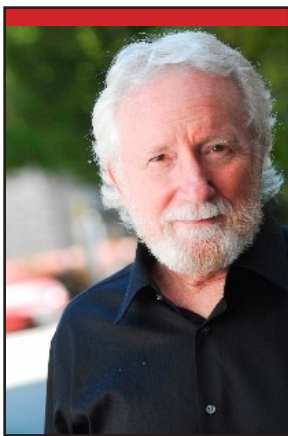


Note from the General Manager

As I type this, we are all systems go awaiting the arrival of Dr Norm Stamper from Law enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) who is coming to speak to us at a questions and answer session that *User's News* editor Gideon is hosting on our behalf.



Dr Norm Stamper

Prohibition and law enforcement are always hot topics here at NUAU. But they are especially topical for countries like Portugal and Mexico who have been brave in leading the world on its journey towards more sensible drug policies. As Norm tours the country sharing his words of wisdom we hope to open and educate a few more minds in this country, too.

But such change will likely be slow here in Australia. Isn't it incredible to think that in 2009 it can take three years (or longer in some areas) to get a vending machine installed? Or that we have to fight to make the giving of life-saving and health-protecting injecting equipment from one user to another legal?

Our fights of course pay off. In September, out of the spotlight, we quietly "opened" our vending machine. We are grateful to all who worked tirelessly to make this possible.

We also had our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 28th of September. I am pleased to announce that Christine Huber was re-elected as our president. The Board is charged with governing NUAU and will be looking this year to improve our membership base and our accountability to our members. It's easy to become a member of NUAU - application forms are on the back cover of *User's News*. So come on - join up!

Our Annual Report is available on line at www.nuaa.org.au (click on About NUAU) - it's a good insight into the work NUAU does, and is a reflection of the hard work of everyone here in the past year.

So then, onwards and upwards as we continue to work to improve the lives of people who use and inject drugs. Until the next *Newsflash*, look after yourself and your mates. Oh, and by the way, have a look on our website in a few weeks for the film of this afternoon's session with Norm Stamper - we hope that you enjoy it!

In solidarity

Nicky

Community Services and Programs

The good news for the Community Services and Programs team is that the new peer support position has started in Newcastle. Hope Everingham is the new worker and she is based at the Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Service. She works Mondays and Tuesdays so that she is available to chat to consumers when the Hepatitis C Clinic is open.

We are hoping to provide some peer education and support around hepatitis C and general health and wellbeing at Regent house in Sydney. This project will be in partnership with the RPA Hepatitis C Outreach Program, which is currently operating at the clinic.

The PeerLink project worker, Jeffrey, spent a week in Lismore in early October running a three-day workshop with a very enthusiastic group of new peer educators. This means that we have an increasing number of PeerLinkers in the Lismore area which is great news. A similar workshop will be held in Coffs Harbour in the near future.

The team has been busy visiting a variety of areas across the state including Albury, Tamworth, Moree and Armidale. Susan was shown around the area by Sue Miller from the Hunter New England Area Health Service Harm Minimisation Program. It was great to see what was happening around Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) activities in the area and to visit the two new primary NSPs which have been set up in Coledale Community Centre in Tamworth and in the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre. New services are great news for NSP service users and the community, especially when they seek the involvement of NUAU and people who inject drugs in the setting up and running of their programs.

We will talk about the other team programs in the next issue.

Susan

Policy and Campaigns

Hi there from Sione in Policy and Campaigns. As always, I've been busy going to meetings and talking about issues that affect people who inject drugs. Last week, for example, I attended a day of presentations on work undertaken or funded by University of NSW's Drug Policy Modelling Project (DPMP). One of the most interesting things out of that day was a model that looked at how many people would need to successfully undertake hepatitis C treatment to make a dent in the rate of hep C infection. Without going into too much detail, let's just say that while hep C treatment is an important part of dealing with the issue, we must never tire of the prevention work such as peer education and Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs).

On the subject of NSPs, the second "Return on Investment" study is released this week. These reports detail how many lives and how much money has been saved by NSPs in Australia. For more details about this second

report, look for it on the NUAA website (nuaa.org.au) or give me a call here at NUAA.

Finally, let me invite anyone in Lismore or the surrounding areas to a NUAA event in mid-November in Lismore. This will be the first of three NUAA Policy & Campaign Symposiums in NSW over the next year. I am having a morning workshop with local users to talk about NUAA's strategic aims and to talk about what the Policy and Campaign position does. In the afternoon we have a special visitor from the National Centre for HIV & Social Research who will talk about recent research impacting on the lives of people who inject.

If you are interested in attending, call me, Sione, at NUAA on 1800 644 413 and I'll give you details of where and when. I'd love to hear from you.

Sione

Information, Support and Referral at NUAA

NUAA continues to develop its informative, user-friendly Information, Support and Referral (ISR) service.

As a peer-based organisation, we provide a range of services for both peers and service providers who are looking for:

- Information about drugs, their effects and side effects, interactions
- Peer education on BBVs, safer using and vein care and wheel filtering
- Support on drug user issues, such as discrimination, legal, and or complaints
- Referrals to other services, we have a data base of NSPs, Detoxes, Rehabs, and Pharmo clinics.

We support and help peers to self advocate and much more

For any info call ISR on (02) 8354 7351 or free call: 1800 644 413 - 11am – 5pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays.

Contacts

345 Crown St, Surry Hills 2010
p 1800 644 413 (02) 8354 7300
w www.nuaa.org.au

Community Mobilisation Team

p (02) 8354 7373 e susanm@nuaa.org.au

Policy, Campaigns and Communications Team

p (02) 8354 7319 e sionec@nuaa.org.au

Needle & Syringe Program

p (02) 8354 7343 e nsp@nuaa.org.au

User's News

p (02) 8354 7302 e usersnews@nuaa.org.au