

## Note from the General Manager

Hello!

Hepatitis C remains one of the major health issues that people who inject manage each and every day and it is great to see such a focus on this complex virus during Hepatitis C Awareness Week.

This week gives us the opportunity to reflect on the successes and focus on the challenges ahead and there are many. However, until there is removal of the legislative obstacles that prevent people protecting their health, then our successes will be minimal.

NAAA is hosting a number of events, locally here in Surry Hills and beyond, in partnership with peers and organisations and we hope to see you at some of them.

We are planning at the moment for what programs that we will work on next year. We will be out consulting on the work in the next few weeks so keep an eye out for us.

Also, NAAA is conducting an online survey of both the Bulletin & Newsflash newsletters. Please take the three minutes or so to complete the survey, which can be found on NAAA's website or go to:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VcY\\_2fCM9TfIKKeCZ8cHdK1w\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=VcY_2fCM9TfIKKeCZ8cHdK1w_3d_3d)

## Newsflash Survey

Have your say on the NAAA Bulletin & Newsflash! Go to [nuaa.org.au](http://nuaa.org.au) to complete the brief online survey.



## Community Mobilisation Team

The Community Mobilisation team has just finished a very successful PeerLink workshop in Newcastle. We had seven very smart and very keen peers turn up to do the training which we ran at the new community space at ACON in Newcastle. This group of PeerLinkers are currently planning a community event, such as a picnic, to be held in Newcastle in June so keep your eyes out for the date. It will be advertised at the needle and syringe program, the Newcastle clinic and at ACON. So thanks to ACON and to all the peers who participated. We look forward to working with you all in the future.

A NAAA open day is being held at ACON in Newcastle on Thursday 21 May. If you are interested in participat-

ing and learning more about the work NAAA does and about your drug user group, give Scott Berriman a ring on 4927 6808.

The Asian project has nearly finished a series of arts-based workshops. This group has decided to call themselves Lotus as the lotus is a symbol of a flower which grows from a muddy soil and transforms into a symbol of purity and beauty. A core group of 10 to 12 peers have participated in the workshops and have produced some beautiful and thought provoking art works. We look forward to sharing some of these works with you in the second half of the year.

## Education Team

This month the Education Team has been getting ready for Hepatitis C Week. We have planned two main events, although we aren't limited to these two activities with lots of things happening all week in the NSP. So, if you're in Sydney, drop by!

We have collected every hepatitis C resource imaginable for anyone who needs to know anything about hepatitis C. Both Annie in the NSP and the ISR workers are ready to answer all of your questions when it comes to hepatitis C and more.

We've had an increase in the number of calls to the Information Support and Referral line and love the contact and information sharing we are having with you through this service. NUAA's ISR service can provide you with peer support and information on many of the issues that impact on your life. It's free, friendly, and best of all it's staffed by people who will understand your issues.

## Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

Over the past month NUAA has started to write a document that we hope will have an impact on an important aspect of the lives of people who inject drugs: the distribution of injecting equipment.

At present it is not legal for anyone not registered with NSW Health to distribute injecting equipment. This means that individual users are not supposed to give another user a new fit! This document will be completed by the end of June and will be posted on our website soon after that.

There appears to be a lot of support amongst other organisations for changing this situation. If you have a view on this drop me a line at NUAA [sioenC@nuaa.org.au](mailto:sioenC@nuaa.org.au) or call me on (02) 8354 7300.

Lastly, we'd like to thank Erin Halligan, who has recently departed the position of NUAA Policy and Campaigns coordinator. We are sorry to see her go and wish her luck in the future.

## Staff Member Profile

My name is Donna and I am NUAA's Finance Officer. I have been working at NUAA for four years and am responsible for the financial day-to-day running of the organisation.

My duties are varied including paying the bills, contribut-

ing to the overall finance management of all of our funds and best of all making sure that everyone that contributes to User's News get paid.

Although I live an hour and a half away from NUAA, I get immense job satisfaction from keeping the wheels running smoothly.

## Contacts

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