



**If you haven't yet booked – get your registration in fast! The Early Bird deadline has been extended to August 1, and this year's conference is an opportunity not to be missed! Closing date for Abstract Submissions also extended to July 11! Don't miss the opportunity to share your ideas, innovations and program achievements with others.**



**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS EXTENDED UNTIL FRIDAY AUGUST 1!**

This year's ATCA Conference is taking shape, with a tremendous line-up of keynote speakers, and some terrific abstracts received. If you are yet to submit your abstract, please get it in as fast as possible. Submissions close on July 11!



**SILVER SPONSOR**

We are delighted to announce that the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) has

become a Silver Sponsor of this year's conference. The Conference Organising Committee and the ATCA Board is grateful for this support and valued funding to this year's event. A number of conference delegates have also have received funding to attend – once again, we thank FARE for this support.

This year's theme, *TCs – Positive Journey: Positive Outcomes*, focuses on the work we are doing in each of our services, and the tremendous outcomes evident from TC treatment. The organisers particularly want to encourage you to share this information – because this is how we learn and develop an evidence base. This will include the research being undertaken in all of our programs, and

which contributes to the evidence-base of our practice, as well building practice-based evidence through qualitative research and discussion, including everyday interaction with residents, families and our extended communities.

**KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SESSION SPEAKERS**



The Conference organisers are delighted to announce this year's keynote and plenary session speakers, including: **Professor Amanda Baker**, who is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Senior Research

Fellow and clinical psychologist. Amanda's research is of particular interest to TCs as it focuses on the challenging area of the psychological treatment of comorbidity. She has been a Chief Investigator on numerous randomised controlled trials of psychological interventions among people with coexisting mental health and substance use problems, including smoking. Currently, she is conducting several studies investigating the effectiveness of healthy lifestyle interventions among people with co-existing problems and will bring this experience and knowledge to the conference program – with two presentations focusing on comorbidity and smoking cessation.

**Dr David Best** is well known to TC audiences, and has been working with our programs on a variety of



research projects, as well as heading up the Quality Framework project, funded by the Australian Government. He is Associate Professor of Addiction Studies in a joint appointment with Monash University and Turning Point, Melbourne, and since taking up his appointments in Australia, has developed a number of research studies with TCs which have provided valuable evidence on the effectiveness of the TC model and specific program interventions. David will provide valuable information on TC research as well as updating us on the outcome of the Quality Framework project.



**Mr Steve Ella** is the NSW Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeship Coordinator. Steve was inducted into the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Honour Roll in 2012 at the NIDAC conference in Fremantle, and awarded the First Peoples award at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) conference in Brisbane in 2013.

Steve is a mentor for the NSW Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Leadership group and previously lectured at Sydney University as an Adjunct lecturer. He has co-authored a handbook for Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Work, and also serves on a variety of Aboriginal drug and alcohol committees in the state of NSW.

Working with First Peoples has become increasingly important, with a number of our members opening up new services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, and new members coming on board as new programs are established.

**Dr Bosco Rowland** is a registered psychologist and currently an Alfred Deakin Post-Doctoral Fellow, with the School of Psychology at Deakin University. He has worked on a number of large community trials focused on preventing and reducing alcohol related harm. Currently he manages the implementation of the *Smart Generation* ARC Linkage trial; a trial aiming to prevent the use and uptake of alcohol by Australian adolescents across Australia. He has worked on the Randomised Community Trial of the *Good Sports Program*, a program that helps community sports club manage and consume alcohol responsibly. He works collaboratively with academic



institutions across Australia, including the Centre for Adolescent Health, Newcastle University, Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre, and Hunter New England Population Health, and is an active member of Australian Research Alliance for Children and Young people contributing to prevention evidence publications on key drug and alcohol topics.

