

## NDRI researcher recognised for positive action on alcohol



*Dr Tina Lam receiving her Action on Alcohol award from Western Australian Governor Malcolm McCusker.*

**Dr Tina Lam's** ground-breaking research on alcohol and other drug use at school leaver celebrations in Western Australia was recognised at the first Action on Alcohol Awards, organised by the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth (MCAAY).

The awards recognise work done across the state to reduce alcohol harm in young people and Tina was joint winner in the Community in Action – Individual category.

Dr Lam was also recently awarded a three year Healthway (Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation) Early Career Research Fellowship, enabling her to continue her research with alcohol, drugs and young people.

She also coordinates the 'Young Australians Alcohol Reporting System' and 'Client Pathways through Treatment' (Pathways) projects.

"There is some remarkable work being done across the state to reduce alcohol harm in young people," MCAAY Director Professor Mike Daube said.

"While there is rightly concern about drinking among young people, many organisations and individuals are working hard and selflessly on this massive community problem.

"We congratulate all the winners, who have made outstanding contributions during the year and give us real grounds for hope."

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Government of **Western Australia**  
Drug and Alcohol Office

**wanada**  
Western Australian Network of  
Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

## Welcome to *drugspeak*

**Congratulations** to WANADA Chair, Professor Mike Daube AO, on his appointment as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Professor Daube received the Australia Day honour for distinguished service to medicine, particularly in the area of public health policy and reform, through advisory roles with leading national and international organisations, and to youth.

In this issue we also congratulate Associate Professor Ted Wilkes AO on his appointment as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the Indigenous community as a leading researcher in the area of public health and welfare, to youth in Western Australia, and to the provision of legal support services.

The Green Book - a new directory of alcohol and other drug (AOD) and community-managed mental health services - is now available thanks to a partnership between WANADA and the WA Association for Mental Health, with support from the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) and the Mental Health Commission (MHC). In an Australian first, the directory is available online, as a mobile app for smartphones, as well as in print. Learn more in this edition of *Drugspeak*, or visit [www.greenbook.org.au](http://www.greenbook.org.au)

Since the last edition of *Drugspeak* a name change for the Community Drug Services Teams has been agreed, with the new name Community Alcohol and Drug Services being gradually implemented. Thank you to the many people from the sector who provided input into this process last year. The Goldfields Community Alcohol and Drug Service has led the way on 25 March with the opening of their new premises and name, and other services will take up the opportunity as it arises throughout the year.

After a long and distinguished career with DAO that began in 1989, Ms Barbara Banaszkiwicz is retiring. Over these years Barbara has been a consistent face of DAO's work with the AOD sector, and has been part of a program for non-government funding that has grown from roughly \$2 million in 1989, to approximately \$54 million in the 2013/14 year.



*Jill Rundle and Neil Guard.*

During her time at DAO Barbara was central to the development of the strong and productive relationship with the sector that continues to be a feature of DAO's work today. We wish her all the best.

Finally, an update on the amalgamation of DAO and the MHC. Mr Eddie Bartnik finished his tenure as Mental Health Commissioner and former WA Under Treasurer Tim Marney took up the position as Commissioner on 17 February. We'd like to acknowledge Eddie's leadership and the passion he brought to the role, and welcome Tim on board.

The name of the new amalgamated organisation will be the Mental Health Commission, and we are looking forward to continuing to work together at an agency and sector level, to produce better outcomes for people with AOD and mental health problems.

### **Jill Rundle**

Chief Executive Officer  
WANADA

### **Neil Guard**

Executive Director  
Drug and Alcohol Office



*Celebrating Ms Barbara Banaszkiwicz's 25-year career with DAO.*



## NDRI researcher recognised in Australia Day Honours

**Associate Professor Ted Wilkes** received one of Australia's highest honours by being appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) as part of the Australia Day 2014 Honours List.

The Honours List represents the highest level of recognition for outstanding achievement and service to the community.

Professor Wilkes was recognised for his distinguished service to the Indigenous community as a leading researcher in the area of public health and welfare, to youth in Western Australia and to the provision of legal support services.

Professor Wilkes is a longstanding leader of NDRI's Indigenous Australian Research Program and plays an active role in Aboriginal capacity building, and research and its application.

He has played a significant role in the translation of research into policy and practice through his roles as a Prime Ministerial appointment to the Australian National Council on Drugs and as Chair of the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee.

