

**Day Three: Friday 29th October 2004**

**9.00 am Concurrent Sessions: Session One - South Stradbroke Room**

**Future Directions of the ATCA**

Report of findings from the consultation project regarding future directions of the ATCA. Preliminary results support the ATCA as the peak body for TCs. Implications of these preliminary findings are discussed in the workshop.

**This workshop is for ATCA Members only**

*Neos Zavrou, Director, Odyssey Institute of Studies & Miranda Manning, Social Worker & Family Therapist Odyssey Institute of Studies, Odyssey House Victoria*

**9.00 am Concurrent Sessions: Session Two - North Stradbroke Room**

**Sex, Celibacy and Sexuality in the Therapeutic Communities - How do we work with these issues?**

"Virginity" is the frame through which I have looked at Sex, Celibacy and Sexuality for this presentation. This "Virginal" like experience is described by some people when they stop using substances, experiencing many things for the first time. For some it's the first time they have experienced each other substance free, either over an extensive period of time or ever. This workshop is what could be described as a Preliminary Investigation of Sex, Celibacy and Sexuality, merely the beginning of a long conversation

*Ani Catterson, Odyssey House, Victoria*

**10.30 am Morning Tea - Guest Lounge**

**11.00 am Concurrent Sessions: Session One - North Stradbroke Room**

**Establishing Future Therapeutic Community Research Directions**

Linda and Richard will discuss the recommendations of the report "Towards better practice in therapeutic communities" and consider priorities, nature and approach to further research building on the report. Authors: Linda Gowing, Richard Cooke, Andrew Biven and David Watts, 2002.

*Professor Richard Mattick, Director & Professor, Drug and Alcohol Studies, National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre, University of NSW  
Dr Linda R. Gowing, Manager, DASC Evidence Based Practice Unit Drug & Alcohol Services Council, South Australia*

**Continued...**

**11.00 am Concurrent Session: Session Two - South Stradbroke Room**

**TCs in the Real World - an interactive session focusing on problems and solutions**

A session focussed on the problems and difficulties experienced in the day-to-day life of a TC worker. The session will use the delegates combined experience to develop strategies for creative solutions.

*James Toth, Clinical Co-ordinator, Goldbridge Recovery Services*

**12.30 pm Closing Session - Gallery Room**

**Performance by Mirikai and Goldbridge residents and staff Mirikai and Goldbridge Therapeutic Communities**

**Closing Remarks**

*President Elect, ATCA*

**1.15 pm Lunch - Guest Lounge**

**2.15 pm Visits - Tour of Mirikai and Goldbridge Therapeutic Communities**

For those who wish to attend, please book this visit in advance at the Convention Registration desk (booking form enclosed with the Convention pack). The Visit will conclude at 4.30pm, with return to the hotel by 5pm

**2.15 pm - Convention Close**

Safe Journeys to all.

# AUSTRALASIAN THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION



**NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October 2004  
Gold Coast International Hotel  
Gold Coast, Queensland

## CONVENTION PROGRAMME



*Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association*

**Convention Organised, on behalf of the ATCA, by:**

**Gold Coast Drug Council Inc**  
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**Convention Sponsored By:**



**Convention Registration will take place at the Gold Coast International Hotel on:  
Tuesday 26th October from 5pm to 7pm and Wednesday 27th October from 8am to 9.30am.**

**Day One: Wednesday 27th October 2004**

**9.30 am Arrival & Refreshments - Guest Lounge**

**10.00 am Welcome & Opening - Gallery Room**

**"Welcome to Country"**

*Graham Dillon, Elder of the Gombemberri Traditional Custodians & the Nunukul Kunjeil Dancers*

**Welcome from the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association**

*Eric Allen, President ATCA, Board Member Visionary Images, Director Odyssey Victoria*

**Message from the World Federation of Therapeutic Communities**

*Frederick K. Loke, Associate Executive Director, Daytop Village New York USA*

**Strategic Direction in Queensland**

*Dr Kevin Lambkin, Director, ATODs, Queensland*

**Official Opening**

*The Hon Rod Welford MP, Queensland Attorney General & Minister for Justice*

**11.00 am Morning Tea - Guest Lounge**

**11.30 am Keynote Speakers - Gallery Room**

**Possible Contributing Factors to Deteriorating Client Profiles**

This presentation will highlight possible factors which have contributed to the deterioration of client profiles at Odyssey House McGrath Foundation. These will include the onset of the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) and its attendant Policies. A comparison of data and the results of the Australian Treatment Outcome Study will be used to confirm these observations.

