



Standards Project launched



The Standards Support Package was launched at the ATCA Conference in Canberra by Emeritus Professor Ian Webster. Jill Rundle (pictured above with Prof Webster and ATCA Board Chairman, Barry Evans) consulted widely with the ATCA membership in the development of the Standards. The package has been released in a hard-copy file and supported by a web-based training package.

The "intention" of the Australasian AOD TC Standards is to:

- Give credibility to any service that identifies as a TC; and
- Support the fidelity of the TC model as it is applied to the ATCA member services.

The Standards have initially rolled out to all Full and Provisional Members of the ATCA. The Standards Package aims to provide support to ATCA member services to undertake a self-review. Over the next year we have invited Full Members to undertake a self-review of their TC, aiming to complete this process by December 2010. Feedback on the use of the Standards in this process will be welcomed in further refinement of the Standards package and is essential in supporting Provisional and Affiliate Members to Full Membership.

Provisional Members have also been invited to commence the self-review process as the first

step to becoming a Full Member. We are asking that this process be undertaken over the next two years, and at the end of this process an ATCA-appointed Review Team will then conduct an External Review with the aim to bringing Provisional Members to Full Membership status.

These are the first steps in the process. We look forward to your feedback and to provide you with information and training to become a Full Member of the ATCA.

ATCA Board Update

The newly-elected Board of the ATCA met in Sydney for its first face-to-face meeting on Friday 6 November. While all members of the Executive stepped down from their positions, all were eligible for re-election.

Barry Evans (The Buttery, NSW) was re-elected to the position of Chair; Garth Popple (WHOS, NSW & Qld) was elected as Deputy Chair and Gerard Byrne (The Salvation Army Recovery Services, NSW, Qld and ACT) was once again elected to the position of Treasurer. The Board also decided to reinstate the position of Secretary, and Stuart Anderson (Higher Ground, NZ) was elected to this position. Eric Allan once again takes up the position of Public Officer.



Other Directors are Carol Daws (Cyrenian House, WA); James Pitts (Odyssey House, McGrath Foundation NSW) and Mitchell Giles (ADFO, Qld). Lynne Magor-Blatch is continuing in the position of Acting Executive Officer for the interim whilst negotiations with the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing continue.

2009 Conference hailed a huge success

The 2009 Annual ATCA Conference, which was held during September in Canberra, has been hailed a huge success by participants who attended over the five days of conference presentations and workshops.

Delegates responded positively to the opening ceremony, which featured a Welcome to Country by Ngunnawal Elder, Mrs Agnes Shea, and a performance by the Wiradjuri Echo dance troupe, comprising singer and performer, Duncan Smith and his children. The group performed a number of traditional dances and then capped it off with a modern-day cultural performance – about rugby!

The emotional performance included insights into cultural practice which brought home to all delegates the importance of culture and family in our society. This was an amazing start and welcome to the conference.



A number of conference delegates also “entertained” others on the Tuesday night when we joined with Dale Huddleston and members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community at Boomanulla Oval.

While “Paradise by the Dashboard Light” may be best forgotten – others were able to show real talent in performance. Rawiri Pene from Higher Ground in New Zealand and Karen Bartlett from Fresh Hope, Queensland, proving that song does in fact “bridge the ditch” between cultures.

Keynote speakers, Lauren Porter, Christine King, Joel Porter and Bob Jacobs were sometimes challenging as they tackled a range of issues including addiction and intimacy, attachment, cultural learning circles and diagnoses of young people.



The final performances by the Karralika “Neg Contract” and the Canberra Recovery Service choir brought the conference to an emotional ending. There were few dry eyes in the audience, especially when the Karralika singers spontaneously presented their own experiences of recovery to the audience. Who will forget “Goin’ to Rehab” by Karralika’s own Amy? Thank you to the residents of these services for so courageously bringing your own experiences to the conference.

Thank you to everyone for your feedback, and especially to those who also provided kind words by email and letter following the conference.

The presentations from the Conference are now on the ATCA Website and available for your information. Note that some of these files are very large, so will take some time to open and download. There are a few that were not available for publication. If there are some that you particularly wanted to see and are not there, please contact the presenters directly. The conference program, which is also on the website, includes contact details and delegate affiliations.

