



**ATCA**

**AUSTRALASIAN THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION**

## **ATCA Strategic Plan**

**2012-2015**





**The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) Strategic Plan 2012-2015 builds on the Strategic Plan developed in 2008 and is designed to further the ATCA's achievements of the last four years.**

**Who we are**

The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) is the peak-body representing Therapeutic Communities across Australia and New Zealand. Therapeutic Communities (TCs) provide an evidence-based approach to alcohol and other drug treatment which is based on the use of the community as the prime vehicle for change. As such, TCs have a strong emphasis on both self-help and mutual help within a treatment and recovery based setting, supported by a range of psychosocial interventions.

**Our Vision**

The Therapeutic Community model of treatment is recognised and embraced by community and governments across Australasia.

**Our Mission**

We support, represent and advocate for programs that restore a sense of self, hope and belonging through the use of the Therapeutic Communities model of treatment.

**Our purpose**

- “ To advance the Therapeutic Communities Model in Australasia
- “ To promote community awareness of the Therapeutic Communities Model of treatment in Australasia
- “ To ensure consistency in approach through the application of the ATCA Essential Elements in practice
- “ To encourage capacity building in Therapeutic Communities through a variety of peer support and professional development opportunities
- “ To advocate for recognition and funding for Therapeutic Communities in Australasia
- “ To encourage and support ongoing research into the Therapeutic Communities Model
- “ To support and network with organisations and individuals interested in, or aspiring to become members of the ATCA

## Reconciliation Vision

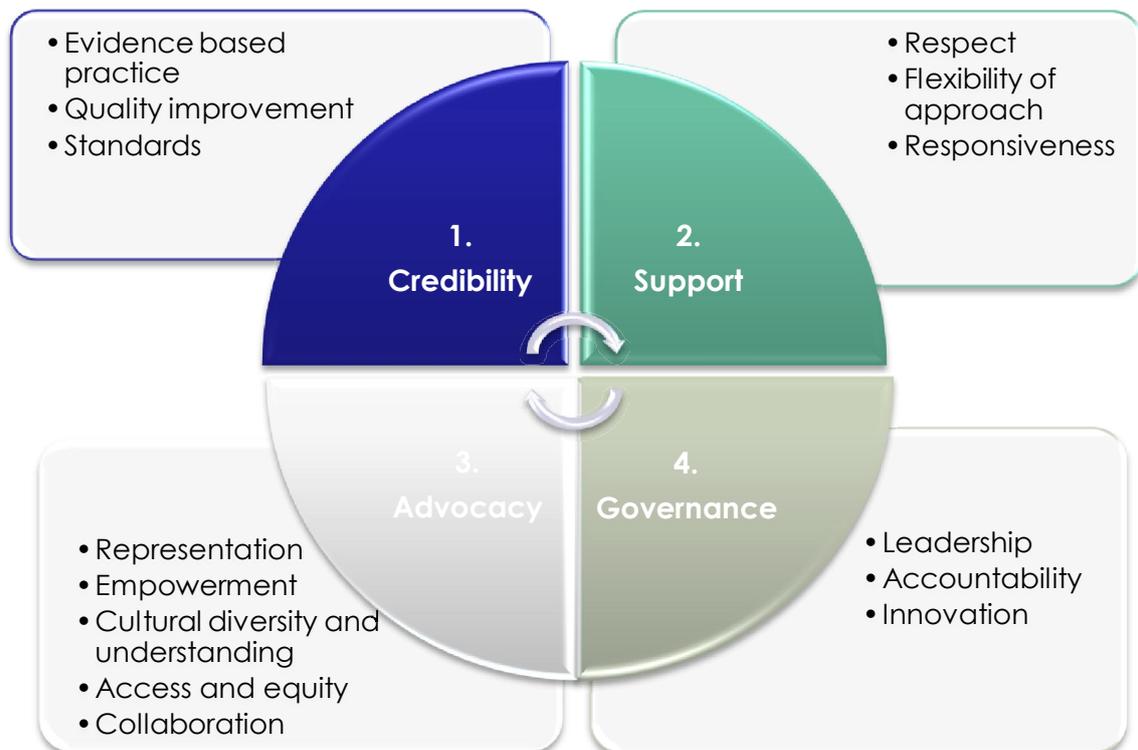


The ATCA has always acknowledged the need to ensure that our services are both accessible and appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and those with culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) backgrounds. Cultural security is about ensuring that the delivery of health services is such that no one person is afforded a less favourable outcome simply because she or he holds a different cultural outlook.

