

Alcohol and Other Drugs Youth Capacity Building

New Year Newsletter 2010-2011 December 2010 – January 2011

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!



This Newsletter is part of the regional AOD Youth Capacity Building Role funded by Department of Health, Mental Health, Drugs and Regions. If you have any comment, events, information that you would like included in future newsletters or feedback please don't hesitate in contacting me at shickford@barwon youth.org.au

Notice board

Draft of the National Drug Strategy 2010-2015

The Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) is developing the next stage of the National Drug Strategy on behalf of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy. A draft of the National Drug Strategy 2010-2015 has been developed based on an evaluation of the previous strategy and a round of consultations earlier this year. Public comment is now invited on the draft Strategy. These comments will be used to finalise a document that will steer Australia's drug policy over the next five years. The draft, as well as further information on how to be part of this consultation, is available at the National Drug Strategy website www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au. Submissions close at 8pm (AEDT), 10 December 2010.

Survey Results: Access to social networking - AOD Sector

Social networking is becoming a key medium for communication and community building in all areas of life. Increasingly social networking is being utilised in the not-for-profit sector to increase community development, information dissemination and engagement with our clients.

The aim of this short survey was to provide a picture of the level of and satisfaction with access to social networking tools by current staff of alcohol and drug treatment services in Victoria. Number of respondents: 87. Key Outcomes:

- Most respondents (approximately two thirds) are unable to access common social networking sites from a work computer, yet only 12% of respondents believe that access to social networking at work is a time-waster and should be restricted
- Most respondents (approximately two thirds) do not believe that their current level of access to social networking is adequate
- The vast majority of organisations do not currently utilise social networking as part of their service
- Most respondents believe that there is place for social networking tools in drug and alcohol treatment and support services

- There was a mix of responses as to whether respondents believed that their current level of access to social networking is adequate
- A third of respondents believe that increasing access to social networking would help them to perform their job better.

[Full results of the survey are available here.](#)

Call for papers - Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium

The 37th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society is to be held in Melbourne, 11th-15th April, 2011. Details about the conference are available at <http://www.kbs2011.theconferencemanager.com.au/>

For this series of annual international research meetings, "epidemiology" is interpreted broadly to include social science, policy and historical research. The main focus is on alcohol, but there are usually a few drug papers. The expectation is that participants will attend the whole meeting, and most participants present a paper. Draft papers are submitted in advance and available to participants on a protected website, and many participants are asked to give a prepared commentary on a couple of papers. At the meeting, a paper is introduced by its author, not read, and a prepared commentary is given, followed by general discussion.

The call for abstracts is now open and the closing date is the 14th December 2010. For further details about the conference please direct questions to the conference manager at info@theconferencemanager.com.au

Victorian Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (VPTAS)

VPTAS is a statewide Victorian government reimbursement scheme that assists rural and remote Victorians with travel and accommodation costs incurred when travelling more than 100 kilometres for health care. For information about eligibility for VPTAS and the claim process contact the statewide VPTAS toll-free contact number: Free call: 1300 737 073 or paid call: (03) 5333 6040 Your GP or hospital can help you access VPTAS forms or you can get them from the VPTAS website: www.health.vic.gov.au/ruralhealth/vptas/

Funding Available

Mantana Foundation for Young People.

Funding priorities include projects which address the needs of disadvantaged young people and children. Grants range in value from \$1,000.00 to \$10,0000.00. Applications can be made throughout the year. The process starts with your lodging a preliminary enquiry followed by a detailed application. To be eligible your organisation must be an Income Tax Exempt Charity and have tax office D.G.R. status. More details: Visit the Foundation's web site; phone 02 9299 0555.

<http://www.matanafoundation.org.au/>

ADIN - new professional development portal

The Australian Drug Foundation has just launched its professional development portal—a one-stop-shop for people currently working or looking for work in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) and mental health sectors.

The [new professional development portal](#) can be accessed through the Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN) and includes information on:

- Conferences and events
- Training and development
- Networks and news
- Memberships, and
- Employment opportunities.