An Aboriginal Elder, Professor Wilkes is also an inaugural Ambassador for Children and Young People in Western Australia and was the longstanding Founding Director of the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service.



## ECU research students talk to families, workers, and consumers about stigma and discrimination

**Four Edith Cowan University Psychology students** have contributed to a greater understanding of stigma and discrimination associated with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use.

The Honours students worked with families, consumers, and workers to learn more about stigma and discrimination, how people perceive and experience it, how people manage it, and how it can be reduced.

The Social Inclusion Action Research Group (SIARG), a partnership between the Drug and Alcohol Office, the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) and the wider AOD sector, offered support to the students and is pleased with the resulting work.

"We believe that fear of stigma and discrimination can prevent people from seeking information and support," says SIARG Chair and WANADA CEO Jill Rundle. "We want to know more about stigma and discrimination and we want to find ways to reduce it."

ECU research student Olivia Marsh talked to the families of people who have problems related to AOD use.

"Psychological distress resulting from stigma was common," Ms Marsh said. "Participants felt stigma could be reduced by increasing public education, improving access to treatment and support services, and normalising the issue within the community."

Honours student Kim Eaton discovered great resilience among workers who experience stigma and discrimination. "The workers in this study reacted to the stigma associated with their role with defiance and a strong sense of client advocacy," said Ms Eaton.

"The Honours students' contribution to our current knowledge is particularly valuable and we thank them for their work, and hope to build on it in the future," Ms Rundle said.

## AOD Symposium *The Road Ahead: Challenges, Change and Consolidation*

**Popular international presenters** return to Western Australia for the 2014 alcohol and other drug (AOD) Symposium being held in June.

One of the Symposium organisers Sue Helfgott from the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) said the conference organising committee are delighted to have both Professor Tim Stockwell and Dr Scott Miller returning for this year's Symposium.

"Dr Miller, Director of the International Centre for Clinical Excellence at Arizona State University, will be presenting on the importance of making clinical services best fit consumer needs," Ms Helfgott said.

"Here to talk about the challenging issue of public opinion versus evidence-based alcohol policies, is Professor Stockwell, Director, Centre for Addictions Research in Vancouver, who will be delivering his paper, *Can we end this dialogue of the deaf*. Prof Stockwell received international recognition from the prestigious International Society

for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism by winning the 2013 Jellinek Memorial Award for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge on alcohol.

The Symposium Organising Committee is also pleased to announce that Professor Geoff Gallop, AC will be presenting a political perspective on the challenges of change. Prof Gallop is currently the Director of the Graduate School of Government, University of Sydney and a former Premier of Western Australia.

"There is no doubt that Professor Gallop will provide a challenging and thought provoking presentation not only for the sector, but for those who work in related areas where people experience the impact of AOD related harm," said Ms Helfgott.

This year there are six workshops included in the Symposium program, by presenters including the keynote speakers, as well as Professor Steve Allsop who will focus on preventing and responding to AOD

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS SYMPOSIUM 2014

24-25 June 2014

Esplanade Hotel Fremantle by Rydges  
Western Australia

[www.aod2014.com.au](http://www.aod2014.com.au)



related harm in the workplace and Dr Celia Wilkinson, who will explore issues surrounding AOD use and ageing in her workshop, *Shades of Grey*.

DAO is hosting this Symposium in collaboration with the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, Healthway, WA Police, University of Western Australia, Edith Cowan University, University of Notre Dame, Curtin University and the National Drug Research Institute.

For details of the program and registration, go to [www.aod2014.com.au](http://www.aod2014.com.au)

## Pilbara Community Alcohol and Drug Service opens its doors

**Pilbara residents now have access** to specialist drug and alcohol support with the opening of Mission Australia's Pilbara Community Alcohol and Drug Service.

The service is available in South Hedland, Newman and Karratha and will be rolled out to the towns of Tom Price and Roebourne. An outreach program to remote communities has already started with the team working in Jigalong, Gooda Binya and Warralong.

Mission Australia's State Director, Melissa Perry said the drug prevention and treatment service would help to raise the health and wellbeing of individuals and families in the Pilbara who had been affected by alcohol and other drug use.

"Importantly, the service will place an emphasis on prevention and harm minimisation by providing essential support to the people who need it most," Ms Perry said.

