

## Note from the General Manager

How quickly this year is passing by? It's hard to believe that we are heading towards April at such a fast pace. As always we are focusing on delivering our programs and contributing to improving the lives of people who use drugs across NSW.

A big achievement this month has been our contribution to the mid term review of the Hepatitis C, Sexual Health, HIV Strategies and the Aboriginal Implementation Plan. This challenging process demonstrated the breadth of work that NUAА undertakes and the demands on the organisation.

We are so pleased to have been able to engage the expertise of Loren Brenner this month who will be undertaking an evaluation of our Information, Referral and Support service. This is really exciting as we will be able to improve and better sustain the service in the future.

I also attended the Consortium event on Mental Health Promotion and was honoured to be able to provide a wrap up at the end of the day. It was truly a fantastic event, great speakers, discussion and networking. I recommend you having a look at the mental health promotion literature.

That's all from me then...Have a good month!

## Info Alert!

Peer Education and Evaluation Framework Document to be launched at the NADA Peer Education and Practice forum.

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## Education Team

Hello Everyone!

We are very excited to welcome Jeffrey Wegener as our new Information Support and Referral Worker.

Jeffrey has been focusing on pharmacotherapy treatments this month. An issue that is high on the agenda for many of the people who use our service. He recently attended a conference that was held by AIVL and Reckitt Benckiser. This was a national event with all of the Australian drug user organisations being represented. The focus of the conference was to learn new skills and gain accurate information to enhance our peer education work.

Jeffrey has also attended the Methadone Advice and Conciliation Service (MACS) meeting. NUAА is pleased to be able to contribute and represent consumers at this important meeting.

NUAA is the voice of people who are engaged in pharmacotherapy treatment. So if you are providing a service for a person who has an issue with their treatment please provide our contact details.

You can contact Jeffrey on 02 8354 7351 or the free call number 1800 644 413 or you can come into NUAА and see us at 345 Crown Street Surry Hills.



**FROM ONE  
DRUG USER  
TO ANOTHER**

Freecall: 1800 644 413  
Ph: 02 8354 7351

**nuaa**  
NSW USERS & AIDS ASSOCIATION INC

## Community Mobilisation Team

The Community Mobilisation Team is working on a document which describes how we do peer education at NUAAs. This covers all our peer work from the Needle and Syringe Program through Users News to the work we do with communities of drug users. This includes describing how all our members and other peers out there in the community do peer education as part of their everyday lives as users. This document will be launched at a session next Wednesday where services and peers are getting together to discuss how we do peer education. We will also be launching this document with all the groups of peers with whom we work. Thanks for all your support.

We are very sad to see Kerri Shying leave NUAAs. Kerri worked as a NUAAs staff member based in the Newcastle/Hunter area for a number of years. Kerri did great work with peers living in the area such as linking them into NSP services and other drug related services, outreach to street based sex workers as well as doing lots of one on one and group peer education activities. Thank you Kerri, we will miss you.

Hopefully by March a new person will be in Kerri's position. If you work in the area then come along to one of our open mornings that will be held soon. Keep a look out for the advertisement.

Our new worker will be based in the new revamped ACON offices (same building) and will be keen to start re connecting with peers and our partners. ACON's address is 129 Maitland Road Islington 2296.

## Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

NUAAs's policy work continues to gain momentum. The transitioning to injecting discussion document produced last year has been received well and has contributed to a revival of the issue being discussed within the sector. The complete discussion document is on the NUAAs website for anyone who is interested in it.

NUAAs is now in the process of developing its second discussion paper looking at peer distribution of injecting equipment.

Over the next few months NUAAs will be setting up consultations and workshops with key stakeholders to feed into this document, and will provide updates on the papers progression.

This is a very exciting piece of work that has the potential to start changing the face of NSP service delivery in NSW by recognising the beneficial role of involving peer networks in harm reduction.

## Staff Member Profile

Hi. My name is Kha Hien, and I am the Community Development Worker in the Community Mobilisation Team. This team in NUAAs works on major projects involving, educating and sharing peer education information within networks and groups of people who use drugs.

A recent project I have been working on is the Asian Peer Education Project, which is seeing me spend lots of time in the Cabramatta area working with networks of

Asian peers. This is a great project as it's an opportunity for Asian peers to get together regularly, host educational workshops and also do fun stuff like have regular yum cha dates.

Apart from this I also do some night work in outreach with the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) and KRC. This work is important as it makes it easier for people to access information and new equipment by us coming to them. People often do not come into our fixed site NSP for information and support for various reasons so outreach is a great way to connect with people.

## Contacts

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### User's News

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