ADIN is a powerful search engine that brings together essential websites relating to AOD as well as mental health, and searches them for your areas of interest. Providing quality assured information, ADIN is the essential tool for health professionals. Visit www.adin.com.au today to access the new portal and give yourself a professional advantage

"Yarnin' about yarndi"

Produced by Moreland Hall & the Koori AOD Workers Network Victoria. This kit was developed to encourage discussion around cannabis and to assist people in the Indigenous community to cut back, give up or use cannabis (yarndi) more safely. "The Yarnin' about yarndi" (<http://bookshop.adf.org.au/store/article.asp?ContentID=product-813>) kit contains:

- a facilitators' guide which explains how the DVD can be used, key points facilitators may explore and activity sheets designed to assist behaviour change.
- a DVD in which community members talk about the effects of cannabis use, and strategies that might help individuals stop, cut back, or use more safely.
- ten workbooks for participants to record their thoughts or responses to take away with them.
- a CD-ROM with PDFs of all written materials, so additional copies can be printed.
- three message sticks—"Giving up", "Cutting back" and "Using safer", designed to facilitate open conversations among participants.
- the "Tree of life". This exercise is adapted from a technique used in narrative therapy which prioritises story telling.

The Kit. Costs \$190.00 can be sourced from The Australian Drug Foundation's (ADF) new summer 2010–11 Resource catalogue (www.bookshop.adf.org.au)

New Report: With conviction: the case for controlled needle and syringe programs in Australian prisons by Anex

With the incidence of blood borne viruses being far higher in Australian prisons than in the community, this report calls for a trial of a controlled needle and syringe exchange program for inmates. To read the full report see the weblink:

http://www.anex.org.au/downloads/CACHE_DUVIE=3e8e1ad4c9dba116c5d5f38b71271d0c/HMPC%20Paper%20on%20NSP%20in%20Prison%20-%20October%202010.pdf

DIY REALITY: RECIPES TO TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE

A guidebook for any young person looking to make a difference in their community. Written by young people, for young people, this 104 page full colour book is an ideal resource for any young person who wants to make a difference in their community by organising a community event or project. Projects featured range from music, dance and drama to youth forum and anti-bullying campaigns. The common theme is youth-initiated and youth-led projects, highlighting how effective young people can be when given the opportunity to act on their ideas and passions! The book follows the timeline of a project and includes some inspiring stories, ideas and helpful guides on how to execute each aspect of a project such as How to Get a Grant, How to Write a Media Release and How to Book a Band. Cost: \$34.00 incl GST Orders: To order a copy of the book go to www.yapa.org.au/diy and fill in the online order form. You can also download the introductory pages of the book. All orders will receive a bonus 6 month subscription to unleash, YAPA's magazine of youth action and opinion for young people aged under 20 years. Want multiple copies? Contact YAPA for discounts on 10 or more copies of DIY Reality Enquiries: Joanne Bennett: info@yapa.org.au or (02) 9281 5522 ext 3.

New report: From ideal to reality: cultural contradictions and young people's drinking

Young people who choose to stay sober will typically have to come up with socially acceptable reasons why they are not drinking and will potentially face heavy social exclusion at worst, through to constant interrogation at best. To read the full report see the weblink:

<http://www.drinkwise.org.au/c/dw?a=sendfile&ft=p&fid=1289969874&sid=>

Information for Young People

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE

A motion was passed recently in parliament calling on MPs to gauge their constituents' views on ways to achieve equal treatment for same-sex couples, including marriage.

Headspace is asking young people to make their voices heard. We want to know how this issue impacts you and what you would like the politicians to know. Please send us your stories, experiences, reflections or views about the issue of same-sex marriage. You can also send us a piece of artwork, a poem, video or original song. We will publish submissions on www.headspace.org.au as well as collating them all and presenting them to Prime Minister Gillard. To submit your voice, please email yourvoice@headspace.org.au (Please include your first name, state and age). For more information, please visit: <http://www.headspace.org.au/home/my-headspace/your-voice/>

Professional Development Opportunities

Highlighted Training is NEW to Newsletter

Boxed Training is training run in the Barwon South West region.