"It will also offer an educational service to improve people's knowledge and understanding of strategies to reduce the adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs.

"Hopefully this will lead to a significant improvement in their relationships and life circumstances, such as their education and employment status."

The Pilbara Community Alcohol and Drug Service opened on 24 February and provides specialist AOD support via a variety of treatment options and community education and support activities, including:

- Clinical case management
- Counselling



*Pilbara Community Alcohol and Drug Service team members (L-R) Tim Turner, Area Manager; Denise Graham, Manager; Natalie Sarsfield, Prevention Manager; Robyn Palmer, Clinical Case Manager.*

- Education and information
- Diversion programs
- Prevention activities
- Group work

To contact the Pilbara Community Alcohol and Drug Service, simply email [PilbaraCS@missionaustralia.com.au](mailto:PilbaraCS@missionaustralia.com.au) or call us on: 1800 00 55 79.



# Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team welcomes Karina Clarkson

**Quitline** is the primary means by which smoking cessation support is provided in Australia. As part of this, the Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team (QALT) works with health care providers and Aboriginal community members to increase knowledge of the risks of smoking and passive smoking, and to increase awareness of Quitline's services.

Karina Clarkson, the newest member of QALT, said the team developed strategies for tobacco free homes and cars, which were crucial steps in Closing the Gap in Aboriginal health and life expectancy.

"This role provides a great opportunity to support Aboriginal people who want to address their smoking, and to raise community awareness of the dangers of second hand smoke," Ms Clarkson said.

QALT started in 2011 with funding from the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes.



*Karina Clarkson, Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team member, and Stacey Child, Alcohol and Drug Information Service Manager.*



The project provides a number of services which include development of partnerships and referral pathways, training in brief intervention and Quitline referral for health professionals who work with Aboriginal people, and information about tobacco and quitting for their clients.

Team members attend community events throughout the year providing these resources, which encourage Aboriginal people to make their homes and cars tobacco free and seriously consider quitting smoking.

Team member Jen Keen said QALT also raised awareness of the culturally secure services available from the Quitline's highly experienced counsellors.

"It was a big loss when original team member Uncle Paul Parfitt retired last September, and we are very excited that Karina is going to be with us to continue that good work."

If you would like further information on how QALT can assist you, your clients or your organisation with training and resources please contact [karina.clarkson@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:karina.clarkson@health.wa.gov.au) (08) 9370 0354, or [Jennifer.keen@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.keen@health.wa.gov.au) (08) 9471 0428.

## Support to quit smoking

A range of effective tobacco control measures have helped smoking rates drop to 12.7% in Western Australia (15.4% and 9.9% respectively for men and women aged 16 and over). However, the rates are much higher among sectors of the community who experience multiple social disadvantages.

In Australia, smoking is a leading cause of death and disease, with half of all long-term smokers dying prematurely; of these, half dying in middle age.

For people with alcohol and other drug (AOD) concerns, and those experiencing mental illness, smoking rates are particularly high, ranging from 60-80%. Vulnerable

and marginalised people and their families bear a large share of the burden of death, disease and grief caused by tobacco smoking.

Stacey Child, Manager of the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (including Quitline) said it was important these vulnerable people were given the help they needed to quit.

"Most smokers want to quit and regret having ever started, but many will take several attempts before they finally stop," Ms Child said.

"This desire to quit is also the case for smokers with mental illness and AOD

issues, so providing links to easily accessible support can greatly assist this group of people in reducing smoking-related harm.

"Quitline is well placed to respond to the needs of this group of people, offering confidential counselling services and on-going call-back support. Helping people to plan and stay motivated during the most difficult quitting periods greatly increases their chances of successfully quitting."

Ms Child said successful quitting has been shown to improve quality of life, and have a positive impact on mental health outcomes. Call 13 7848 for more advice.

## Reviewing how we market and advertise alcohol

**The Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA)** is examining the current system of regulation around alcohol marketing and advertising, and is in the process of producing a report titled, *The Effectiveness of Current Regulatory Codes in Addressing Community Concern*.

Considerable public concern exists that marketing and advertising of alcoholic beverages is influencing young Australians and contributing to patterns of harmful drinking.

