide support and mentoring to all program delivery staff whilst they re-developed programs to integrate mental health. MDECC employed mentoring as a strategy to assist staff to apply new-learned theory to practice.

To build and strengthen links between mental health and drug and alcohol services, MDECC identified the need to form a local network of service providers from both sectors. This had been attempted by various parties over the years with little success, mostly in the form of dual diagnosis committees and meetings.

Although the intentions of both drug and alcohol and mental health services to work together are good, these committees did not result in any real system change and had declining membership. MDECC has since taken a more

innovative approach to creating a local network.

As part of the Improved Services Initiative, MDECC has brought together a number of key players from both the drug and alcohol and mental health services to work together on the development of a new dual diagnosis resource.

In essence the local network was created out of the relationships that were built to undertake this task. The group was successful and has maintained its membership and has a clear sense of purpose and focus.

The result – a committed group of drug and alcohol and mental health service providers, a new dual diagnosis resource developed by the network, and an ongoing commitment to program planning.

getting  
your  
head  
around it

To find out more about MDECC's new dual diagnosis resource "Getting Your Head Around It" go to [www.mdecc.org.au](http://www.mdecc.org.au) or contact MDECC on 02 99770711.

The Salvation Army Towards Independence Network of Services, UnitingCare Wesley (Byron Place) and Baptist Care SA (Westcare) provide a range of services to homeless people in Adelaide's inner city area.

Each service received Improved Services Initiative funding in 2008. Project officers from the three services meet regularly under the auspice of the state peak body, SANDAS.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the three agencies and the local GP clinic was developed. The purpose of the agreement was to formalise and to enhance collaboration of the working relationship that already existed between the services.

The Brian Burdekin Medical Clinic is geographically located between the other services so it made sense to adopt a collaborative approach to developing an MOU between each of these services who are

often dealing with clients who are common to each service.

Towards Independence developed the first draft of the MOU, consulted with Brian Burdekin Clinic, then sought feedback from both WestCare and Byron Place.

A consultative process was embraced with modified drafts of the MOU going back and forward between agencies until agreement was reached. This was a very open minded process and agreement was reached fairly quickly in the spirit of collaboration between each agency.

The networking and joint projects undertaken by services were seen as fundamental to building trust and understanding which underpins the development of the document.



Barry White, Comorbidity Project Officer of Baptist Community Services, Gisela Hemil, Practice Manager, Brian Burdekin Clinic and Jim Lackie Comorbidity Project Officer, Salvation Army celebrate the signing of the MOU – Dr Damian Meade is represented by his bicycle – a hard man to catch.

*"This was a very open minded process and agreement was reached fairly quickly in the spirit of collaboration between each agency."*

For more information about this project please contact Daniela Musolino via email: [Daniela.Musolino@aus.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Daniela.Musolino@aus.salvationarmy.org)

## Impact of the MOU on Local Services

The partnership protocol involved working collaboratively with Brian Burdekin Clinic to set up GP Mental Health Care Plans for homeless clients experiencing alcohol and other drug issues or comorbid conditions. The mental health care plan addresses a number of key areas, including; assessment, prescription and referral.

A referral to Brian Burdekin Clinic may also include a one-off mental

health care consultation.

The MOU is designed to enhance the continuity of care for clients accessing the local services. The GP clinic will provide mental health care to clients of the services as needed. The clinic has also agreed to provide information to clients on programs available at the other partner services.

Clinic staff will also, where practicable, discuss by phone, any mental

health issues/symptoms with a nominated contact worker at the appropriate service.

Confidentiality will be assured as clients will sign consent forms granting permission for exchange of information between the project partners.

The memorandum of understanding will be evaluated by the project partners in a year, with a view to develop a longer term partnership.

CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn is a large, multi-disciplinary agency. The organisation delivers approximately 40 different programs across a diverse range of welfare related services including alcohol and other drug, aged care, accommodation, counselling, disability, mental health, family support, vocational and youth services.

Within CatholicCare, the Improved Services Initiative position works with and supports over 200 staff and volunteers with various clinical skills, backgrounds, and roles. Since its commencement in January 2008, the Project has seen many successes including:

- implementing the Dual Diagnosis Capability Assessment Tool (DDCAT) to improve comorbidity assessment within CatholicCare's Sobering Up Shelter Program;
- brokering of specialist training to sustainably upskill staff;
- establishing a Supervision Working Group to review and improve support offered to staff;
- implementation of an Interagency Referral Protocol to increase and encourage staff to refer existing clients to programs that will increase the support provided; and,

- implementation of a comorbid data collection tool across programs to track and profile the needs of clients accessing a diverse range of services.

