

Note from the General Manager

Well there is so much happening here at NUAU it is hard to know where to start. We are consumed by the many issues that impact on people who use and inject drugs across NSW.

At the moment we are thinking about how we can improve access to our NSP service, asking ourselves and the people who use our NSP questions such as: are we open at the right time and could we be working in other areas where there are access issues? It is likely that next year we will change our hours and look to broaden our reach.

We are also managing a changing staff team and this has impacted greatly on our work. Sadly we are saying good bye to Erin Halligan who has headed up our policy work. Erin has championed NUAU's policy response and has demonstrated why NUAU's policy work is so vital. We will miss Erin a great deal.

Finally, we are reviewing our constitution. If you would like to contribute to this please go to www.nuaa.org.au and complete the brief questionnaire. We appreciate greatly your views and contributions.

That's all from me.... The Bulletin will be back in May!

Info Alert!

Go to nuaa.org.au and fill out the NUAU Constitution Review Survey. It can be done in less than three minutes...

Community Mobilisation Team

The Community Mobilisation team launched its Peer Education Framework document on March 25 at a peer education forum at NADA. If you would like a copy please contact us and we will send you a hard copy or an electronic version can be downloaded from our website www.nuaa.org.au. This document is a 'living' document so please give us any feedback you might have so we can make appropriate changes.

We are just about to commence the pilots for the Community Representative Capacity Training Project. The pilot sites are the Needle and Syringe Program at Albury, the Langton Centre in Sydney, a site in Newcastle

and one in Western Sydney. We will be contacting the sites this week to plan the sessions and to start recruiting service users.

We are about to commence the Peerlink program in the Newcastle area so if you are interested or know that some of your service users might be interested, ring Susan McGuckin at NUAU. We cannot include everyone but we will talk to anyone who might be interested. Scott Berryman is the new temporary Project Worker in Newcastle and is based at the ACON offices, so pop in and say hello to him if you are in the area.

Education Team

This month in the NSP we've been doing lots of work on filtering issues, so we've been giving out our Sterifilt and wheel filter resources, which are step-by-step guides on how to use the equipment. We are happy to share these resources.

The **Information Support and Referral Worker (ISR)** has been focusing on being on pharmacotherapy for pain relief. We've spoken to peers, pain relief specialist, clinics, doctors and the Methadone Advice Line to gain an understanding of the issues involved. We've developed

a fact sheet for peers so that we can better inform them. The ISR worker can answer lots of questions your service users may have around these issues.

We've also been consulting with peers on the hours the NSP is open and are conducting a survey with people who use the NSP. If you have any service users who would like a say in our hours of operation, please ask them to contact the NSP worker at NUAA so we can run through the survey with them.

Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

The Policy, Campaigns and Communications team has had yet another busy month. Most of the milestones completed this month have been ongoing project work that is due for final completion at the end of the financial year.

Highlights have included:

- User's News No. 56 distributed
- First meeting of the User's News & NUAA Website Advisory Committee
- Meeting of the Policy, Campaigns and Communications Advisory Committee meeting

- Completion of the draft research paper into NUAA's development of an Ethics Committee
- Discussions and research regarding the Peer Distribution Discussion document.

An interesting outcome from the Peer Distribution Discussion Paper work has been regarding the doubling of equipment in NSP services to halve rates of hepatitis C amongst people who inject drugs. The doubling of equipment is presently a key focus area for hepatitis C prevention, and we are hoping that the Peer Distribution Discussion Paper, amongst other things, can be taken on board in this area.

Staff Member Profile

My name is Annie and I have been the Front of House worker ever since NUAA moved from Bondi Junction over seven years ago. Many of you would have talked to me either on the phone or face to face at NUAA. I am in the Education Team which allows me to have chats

around safer injecting and any other using issues that may be having an impact on people's lives. One of the great things about NUAA is that so many people who visit our NSP have so much valuable information to share. It's because of you that we can give that knowledge back, and I love being a part of this.

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