

Note from the General Manager

Hello and thank you for picking up NUAAs Bulletin. We believe that it is really important to keep you up to date on what we are working on.

Change is the current theme at NUAAs as we continue to introduce new and improved ways of approaching and delivering our work across NSW. We have also recently said goodbye to two long serving staff members. Andrew Trist who managed our Education Team and Kerri Shying, our Community Development Worker in Hunter have both moved on to new pastures.

Our planning processes commence on February 23 when the team will come together to map NUAAs direction for the next four years. We will of course simultaneously be consulting with our members, partners and stakeholders. NUAAs will be CLOSED to allow all staff to work together on this important task.

Info Alert!

NUAA will be closed on February 23 and February 25 for planning and training.

Education Team

This month we're excited to announce the re-launch of our state wide Information Support and Referral Service or 'ISR'. The motto of ISR is 'From one Drug User to Another' because we are dedicated to being able to provide peer support and information while at the same time providing health promotion messages. We also have extensive referral directories enabling us to give the best referrals to a vast array of services.

Accessing the services is easy:

- By phone on 1800 644 413
- By email at isr@nuaa.org.au
- By mail to PO Box 278 Darlinghurst, 1300.

Issues we commonly address are self advocacy, vein care, blood-born viruses, drug treatment options, safer using, leaving prison, overdose, social support, family issues, discrimination issues... the list is endless. Basically if someone is accessing your service, we are more than likely an appropriate referral on many issues.

You will see posters and ISR 'business' cards coming out in the next month to promote our ISR service, so please direct service users to our poster where they can pick up our business card that includes our contact details.

If you would like more information on our services then please contact Sarah on (02) 8354 7333.



**FROM ONE
DRUG USER
TO ANOTHER**

*Freecall: 1800 644 413
Ph: 02 8354 7351*

nuaa
NSW USERS & AIDS ASSOCIATION INC

NUAAs new ISR Card

Community Mobilisation Team

Asian Project

The Asian Peer Education Project has completed its consultancy with Asian users in the areas of Liverpool, Cabramatta, and Fairfield. Weekly discussions were held with peers around issues of family, hepatitis C and safer using information and access, cultural values and cultural understanding of using as well as other topics.

A picnic outing was held at the end of January with the support of Cabramatta Community Centre who pro-

vided a minibus and driver to get to the park. Everyone enjoyed helping cook the food and meeting each other.

We explored possible activities for the next stage of this project. The peers want to be involved in something creative and fun which incorporates some of the issues and themes from the consultancies. With this in mind the Asian Peer Education Project hopes to involve the creative arts sector to partner with the peers to produce an innovative project about Asian users and their lives.

If any of your service users are from an Asian background and want to be involved in this project, please contact Kha Hien at NUAAs on (02) 8354 7320.

Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

Have Your Say on NUAAs Website

NUAAs launched its new website in November last year, but the most exciting feature of the revamped site has now been activated: the comments section!

Visitors to the NUAAs site can now leave their comments on most of the site's pages, including every User's News story and article, In The Media and Living With Drugs.

To post a comment web users simply click Add Comment

at the end of each article and write in the Comment box. To post a comment you are required to leave a name (it doesn't have to be your real name). All comments are monitored and are posted the next business day.

We are hoping that the comments function will be a cornerstone of users communicating with users. In addition, we encourage professionals working in the sector to comment on our harm reduction material and to post comments' informing people of new trends or interesting information. We also encourage people working in the sector to help facilitate access to the internet for clients who might have limited access in their day to day lives.

Staff Member Profile

Hello, my name is Sarah Dickson and I am NUAAs new ISR/NSP Coordinator. I have worked on lots of different projects and in different positions at NUAAs, including as an NSP worker. I've worked on two TRIBES projects, was the Project Officer for the Heroin Overdose project and most recently held the ISR position.

I've now jumped into the ISR/NSP Coordinator's role, which means I work with the NSP and ISR workers, helping to make sure everything runs smoothly. The other part of my job is to assist in the Workforce Development

Project, so I'll be lucky enough to work with peers in many capacities.

I'm excited to be working again at NUAAs as I believe it is the best organisation for drug users in the world. NUAAs challenges and rewards you every day you walk through the door, which suits me because I like to live an interesting life!

You can contact me by calling (02) 8354 7333 or 1800 644 413 (free call in NSW and ACT). You can also email me at sarahd@nuaa.org.au or simply drop into NUAAs in Surry Hills.

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