The report describes the current system, which consists of self-regulatory, co-regulatory and legislative elements, and evaluates its effectiveness. ANPHA is reviewing this system to assess whether the current mix of provisions is serving to adequately protect children and adolescents (14 – 17 year olds) from exposure to alcohol advertising.

The report, which is currently in draft form, concludes that alcohol advertising and marketing is reaching children and adolescents and influencing them, and that the current system for protecting adolescents and children from exposure to alcohol advertising is inadequate.

The report details a number of draft recommendations to improve regulatory performance in this area, including to:

- Remove the exemption in the Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice that allows for the direct advertising of alcohol products before 8:30pm as an



accompaniment to the broadcast of live sporting events on weekends and public holidays;

- Improve the alcohol industry's self-regulatory code - called the Alcohol Beverages Advertising (and Packaging) Code (ABAC) - which governs the content of alcohol marketing by –
  - ensuring that all forms of marketing are included within the code;
  - providing better guidance about the interpretation of the specific provision designed to ensure that alcohol marketing communications do not appeal evidently or strongly to children (the current interpretation is

excessively narrow); and

- improving the code to ensure that a range and hierarchy of sanctions is included in addition to the current sole sanction of amending or withdrawing an advertisement; and improve public accountability by applying for authorisation of an improved code to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Public comments have been sought, and once finalised the report is expected to be released by mid-2014.

You can view the draft report on the ANPHA website at [www.anpha.gov.au](http://www.anpha.gov.au)

## Training@DAO calendar

**The Drug and Alcohol Office's** semester 1, 2014 calendar is well underway with a mix of new training and popular repeat events.

A two-hour event on *Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs (PIEDs) and steroid use*, presented by Kay Stanton from Victoria, will develop workers' knowledge and skills when working with PIED users.

DAO Prevention staff will present a two-day workshop on, *'An introduction to AOD prevention with communities'*. This workshop will provide an introduction to evidence-based prevention strategies.

Dorinda Cox presents a workshop on *'Solutions to violence in communities, healing and resilience factors'*, which focuses on working alongside Aboriginal

communities to reduce and prevent violence in order to create effective and sustainable outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

*Understanding and responding to complex and challenging behaviours in young people*, will examine a range of behaviours that can challenge workers, cause anxiety, or create confusion among staff about how best to respond.

The Strong Spirit Strong Mind Training Program will present a one-day workshop on *'Cultural ways of responding to AOD and injecting drug use in Aboriginal communities'*.

A range of other training programs covering knowledge and skills-based topics and



themes will be offered. Training is open to workers in the AOD sector, health, welfare, education and justice.

Selected events on the calendar will also be videoconferenced so check the videoconference@DAO calendar link on the DAO website.

Planning for the semester 2, 2014 calendar is underway, and it will be available on the DAO website in early June 2014.

For more information about Training@DAO follow the homepage link at [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au)



# Celebrating Achievements of the Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service

## The Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service

(AADS) celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, with staff and the board of management reflecting on its many achievements.

"Entering our 25th year of service providing alcohol and other drug (AOD) programs and services to our community, we are extremely proud to have grown into the agency we are today," said Daniel Morrison Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service CEO. "We could not have achieved this without the support of our community."

In 1988 a group of 40 local Aboriginal people met to discuss their concerns that mainstream services were not responding effectively to the needs of Aboriginal people in the area of alcohol and substance abuse. They decided to set up an Aboriginal service that catered more to Aboriginal peoples' needs.

Known as the Noongar Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service Inc. (NASAS), the service was incorporated in 1989, and by 1993 had purchased an office and program facility in East Perth. From here it conducted counselling, family intervention, community development, education and drug awareness programs - always in the context of 'our people's needs are our major priority.'

The service has evolved and expanded enormously since then and in 2005 changed its name to Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service Inc. (AADS) to better reflect its client group and to be more inclusive.



*The Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service's achievements over 25 years have built on the strength of the Aboriginal community.*

"AADS is still the only service of its kind in the Perth metropolitan area," said Mr Morrison. "We work with clients to provide counselling, education and information around AOD issues, support clients to complete detox and/or residential rehabilitation, and support

and accommodate women and children escaping family and domestic violence."

To celebrate and showcase its achievements over the years, AADS is holding a Community Day on 7 July 2014 from 10am – 1pm at 211 Royal Street, East Perth. All are welcome.

