

## Note from the General Manager

Welcome to the second edition of NUAA's monthly Newsflash that aims to keep you up to date on the activities of your state-wide drug user organisation.

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

There are two highlights this month:

1. NUAA's successful Annual General Meeting was held at the end of October. We had an increased number of members attend the meeting and I am pleased to announce that NUAA has a new President, Christine Huber and Vice President, Rob Marsh. We are thrilled to have such wonderful supporters and advocates leading the NUAA Board of Governance. They are joined by some new and old faces that together form a strong and vibrant Board.

2. The launch of NUAA's Strategic Plan 2008 – 2010 at NUAA's 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 NUAA. It is an important document that holds us accountable to you.

Both the Strategic Plan and our Annual Report are available from our website. [www.nuaa.org.au](http://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](mailto:ehalligan@nuaa.org.au)

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

## HOT TOPIC

### World AIDS Day

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

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

So if you're near the NUAA office on that day, contact Andrew on 8354 7333.

## Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

Christmas is just around the corner, and NUAA's Policy and Communications team is making sure we have well and truly earned our holiday rest!

It's been a busy last month, with the policy highlights including:

- A detailed internal review of NUAA's policies and procedures
- Putting together NUAA's position document on NSPs in Australia
- Finishing of a research paper on 'transitioning to injecting'.

Make sure you look out for the article on transitioning to injecting in the up and coming User's News.

## User's News

User's News issue 55 will hit the streets (and be posted to you if you're on the mailing list) on November 26, in time for World AIDS Day, which is our featured topic. The issue includes 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 you are keen to write for the mag, get them to get in touch with the editor, Gideon, on (02) 8354 7302 or [users@nuaa.org.au](mailto:users@nuaa.org.au)

## Community Mobilisation Team

The Community Mobilisation Team is currently meeting up with people who use drugs in the Liverpool area who might be interested in participating in the NUAA Asian project. We are just starting to consult local users about what it's like being a user in Liverpool and to get their ideas for the project. Although the project is about safer using and has a hepatitis C prevention focus, we are hoping to use music and/or art to get people involved, so if you have a creative bent, give us a call! Contact Kha Hien at NUAA or pop into Connexions at Liverpool (the local NSP at Liverpool Hospital).

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 particularly keen PeerLink member, Sue, was recently invited to attend the AIVL Annual General Meeting in Canberra and was elected on to the AIVL Board. Paul, James and Micha are also all keen PeerLink participants. Recently these peer educators travelled to Coffs Harbour where they attended the regular meeting which is held between the peers and the local NSP. This meeting is a great example of how local users can have a say in how their local NSP runs. Thanks to all the peer educators in Lismore, with particular thanks to ACON and the NSP for all the support.

## Education Team

The Education Team held its first Advisory Committee meeting. It brought together representatives from organisations and our community (people who inject) to advise and contribute to our programs. It was a great meeting and the contributions were much appreciated. The committee will meet four times a year.

The NSP based at NUAA's offices continues to improve. The move to what has been called "facilitated self serve" - that is a help yourself model with our NSP worker Annie being there to help and provide up to date and accurate information has become really popular. The NSP has space for people to sit and read resources, ask questions and get safer injecting demonstrations. If you are in Sydney and need equipment including filters....NUAA NSP is the place to come....

## 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.

## Contacts

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### User's News

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