*James A. Pitts, Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House McGrath Foundation*

**Identifying and Managing Co-Occurring Mental Health Problems**

There is an increasing awareness of the coexistence of other mental health problems with addictions, otherwise termed 'dual diagnosis' or 'comorbidity'. This has come about through community studies, examination of therapeutic failures and increasing cooperation between psychiatric and addictions services. Identifying and managing mental health problems is a key element in the running of a successful therapeutic community.

*Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine, Bond University & Director, Drug and Alcohol/Co-morbidity Program, Palm Beach-Currumbin Clinic*

**12.30 pm Lunch - Guest Lounge**

**1.45 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session One - Gallery Room  
Workforce Development in Reality**

Workforce development (WD) is a term that describes a range of processes that attempt to attract, educate and retain a skilled staff base. Whilst the conceptual frameworks for WD is well established, the exact "how to" in the workplace is a very different matter. The Ted Noffs Institute has attempted to implement WD strategies through its multi-faceted approach to ongoing staff development. This paper shall take the area of "Understanding and Managing Challenging Behaviour" as an example of workforce development in reality. This work was conducted in collaboration with Dr John Howard and Ms Joycelyn Ling of the Ted Noffs Foundation.

*Matt Stubbs, Manager, Ted Noffs Institute*

**Using Evidence: The challenge in keeping the workforce and program development up to date.**

In 1994, the Melbourne Therapeutic Community Odyssey House undertook major reform aimed at improving the retention of clients in the early phase of their treatment for drug and alcohol misuse. In this presentation we look at how retention data collected in the Therapeutic Community can be used to drive program change, staff training, and program innovation to achieve better client outcomes.

*Neos Zavrou, Director, Odyssey Institute of Studies & Nick Prendergast, Training & Workforce Development Manager, Odyssey Institute of Training*

**Opening Pandora's Box**

An interactive and formal exploration of possible approaches to the difficulties and possible solutions encountered in the Quality Improvement Story

*James McGregor, Quality Manager, Gold Coast Drug Council Inc.*

Continued...

**1.45 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Two - North Stradbroke Room  
Therapeutic Community Training Curriculum**

The overall goals of the Therapeutic Community Training Curriculum are to provide a common knowledge base for staff members working in TCs and encourage their personal growth and development. To maintain the integrity of the TC methods, as TC's evolve, it is important that staff members understand and appreciate that they are part of a whole; part of a long tradition of using the "community" as a method of treatment. Regardless of any academic background, work experiences or orientation, this curriculum will provide a sufficient amount of knowledge for anyone interested to work in a TC, or can act as a refresher course for those already working in one.

*Frederick K. Loke, Associate Executive Director, Daytop International Inc, USA*

**Psychologists in the Therapeutic Community - is there a role?**

New initiatives at Government level, such as the Better Outcomes in Mental Health, have provided new opportunities for psychologists working in various aspects of the health field. Clients presenting have a range of co-morbidity issues, and this in turn has created a new awareness and interest in alcohol and other issues. The Australian Psychological Society's Psychology and Substance Use Special Interest Group is currently developing a discussion paper which highlights the various psychological interventions to substance use treatment and raises the questions of how psychologists can best contribute to this area. As our client needs change, how have our staffing profiles changed, and what specific role is there for psychologists within the TC model?

*Lynne Magor-Blatch, Director of Client Services, Clinical Director, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT)*

**From the Academic to the Pragmatic - Providing learning experiences for students on placement in a Therapeutic Community.**

In this session we will investigate the importance of managing effective and educationally appropriate student placements within the Therapeutic Community setting. We will review the possible needs of the TC and the Student, and examine some current educational trends in counsellor training.