Another marker of CatholicCare's successful implementation of comorbid service improvement activities has been the establishment of the Medicare ACCESS Program. The program offers bulk billing psychological counselling services by utilising Medicare rebates to encourage better access to psychological services. The program is available for individuals and families seeking assistance with mental health issues and whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent them from accessing these services.

CatholicCare accessed the skills of existing social workers and psychologists within the organisation to offer this service to clients on low incomes through referrals from supportive GPs within the region. It aims to reduce the barriers experienced when making external referrals and waiting lists for CatholicCare clients, and offer quality psychological services. It also offers existing staff an opportunity to use their clinical counselling skills in a formal therapeutic setting.

The program highlights

the success of the Improved Services Initiative in responding to challenges with strategies that improve the provision of services across a diversity of programs to clients experiencing complex issues.

To build on the successes to date, the project will continue to introduce comorbidity into the language and awareness of all CatholicCare staff. The project will continue working towards increasing skills, services and capacity within the organisation to better respond to challenges and improve the services offered to people with AOD or mental health issues accessing a diversity of CatholicCare programs.

To find out more about CatholicCare or the Medicare ACCESS Program visit <http://www.centacare-canberra.org/web.php>



**CatholicCare**

---

*CatholicCare was one of five services in the ACT funded under the Improved Services Initiative in 2008.*

## But The Dog Ate My Prescription!

Knox Community Health Service (KCHS) has focused on building the capacity of its Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD) team, in mental health screening, assessment skills and therapeutic method.

KCHS uses the Mini Mental Screen as its primary mental health screening tool for all of its ATOD clients. All counselling staff, including the intake workers, have been trained to use the tool, which is used as an indication of a pre-existing or potential mental health problems. If an issue is identified, an appropriate referral is made.

In January 2009, KCHS engaged the services of a consultant psychiatrist to build staff capacity in case reviews. This provided opportunities for case presentations by staff. The consultant psychiatrist conducted client medication reviews, as well as diagnostic functions for clients with mental health conditions not eligible for public services.

KCHS has been skilling up all therapeutic counselling staff in a variety of mindfulness approaches. Staff are now credentialed to implement Dialectical Behavioural Therapy, Advanced Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for AOD and Personality Disorders and Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy<sup>1</sup> in both individual and group work.

The service has liaised with Professor Alan Marlatt, Professor of Psychology,

University of Washington and Director of Addictive Behaviours Research Center to provide support and secondary consultation for an 8-week group program of Mindfulness Based Relapse Prevention for clients with co-occurring mental health and substance use.

This exciting new method is experiencing excellent results in the US and is showing promise of similar results in its application in both individual and group work at KCHS. The introduction of *self compassion* as a therapeutic method has also proven to be useful in individual and group therapy. The use of a self compassion score card is now being implemented for pre and post evaluations of group and individual work at Knox.

The development of our resource library of clinical therapeutic methods and mental health manuals relevant to co-occurring mental health and substance use issues will provide sustainable support to counselling and ATOD teams in relation to their therapeutic work.

KCHS collaborated with the Knox Division of General Practice in July to host an education evening for GPs, pharmacists and the KCHS Counselling Team.

The activity titled, *But The Dog Ate My Prescription!* featured two speakers, Dr Matthew Frei & Dr Bernard Hickey, who focused how they approached clients presenting with



Jenni Thompson and Tim Roberts from Knox Community Health Service and Frances Cieslak, Victorian Viral Hepatitis Educator St. Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

psychosis and seeking benzodiazepines.

This was a great opportunity for KCHS staff to engage with the 50 other primary care professionals and foster relationships for future partnerships in the Outer East. Plans for KCHS to provide a secondary consult for local pharmacies involved in pharmacotherapy dispensing are underway as a result of the evening.

KCHS will also participate with a local service provider of the Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS) program, providing monthly secondary consultation and joint education sessions in AOD and comorbidity issues. KCHS currently provides mutual secondary consultation to Chandler House a local mental health service, as well as joint sessions of AOD assessment with its mental health case manager.