ATCA AWARDS

We would like to congratulate the following who received awards at the ATCA Conference dinner –

In recognition of a significant contribution to the Therapeutic Community movement in Australasia by a program, service or intervention:

1. Alcohol & Other Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT) - Early Birds Project
2. The Ted Noffs Foundation - Program for Adolescent Life Management (PALM)

In Recognition of a significant contribution to the Therapeutic Community Movement in Australasia by an individual:

1. Gerard Byrne - Salvation Army Recovery Services
2. Kim Fleming - Karralika, ADFACT

In recognition of 10 years service to the Therapeutic Community movement:

1. Tony Murray - Salvation Army Gold Coast Recovery Services
2. Lani Time - Salvation Army Gold Coast Recovery Services
3. Scott Drummond - Odyssey House Victoria
4. Laura Petrie - Odyssey House Victoria
5. Geoff Summers - Odyssey House Victoria
6. Therese Power - Karralika Karuna, ADFACT



Karralika's "Neg Contract" perform "Goin' to Rehab"

2010 ATCA Conference

As you will be aware, the 2010 ATCA Conference was being planned for WA. However the Western Australian Government, together with some of the universities in WA, have provided advance notice of a Symposium planned for September 2010. While we looked at the possibility of working in partnership with the Symposium organisers, it has become apparent that this would not provide us with the benefits of a TC conference. Regrettably, we have moved the 2010 ATCA Conference from WA and NSW will instead be our host state – and this time in Sydney.

The Conference will take the form of a Symposium or Summit, similar to that held in Darwin in 2005. The focus will be on TC practice, and will provide opportunities for delegates to learn how others "are doing it". These were some of the most highly endorsed sessions of the 2009 conference, giving delegates confidence and insight into program planning and delivery.

In 2010, the APSAD Conference will take place in Canberra and this will be held in late November/early December. We are therefore looking at some possible synergies between the conferences and consequently planning the ATCA event for mid-late November. This will also enable us to avoid both the WA Summit and the NZ Cutting Edge conference, and hopefully enable more of our NZ colleagues to attend.

This is a matter of, "Watch this Space", and we would like to receive your feedback about the planned event.

Can you let us know:

1. What are the main topics you would like to see included?

2. What are the areas of interest and concern to you as –

- A Manager or Director of your TC or other service,
- As Team Leader or in middle management;
- As a staff member within the TC.

For instance – in Darwin we offered some accredited training for Managers – would this type of training be useful? Would experiential workshops – something along the lines of the Living Learning Experiential workshop following the 2007 Melbourne Conference or the TC Workshops which have included a "morning meeting" or "group work" segment, be of interest?

Please send your feedback to atca@atca.com.au

New Membership Category

The 2009 AGM moved to change the Constitution and initiate new membership categories. In addition to the Full, Provisional and Affiliate categories, a new "Group" Membership category has been introduced. This would be suitable for organisations that have a number of TCs under the one umbrella – often in different locations, and even in different states or territories.

Group Membership is defined in the Constitution as:

"Group Membership, admission to which class is open to Organisations that have one registered office of administration and multiple TCs within one or more states or territories and which otherwise fulfil the requirements for admission to Group Membership from time to

time determined by the Board. The organisation will have one vote only held by the central office of administration as it sees fit.

The group membership will be paid by the central office, with each TC site paying an associate or reduced ordinary membership fee”.

Of particular concern to the Board has been the need to define the status of members under the Group umbrella and the pathway that could take them to a point where they meet the requirements of Full Membership (as well as receive the equivalent benefits of Full Membership) if and when the Executive Officer of the Group felt there was a need and readiness for individual agencies to change

status. We also saw a need to ensure that the status of members reflected where they were in terms of accreditation and the "right" to identify as a TC and a member of ATCA.

The following diagram attempts to summarise the membership classifications and entitlements plus a number of pathways whereby different classes of membership can progress to change their status.

It is agreed that members of a Group could be known as Group Affiliates and that if desired they could progress to Accredited members with the majority of the benefits of Full Membership except for the right to vote at elections and nominate Board Members. Progression would be optional and would be determined by the Executive of the Group Member.

ATCA Membership structure:

Membership Category	Fee	News-letter	Information updates	Voting rights	Standards documents	Nominate persons for the Board
Affiliate Member	\$110	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Provisional Member	\$220	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Affiliate Group Member	\$110	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Group Member	Variable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accredited Member	Variable	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Full Member	Variable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Membership Pathways:



The Board is keen to receive your feedback on the Membership Structure and Membership Pathways. Please provide feedback via email to atca@atca.com.au