Qualifications

New Course in Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) Issues:

Odyssey House Victoria is pleased to introduce our new short course in Working with clients with Amphetamine Type Stimulant Issues. ATS are the second most commonly used illicit drug in our community. In 2008 the Commonwealth Government, Department of Health and Ageing provided funding for a wide range of alcohol & other drug (AOD) services and allied health agencies to increase their capacity, skills and infrastructure to better address the needs of ATS users. This course in working with clients with amphetamine type stimulant issues is aimed at workers in the Community sector. It provides essential knowledge and information about the drug type and hands-on skill training.

The content, learning activities and assessment tasks provided ensure participants acquire a proficient understanding of forms of ATS used, patterns and prevalence of misuse, pharmacology, signs and symptoms of ATS use, withdrawal and toxicity. The course also covers mental health and ATS, harm reduction, and easy to use screening tools based on a Motivational Interviewing framework.

Course Fee: \$280

Participants receive a nationally recognised and accredited certificate in the qualification 22037VIC, Course in Working with clients with Amphetamine Type Stimulant Issues.

Registrations are made online: [Click here to register](#)

Enquires: [click here for further details](#)

Contact: Sariah at studentadmin@odyssey.org.au

Certificate IV Training and Assessment (TAE40110)

Odyssey House currently has training places available in the Certificate IV Training and Assessment (TAE40110) qualification. Certificate IV Training and Assessment (TAE40110) is priced at \$1,275.

Advance your skills and knowledge in training with the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment qualification and become a trainer of nationally recognised training in your field. This nationally recognised qualification is delivered to individuals who have training experience and require formal recognition of their skills. This 12 week course is open for enrolments – this means you can start now, without waiting for new courses to begin, and you are supported by experienced trainers throughout the course.

The Certificate IV in Training and Assessment course is conveniently delivered with online flexible learning which means you can study at a time and place that suits your needs. For eligibility and enrolment details call or visit us online, and payment plans are available.

Enquiries and registration contact Fiona on 03 9420 7644 or email studentadmin@odyssey.org.au For Details & Enrolments: http://www.workskillsweb.net/taa_info.html

MASTER of YOUTH SERVICES MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE PROGRAM FACULTY OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Master of Youth Services Management is a new postgraduate course designed to meet the needs of practitioners who are working in youth and community services and who are interested in improving their management and supervision skills in the workplace. It is aimed at early career managers who have established an initial career path within the youth sector and are now looking to build on their professional skills and knowledge to increase labour market opportunities. FEES: A number of (CSP) Commonwealth Supported Places are available where fees are jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government and the student. In 2011, fees will cost approximately AUD \$890 per unit which can be deferred or paid up front. If they are paid upfront a 20% discount applies. This means the fees can be as low as AUD \$720 per unit. COURSE STRUCTURE: The course is offered fulltime basis and Part time. Students can exit after semester 1 with the Post Graduate Certificate of Youth Services Management (ATYS) or they can exit after semester 2 with the Post Graduate Diploma of Youth Services Management (AGYS). There are four core youth work units:

- 5001 Young People & Social Policy
- AEY 5002 Professional Practice for Youth Development
- AEY 5003 Experiential & Applied Learning
- AED 5001 Education Research Design and Methods.

Students will also do three core Business units from the Master of Business (Management) program and a choice of one elective from across the University. Initial contact regarding the Master of Youth Services Management should be directed to:

Irene Paulsen Lecturer Phone: (03) 9919 5548

Email: irene.paulsen@vu.edu.au

Dual Diagnosis - An on-line course for staff working with clients with both mental health and substance use problems.

Comprising 7 competencies within the Community Services Training Package - The course is structured with two levels – a basic level and an advanced level. The basic level component has two streams, a MH stream and an AOD stream. At this level, students must satisfy the requirements for all competencies – by direct credit, recognition of prior learning, or as a participant. In general, those with a mental health background (clinical MH and PDRSS) will complete the AOD stream, and those with an AOD background will complete the MH stream. Both groups then combine and complete the dual diagnosis subject. The advanced level component consists of two extra competencies – one relating to AOD and one relating to mental health. Students electing to undertake this level of study must satisfy the requirements for both competencies– by direct credit, recognition of prior learning, or as a participant. Communication with students may occur via a number of pathways:

- Regular emails using participants' nominated email addresses
- Emails within the TAFE Virtual Campus
- Discussion board postings
- TAFE Virtual Campus announcements
- Phone calls

Mail
 Expressions Of Interest - Interested students may register an Expression Of Interest (EOI) by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B99DF1EBB-BF2E8E2BE>

CHC50208 Diploma in Community Services (Alcohol and Other Drugs) 2011 - \$550
 For eligibility and enrolment details visit us online:
<http://www.workskillsweb.net/SkillsVicFund09.html>
 Enrolments: Online [here](#) and click apply now.
 Further information online at
http://www.workskillsweb.net/dip_info.html.
 Contact Sarah on 03 9420 7644 or email studentadmin@odyssey.org.au.

Turning Point Training for AOD workers - January 2011 to June 2011
 Information on education and training options for Victorian AOD workers is now available on the Turning Point website
www.turningpoint.org.au
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION (Expressions of Interest close on 26th November 2010)

- CHCAOD402A Work effectively in the AOD sector
- CHCAOD406D Work with clients who are intoxicated
- CHCAOD408A Assess needs of clients with alcohol and/or other drug issues
- CHCMH401A Work effectively in mental health settings

HIGHER EDUCATION (First round offers close on 3rd December 2010)

- GP012 Perspectives in Drug Use
- GP014 Young People, Drugs and Society
- GP013 AOD Treatment, Assessment and Planning
- GD104 Introduction to Mental Health
- 80% Scholarship for Graduate Certificate / Diploma in AOD studies (Closing date of 15th November 2010)

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Working With Groups
- Psychostimulant Training
- Pharmacotherapy Training
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Training
- Advanced Counselling Training for AOD Workers
- Solution Focused Counselling
- Acceptance & Commitment Therapy Training

Other Training

VCOSS Clearinghouse Rural & Regional Training 2011 Coming to a town near you!
 VCOSS Clearinghouse is proud to present our 2011 Rural and Regional Training Program. In August Minister for Community Development Lily D'Ambrosio announced the State Government's support for our annual Rural and Regional Training and Support program which means we have a bigger and better program than ever before.

The Rural and Regional Training program will be delivered across the state with sessions run in Hume, Loddon Mallee, Gippsland, Barwon South West, Grampians and Melbourne. The program will deliver approximately 40 face to face training sessions for staff and volunteers from the Victorian community sector. The program includes:
 Committee/Board Members; Roles, Responsibilities, Liabilities & Protections presented by PilchConnect
 Grant Writing presented by Philanthropy Australia
 Strategic Planning presented by Matrix on Board
 Good Governance incl. Conflict Resolution presented by Pathways Australia
 Financial Literacy presented by Matrix on Board
 Getting to Know Philanthropy coordinated by Philanthropy Australia
 Look out for a special edition of PIECES in the coming weeks for details on training dates and locations as well as the poster version of the 2011 Training Calendar!
Registrations open in January 2011.
 For more information regarding the training contact laura.mondon@vcoss.org.au or go to www.vcoss.org.au/clearinghouse/resources/resource-RuralRegionalTraining2011.html

December

6 December 2010
Research into Practice Conference
 The Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) and the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) invite you to the Research into Practice Conference at the Novotel Manly Pacific in Sydney.
 The conference will showcase NGO driven research in the area of working with clients with co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol problems, with a focus on the implications for practice. A highlight of the conference will be the diverse range of services, population groups and research partners that have been involved in the research
 Keynote presenters include:

- Julian Morrow, Executive Producer and co-founder of The Chaser
- A/Prof Michael Baigent, Department of Psychiatry Flinders University, Clinical Advisor, beyondblue, the National Depression Initiative, Clinical Director, Centre for Anxiety and Related Disorders
- Dr Katherine Mills, Senior Lecturer and NHMRC Research Fellow, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

Readings and performance by young artists from the "Speak Out Speak Easy" program at South Sydney Youth Services.
 For more info: <http://www.nada.com.au>

8 Dec 2010
Case Notes and Record Keeping Workshop
 Aim:

- To demonstrate how the case record is used to provide program accountability as well as documenting clients records
- To stress the importance of timely, concise, accurate, standardized records and case notes
- To describe issues of confidentiality

The following provides an outline of the 4 hours workshop: Why keep case notes and records? (this section includes a discussion on professional and legal obligations);

- What is a record?
- Common mistakes when keeping case notes and records and how to avoid them
- How to write case notes and keep records in a way that is respectful of the client and allows the worker to discharge his or her professional responsibilities.

