

Note from the General Manager

Well there is so much happening here at NUAA it is hard to know where to start. We are consumed by the many issues that you live and manage each and every day. For example, the new involuntary treatment trial at Nepean hospital, injecting in public places and improving access to hepatitis C treatment and peer support.

We are also thinking about how we can improve access to our NSP service, and are asking questions such as are we open at the right time, could we be working in other areas where it's harder to access NSPs? 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 NUAA's policy response and has demonstrated why NUAA'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 survey. We appreciate greatly your views and contribution.

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

Info Alert!

Go to nuaa.org.au and fill out the NUAA 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 the 25th March at a peer education forum at NADA (Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies). If you would like a copy please contact us and we will send you a hard copy or an electronic version. 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 people who might be, ring Susan McGuckin at NUAA. We cannot include everyone but 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. When people come in we grab the resource and run through it, demonstrating how to use wheel filters, Sterifilts and the info sheet. If you would like a copy give Annie a call.

The Information Support and Referral Worker (ISR) has been focusing on being on pharmacotherapies 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 if you would like one again, just give us a call. The ISR worker is now able to answer lots of question you may have if this issue affects you.

We've also been consulting with peers on the hours the NSP is open. From July, we may be able to change the hours we operate so we've been doing a survey with everyone. If you'd like a say in our hours of operation, please get in contact with our NSP worker so we can run through the survey with you.

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 has been regarding the aim of 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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