## Helping culturally and linguistically diverse people respond to alcohol and other drug use

**Thirty three workers** from 14 different government and non-government services gathered in Mt Lawley on 5 March to talk about alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues in their communities.

Heather Jacobson from the Drug and Alcohol Office said people from various sectors including health and welfare, culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) specific, local government, and secondary schools attended the forum.

"While the forum included a number of brief presentations about AOD issues, each presentation had a particular focus on how

to address service barriers and engage CaLD communities in AOD prevention, brief and early intervention and treatment," Ms Jacobson said.

"This was followed by round table discussions where participants were invited to share their views on various AOD-related issues and potential solutions. The information gathered from these discussions will be collated so that the ideas generated can be used to inform future events and service planning."

It was expected that this event would be the first of several to be conducted over the

metropolitan area with the aim of reaching more CaLD services and workers and enhancing vital linkages with AOD services.

"It is hoped that these forums will generate future training events and better access to AOD services and resources for CaLD communities," said Ms Jacobson.

The Drug and Alcohol Office, together with the Office of Multicultural Interests, Womens Health and Family Services and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre collaborated to facilitate the cross-sectoral forum.

## New Green Book connects people to mental health and alcohol and other drug services



*Neil Guard, Drug and Alcohol Office; Jill Rundle, WANADA; Alison Xamon, WAAMH; and former Mental Health Commissioner Eddie Bartnik at the launch of the Green Book.*

**In an Australian first**, a new directory of alcohol and other drug (AOD) and mental health services is now available with the launch of the revised Green Book.

Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) CEO Jill Rundle said the new Green Book was developed thanks to a partnership with the WA Association for Mental Health (WAAMH).

"Many people experience both mental health and AOD issues, but this is the first time the services have been listed in one handy resource," said Ms Rundle. "This will help with referrals and increase awareness about the services available to the community."

Drug and Alcohol Office Executive Director Neil Guard and former Mental Health Commissioner Eddie Bartnik, said it was a successful collaboration they hoped would continue.

"It's great to see our sectors coming together to produce a new resource which should make navigating the many services available in both fields a bit easier," Mr Guard said.

"The directory is now available online, in print and as a mobile application for smartphones which should be user friendly and relevant to how we get information these days.

"Some of the services people can find

include counselling, residential rehabilitation, personal support and mentoring, needle and syringe exchange programs and individual advocacy."

"We're able to share the information more widely through the use of a shared database," said WAAMH Executive Director Rod Astbury. "Whether your preference is for a booklet, a mobile app, the stand-alone Green Book website or the WAAMH website, we have you covered."

For more information, please visit [www.greenbook.org.au](http://www.greenbook.org.au), email [info@greenbook.org.au](mailto:info@greenbook.org.au) or call WANADA on (08) 6365 6365.

## AOD Excellence Awards

**This year's awards event** to recognise excellence in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) field grows even bigger with the addition of an Honour Roll.

The newly created Honour Roll will recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution, over a considerable time period, to the AOD field. The goal of the Honour Roll is to acknowledge and publicly recognise the exceptional work done by individuals over a number of years to make a difference in the sector.

The 2014 Western Australian AOD Excellence Awards: Recognising outstanding alcohol and other drug practice will be held on 25 June

at a breakfast event during the annual AOD Symposium.

The Awards acknowledge and celebrate AOD initiatives that have been undertaken in the following categories: prevention, treatment, capacity building, partnerships, Aboriginal, families, young people, media, consumers and carers and communities.

All finalists, inductees into the Honour Roll, as well as key stakeholders in the AOD and mainstream sectors will be invited to attend the breakfast event, which is to be opened by Minister for Mental Health Helen Morton, and chaired by Narelda Jacobs, Channel 10 News presenter.

Visit [www.aod2014.com.au](http://www.aod2014.com.au) for more information about the symposium and the awards.



## Choir connects Aboriginal people back into community

**An innovative partnership** between Cyrenian House's Rick Hammersley Centre and Madjitil Moorna Choir of Aboriginal Reconciliation is connecting Aboriginal people back into their community in healthy, life affirming ways.

Led by award-winning Aboriginal songwriters, Madjitil Moorna perform at major cultural events throughout Western Australia.

Aboriginal residents who attend the choir learn how to sing in Noongar language, perform at public events, and can take up administrative and coordinating roles within the choir upon completion of treatment.