Participants have the opportunity to critique some bogus records in order to identify common mistakes as well as refine their ideas about what is an appropriate writing style for keeping case notes and records.

Who is this course for?

- regulatory service staff
- reception staff
- customer service staff
- staff who work with youth
- Tenancy workers
- HR professionals

Time: 9.30 am – 1:30pm (morning tea provided) at Level 8, 128 Exhibition St, Melbourne 3000. Presenter: David Cherry - Clinical Psychologist and Training Consultant. Cost: \$165 inclusive GST To register contact Holly on 9654 6077 or email holly.mullaney@chfv.org.au

10th December 2010

Launch a group work program in your service

Working with clients in alcohol and other drug services can be complex and challenging. The research suggests that appropriate alcohol and other drug treatment is critical in affecting behaviour change. It also supports the efficacy of group based psycho-educational programs as a complement to individual counselling.

Topics Include:

- Establishing and facilitating group programs based on the Stages of Change framework
- Engagement and treatment planning for forensic clients
- Group dynamics and processes
- Increasing participant motivation and commitment for change

Highlights:

- Practical resources to take back to your service
- Participants will be able to cascade the training to colleagues with facilitator/group work roles
- Follow up consultation to AOD clinicians implementing the training package in their organisations

Places are strictly limited, register now by email: Include your full name, position, organisation, contact phone number, any special dietary or other requirements and which session you would like to attend.

This free training session run from 9:30am-4:30pm and include morning and afternoon tea, lunch and group program resources. It will be held in Melbourne at The Bouverie Centre

10 December

BPD Diagnosis, Clients & Their Families

To introduce workers to strength based approaches for working with people with a BPD diagnosis and their families Cost \$170.00. 9.15 am – 4.30 pm

Further details on content:

<http://www.bouverie.org.au/courses/continuing-education/workshops-courses>

Tuesday 14th December 2010

Launch a group work program in your service; a one day training seminar

Due to demand, SEADS is running another free one day training seminar to launch an AOD group work program.

Topics Include:

- Establishing and facilitating group programs based on the Stages of Change framework
- Engagement and treatment planning for forensic clients
- Group dynamics and processes
- Increasing participant motivation and commitment for change

The seminar will be relevant for all managers and practitioners within the AOD services but particularly for agencies wishing to implement forensic treatment interventions. Agencies participating in the training will have access to follow up consultation on engagement and treatment for diversion clients.

Time: 9:30am-4:30pm. Lunch, refreshments and group program resources provided. **Venue:** The Bouverie Centre, 8 Gardiner Street, Brunswick. How to register: Enquiries and registration call 87922330 or email seads@southernhealth.org.au. Include your full name, position, organisation, contact phone number, any special dietary or other requirements.

January 2011

2nd February 2011

Top Down, Bottom Up

As part of VAADA's Sector Development, they will be facilitating a series of professional development forums on consumer participation in Victorian AOD services. The forums will bring together AOD managers, AOD practitioners, consumer advocates and experts from a range of health and community service settings.

The core aim of these forums is to support AOD services to strengthen consumer input into service planning and development. Highlights include:

- A presentation from Beth Wilson, Victorian Health Services Commissioner
- An opportunity to meet with key people promoting consumer involvement across various health and community services
- A practical workshop targeting consumer participation in AOD services

Newsletter - Alcohol and Other Drugs Youth Capacity Building

- Concise, accessible and current information provided by senior AOD service managers

The forum runs from 10.00am – 3.00pm and will be held at Sunshine Golf Club and includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch and resource materials.

Register for the forums by email to skerwick@vaada.org.au or fax to (03) 9416 2085. Include your full name, position, organisation, contact phone number, email address and dietary or other requirements, and indicate which session you wish to attend.

