

Note from the General Manager

Welcome to the second edition of NUAAs monthly Bulletin.

We have had an exciting and busy month with NUAAs teams working hard delivering our programs and developing a range of new resources that will be completed by the end of December.

There are two highlights this month:

1. NUAAs successful Annual General Meeting was held at the end of October. I am pleased to announce that NUAAs has a new President, Christine Huber and Vice President, Rob Marsh. We are thrilled to have such wonderful supporters and advocates leading the NUAAs Board of Governance. They are joined by some new and old faces that together form a strong and vibrant Board.
2. The launch of NUAAs Strategic Plan 2008 – 2010 at NUAAs AGM was a great achievement

and is the result of the hard work of Erin Halligan, our talented Policy and Campaigns Coordinator. The plan demonstrates the vision, goals and purpose of NUAAs.

Both the Strategic Plan and our Annual Report are available from our website. www.nuaa.org.au Your feedback and comments on the Strategic Plan are most welcome and can be directed to Erin: ehalligan@nuaa.org.au

I hope you enjoy the Bulletin and I look forward to updating you on the work of NUAAs, next month.

HOT TOPIC

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is on December 1, as it is every year.

The NUAAs NSP will be hosting an information session for people living with hepatitis C & HIV.

A flyer advertising the event will be sent to you next week. Please let your clients know if your service is based near NUAAs office.

Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

The race to the end of the year is picking up speed, and the Policy and Communications team is busy, busy, busy, finishing off many projects in this final home stretch.

The key policy highlights this month have been:

- A comprehensive review of NUAAs internal organisational policies and procedures
- The production of a position paper on NSPs in Australia
- Completion of the discussion paper on 'transitioning to injecting'.

The 'transitioning to injecting' discussion paper will be

used to develop NUAAs position paper on the topic, and will be made available on NUAAs website along with all our latest policy work. A brief article on transitioning to injecting is published in the latest User's News, and is based on the work in the discussion paper.

User's News

User's News issue 55 will hit the streets (and be posted to service providers) on November 26, in time for World AIDS Day, which is the feature topic of the issue. The issue contains an interview about the history of drug users tackling HIV in Australia, as well as the usual mix of stories and harm reduction articles. The next edition is due to be published in late March, so if any of the people who use your service are keen to write for the magazine, please support them to contact the editor, Gideon, on (02) 8354 7302 or usersnews@nuaa.org.au

Community Mobilisation Team

The Community Mobilisation Team is currently implementing a variety of programs. Of high priority is the consultation process for our exciting Asian project in the Liverpool area. We will particularly focus on safer using and hepatitis C prevention. In order to involve people not in contact with services, we are considering a community arts focus and are keen to involve people who might be interested in this project which we are running in partnership with AIVL. If you have service users from within the Asian community who might be interested in being involved in this project, please contact us.

The PeerLink volunteers around NSW are energised and meeting regularly so we have decided to highlight a different PeerLink project each month. The Lismore group meets regularly at the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) office and one of their first events will be World AIDS

Day. They are going to be at the Barrow in Lismore on World AIDS Day which is on December 1st. They will be at the ACON stall and will be wearing User's News T-shirts, so they should be easy to spot.

One PeerLink member, Sue, was recently invited to attend the AIVL Annual General Meeting in Canberra and was elected on to the AIVL National Executive, where she hopes to raise the profile and issues of regional significance. Paul, James and Micha are also all keen participants. These peer educators recently met up with the peer educators in Coffs Harbour where they attended a meeting between the Coffs Harbour peer educators and the local NSP. This is an innovative meeting and is a great example of a partnership between service users and service providers. Thanks to all the Lismore peer educators with particular thanks to ACON and the NSP for all their support.

Education Team

This month amongst many other activities, the Education Team held its first Advisory Committee meeting. Representation includes, ACON, Hepatitis C Council of NSW, SESIAHS HARP Unit, NSW Health Workforce Development Program, Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Centre and two community representatives.

The expertise of the participants is much appreciated and their contributions were most welcomed.

NUAA's fixed site NSP has been focusing on promoting oral health to people who access the service. We have been distributing practical information packs on the Medicare Dental Rebates which have proven to be very popular. The facilitated self service model that we introduced in September has allowed NUAA to increase our health promotion activities and continues to be a great success.

Staff Member Profile

Hello, my name is Erin Halligan, and I am NUAA's Policy and Campaigns coordinator. I have been with NUAA for nearly one year to the day, only recently celebrating my anniversary.

Working at NUAA is my first job in the drug and alcohol sector, although I have plenty of experience working in non-government organisations.

I have a Master's degree in Public Policy, and as part of undertaking that degree I completed a course on health, development and human rights. This course gave me

many skills to advocate for health and human rights through policy and community development, and gave me the passion which led me to applying for a job with NUAA.

Working with NUAA has allowed me to not only put my skills into practice, but has also awakened my senses to the real need to protect the rights and civil liberties of people who use drugs, and is something I am very passionate about.

I live in Sydney by the beach in Coogee, and when I take a break from my computer screen, I enjoy reading the newspaper and surfing.

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