

# Regional Newsletter August 2005



Welcome to our August BSWYA Newsletter. This Newsletter is part of a regional alliance between drug and alcohol services supporting young people in the Barwon South West Region.



## Action Week 2005

### Within Reach Youth Art Exhibition

The BSWYA, the City of Greater Geelong and the Drug Action Week Committee worked on a number of youth projects for Drug Action Week including the "Within Reach" Youth Art Exhibition. The exhibition at the Courthouse Café showcased the creative talents of young people aged 12-21 involved with local drug treatment services. Approximately 20 pieces of artwork were selected and framed with generous funding from the Department of Human Services.

The exhibition was officially launched by Nola Ganly Community Services Manager of DHS, which was attended by approximately 50 people including many of the young artists.

Selected pieces from the exhibition were also showcased at the recent Rural Victorian Alcohol and Drug Conference in Warrnambool.

The City of Greater Geelong, Barwon South West Youth Alliance, the Drug Action Week Committee and Department of Human Services are proud to be a part of this annual Drug Action Week initiative.



Pictured above is some of the artwork from the exhibition and to the left Nola Ganly officially launches the Within Reach Exhibition



The powerful film "One Perfect Day" was shown at Village Cinema following the screening of short film "Drugs and Alcohol- Choices" which was produced by Accent Video, endorsed by Barwon Health and made by young people from the Golden Plains Shire as part of Drug Action Week.

One Perfect Day tells the story of musical prodigy (Dan Spielman) whose younger sister dies of an accidental drug overdose.

Producer Paul Currie and main actor Dan Spielman were special guests at the screening and gave valuable insight into the aim of their film also providing the opportunity to answer questions. "What we wanted to make is a film that presented the real world, and a real world where people are going to be presented with choices and have the opportunity to make the decisions themselves". "They choose to say 'yes' in certain situations and there are consequences with saying 'yes', and that's what the film deals with".

The films were shown to approximately 120 people including drug and alcohol workers and young people involved in a range of youth services within the region.



Paul Currie and Dan Spielman with Di Schmidtkie who was MC for the afternoon



The young people involved in creating the short film "Drugs and Alcohol- Choices". For more information contact Danielle Hughes on 0401 109 904 or daniehu@barwonhealth.org.au



BSWYA PO Box 752 Geelong 3220

# Rural Victorian Alcohol & Drug Conference



TIME FOR CHANGE



The biggest ever rural-based alcohol and drug conference was held in Warrnambool last month attracting over 120 delegates from throughout Victoria and interstate. The 2005 Rural Victorian Alcohol and Drug Conference 'Time for Change' was held over the two days, with seven keynote speakers of international calibre presenting at the Conference.

Presentations covered a range of topics including cannabis use and mental health, harm reduction strategies, the latest Alcohol and Drug (AOD) research, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and on the ground programs such as that which has been developed between Police Victoria and Odyssey House, Shepparton to assist in breaking down barriers between police and AOD offenders.

In 2005, for the first time the Conference included an additional one-day workshop with futurist and political scientist, Dr Sohail Inayatullah covering future development and foresight into the AOD sector.

Over the two days, 10 interactive workshops were offered to delegates where approximately 30 key recommendations were developed in relation to the AOD sector. These key recommendations are to be collated and widely disseminated to key stakeholders throughout government, and the AOD sector.

The Conference conducted their annual 'Awards for Excellence' at the Conference dinner that recognised the valuable work being contributed by many in the Victorian AOD sector.

The Conference Organising Committee are meeting in September to commence planning for the 2006 Conference. To ensure that you receive updates, please forward any change of contact details to [enquiries@wadac.wrad.org.au](mailto:enquiries@wadac.wrad.org.au) or if you know of a colleague or friend who would like to be added to the Conference database, please ask them to forward their details to the above email.



Keynote Speakers from left to right Professor David Fergusson, Dr Sohail Inayatullah and Professor Steve Allsop

The 2005 Rural Victorian Alcohol & Drug Conference 'Awards for Excellence' recognise the outstanding work being contributed by individuals and organisations in relation to rural specific issues in the Victorian alcohol and drugs sector. Congratulations to the following winners:

**Hall of Fame** was awarded to Dr. Richards for his tireless work in drug and alcohol rehabilitation in rural Victoria and in many instances goes above and beyond his duty of care to ensure the best outcome for his patients.

**Rural Health Promotion Contribution** was awarded to The WRAD Centre for 'There's More to Life Expo'.

**Outstanding Rural Treatment Contribution** was awarded to: Mark Powell, Dual Diagnosis Clinician, South West Healthcare Psychiatric Services.

**Outstanding Rural Scientific Contribution** was awarded to: The Centre for Health & Society, University of Melbourne for 'Unspoken But Ever-present: Hepatitis C in a Rural Setting'.