*Martin Elly, A/Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine, Bond University & the GOLD Program, Goldbridge Rehabilitation Services*

**1.45 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Three - South Stradbroke Room  
A "Taste" of the Nuts and Bolts of Psychiatry**

This interactive session covers all the basics of Psychiatry from psychotic conditions, their signs, symptoms and syndromes to personality disorders; manipulative behaviour; bi-polar affective disorders and transcultural psychiatry.

*Dr Basil Bunting, Consultant Psychiatrist, Gold Coast Hospital*

**3.15 pm Afternoon Tea - Guest Lounge**

**3.45 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session One - North Stradbroke Room  
"Trying to put a lid on Pandora's Box"**

An interactive and formal exploration of possible approaches to the difficulties and possible solutions encountered in the Quality Improvement Story

*James McGregor, Quality Manager, Gold Coast Drug Council Inc.*

**3.45 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Two - Gallery Room  
Tea Leaves, Fantasies, and the future of "AN" organisation**

This is a highly interactive workshop based on a hypothetical alcohol and drug agency facing an uncertain future. Participants will be directly involved in planning and implementing strategies that will strengthen an organisation's capacity to survive and expand in anticipation of changing economic conditions and government policy.

*David Crosbie, Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House Victoria*

**3.45 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Three - South Stradbroke Room  
A "Taste" of the Nuts and Bolts of Psychiatry**

(continued from 1.45pm session)

**5.00 pm Finish**

**A Welcome Reception for delegates will take place at the Gold Coast International Hotel on  
Tuesday 26th October from 5pm to 7pm. The Official Welcome starts at 6pm. Bookings are required.**

**Day Two: Thursday 28th October 2004**

**9.00 am Welcome - Gallery Room**

*Eric Allen, President ATCA, Board Member Visionary Images, Director, Odyssey Victoria*

**9.15 am Keynote Speakers - Gallery Room**

**Community approaches in the prevention of Drug-related harm**

This session will review the recent findings from an international report completed for the Commonwealth government titled "The Prevention of Substance Use, Risk and Harm in Australia: A review of the Evidence." The major contributors to alcohol and drug related harm will be examined. Existing notions of contributors to harm were supplemented in this project by considering the concept of developmental harm. This project therefore provided a basis for considering how Australia's harm minimisation framework can be integrated with developmental prevention frameworks. Within both of these perspectives there exists a strong emphasis on building integrated responses at the community level.

*Prof. John Toumbourou, Associate Professor, Dept. of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne & Senior Research Manager, Centre for Adolescent Health.*

**Overview of the Drug Court Pilot from a therapeutic perspective**

The Drug Court Pilot has produced more than 100 graduates in four years of operation with the assistance of service providers, including residential programs and Therapeutic Communities. This session will deliver a short outline of the Drug Court Evaluation, briefly examine the therapeutic and societal benefits produced for graduates, non-graduates the general community, and identify gaps still left in the continuum of treatment services required in Queensland for the treatment of chronic addicts who are also recidivist offenders.

*John Costanzo, Magistrate, SE Queensland Drug Court, Department of Justice and Attorney General, Queensland*

**Treatment utilisation and treatment needs of amphetamine users**

The Amphetamines in Queensland (AIQ) study was a collaborative initiative of Queensland Health and the Crime and Misconduct Commission. Peer researchers administered a questionnaire to 690 amphetamine users, covering many topics including mental health. The participants' treatment concerns are discussed.

*Andrew Conroy, Research Officer, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Unit, Queensland Health*

**10.45 am Morning Tea - Guest Lounge**

**11.15 am Concurrent Sessions: Session One - North Stradbroke Room  
Birribi, a Young Person's TC**

The presentation will focus on "Birribi" as an example of a Youth therapeutic community. "Birribi" is the first government funded state wide Youth Therapeutic Community in Victoria. It is operated by the Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS). Our program is highly structured, residents move through six stages and we use consequences and incentives as tools of change. This will be an opportunity to outline the program elements that we believe are suitable for adolescents.

*Yvonne Devey, Social Worker, Birribi, Youth Substance Abuse Service*

**Up to my neck in alligators**

A Therapeutic Community is a unique and powerful working environment - so how well do we prepare new staff to join? This session offers a reflection on my first year at Odyssey. The challenges and the sparkling moments that I experienced - all while up to my neck in alligators.

