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

Contact Sarah Morrison 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 edition.

NOTICE BOARD

► Alcohol, Other Drugs and Youth Forum
25 May, Sydney Congress Hall, Salvation Army Territorial HQ, 140 Elizabeth St, Sydney
Experts from NDARC, NCPIC and the Kirketon Road Centre will present on some of the key issues facing young people who use drugs and alcohol. Nine youth-friendly organisations will provide an overview of the services and programs they provide. Information will include details on the organisation's therapeutic approaches, inclusion/exclusion criteria and referral processes. For more information, click here.

► FebFast Funding Grants
Closing date Friday 11 June
FebFast are now taking expressions of interest from prevention, research and treatment projects, programs and services that address alcohol and other drug use and its impact on young people (12-25 years old) and their families. Click here for more information.

► National Comorbidity Guidelines Training Package
The aim of the training package is to provide clinical educators, team leaders and other suitably qualified personnel to deliver training on the Guidelines within the workplace. The package can be accessed here.

The training package includes 6 sessions:
1. Overview of the Guidelines and Comorbidity
2. Classification of Mental Health Disorders
3. Assessment of Comorbidity
4. Management and Treatment of Comorbidity
5. Working Collaboratively
6. Specific Population Groups

► Drug Action Week
The theme for Drug Action Week 2010 is Looking After YOUR Mind. DAW will take place in communities across Australia from Sunday 20 to Saturday 26 June. For more information, click here. If you are hosting a DAW event or activity, please send event details to Sarah to assist with promoting the event.

► Improved Services National Newsletter
The third issue of the Improved Services Initiative National Newsletter is currently in production. If you would like to contribute an article, highlighting some of your experiences, please contact Sarah or Robert.
CALENDAR

NADA Events
► Cannabis Treatment Guidelines Workshop
Wednesday 23 June, NADA Office, 10am-12pm OR 1pm-3pm
NADA will be hosting 2 workshops on the Cannabis Guidelines developed by the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre. Each session will run for 2 hours and will run from 10 am - 12 pm and then repeated at 1 pm - 3 pm. This seminar is open for both NADA members and non members. Click here for more information.

► ISI Grant Recipient Forum
Thursday 15 July, Australia Technology Park
This forum will be facilitated by John Mendoza and theme for the day will be sustainability. John Mendoza has a wealth of experience in both the mental health and AOD sector and is currently Chair of the National Advisory Council on Mental Health and Executive Board Member of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia. NADA encourages both ISI Project staff as well as a member of senior management (e.g. CEO, service manager) from each organisation to attend, if possible. Please RSVP to Sarah.

► NADA/MHCC Research Into Practice Conference
Monday 6-7 December, Manly Pacific Hotel

Other Events
► Reconnexion’s 5th National Anxiety and Depression Conference
17-18 May, Melbourne
Click here to read the conference program.

► Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia Conference and Workshops
14-16 June, Gold Coast, QLD
For more information about the conference, click here.

► Australian Winter School in the Sun – Back to Basics: A Commonsense Approach
21-23 June, Brisbane
Download the conference program here.

► Mental Health Summit
24-25 June, Sunshine Coast, QLD
The Summit will provide a catalyst for the development of a regional strategy to reduce the stigma of mental illness in the community, address the needs for child and youth mental health programs in a variety of settings, and build capacity within the health profession and the education sector in the areas of prevention, early intervention and treatment of people with a mental illness. For more information about the conference, click here.

► The Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People
25 June, Federation Conference Centre, Surry Hills
Generation Next is an exciting new national seminar series exploring the unique pressures, needs and healthcare and sociological challenges facing Australian teenagers, adolescents, parents and anyone working with young people. Topics covered includes, depression, anxiety and young people, alcohol and drugs – current issues, cyberbullying and resilience strategies for young people. Click here to see a program for the day.

► International Youth Mental Health Conference
29-30 July, Melbourne Victoria
Click here to learn more about the first international youth mental health conference.