Aboriginal people in residential treatment at the Rick Hammersley Centre therapeutic community recently performed with Madjitil Moorna at the 2014 Perth International Arts Festival.

The partnership has also provided opportunities for Aboriginal people to reconnect with culture through song and language, provided for increased retention in treatment and has acted as a relapse prevention strategy.



*Aboriginal people in treatment at Cyrenian House's Rick Hammersley Centre Therapeutic Community took part in a performance by the Madjitil Moorna Choir of Aboriginal Reconciliation at this year's Perth International Arts Festival.*

## Changes at Local Drug Action Groups



*Gavin Maisey (Chief Executive Officer), Lorraine Dunkling (Chairperson) and Jennifer O'Mullane (Regional Prevention Coordinator).*

**The Local Drug Action Groups (LDAG)** organisation has seen a few changes in the office. LDAG CEO Jennifer O'Mullane has stepped down for a year from her role to take up a position as the Regional Prevention Coordinator for the Kimberley and Pilbara region, which is a joint Drug and Alcohol Office and LDAG project.

Gavin Maisey, who was previously with DAO, has now accepted the challenge of LDAG CEO for a year. We look forward to him contributing many new ideas and new perspectives.

LDAG would like to acknowledge its patron, Professor Mike Daube. Mike was recognised with an Officer (AO) of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List.

Amanda Brunelli, a dedicated Volunteer from the Geraldton LDAG also made the list for Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award (City of Greater Geraldton). Congratulations to both Mike and Amanda.

LDAG can be contacted from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday on [ldaginc@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:ldaginc@health.wa.gov.au) or (08) 9370 0364.

## New policy and procedure manual for opioid pharmacotherapy

A revised manual which details the policies and procedures which apply to the prescribing and dispensing of methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid dependence has been released by the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO).

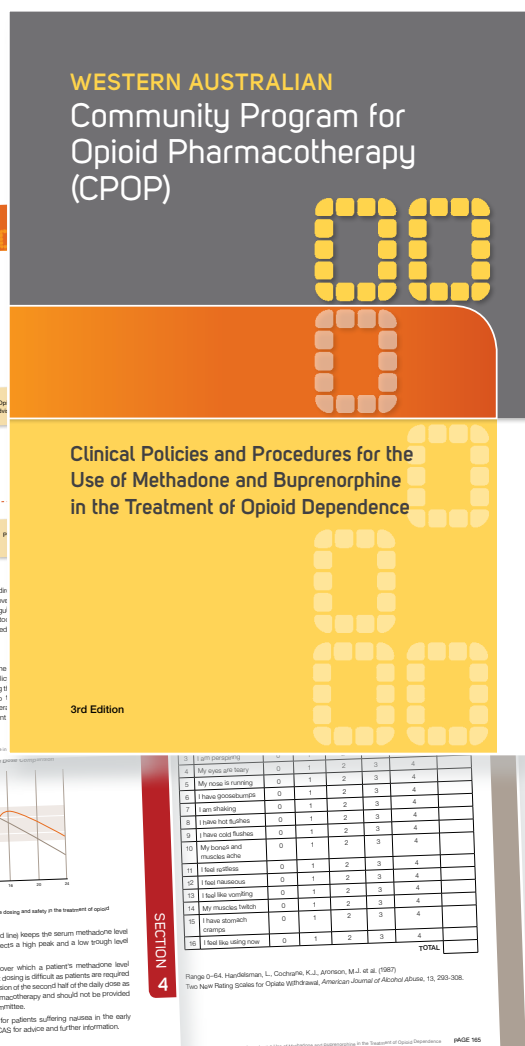
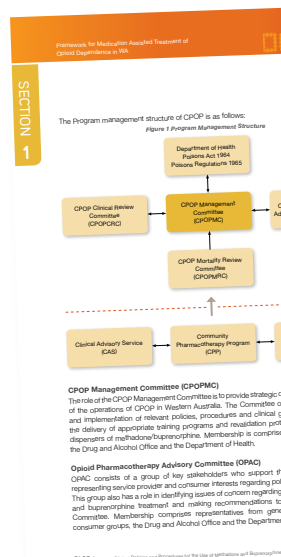
Teena Olsen, Manager Community Pharmacotherapy Program at DAO, said that as part of the Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy (CPOP), all participating medical practitioners and pharmacies must agree to comply with the policies and procedures set out in the manual.