*Brigitte Walker, Social Worker, Odyssey House Victoria*

**Integrating VET into the lives of TC residents**

Odyssey House is a Registered Training Organization which delivers nationally accredited training as part of the daily work activities of residents. This presentation explores how a training culture has developed successfully within the structure of a TC with very positive learning and employment outcomes for residents.

*Suzanne Crellin, Manager, Client Training & PSP, Odyssey*

**11.15 am Concurrent Sessions: Session Two - Gallery Room  
The Belongings Project**

A presentation on a pilot project undertaken at Karralika in the ACT to facilitate a sense of connectedness to nature and to promote a sense of belonging to enable a sustainable recovery for clients

*Lynne Magor-Blatch, Director of Client Services, Clinical Director, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT) & Mackenzie Clare, Case Manager, Karralika TC Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT*

Continued...

**Creating Therapeutic Avenues in Therapeutic Communities**

This session will benefit TCs that are looking for simple and effective ways to address behavioural issues in the TC. The goal of these systems is to create therapeutic outcomes for the individual and to maintain healthy boundaries within the TC. All systems in this presentation have been developed in consultative process with residents and staff working in our TC.

*Peter Duncan, Manager Residential Services, Cyrenian House WA Council of Addictions, Perth*

**Relapse Prevention... is just the beginning**

A presentation on the Odyssey House Aftercare Program. The paper will present an overview of the holistic approach that the program takes with its clients, including discussion on how the staff work with clients in relapse.

*Lesley Moseby, Administrator, Aftercare Program, Odyssey House*

**1.00pm Lunch - Guest Lounge**

**2.00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session One - South Stradbroke Room  
The Belongings Project**

Many of our clients entering treatment have no sense of who they are or where they belong. Many feel they have never belonged. This project addresses these feelings by building on the concept of ecopsychology - which is a merging of two concepts. These are: eco - "the outer world environment" and psychology - "the inner world of the psyche". Ecopsychology addresses the "disconnection" within oneself which many people feel and is encapsulated in the following: "... our addiction is fuelled by depression and emptiness inside that comes from a lack of connectedness" Barrows (1997)

*Lynne Magor-Blatch, Director of Client Services, Clinical Director, Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT (ADFACT) & Mackenzie Clare, Case Manager, Karralika TC Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT*

**2.00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Two - North Stradbroke Room  
Families, Drug Dependence and TC's: A Healthy Mix**

For far too long, families have been neglected in alcohol and other drug treatment. How do we include families in treatment? An innovative Multi Family Therapy Group aims to strengthen the connection between the drug user and their family, and thus improve outcomes of clients in TCs. Family therapy has contributed to the treatment of substance abuse for decades, yet little of the practice wisdom has been incorporated into delivery of specialist drug treatment services across Australia until recently. Odyssey House Victoria delivers a number of services that are inclusive of client families. A Multi-Family Therapy Group in one of these initiatives.

*Miranda Manning, Social Worker & Family Therapist, Odyssey Institute of Studies, Victoria*

**2.00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Three - Gallery Room  
Culturally appropriate Drug Diversion Programs for Indigenous People**

The workshop will aim to produce recommendations to government about the drug treatment needs of indigenous people. First, we will examine some real "non-treatable" cases. Secondly, we will identify what does work for indigenous people, and then the issues which make these cases non-treatable, i.e. 'indigenous issues and gaps in services. Finally, recommendations will be drafted after a discussion about who they are aimed at.

*John Costanzo, Magistrate, SE Queensland Drug Court, Department of Justice and Attorney General, Queensland*

**3.30 pm Afternoon Tea - Guest Lounge**

**4.00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session One - Gallery Room  
Culturally appropriate Drug Diversion Programs for Indigenous People (continued from 2pm session)**

**4.00 pm Concurrent Sessions: Session Two - North Stradbroke Room**

**ATCA Annual General Meeting**

All ATCA Members and guests are welcome to attend this meeting

**5.00 pm Finish**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm Convention Dinner - "Isobar", at Marina Mirage**

Isobar is a waterfront restaurant, bar and café which is adjacent to Palazzo Versace and located within the Marina Mirage Shopping and dining precinct at Main Beach. Bookings are required in advance.