## AWARDS DINNER

We are also very excited to announce that this year Paul Nunnari, Australian Paralympian athlete, who was a silver



medalist at the 2000 Sydney games, will be the guest speaker at the Gala Dinner and Awards ceremony on Wednesday 15 October. Paul, 'The Other Superman', won fame on Australia's Got Talent in 2013, and is a strong advocate for disability services. His story is an inspiration to all – both disabled and able bodied. Registration to the conference also includes the dinner and awards ceremony – an important event in the ATCA calendar.

## NEW AWARD CATEGORY – INNOVATIONS IN TC PRACTICE

Nominations for ATCA awards are now open, and information can be found on the ATCA Website. This year there will be an addition to the three categories of awards, with a new award for **Innovations in TC Practice** introduced at the 2014 Conference. Unlike the other award categories, the new Innovations Award will be presented at the closing ceremony and will be determined through popular vote by conference delegates during the conference.

More details to follow soon – but this is an incentive to showcase your ideas and innovations. The deadline for conference abstracts has been extended to July 11 – don't miss the opportunity to present!

Information and nomination forms for the ATCA awards can be downloaded at:

<http://www.atca.com.au/conferences/awards/>

**Note: Nominations close on 1 September.**

**ATCA Individual Award** - This award recognises the individuals who have made a significant contribution to the TC movement in Australasia over a considerable period of time. The goal of the **Significant Contribution: Individual Award** is to

acknowledge and publicly recognise the exceptional work done by people who have worked tirelessly over a number of years to promote and develop the therapeutic community approach to treatment within the sector.



*David Pullen and Gerard Byrne accepted the 2013 Award for Significant Contribution for Program or Intervention on behalf of the Salvation Army's Bridge Program. Major Pullen also received the 2013 Individual Award*

**ATCA Significant Contribution Award** – This award recognises an exemplary or commendable contribution to the TC movement in Australasia made by a program or intervention. Any TC treatment provider or intervention is eligible. *Judging criteria* – that the program or intervention: Is based on current best practice for client care and outcomes in alcohol and other drug treatment in a therapeutic community setting; Has been evaluated and found to be effective in reducing or stopping alcohol or other drug use, reducing criminal activity, improving physical and emotional health, improving social functioning, improving psychological functioning and relationships, or making meaningful contributions to the community; Is integrated into the alcohol and other drug sector; Consults with clients about quality improvement and client satisfaction; Has well developed links with the broader community; and Provides staff with professional supervision and supports their ongoing development.

**ATCA Recognition Award** – This award recognises the individuals who have made a contribution to the TC movement in Australasia **over a period of ten years or more**. The goal of this Award is to provide public recognition of the dedicated contribution by individuals to the TC movement, by a staff member or volunteer. It is important to note that to be eligible for this award, a person does not have to have worked within one TC only, but may have been

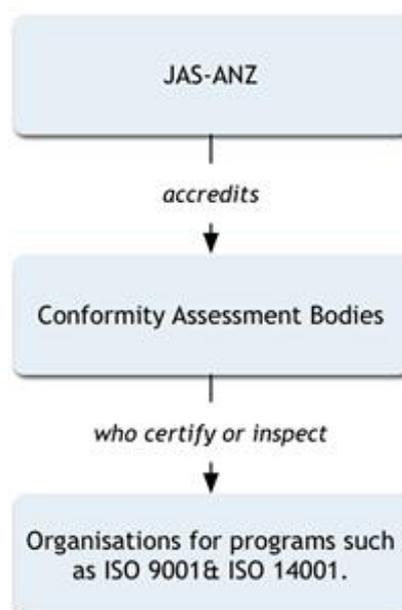
involved as a staff member or volunteer across a number of TCs during this time.



*Recognition Awards were made to Jennifer Hamilton, Clinical Coordinator Mixed Gender Program, Cyrenian House, and Linda Santiago, Saranna Program, Cyrenian House (accepted by Carol Daws) at the 2013 conference*

## THE ATCA STANDARD ACHIEVES CERTIFICATION WITH JAS-ANZ

In the past month, the ATCA Standard has achieved certification with the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) the government-appointed accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand, responsible for providing accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) in the fields of certification and inspection. Accreditation by JAS-ANZ demonstrates the competence and independence of these CABs.



