

Welcome from the General Manager

It was just over a year ago that I joined the team at NUAA, and what a year it's been! Not only have we survived (always the number one priority for an organisation like ours!), we have grown stronger and have become more accountable to our constituents and partners.

During the year we took a good, hard look at ourselves and sought and listened to your feedback. We have made some changes and although our team has become a little bit smaller, we are striving forward with new activities and some new people have joined us.

As a result of our online survey we are no longer publishing two versions of our newsletter, instead focusing on one publication that we hope will be a good read for everyone. The Newsflash will arrive in your mailboxes bi-monthly. Please send in your comments about the Newsflash as we really appreciate hearing from you.

This edition focuses on our activities for 2009/2010 and our Annual General Meeting. Happy Reading!



NUAA's Activities in 2009/2010

The coming year is jam packed with a number of programs and events. It is an important year as in November NUAA will be 20 years old! This is a major milestone and is something that NSW can be very proud of. NUAA has led the way in organising drug users to advocate for their interests, and is an inspiration not only here in Australia but across the world. Keep an eye out for a series of events that we're organising across NSW in November.

Key highlights for the coming year include:

- developing and launching an innovative volunteer program in January 2010
- continuing to deliver our peer education programs in Coffs Harbour, Lismore and the Hunter Region
- continuing to grow the Lotus group, our community development and peer education program that is working with Asian networks and communities in the Liverpool area
- delivering peer support groups in a number of pharmacotherapy clinics as well as piloting a peer support worker in Newcastle for people who are considering or have started hepatitis C treatment
- moving our successful consumer participation module into an NSP environment
- establishing an ethics committee to ensure that the research that NUAA partners in or assists with meets the needs of participants
- keeping the distribution of injecting equipment by peers on the policy agenda
- hosting three policy symposiums in Hunter, Lismore and Sydney
- hosting a new Expert Advisory Committee to assist us to oversee and contribute to our work
- continuing to publish *User's News* four times a year!

Changes to NUAAs Services

NUAA's NSP has changed its opening hours. They are now:

Monday	11.00am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	11.00am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Thursday	11.00am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Friday	11.00am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Our Information, Support and Referral service hours have also reduced:

Monday	11.00 am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday	11.00 am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm
Friday	11.00 am – 1.30pm & 2.00pm – 4.30pm

An answering machine is left on when the service is closed and we will return calls the next business day.



NUAA's Annual General Meeting

We will be hosting our Annual General Meeting on September 28th. This year we are hosting a symposium to explore peer education. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rick Flowers from the University of Technology will be presenting on peer education principles and theories. He has researched and taught in the field of popular education for the last 20 years and is currently Head of Adult and Postgraduate Education in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, at UTS. Rick's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion on peer education and drug user organisations.

Food and entertainment will be provided from 6.00pm with a prompt start of the AGM proceedings at 6.30pm. The symposium is open to members and non members. Please RSVP to Amy Donaldson – amyd@nuaa.org.au or on (02) 8354 7300.

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