Knox Community Health Service is located in the Outer Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Contact Tim Roberts for more details about KCHS's project on (03) 97576200 or via email [Timothy.Roberts@kchs.org.au](mailto:Timothy.Roberts@kchs.org.au)

<sup>1</sup>Professor Mark Williams, UK

## Tasmania – Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council



There has been some staff movement over recent months in the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Council (ATDC) office in Hobart. The most recent change was the commencement in late September of a new Comorbidity Sector Development Officer, June Templer.

June will assist the six Tasmanian organisations receiving the Improved Services Initiative (ISI) funding achieve their goals and establish productive relationships with all stakeholders in the area of drug and alcohol and mental health comorbidity.

A meeting of the ISI organisations (Holyoake and The Link Youth Health Service in Hobart; Youth and Family focus in Devonport; Community Connections in Burnie; Missiondale in Evandale; and the statewide Salvation Army Bridge Program) was held at the

Salvation Army Bridge Program premises in Hobart on 16 October. It was clear that the meeting was very productive, with ISI project officers exchanging ideas and agreeing to work together on issues of concern.

The next statewide meeting of the group is to be held in early December at the central location of Campbell Town.

As a member organisation of two recently established cross sectoral groups, the ATDC aims to represent its members and help to improve service delivery to clients experiencing comorbid alcohol and drug and mental health issues. The first of these groups is the Statewide Comorbidity Steering Committee which was established by the Tasmanian State Government, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The group consists of a wide range of both government and non government representatives.

The purpose of the group is to link decisions and activities between the alcohol and drug and mental health sectors in Tasmania.

The second group is the Alcohol and other Drug and Mental Health Comorbidity Working Group which aims to build sustainable linkages and strategic partnerships between the AOD NGO sector and other health and community support sectors.

The ongoing merger of the DHHS Alcohol and Drug Service and Mental Health Service presents both opportunities and challenges for the non government sector regarding changes to the interface with the mental health sector and generally with regard to service delivery to clients experiencing comorbid alcohol and drug and mental health issues.

To find out more about Tasmania's ISI projects contact ATDC on (03) 6224 7780.

## NTCOSS



The NT Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) has been funded to coordinate the Improved Services Initiative in the NT. The first year of the project was very successful, in particular a partnership that was developed with Menzies School of Health to research comorbidity issues for the sector. Unfortunately, we

have been without a project worker since early 2009 and the project has been at a standstill. A new project worker is coming on board in late November so we are looking forward to reconnecting with agencies.

In other NT news, NTCOSS has been funded \$50,000 by the NT Government as seed

funding for an AOD peak. As many of you would be aware, the NT has never had a funded AOD peak which is somewhat surprising considering the alcohol related issues in the NT. We are looking forward to pursuing our goal of a fully funded AOD peak in the NT. For more information visit: [www.ntcoss.org.au](http://www.ntcoss.org.au)

With the recent recruitment and hiring of a new Improved Services Coordinator, QNADA is looking forward to once again engaging and servicing the funded agencies throughout Queensland.

The Coordinator has already held initial positive meetings with most of the funded agencies residing in South East Queensland. QNADA travelled to Cairns on the 29<sup>th</sup> September to engage with other funded agencies.

Once the re-engaging process with grant recipients has been completed QNADA will be in a strong position to start offering advice, leadership and encouraging collaboration between the funded agencies.

With this in mind QNADA has taken the initiative in organising an Improved Services Agencies Forum which will coincide with the QNADA AGM. This will be a great opportunity to show

agencies what is possible through collaboration and the importance of QNADA as a peak body.

The forum itself will be held at the new QNADA office which has teleconference facilities for any agency not able to attend in person.

To find out more about the Improved Services Initiative in Queensland please visit [www.qnada.org.au](http://www.qnada.org.au) or phone on (07) 3010 6500.

## Dual Diagnosis Conference Victoria



*Lisa Walklate, Bendigo Community Health Service*

Lisa Walklate, Improved Services Coordinator from Bendigo Community Health Service presented the first paper at the Dual Diagnosis Planning Conference held in Beechworth in June this year.

Lisa together with Paul Hurnall, Dual Diagnosis Clinician from the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative, (VDDI) developed the presentation. They looked at

how the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative and the Improved Service Initiative have worked together to improve the responses to people with mental health and alcohol and drug issues in the Bendigo Region. Programs considered critical to the effectiveness of the partnerships were highlighted.