"To make it easier to navigate, this third edition of the *WA Clinical Policies and Procedures for the Use of Methadone and Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Dependence* has a new improved layout with easy access to essential information for CPOP prescribers and dispensers," Ms Olsen said.

"This edition provides updated details on assessment of stability, takeaway schedules, and streamlines requirements for prescriber contact relating to missed doses. Additional resources and an electronic copy of the contents of the manual are also available."

The manual is being distributed to all CPOP prescribers and pharmacies in WA as well as key stakeholders, and will be made available online at [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au)

For further information about the manual please contact Ms Olsen on (08) 9219 1919.



## Housing solution for people leaving alcohol and drug rehabilitation

A new evaluation report has been released, about a unique Western Australian housing program for people who have completed alcohol and other drug (AOD) rehabilitation.

The Drug and Alcohol Office's Transitional Housing and Support Program (THASP) provides people at risk of homelessness with short term housing once they leave residential rehabilitation.

James Hunter, Director Client Services and Development said a key feature of THASP was ongoing support for people to help with recovery and prevent relapse.

"What we've seen in the evaluation report is that most of the people who accessed the program either stopped or reduced their AOD use, which is a great outcome for them," Mr Hunter said.

"THASP includes assistance for people through visits from support workers,

counselling, education, training and employment; independent living skills, and help in identifying suitable long term housing.

"It is through this level of ongoing support, and relief from the threat of homelessness, that people can get the break they need to get back on their feet."

Since commencing in May 2011, services to people living in the 15 houses have been managed by professional non-government AOD agencies, through a pilot program jointly implemented by the Drug and Alcohol Office and the Department of Housing.

Clients must have successfully completed a three to six-month drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. They can include people with severe and long-term problematic alcohol and other drug use, a history of unsuccessful treatment or clients who are at risk of homelessness.

Some of the clients interviewed for the evaluation report commented that:

"If I was not in this house- I've thought of this before. I'm a 95% to 99% chance of making it through. I think if I was not in the house then realistically I probably have a 50% chance. It's doubled my chance for sure."

"It is a good safe environment in a good area - it's not like a block of flats with other drugs nearby."

"No one walks up, knocks on the door, there is no drop-ins, no one is asking you to 'chuck in', no one under the influence... We've been able to stay clean because of this house. Part of the lease requirement is no drugs or drinks."

In the 2011-12 Budget, the State Government initially allocated \$8.5million to purchase 15 houses for the Transitional Housing and Support Program, with a further \$1.5million over four years to provide support services for people living in the houses.

The full THASP Evaluation can be found at: [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au)



## Court Diversion program expanded across Perth

**A court program** to help more people engage in alcohol treatment has now been expanded across the Perth metropolitan region.

On 20 March 2014, Mental Health Minister Helen Morton announced a metropolitan-wide expansion of the Pre-sentence Opportunity Program (POP), a court based Diversion program for offenders with alcohol related problems.

POP is an early intervention program originally implemented to assist people attending court who have drug related problems. Since July 2013 a pilot has been in place to include offenders with alcohol related problems.

Previously only operating at the Perth Magistrate Court, the opportunity to access POP for alcohol problems has been expanded to include Fremantle, Joondalup, Midland, Armadale, Mandurah and Rockingham courts.

“Engaging in this program will mean offenders with alcohol related problems have the opportunity to receive treatment at a time in their lives when they might be open to positive behaviour change,” Minister Morton said.

“Since 2000, POP has been available for offenders with illicit drug-related problems who appear in the WA Magistrates Courts. By expanding this successful program to include alcohol use, and further expanding it to all outer metropolitan courts, I hope more people will be offered this opportunity to break the cycle of offending.”



*Diversion officers working in metropolitan based courts, including Gareth Griffiths and Ingrid Coomer (pictured outside Fremantle Court), look forward to the expansion of the Pre-sentence Opportunity Program.*

Attorney General Michael Mischin said he was pleased the Department of the Attorney General and the Drug and Alcohol Office were working together to offer intervention programs across the metropolitan region.

“I am very pleased that this pilot program will now be expanded to all metropolitan courts,”

Mr Mischin said. “It now means that offenders before the magistrates court in the broader Perth area who wish to address their alcohol related problems may access POP.”