**Making a Difference** was awarded to: BAYSA Youth Services in Partnership with WRAD for the Youth Access Program.

**Media Contribution** was awarded to: Danny Lannen, Geelong Advertiser - Drugs & Our Kids' Campaign.



## Youth Access Program Launch

BAYSA and WRAD were pleased to officially launch the Youth Access Program at the recent Rural Victorian Alcohol and Drug Conference in Warrnambool.

The program was officially launched by Daryl Smeaton the Director of the AERF who emphasized the success of the program in reducing alcohol related harm in the region.

The primary purpose of the Youth Access Program is the professional provision of coordinated pathways and supported referrals of young people into regional drug and alcohol treatments services and day programs.

Josie Taylor, Coordinator of the program would personally like to thank Outreach Workers Bridie West and Tony Harrison for their dedication and hard work over the last 11 months and thank local drug and alcohol services, in particular WRAD, Glenelg Southern Grampians Drug Treatment Service, Brophy Family & Youth Services and Colac Area Health for embracing the program and working in a collaborative manner to reduce drug and alcohol related harm of young people within the Barwon South West Region. Special thanks also to the AERF for providing funding for the program to operate at full capacity for the first 12 months and the Department of Human Services for providing funding for this award winning program to continue at full capacity until March 2006.

The Youth Access Program look forward to continuing to work with drug and alcohol services and schools in the region, building on the strong relationships established and continuing to reduce the drug and alcohol related harm of young people in the region.



Pictured above from left to right, Josie Taylor, Daryl Smeaton, Tony Harrison and Paul Weight at the official launch.



## Privacy Workshop

Would your organisation pass a Privacy AUDIT?  
Are your staff all aware of the Health Privacy Principles?  
What does Privacy mean to your clients and their families?

You are invited to attend a Privacy Workshop to update your understanding of the Health Privacy Principles and their application to your agency

- WHEN:** Friday, September 16 from 1.00 - 3.00pm
- WHERE:** Community Room @ Community Connections, 135 Kepler St, Warrnambool
- TRAINER:** Sue Joseph, Office of the Health Services Commissioner
- Sue has vast practical experience, and will facilitate a lively and useful workshop on practical aspects of the privacy principles as they apply to community-based agencies
- COST:** No cost. This training is provided by the OHSC, organised by WRAD, and hosted by Community Connections.
- REGISTER:** Phone: 55603222 - Carmel Brady @ the WRAD Centre  
Email: [carmelb@wrad.org.au](mailto:carmelb@wrad.org.au)  
Places are limited; please register promptly!

The WRAD Centre, WARRNAMBOOL



## **Hundreds attend Anex Harm Reduction Conference**

The 2005 Anex Harm Reduction Conference, Drugs at Work, has been hailed as a huge success by the hundreds of Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) staff, health workers, researchers and academics from every state and territory who attended.

Anex CEO John Ryan said he was thrilled by the sector's response. "It really was gratifying to see so many people, from different backgrounds and professions, working and learning together for the betterment of harm reduction services around the country," he said. "There are still too few opportunities for harm reduction workers to network at a national level and share their experiences, approaches and knowledge. "I'm proud that Anex is able to offer the conference as a forum for greater learning and best practice development and with attendance figures like this year I'm sure the conference is going to keep on getting bigger and better".

Delegates were particularly pleased with opportunities to network with other workers, attend sessions on how to increase access for Aboriginal or culturally and linguistically diverse communities and share resources.

More than 70 speakers from a diverse range of backgrounds gave presentations over two days. Sessions included: drugs in the workplace, the ethics of harm reduction, providing holistic services, drug use issues, developing partnerships, advocacy, working with people in prisons, improving access, hepatitis C resources, data collection, dispensing machines, service development and NSP resources.

John Ryan said speakers were chosen for their ability to enlighten, teach and challenge.

"We wanted to offer delegates the opportunity to not only learn from other NSP workers and researchers but also to hear from people in other sectors who can offer new or slightly different perspectives," he said.

Delegates heard from the AFL's General Manager of Football Operations, Adrian Anderson, and the President of the AFL Players' Association, Brendon Gale, about the AFL's recently introduced Illicit Drugs Policy.

John said the conference wouldn't have been possible without the support of key sponsors. "Primary sponsors for this year's conference were the Victorian Department of Human Services and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing," he said. "We also received support from the Western Australia Department of Health and the ACT Government in the form of sponsorships, which made it possible for delegates to fly in from these states."

For more information on Anex go to [www.anex.org.au](http://www.anex.org.au).



### **Newsletter information please**

**forward with approved pictures via email to:**

[shannon.luttrell@baysa.org.au](mailto:shannon.luttrell@baysa.org.au)

### **Other News:**

- Executive Meeting 21/09/05– Brophy Family & Youth Services, Warrnambool
- Interactions Drug Education Workshops:  
Geelong 15/09/05 & Warrnambool 16/09/05
- BSW Regional Alcohol & Other Drug Coalition Annual General Meeting 7/09/05



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