An overview of some of local and state wide initiatives that have contributed to the VDDI & Improved Service Initiatives were also emphasised throughout the presentation.

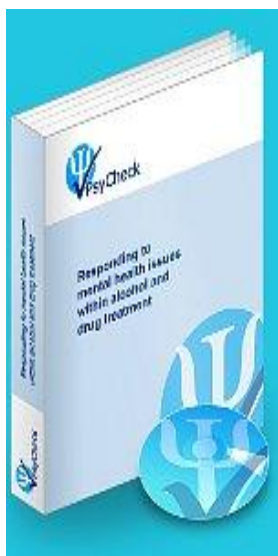
The 27 Victorian Improved Service Initiative Service Project Coordinators were invited to attend and participate in the two-day Annual Dual Diagnosis Planning Conference. The theme of the conference was partnerships and topics covered included, getting the

really important things done with others when you don't have direct control, formulating a dual diagnosis integrated treatment plan for AOD and MH clinicians using the Dual Diagnosis Treatment Improvement Protocol (DD-TIP) and Dual Diagnosis Research.

The Joint Planning Committee, comprising of representatives from Victoria's Improved Service Initiatives, Dual Diagnosis Clinicians, convened by the Education Development Unit of the VDDI have identified sustainability, as the theme for the 2010 Dual Diagnosis Planning Conference.

For more details contact Lisa on (03) 5430 0500 [LisaWalklate@bchs.com.au](mailto:LisaWalklate@bchs.com.au)

# More from the Department of Health and Ageing



## Supporting Resources

### *PsyCheck*

Training for this program has been undertaken nationally. Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre also provide individual organisations with on-site support and ongoing teaching of *PsyCheck* as a fee for service contract for the three year period.

If services have available funding within their current Improved Services Initiative budget this may be a viable evidence-based training opportunity. Contact Turning Point for more information on: (03) 8413 8413

### *Building on 'Can Do'*

To continue building the capacity and improving networking and referral pathways between GPs and the AOD sector, funding has been provided to the Australian General Practice Network for building on previous achievements of the 'Can Do' project.

A feature article on the *Building on 'Can Do'* initiative will be provided in the next issue of the Improved Services Newsletter.

### *National Comorbidity Clinical Guidelines.*

Feedback from the 70 AOD services who pilot tested the guidelines is being incorporated into the guidelines.

The Department of Health and Ageing will then undertake an approval process before the final guidelines are printed and nationally disseminated.

It is anticipated that the guidelines will be available toward the end of 2009 and supporting workshops to be conducted in early 2010.

*There are a number of supporting initiatives that have been developed to support Improved Service grant recipients across Australia.*

## National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission

Services should also be aware of *A Healthier Future for all Australians*, which is the final report from the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) released by the Prime Minister, the Hon Mr Kevin Rudd MP, in June 2009.

The report provides a long term comprehensive view and option about health care reform in Australia.

Between now and the end of 2009, the Australian Government is directly consulting with the health sector and the Australian public on the report. The report is available at [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au) and comment can be made at that site.

One of the recommendations of particular relevance for the alcohol and other drugs sector is as follows:

*88.1 The Commonwealth Government would assume full responsibility for the policy and public funding of primary health care services.*

This includes all existing community health, public dental services, family and child health services, and alcohol and drug treatment services that are currently funded by state, territory and

local governments.

Services may wish to comment on this recommendation through the website [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the Improved Services Initiative or any of the articles in this newsletter please contact your local representative:

**ACT AOD Sector** [www.aodsector.org.au](http://www.aodsector.org.au)  
Amanda Bode Ph: (02) 6247 3540  
Email: [amanda@aodsector.org.au](mailto:amanda@aodsector.org.au)

Carrie Fowlie Ph: (02) 6247 3540  
Email: [carrie@aodsector.org.au](mailto:carrie@aodsector.org.au)

**New South Wales (NADA)** [www.nada.org.au](http://www.nada.org.au)  
Robert Stirling Ph: (02) 8113 1320  
Email: [robert@nada.org.au](mailto:robert@nada.org.au)

Sarah Morrison Ph: (02) 8113 1308  
Email: [sarah@nada.org.au](mailto:sarah@nada.org.au)