The program is now available to eligible offenders at all metropolitan courts at the discretion of the magistrate.

Visit [www.dao.health.wa.gov.au/Informationandresources/WADiversionProgram](http://www.dao.health.wa.gov.au/Informationandresources/WADiversionProgram) for more information.

## School principals give views on alcohol and other drug issues

**The Australian National Council on Drugs** (ANCD) has released a report on the views and experiences of secondary school principals about the AOD issues faced by their schools.

The ANCD has for some time been advising that schools can play a critical role in reducing the negative impacts of AOD use in our communities.

“The importance of effective drug and alcohol education in our schools cannot be underestimated,” said Dr John Herron ANCD Chairman.

In order to better understand the assistance needed by school principals, the ANCD

commissioned an online survey to elicit their experiences and responses to particular AOD issues in their school communities and their capacity to respond to these challenges.

The survey found that principals believed that the use of alcohol had significant and negative impacts on students’ general well-being, behaviour and academic performance. This is despite alcohol consumption nearly always occurring away from the school. Students who were exposed to others’ problematic AOD use in their home or community settings were also often experiencing difficulties in the school environment.

“Principals are very aware that a comprehensive response across the school’s policies, practices and programs is needed,” said Dr Herron. “This includes things such as not using alcohol products as part of their fundraising efforts.”

The report was produced by John See Consulting for the ANCD and reflects the views of over 200 secondary school principals located all over Australia, across the Government, Independent and Catholic Sectors.

For further information or to download the report, please visit [www.ancd.org.au](http://www.ancd.org.au)

## Saranna child care centre opens up to families in Ellenbrook

**Minister for Mental Health** Helen Morton officially opened Cyrenian House's Saranna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre near Ellenbrook in January 2014.

The new Centre complements the Saranna Women and Children's Program, which allows mothers with young dependent children in their care to access residential alcohol and other drug treatment within a therapeutic community.

Minister Morton said mothers in the Saranna program were having to access childcare offsite in the local community, which restricted the flexibility of programs being offered, and ultimately meant less time in treatment for these women.

"The new onsite Centre provides a safe and stimulating environment to facilitate the physical and emotional growth of these children," Minister Morton said.

Cyrenian House CEO Carol Daws said children at the Centre were offered a diverse range of activities and positive learning experiences.

"The Centre also offers places to children from the wider community and is the first not-for-profit Early Childhood Centre located in the Ellenbrook area," said Ms Daws.

"Vulnerable children impacted by parental alcohol and other drug use present with



*John Simpson, Cyrenian House President; Sharmayne Holly, Manager Saranna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre; Carol Daws Cyrenian House CEO and Neil Guard Drug and Alcohol Office Executive Director at the opening of the Saranna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre.*

many social, emotional, physical and linguistic development difficulties. Cyrenian House identified the need for a new and dedicated approach to the recovery and well-being of these children, and developed the Centre to meet this need."

The project embraced a community approach with support from Lotterywest, Nicola

and Andrew Forrest through the Minderoo Foundation, Jody Fewster and Eileen Bond and their friends and family, the Drug and Alcohol Office, the Mental Health Commission, Southern Districts Rotary Club, Morley Davis Architects, and JCP Construction – who built the Centre at cost through the generosity of the late Len Buckeridge.

**Pulsecheck**

### Want up to date information on alcohol and drug trends and research?

**Then subscribe** to the twice yearly *Pulsecheck* newsletter produced by the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO). This newsletter provides:

- State wide trend information since 2002
- Trends for indicators where data is available quarterly
- Trends for particular types of drugs including alcohol, amphetamine, cannabis and heroin
- Recent research published within the past 6 months, with Western Australian content

The benefit of this newsletter is providing trend related data and research that is recently available, on a regular basis, for a variety of indicators, and over many years.

There can sometimes be time lags associated with reporting on other data sources, such as large surveys or regional information. Sometimes data can be out of date by up to three years by the time it is published, due to the length of time it takes to collect, analyse and report. *Pulsecheck* aims to fill the gap for recent and available data.

More detailed and specific reports are available on the DAO website. Many of these reports provide information at a regional level.

If you would like to subscribe to *Pulsecheck*, please send your request for subscription to [Research.DAO@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Research.DAO@health.wa.gov.au)

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*Drugspeak* is available in electronic format on the DAO and WANADA websites.



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