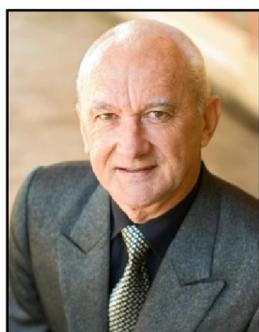
JAS-ANZ accredits 125 CABs which in turn certify some 100,000 organisations in over 20 countries. JAS-ANZ is a signatory to a number of bilateral, regional

and international agreements, providing international recognition and acceptance of JAS-ANZ accredited certificates and inspection reports.

Certification by JAS-ANZ brings to a conclusion more than 12 years of work by the ATCA Board, beginning with the 2002 *Towards Better Practice in Therapeutic Communities* project, and the development of the *Modified Essential Elements Questionnaire (MEEQ)*, which became the basis on the *ATCA Standards* project, funded in 2008 by the Australian Government.

There have been many people who have contributed to this successful outcome, including Linda Gowing, Richard Cooke, Andrew Biven, David Watts and Tony Mykolajenko, who worked on the 2002 project; Miranda Manning and Neos Zavrou, authors of the 2005 *ATCA Future Directions* report; and Jill Rundle, who undertook the development of the *Australasian Alcohol and other Drug Therapeutic Communities Standards*, which also included the support and training package, in 2008-2009.

Over the past three years, Bec Davey has worked with the ATCA Board, our TCs and JAS-ANZ in the modification and refinement of the *ATCA Standard*, and has managed the successful completion of 15 peer reviews in community-based and prison settings. The Board and membership would like to thank Bec for her valuable contribution over this time.



However, the person who has been responsible for the vision and the guidance of this project from the outset is Barry Evans, Chair of the ATCA Board and Executive Director of The Buttery in NSW. Barry will shortly retire from The Buttery after 31 years and this will also

herald his retirement as Chair of the ATCA Board - but we hope, not from the Association. The final stage of the certification process has been managed by Barry, who worked with Jill Rundle and the WANADA Board to include the *ATCA Standard* within the *WANADA Scheme*, which had been previously certified by JAS-ANZ. We are indebted to Barry for his vision,

persistence and tenacity, which have brought us to this memorable and important point in ATCA history.

Detailed information on the *WANADA Scheme* and the *ATCA Standard* can be found on the JAS-ANZ website at:

[http://www.jas-anz.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=152&Itemid=1](http://www.jas-anz.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=152&Itemid=1)

WANADA was jointly funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office to develop the *WANADA Standard on Culturally Secure Practice (SCSP)* for the Alcohol and other Drug Sector. This Standard allows alcohol and other drug (AOD) agencies to work towards certification against a common standard relevant to the sector.

The *WANADA Scheme* consists of two parts:

- Human Services Scheme (Part 1), Common requirements, and
- WANADA Scheme (HS Scheme Part 5), Additional requirements for bodies certifying Alcohol and other Drug agencies.

The *WANADA SCSP and an Interpretive Guide* are available through the WANADA website. Hard copies are also available from WANADA on request.

### Changes to the Scheme

The current issue of the *WANADA Scheme* dated 3 June 2014 now includes additional text to support certification to the *Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) Standard for Therapeutic Communities (STC)*.

The ATCA STC and Interpretive Guide will shortly be available on the ATCA website.

As previously noted, TCs now have the option to undertake certification against the *ATCA Standard* through a contractual arrangement with a CAB as part of a full accreditation process; or to continue to apply the *ATCA Standard* through a peer review process. The cost for this is \$4,000-\$5,000 and provides the opportunity to engage in this process in readiness for accreditation, or as a separate stand-alone activity to provide assurance to program staff and residents, stakeholders and governments, that the TC is operating in accordance with TC principles and practices as outlined in the *ATCA Standard*.