**Northern Territory (NTCOSS)** [www.ntcoss.org.au](http://www.ntcoss.org.au)  
Wendy Morton Ph: (08) 8948 2665  
Email: [wendy.morton@ntcoss.org.au](mailto:wendy.morton@ntcoss.org.au)

**Queensland (QNADA)** [www.qnada.org.au](http://www.qnada.org.au)  
Helen Jentz Ph: (07) 3010 6500  
Email: [Helen.Jentz@qnada.org.au](mailto:Helen.Jentz@qnada.org.au)

**South Australia (SANDAS)** [www.sandas.org.au](http://www.sandas.org.au)  
Andrew Biven Ph: (0) 8212 9020  
Email: [Andrew@sandas.org.au](mailto:Andrew@sandas.org.au)

Rosie Way Ph: (08) 8212 9020  
Email: [Rosie@sandas.org.au](mailto:Rosie@sandas.org.au)

**Tasmania** [www.atcd.org.au](http://www.atcd.org.au)  
June Templer Ph: (03) 6224 7780  
Email: [junet@atcd.org.au](mailto:junet@atcd.org.au)

**Victoria (VAADA)** [www.comorbidity.org.au](http://www.comorbidity.org.au)  
Gail Ward Ph: (03) 9412 5608  
Email: [gward@vaada.org.au](mailto:gward@vaada.org.au)

Edita Kennedy Ph: (03) 9412 5607  
Email: [ekennedy@vaada.org.au](mailto:ekennedy@vaada.org.au)

**Western Australia (WANADA)** [www.wanada.org.au](http://www.wanada.org.au)  
Angela Corry Ph: (08) 9420 7236  
Email: [angela.corry@wanada.org.au](mailto:angela.corry@wanada.org.au)

Mary Ford Ph: (08) 9420 7236  
Email: [mary.ford@wanada.org.au](mailto:mary.ford@wanada.org.au)

Maree Stallard Ph: (08) 9486 7988  
Email: [maree.stallard@wanada.org.au](mailto:maree.stallard@wanada.org.au)

**We appreciate your feedback on the newsletter. Please send comments to your state or territory representative (listed above).**

## CONFERENCES

### Australia's Welfare 2009 Conference

17<sup>th</sup> November, Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, Queanbeyan  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/eventsdiary/index.cfm>

### Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Care 2009

25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November, Rydges World Square, Sydney  
[www.indigenoushealthcare.com](http://www.indigenoushealthcare.com)

### Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research Annual Conference

From Young Minds to Grey Matters: Advancing Mental Health & Well being. 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> December, Manning Clark Centre, Australian National University, Canberra  
<http://www.aspr.consec.com.au/>

### Building Bridges National Community Mental Health and Addictions Conference 2010

Transcending barriers, cultures and differences in our approach to community mental health and addictions services.  
14-16 April 2010, Wellington New Zealand  
[http://www.buildingbridges.co.nz/site/building\\_bridges\\_trust/](http://www.buildingbridges.co.nz/site/building_bridges_trust/)

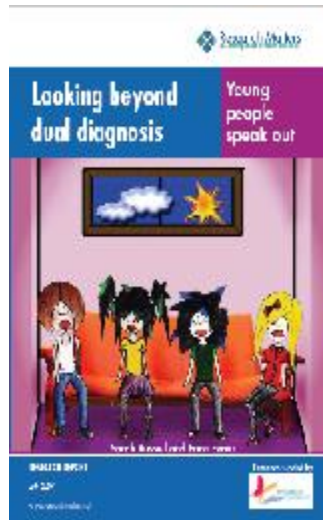
### Reconnexion's 5<sup>th</sup> National Anxiety and Depression Conference

May 2010, Melbourne. For more information contact Janet Haynes on (03) 9886 9400 or email - [janet@reconnexion.org.au](mailto:janet@reconnexion.org.au)

### NIDAC 2010 Conference: Listening, Learning and Leading

16 - 18 June 2010, Adelaide Convention Centre, SA  
Abstract submissions close on 20<sup>th</sup> November  
<http://www.nidaconference.com.au/>

## NEW RESOURCE



A recent report funded by beyondblue, explores young people's experience of the mental health and AOD sectors.

The report, *Looking Beyond Dual Diagnosis: Young People Speak Out* by Sarah Russell and Erica Evans can be downloaded from the report section of the following site:  
<http://www.researchmatters.net>