► 11th International Mental Health Conference — Anxiety and Depression
18 – 20 August, Surfers Paradise, QLD
Click here to download the conference program.
The Mental Health Services (TheMHS) 20th Annual Conference '20 years strong and now a renaissance'
14 -17 September, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre Darling Harbour Sydney
TheMHS is collaborating with two other conferences which will be held concurrently with TheMHS event:
1) Mental Wellbeing Conference 2010 - Innovative Integration: roadmap for mental wellbeing
2) Transcultural Mental Health (NSW)

Click here for more information about the TheMHS conference.

Abstract Submissions

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs Council of Tasmania (ATDC) are calling for abstracts to be submitted for their annual conference. Suggested topics for abstracts include; comorbidity, consumer participation and training, professional development and workforce issues. Click here for more information.

Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium
29-30 September, Novotel Brighton le Sands, Sydney
Abstracts can be submitted online until 7 June 2010. Key themes to be addressed include; building capacity through NGO and clinical partnerships, indigenous mental health issues (from policy to treatment delivery) and service accessibility, delivery and networks in rural mental health.

TRAINING

Consolidating Skills in Solution Focused Brief Therapy
13-14 May, Parramatta
This two day course builds on the course Solution Focused Brief Therapy: A Comprehensive Introduction and offers participants the opportunity to refine and consolidate their skills. The emphasis is on participant’s own experiences of using Solution Focused ideas and tools with consideration of things that have worked or been helpful as well as looking at places where people have felt stuck. Click here for more information.

Hearing Voices Workshops (Introduction and Advanced)
17-18 May, James Fletcher Hospital
The Hearing Voices program includes an Introductory workshop on day 1, followed by an Advanced workshop on day 2. The program is designed to develop participants’ confidence and awareness in working with voices, and equip participants with coping strategies and an effective toolkit for working with clients’ voices. Click here to register.

Supporting Self Harm Workshop
19 May, James Fletcher Hospital
This full day course has been devised to enable therapists to use recovery concepts and tools to explore and thereby gain an understanding of self-harm. Throughout the day participants will have an opportunity to explore the recovery process and gain a greater knowledge and skills base to positively and effectively support people who self-harm. Click here to register.

Pathways to Building Resilience in Young People
10 June, 4-5pm, Black Dog Institute, Hospital Rd, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick
Click here to register to attend the event.

Solution Focused Supervision
17-18 June, Parramatta
This two-day course explores the implications of Solution-focused thinking for supervising and managing staff within welfare/counselling contexts by looking at what it might mean to use a philosophy and process derived from Solution Focused Brief Therapy in the supervision of staff. Click here for more details.
► The Role of Medication in the Management of Mood Disorders
17 June, Black Dog Institute, Hospital Rd, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick
Register online here.

► Strength Based Practice with Challenging Clients
5-6 July, James Fletcher Hospital
This two day workshop is a skill based strengths training that focuses on skill building for direct practice. Seven (7) modules will be presented over the two days, utilising multimedia presentations, interactive lectures and facilitated small and large group exercises. Click here to register.

► Emotional Intelligence and Mental Health: Implications for Clinical Practice
22 July, VIBE Hotel North Sydney
This one day professional development workshop describes the content and structure of the Emotional Intelligence program at Swinburne University Research Unit and will provide suggestions on how to apply this knowledge in organisations and clinical settings. Click here to access more information.

► Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)
29-30 July, Wesley Mission, 220 Pitt St, Sydney
Livingworks ASIST training is an internationally standardised workshop designed to skill people to respond to a person at risk of suicide and maximise capacity to keep them safe. To register to attend this workshop or find out if there is a workshop in your local area, click here.

► Introduction to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
29 July, VIBE Hotel North Sydney
This workshop will provide an introduction to the strategies and practical processes of understanding and implementing cognitive behavioural treatment programs for people with depression, anxiety and pain. Click here to download a program for the day.

► Solution Focused Suicide Prevention
5-6 August, Sydney
The Preventing Suicide Using a Solution Focused Approach workshop, will include ways to use Solution Focused techniques to generate seeds of hope and demonstrate techniques for answering the traditional suicide "risk assessment" questions without losing a Solution Focus. Click here for details about the training.