The ATCA is committed to applying this principle in practice across all aspects of organisational governance and planning, service delivery and all relationships with individuals and organisations. We aim to further develop positive relationships and ways of working that will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing and dignity of all Australasians.



## The ATCA has identified four overarching strategies, underpinned by key principles



## 1. Credibility

Strategic Direction	Actions
To advance the Therapeutic Communities model in Australasia	<p>1.1. Promote and represent Therapeutic Communities and the TC method of treatment to governments, funding and key policy making bodies and the community</p> <p>1.2. Develop and document an evidence base for effective practice through Australasian and international literature and research</p> <p>1.3. Collect and collate the research which demonstrates the efficacy of the Therapeutic Communities Model</p> <p>1.4. Develop and certify the ATCA Standard for implementation as an accreditation tool for TC and residential rehabilitation services across Australia and New Zealand</p> <p>1.5. Implement and monitor consistent standards through peer review</p> <p>1.6. Maintain a schedule of review over the ATCA Standard</p> <p>1.6. Develop and implement a communications strategy to promote the Therapeutic Communities Model and the Association</p> <p>1.7. Strengthen links with funding bodies with regard to policy making, advocacy and the Therapeutic Communities model</p>



## 2. Support

Strategic Direction	Actions
To encourage capacity building	<p>2.1. Support TCs through a variety of peer support and professional development opportunities, including symposia and conferences</p> <p>2.2. Identify member needs and ensure these are being met through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>“ Regular contact and information sessions in state/territory jurisdictions/regions(NZ)</li><li>“ Regular E-News, member and website updates</li></ul> <p>2.3. Ensure the ATCA Secretariat and Board are accessible, representative and responsive to the needs of the membership</p> <p>2.4. Provide peer support and training for Therapeutic Communities working with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori and Pasifika peoples</p> <p>2.5. Support and assist members to develop and sustain quality service delivery and to operate under a standard of best practice</p> <p>2.6. Initiate, support and promote cooperative research opportunities for ATCA member agencies and disseminate outcome information</p> <p>2.7. Ensure members are kept informed of latest issues, programs and practices that will enhance their service delivery and promote their TC as a model of best practice</p> <p>2.8. Collaborate with the wider AOD and residential service sector to promote the value of ATCA membership and the therapeutic communities model of treatment</p> <p>2.9. Promote and encourage new members at all levels of membership classification and support new members to move through to Full Membership status through the peer review and quality assurance process</p>

### 3. Advocacy

#### Strategic Direction

Advocate for the recognition and funding for Therapeutic Communities in Australasia

#### Actions

3.1. Represent and lead therapeutic communities at a national level through the promotion of evidence-based practice, effective policies and the development and implementation of programs and interventions designed to meet the changing needs of client groups

3.2. Through the promotion of a 'No Wrong Door' policy, support ATCA members in the provision of client services which ensure equity of opportunity and access, regardless of disability, race, socio-economic status, gender, language, ethnicity, geographic isolation and sexuality

3.3. Advocate at a broad community level to identify and help remove the barriers that prevent and deter people from accessing treatment

3.4. Identify key issues and priorities for ATCA members and the sector

3.5. Represent and support ATCA members in the development of models of treatment that are innovative and supported by evidence

3.6. Engage with and advise the AOD and wider health, criminal justice and human services non-government and Government sectors

3.7. Engage with members to advise and empower services and the populations they represent to gain funding and resources needed

3.8. Engage with the media to raise awareness of the sector and to represent the work and value of Therapeutic Communities



## 4. Governance

### Strategic Direction

To consolidate and maintain effective governance and management systems of the Association

### Actions

4.1. Work with Australasian governments at all levels to ensure ongoing support and funding to the Association

4.2. Be financially viable and ensure the fiduciary duties of Board members are understood and implemented

4.3. Ensure accountability for working to achieve the vision, mission and strategic directions of the Association

4.4. Provide quality and responsive leadership to the membership

4.5. Ensure the ATCA vision and mission remain relevant to the needs and services of the Association

4.6. Review and monitor governance structure to ensure representation of members and understanding of the wider political and health system in which we operate

4.7. Maintain a review procedure for policies, systems and practices, including the ATCA Constitution and Strategic Plan

4.8. Be innovative in the development and support for new systems of treatment and care with regard to developments in the national and international environment

4.9. Ensure members remain informed of the work of the ATCA Board through regular member updates, consultations and newsletters

4.10. Ensure the position of staff (including Executive Officer and other project positions) are clearly defined and skills and experience of employed staff are appropriate to the needs of the position



# ATCA

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

