



IMPROVED SERVICES INITIATIVE EMAIL UPDATE

This is an email update for Improved Services Initiative grant recipients.

Contact Sarah if you have problems viewing this update, would like to be added or removed from the distribution list or have items to include in the next issue.

NOTICE BOARD

► National Homelessness Research

Applications for funding are now open for two elements of National Homelessness Research, the National Homelessness Research Partnership Agreements and the National Homelessness Research Projects.

The National Homelessness Research Partnership Agreements are designed to provide large-scale, high-quality research through substantial multi-year funding agreements with a small number of research organisations. The National Homelessness Research Projects are designed to support small scale research and evaluation projects proposed by a broad range of organisations including those in the community sector. The application documents can be downloaded [here](#).

Applications close 2pm AEDT 13 January 2010.

RESOURCES

► Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings

The resource was developed by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in collaboration with clinicians, researchers, consumers and carers from across Australia, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

A limited number of hardcopies are currently being disseminated to all alcohol and other drug treatment services across Australia. [Click here](#) to download additional copies and resources may be downloaded.

► e-Learning Comorbidity Module

A new comorbidity e-learning module has been launched. The course is designed to assist individuals working in a range of occupations to understand the complex and often serious impacts on a person's physical and mental health that can occur when a person with a mental health condition (who may or may not be taking a prescribed medication for that condition) also uses one or more non-prescribed drugs, including alcohol.

Cost of the module is just \$22.00 per subscription which allows access to the module for 12 months. [Click here](#) to access the module.

► Indigenous Services Database and Other Resources: Indigenous AOD workers' wellbeing, stress and burnout

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) has compiled a CD Rom to offer a range of practical resources relevant to both new and experienced workers in the fields of Indigenous health and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD). There are three key resources on the CD Rom: an **Indigenous services database, websites of interest** providing workers with a starting point for accessing information and a list of **training courses** with Indigenous content and/or designed for Indigenous students. To order your free copy of the resource, contact NCETA reception by email nceta@flinders.edu.au or phone 08 8201 7535

► **Mental Health Professional Online Development (MHPOD)**

MHPOD is a new learning resource being developed for people working in mental health. Based on the national practice standards for mental health, it draws on the evidence base for mental health care and contemporary practice wisdom. Two topics are now available on the Sample page: Classification of Mental Disorders and Dual Disability. For more information visit <http://www.mhpod.gov.au>

CALENDAR

► **National Comorbidity Guidelines Supporting Seminar**

The seminar presented by Alison Bell will provide an overview of the National Comorbidity Guidelines focusing on the implications for clinical practice. The seminar will be of particular relevance to service managers, team leaders, educators, comorbidity project officers from government and non government services.

Date: Friday 12th February 2010

Location: NDARC, University of NSW, Randwick Campus, 22 – 32 King Street, Randwick

Contact: : Robert or Sarah for more information

► **(The Mental Health Services) 12th Summer Forum 'The Right to Care that Works'**

Date: 18 & 19 February 2010

Location: Crowne Plaza Darling Harbour Sydney

Contact: media@themhs.org.au for sponsorship information and for more details [click here](#)

► **Improving Social Determinant of Indigenous Health Conference**

Date: 30 & 31 March 2010

Location: Brisbane

Contact: www.improvingindigenoushealth.com

► **Building Bridges National Community Mental Health and Addictions Conference**

Date: 14-16th April 2010

Location: Wellington New Zealand

Contact: www.buildingbridges.co.nz

► **Reconnexion's National Anxiety and Depression Conference 2010**

Date: Monday 17 & Tuesday 18 May

Location: Melbourne

Contact: janet@reconnexion.org.au

► **NIDAC 2010 Conference: Listening, Learning and Leading**

Date: 16-18th June

Location: Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia

Contact: www.nidacconference.com.au

► **TheMHS (The Mental Health Services) 20th Annual Conference '20 years strong and now a renaissance'**

Date: 14 -17 September 2010

Location: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre Darling Harbour Sydney

Contact: media@themhs.org.au for sponsorship information and for more details [click here](#).

TRAINING

► **Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Sciences (Orygen Youth Health)**

The Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Sciences is a postgraduate course that enhances participants knowledge and understanding about youth mental health issues. The course is designed for health care professionals working in both the adult and adolescent mental health fields and the primary health care sector. The course consists of eight subjects, offered online, to be completed part-time over a two-year period. [Click here](#) for more information

► **CCWT 2010 Training Calendar**

The 2010 CCWT Training Calendar is available [here](#).

► **MHCC 2010 Training Calendar**

[Click here](#) to view the 2010 MHCC Learning and Development Training Calendar.

RESEARCH JOURNALS

► **British Journal of Psychiatry**

Mitchell, Alex, J. (2009). Quality of medical care for people with and without comorbid mental illness and substance misuse: systematic review of comparative studies. Vol 194, (6), pp 491-499.

► **Drug and Alcohol Review**

Lee, N. and Cameron, F. (2009). Differences in self and independent ratings on an organisational dual diagnosis capacity measure. Vol 28 (6). pp 682.

Allsop, S. & Stevens, C.F. (2009). Evidence-based practice or imperfect seduction? Developing capacity to respond effectively to drug-related problems. Vol 28 (5), pp 541-549.

► **Substance Use and Misuse**

Long, C.G. and Hollin, C.R. (2009). Assessing Comorbid Substance Use in Detained Psychiatric Patients: Issues and Instruments for Evaluating Treatment Outcomes. Vol 44, (11), pp 1602 – 1641.

► **Health Promotion Journal of Australia**

Spooner C. (2009). Social determinants of drug use – barriers to translating research into policy. Vol 20 (3), pp 180-185

► **Australian e-Journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH)**

[Click here](#) to view the December 2009 of AeJAMH. Focus of the issue is: Families where a parent has a mental illness.

NADA PROJECT UPDATE

► **ISI National Newsletter**

The second edition of the newsletter is in production and will be available in February 2010. If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter please contact either Sarah or Robert. Articles are to be submitted by 28th January and are to a maximum of 350 words.

► **Policy and Procedure Toolkit**

A suite of policy and procedure templates is currently being developed by NADA for all member organisations. This resource will be aligned with the Resource Tool for Non Government Drug and Alcohol Agencies which was developed as part of the NADA Sector Development project. The template toolkit will be available in June 2010.

► **Improved Services Initiative Forum**

Date: Thursday 18th March

Location: Australian Technology Park

Contact: Robert or Sarah for more information

Hope you have a relaxing and safe break over the Christmas and NY period. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas - Sarah and Robert