► Mental Health Assessment of Aboriginal Clients
26-27 October, Sydney
Dr Tracy Westerman delivers a workshop on measuring and developing Aboriginal mental health cultural competencies. Click here for more information.

► Motivational Interviewing for Enhancing Intrinsic Motivation
University of Sydney
Session 1: Introduction
Monday 22 November | 9.30am–1pm
Session 2: Workshop
Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 November | 9am–4pm
Click here for more information.

► SmokeCheck
SmokeCheck is a one day training workshop for all health workers working with Aboriginal clients in brief intervention. The SmokeCheck workshop aims to train health workers to help clients make informed decisions about their smoking and support them in their quit attempts. The workshop is free of charge and fully catered and each participant receives a pack of resources and a certificate of participation. Click here for more information.

► Australian Psychological Society (APS) Prevention Professional Development Training Package
To download a copy of the training manual click here.
RESOURCES

► ACON D&A Resources
ACON have developed two new D&A resources to supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people who are affected by drug or alcohol use. Information for workers is a guide for workers. This resource also contains information related to working with the partners, friends and families of GLBT people affected by substance use.

The Partners, Friends and Family resource is for members of the GLBT community, their friends and their families. This resource aims to provide some information on what people can do to support their partner, friend, lover or family member if they are affected by drug or alcohol use. It also contains information on how to care for yourself whilst supporting someone else. For copies of these resources email tthompson@acon.org.au

► Cannabis Resources
The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) recently published a resource for clinicians: Management of cannabis use disorder and related issues a clinician’s guide.

The Screening and Assessment for Cannabis Use Disorders background paper contains, on pp 19-20, a section on comorbid psychopathology including an overview of diagnosis options and differentiation between drug-induced states and primary psychiatric syndromes.

► Indigenous Cannabis Resources
Check out the new website www.notourculture.org.au and other resources aimed at Indigenous healthcare workers. Posters of the artwork and a series of factsheets designed for those who work with Indigenous communities are free and can be ordered online.

► Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal
Developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council’s National Institute of Clinical Studies, the new national portal is a ‘one stop shop’ for clinicians, researchers, policy makers and consumers to access guidelines developed during the preceding five years for use in the Australian health care system. Click here to access the clinical guidelines portal.

► Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Knowledge Informing Transformation (KIT)
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) have developed five Evidence Based Practice resources to promote the use of evidence based practices in mental health:
Assertive Community Treatment
Co-Occurring Disorders: Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment
Supported Employment
Family Psychoeducation
Illness Management and Recovery

► Alcohol and other Drugs Workforce Development Issues and Imperatives: Setting the Scene
NCETA has published a new workforce development resource which explores and reflects the changing nature of D&A work. These resources build upon the body of work undertaken by NCETA in relation to WFD over the last decade. This report was prepared to inform the development of a National Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Development Strategy. Click here to read the report.

► Indigenous Dual Diagnosis Training Project: Training Evaluation Report, Dual Diagnosis Victoria
This evaluation report is part of a sixteen month project funded by the Mental Health and Drugs Division of the Department of Health in Victoria. Click here to download the report.
► Comorbidity Treatment Service Model Evaluation Report
The Final Report from the Comorbidity Treatment Service Model Evaluation, a project undertaken by the Australian Institute for Primary Care with funding from the Department of Health and Ageing, is now available. The aim of the project was to identify good practice and to increase the understanding of the impact of service structure on comorbidity treatment outcomes, and thereby facilitate improved treatment outcomes for people with comorbidity. Click here to download the report.

► ANCD Research Paper Indigenous specific alcohol and other drug interventions
Click here to download a copy of the paper.

► Substance Abuse in Canada: Concurrent Disorders
Substance Abuse in Canada is a biennial publication by the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse that highlights the key drug and alcohol issues in need of attention. Click here to download an issue focussing on concurrent disorders.