The ATCA Board is aware that some TCs have been undertaking the self-review process in readiness for a peer review, and now invites these programs to make contact with Lynne Magor-Blatch so that a peer review or full accreditation can be discussed and scheduled.



As members are aware, we have been working for some months in conjunction with Matua Raki, the New Zealand National Addiction Workforce Development group, to develop TC training in New Zealand and Australia.

Paula Parsonage has been appointed as the project officer, and will be working on a tight timeframe to bring the project to fruition. The TC training course has been developed to address identified workforce development needs specific to TCs in the addiction sector, and to specifically assist in expanding the potential 'TC work-ready' workforce pool.

The key aim of the TC training course is to:

- Support addiction practitioners, addiction support workers and other relevant professionals and students to develop knowledge, attitudes and skills that can be applied in the addiction TC context.



### Target course participants

The course will be designed for participants who have:

- A foundation level (or higher) of training and experience in relation to alcohol and other drugs and appropriate treatment responses (this includes participants with their own lived experience).
- Little or no experience in the TC model. (Note: Those with experience who seek to review and

refresh their knowledge and skills may find the course useful).

- An interest in working in a TC.

### Overall learning objectives

As a result of attending the TC training course participants will:

- Demonstrate understanding of:
  - The history, philosophy, values, language, aims, key concepts and essential elements of the TC approach.
  - The evidence base for the TC approach in supporting recovery from addiction (including evidence base for Drug Treatment Units and other TCs in the prison setting).
  - The place of the TC in the continuum of treatment to support recovery from addiction.
  - The features of the TC and how these align with other treatment approaches and professional knowledge.
  - The TC approach as applied to diverse groups and contexts.
  - The structure and environment of the TC.
  - Phases of the TC program.
  - How the TC approach facilitates positive change.
  - Theory and approaches to group process in the TC context.
- Demonstrate skills in participating in and co-facilitating groups in the TC context (at a beginning level).
- Demonstrate understanding of the impact of the TC on themselves in relation to their practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge, attitudes and skills to work effectively as a team member in the TC context (at a beginning level).

We will be combining online learning opportunities, together with experiential workshops and professional placements in TCs in community and prison settings, and plan to work with the TCs that are also registered trainers (in Australia this will be Registered Training Organisations – RTOs).

This is an important project for ATCA, and with the National AOD Workforce Development Strategy 2015-2020 nearing completion, is particularly important for TCs and the AOD sector.

## ATCA MEMBERSHIP – Still Growing!

The ATCA Board is delighted to welcome St Marks from Blenheim in New Zealand as a Provisional Member of ATCA. St Marks' Mission is to *address problematic alcohol and other drug use and 'at risk' behaviours by providing a family-like environment for clients to gain life-skills, to achieve personal growth by promoting a healthy body, mind and spirit while encouraging social relationships and family/whanau.*



Lynne was fortunate to be able to visit St Marks on a recent visit to New Zealand, to meet with residents and staff and to talk with the staff about the *ATCA Standard* and the requirements for full membership. This was a wonderful experience – with the warmth and welcome always shown by our New Zealand members. We look forward to seeing more of the St Marks family at conferences and training opportunities in the future and the continued expansion of our NZ membership base.

**We are also pleased to see many of the ATCA membership renewals already back in. Membership certificates will be distributed soon. Don't forget to renew before the end of the financial year!**

Since the Secretariat's inception in 2006, ATCA membership has increased by 58%, from 26 members to 41 members, and the number of TCs and other services which our member agencies provide, have also increased significantly. Attendance at ATCA conferences and training symposia has grown by more than 100%. The Secretariat has successfully contributed to the advancement of the sector in five key areas; treatment, education, support, research and governance, as well as developing quality standards and training for its members – a fantastic record of achievement!