February 2011

2nd February 2011

Top down, bottom up: Active involvement of AOD service users

As part of VAADA's Sector Development project we will be facilitating a series of professional development forums on consumer participation in Victorian AOD services. The forums are being held in November 2010 and February 2011 and will bring together AOD managers, AOD practitioners, consumer advocates and experts from a range of health and community service settings.

The events are based on feedback from a sector-wide survey undertaken in March 2010 and will explore the opportunities and challenges in a wide range of service types. These forums will be useful for both frontline staff and managers from drug treatment organisations, Needle & Syringe Programs, Pharmacotherapy programs, community health and hospital based services.

The core aim of these forums is to support AOD services to strengthen consumer input into service planning and development. Highlights include:

- A presentation from Beth Wilson, Victorian Health Services Commissioner
- An opportunity to meet with key people promoting consumer involvement across various health and community services
- A practical workshop targeting consumer participation in AOD services
- Concise, accessible and current information provided by senior AOD service managers

The forum runs from 10.00am – 3.00pm and includes morning tea, lunch and resource materials and will be held at the Sunshine Golf Club

Register for the forums by email to skerwick@vaada.org.au or fax to (03) 9416 2085. Include your full name, position, organisation, contact phone number, email address and dietary or other requirements, and indicate which session you wish to attend. Places are limited. Please direct enquiries to Brad Pearce at the contact details below. Access the promotional flyer at <http://www.vaada.org.au/sectordevelopment.shtml>

2-3 February 2011

APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING (ASIST)

The Department of Health and Aging is providing ASIST Training for Secondary School Teachers and Welfare Staff. ASIST is a two-day skills-based workshop that helps equip people for suicide first-aid. The training helps increase people's ability to recognize when someone may be at risk

of suicide and reach out in a supportive way that links them with further resources.

Time: 8.15 am for a 8.30 am start. The day ends at 4.30pm.

Lunch will be provided:

Registration: Places are limited so early registration is essential
Phone Lifeline Geelong (03) 5222 2255 or Email: geelonglifeline@bigpond.com

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9am – 4pm

17 – 18 February

2011 VAADA Conference - Transitions: people, policy, practice

The Conference theme Transitions: people, policy, practice implies change and moving forward and the program will focus on the transitions and movements within the alcohol and other drug (AOD) field as we move towards 2020.

What does the next decade hold for alcohol and other drug treatment? What are the current strengths and weaknesses of drug treatment? How can we reshape public debate about alcohol and drugs? How do we build a drug treatment system for the future? These are some of the questions that will be tackled at the 2011 Conference.

The conference will bring together those working directly in AOD including alcohol and drug treatment service providers with those working in related sectors including prevention, health promotion and harm reduction and those involved in justice, child and family services and mental health. We also look forward to the contribution of researchers and policy makers. The 2011 VAADA Conference program will focus on the following topics:

- Transitions in clinical practice
- Transitions in drug use patterns and harms
- Cultural transitions and diverse populations
- Transitions and intersections between AOD and other services
- Policy and research transitions

Cost from \$235 - \$460. Held at the Jasper Hotel, Melbourne. For further information about the 2011 VAADA Conference, please go to <http://conference.vaada.org.au/> or contact Chris McDonnell via email cmcdonnell@vaada.org.au

March 2011

7-8 March 2011

Young people, risk and resilience: The challenges of alcohol, drugs and violence conference

Young people who experiment with alcohol and other drugs, whether legally or illegally obtained, may unwittingly compromise their safety and wellbeing or the safety and wellbeing of others. Evidence suggests that young people who use alcohol and other drugs are more likely to participate in other high-risk activities, and to be involved in violent and traumatic incidents such as assaults. Inexperience and peer influence undoubtedly contribute to these harms. In addition,

use of alcohol and other drugs can increase young people's risk of committing crimes and lead to early involvement in the criminal justice system.

