

## 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. These are the strategies that inform the work that we and other organisations carry out. 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. Loren has worked with people who use drugs for many years and is a great supporter. This is really exciting as we will be able to improve and better sustain the service in the future. If you have used the ISR service and would like to have your say - please call Sarah on 02 8354 7300.

I also attended an 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. Finally there is the potential for our mental health to be managed in a much more healthy way.

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

## Info Alert!

**User's News Issue #56  
will be sent out next  
Friday, 27th March.**

## Education Team

Hello Everyone!

We are very excited to welcome Jeffrey Wegener as the new Information Support and Referral Worker. Jeffrey has been doing lots of work on pharmacotherapy treatment and has recently been to a peer networking and training conference put on by Reckitt Benckiser the people who make Buprenorphine and Suboxone. All the drug user organizations sent people to represent the peers in their State, to learn new skills and exchange information on pharmacotherapies.

Jeffrey has also been going to the Methadone Advice and Conciliation Service (MACS), Meetings, which is a meeting that the Health Department, Health Care Complaints Commission, Justice Health and other services attend. At this meeting we take all the complaints and issues we have received through the Information Support and Referral Service and the Community Mobilisation Team have heard on outreach, and discuss it with these service.

NUAA is the voice of people on pharmacotherapy treatment at this meeting, so it is really important if you have an issue with your treatment, you contact us so we can assist you in dealing with it and so we can represent your issues at this meeting.

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

## Community Mobilisation Team

The Community Mobilisation Team is working on a document which describes how we do peer education at NUAA. 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 are very sad to see Kerri Shying leave NUAA. Kerri worked as a NUAA 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 early 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

NUAA's transitioning to injecting discussion paper that was produced last year has been received well, and has helped build debate on the issue. The complete discussion document is on NUAA's website for anyone who is interested in it.

NUAA is now in the process of developing its second discussion paper looking at peer distribution of

injecting equipment. The paper will be looking at how peer distribution models may be implemented in NSW. It will offer some recommendations on how we can make this happen.

This is a very exciting piece of work that has the potential to start changing the face of NSP services in NSW to recognise the importance of working with peer networks. We hope that our work will change the law in NSW to make it legal for you to be able to give fits to people that you know.

## Staff Member Profile

Hi. My name is Kha Hien. I am the Community Development Worker in the Community Mobilisation Team. This team in NUAA 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 when I 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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### Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

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### User's News

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