The Saranna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre was officially opened by the Honourable Helen Morton MLC, WA Minister for Mental Health, Disability Services, and Child Protection, on Thursday 30 January 2014. Also attending were representatives from WANADA, WA Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO), ATCA, Lotterywest, other funding bodies and stakeholders, and community and not for profit groups in the AOD and Child Care sectors. An inspiring and educational Welcome to Country was provided by Shaun Nannup.



*Lynne Magor-Blatch (ATCA), Carol Daws (Cyrenian House), Neil Guard (DAO) and Jill Rundle (WANADA) at the opening of the Saranna Centre*

The Centre is a state of the art purpose-built Early Childhood Education and Care facility.

Vulnerable children impacted by parental AOD use present with many social, emotional, physical and linguistic development difficulties as a result of neglect and exposure to abuse. Cyrenian House has long identified the need for a new and dedicated approach to the recovery and well-being of these children and the Saranna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre was developed to meet this need.

### BACKGROUND

In 2007, Dr Brenda Clare and her team from the Centre for Vulnerable Families, University of WA, conducted an evaluation of the Saranna Women and Children's program. A number of recommendations were made, which included the provision of a specialist childcare service. This service was seen as a



key factor in the development of healthy and normalised networks for the Saranna children and their mothers. In addition, an important community service would be provided for an under-resourced locality.

Seven years later, we have seen the realisation of a 'vision' where families, communities and a specialised early childhood education and care centre will work together to provide an environment that facilitates the physical and emotional growth of vulnerable children impacted by parental alcohol and other drug (AOD) use.

The Saranna Early Childhood Education and Care Centre is the culmination of the amazing effort of a bunch of people who, through their hard work, faith, sheer tenacity and belief that women and children deserve to get the best service possible in their journey from addiction to a better future, have brought this project to fruition.

The building of this state of the art facility, has really embraced a community approach with contributions and 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 and the Mental Health Commission, Southern Districts Rotary Club, Morley Davis Architects and JCP Construction who built the Centre at cost through the generosity of Len Buckeridge.

### THE CENTRE

The centre provides a safe and stimulating therapeutic learning environment and facilitates the physical and emotional growth of vulnerable children impacted by parental AOD use. The goal is to improve quality of life and long term outcomes for these children and break the intergenerational cycle of AOD use and associated harms.

Children at the Centre are offered a diverse range of activities and positive learning experiences. They are

involved in decision making with regard to their environment and are encouraged to help look after it. Educators are attuned to the children's specific support needs through strong and consultative relationships with them and their families. The Centre is the first community-based (not for profit) Early Childhood Centre located in the Ellenbrook area. As well as catering for the Saranna children, the Centre offers places to children from the wider community.

### JAMES PITTS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH ODYSSEY HOUSE



The Odyssey House Board and staff were joined by 75 guests at NSW State Parliament House to celebrate James Pitts' 30 years of service to Odyssey House in New South Wales on Monday 16 June.

MC for the evening was former state Liberal Leader, Kerry Chikarovski, while the Minister for Mental Health, the Honourable Jai Rowell, acknowledged James' many contributions to the alcohol and other drugs field.

Pictured with James are Barry Evans, Chair of ATCA Board and Executive Director of The Buttery; Garth Pople CEO of WHOS; and Gino Vumbaca, Executive Director, ANCD.



## Don't miss out!

Each year the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) hosts an international conference bringing together professionals working in therapeutic communities, researchers and clinicians in the Alcohol and Drug (AOD) field and affiliated areas - **This year is no exception!**

**Fabulous venue - Inspiring speakers - Newest trends**



*Inclusion* **Change** 13 - 16 October 2014  
Love **SUPPORT** Crowne Plaza  
Life *Health* Coogee Beach  
Hope *Positive* **Happy**  
*TC's - Positive Journey : Positive Outcomes*  
*Recovery Families UNDERSTANDING* Trust



[www.events.atca.com.au](http://www.events.atca.com.au)