Major themes for the conference include:

- Understanding the nature and extent of young people's involvement in alcohol and other drug use, and the motivations for their use
- Understanding the nature and extent of young people's involvement in violence
- Identifying effective programs and initiatives to reduce young people's risk and increase their resilience, including:
 - Early intervention programs
 - Harm minimisation
 - Policy and legislative responses
 - Mentoring programs
- The role of family, school, employment and the community
- Diversion programs for young offenders
- The use of restorative justice for young offenders who use alcohol and other drugs
- Sharing experiences
- Case studies from practitioners and young people on outcomes achieved

The conference will be held at: Level 17, Melbourne RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street Melbourne. For more information: [Download conference brochure](#) or register go to <http://www.aic.gov.au/events/aic%20upcoming%20events/2011/vscn.aspx>

11th National Rural Health Conference

Rural and remote Australia: the heart of a healthy nation

It's been a dynamic and critical time for the rural and remote health sector over the past two years. People are now involved in implementing changes proposed in the Government's three major health reviews and wondering what it all means for people in rural, regional and remote areas.

This will be the background for discussions on a wide range of issues at the 11th National Rural Health Conference. Everything from the social and economic determinants, chronic disease, and electronic health records, to the rural and remote health research agenda will be discussed at the Conference. When: 13-16th March 2011, Where: Perth Convention Centre WA. For more information go to: <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>

April 2011

11-15 April 2011

Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium

The 37th Annual Alcohol Epidemiology Symposium of the Kettil Bruun Society is to be held in Melbourne, 11th-15th April, 2011. Details about the conference are available at <http://www.kbs2011.theconferencemanager.com.au/>

For this series of annual international research meetings, "epidemiology" is interpreted broadly to include social science, policy and historical research. The main focus is on alcohol, but there are usually a few drug papers.

For further details about the conference please direct questions to the conference manager at info@theconferencemanager.com.au

May 2011

2-4 May 2011

6th International Drugs and Young People Conference

Our theme "Making the Connections" reflects a number of important issues: understanding the complexity and interaction of factors which influence and impact on young people lives; the opportunity for diverse sectors to meet and exchange knowledge and expertise; and translating research into practice. The theme also refers to the growing importance of social media and technology in young peoples' lives today and its potential role. Another focus will be on recognising and celebrating the role that young people themselves are playing in addressing drug use in the community.

For more information: <http://117.55.235.172/in-the-community/6th-international-drugs-and-young-people-conference>. To register your interest: <http://wsm.com.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=535&s=3580PE73W>

25 May 2011

THE POWER OF POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: Practical Strategies for Maximizing Clients' Resilience and Strength

Delivered by TATRA Corporate & Allied Health Training Services and presented by David Nowell, PhD. This high energy seminar will highlight what we've learned from a decade of positive psychology, as it applies to:

- mental health and substance abuse disorders
- trauma-related disorders
- challenging behaviours in young people (including classroom behaviours)
- intellectual and physical disability

Learn dozens of positive psychology techniques that can be immediately integrated into your current skill set and style. Move beyond pathology and access client's strengths and coping history. Learn to identify techniques to:

- promote hope
- nurture emotional regulation
- identify clients' capacity for resilience, creativity and optimism
- collaborate with clients to clarify core motivations
- recognize the essential function of problem behavior
- support authentic self-esteem
- utilize "laser questions" to elicit your clients' highest visions of themselves and best hopes for treatment outcome
- expand case formulation - including personal and social strengths and assets

Cost \$295. Venue Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre. To register go to [Registration Form](http://www.tatratraining.com/files/POPRegForm.pdf) or www.tatratraining.com/files/POPRegForm.pdf

23-24 May 2011

The Fifth Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy

Utrecht, Netherlands; hosted by the Trimbos Institute

Further information is available at
<http://www.trimbos.org/trimbos-international/agenda/issdp-conference-2011>

August 2011

24 – 26 August 2011

12th International Mental Health Conference 'Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness'

Gold Coast Queensland .The Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association invites you to submit an abstract at http://www.anzmf.asn.au/conference2011/call_papers.html. The conference will explore different types of Personality Disorders and their effects from Childhood to the Aged with a specific focus on Schizophrenia, Eating Disorders, the Effects of Drugs and Alcohol and Bipolar Disorder. It presents a unique opportunity to bring together Australia's and New Zealand's leading academics, practitioners and other mental health professionals. The focus will be on new clinical developments, treatments, programs and studies in meeting the challenges faced by people with personality disorders.