



ISSUE 5 • JULY 2012

focus

**LOOKING AFTER
YOUR MIND**
DRUG ACTION WEEK 2012

data here we come!
NMDS 2011-12

**LOOKING BACK
LOOKING FORWARD**
WRAP UP FROM WINTER SCHOOL
2012

Have your say
**AUSTRALIA21
REPORT &
DoHA Funding
Processes**



From the iPEN of the Executive Officer

It has been another month of big developments for QNADA and the NGO AOD Sector in Qld and it seems the next few months will provide more than a few challenges for us all. But as a wise QNADA board member once told me, every challenge brings with it opportunity!



Firstly, I'd like to congratulate Mitchell and the ADFQ team on the execution of another successful Winter School last month. This was (obviously) my first Winter School and I was impressed by both the calibre of speakers and the breadth of topics covered. In addition to our sponsorship and trade booth, we took the opportunity to host the QNADA Annual Breakfast on the morning of the second day and we were pleased with how many people from across the sector were able to join us. I take this opportunity to single out for special thanks the QNADA Board members who shared their time to participate as table hosts or speakers at the breakfast.

Last month we also attended the QCOSS Breakfast with the Minister for Communities. Minister Davies provided some insights into her views on her portfolio, and acknowledged the concern in the sector as to the implications of the current Queensland fiscal environment.

On 10 July, I had the opportunity to participate in the second stakeholder consultation held by the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD), which has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the National Drug Strategy (NDS). This year was the first time representatives from the non-government sector were included and I felt privileged to be invited as one of three jurisdictional peak body representatives. The day provided some interesting insights into the challenges faced in implementing the NDS, but I was also impressed with the level of determination expressed by both law enforcement and health department representatives in ensuring the NDS is more than just words on page. I took copious notes and will post these to the member consultation section of our website, so keep stopping by to check out what's new.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the QNADA focus and if there's anything I or any member of the QNADA team can do to be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Rebecca



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HIGH QUALITY, RELEVANT
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GROWTH OF THE
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Congratulations to the National Drug & Alcohol Awards 2012 recipients including We Help Ourselves (WHOs) for Excellence in Treatment and Support and the Salvation Army for Excellence in Research (joint award).

Up close with Mitchell Giles, CEO, Live Life Well



Mitchell Giles is the Secretary of the QNADA Board. It was, as a nurse in 1988 he commenced work in the AOD sector within an inpatient Detox Unit, going on to become the CEO of ADFQ. Mitchell is currently overseeing the merger of the Gold Coast Drug Council (GCDC), ADFQ and QDAC. And in between doing

all that ADFQ hosted another successful Winter School in June.

Who is Live Life Well?

Live Life Well is a new and separately incorporated entity. It provides support to each of the three founding organisations—Gold Coast Drug Council (commonly known as Miriaki), ADFQ and QDAC. All four organisations share a common Board and management structure.

What's been the best part so far?

Each of the organisations brings its strengths and its ways of working. I am excited by the passion and dedication of all staff to make this happen. Long-term this merger will ensure the sustainability of three very important service providers.

There's no doubt been challenges too...

It seems to me that a challenge in any merger of two, or in this case three parties, is integration and, most importantly, to value the contribution of each organisation and each person. That is perhaps easier said than done.

In the end I come back to a common purpose, behaving calmly and consistently, and acting from within an easily recognisable values framework. And that is just a starting point.

Did you have time to enjoy Winter School 2012?

Yes—the conference was a great chance to learn, catch up with friends, meet new people and network with colleagues from across Australia and even New Zealand.

Most of the presentations are now available from the conference website www.winterschool.info. We will be announcing next year's theme and dates very shortly.

**australian
winter
school 2012**

QNADA ANNUAL BREAKFAST 2012



QNADA Board Members—Mitchell Giles, Dennis Young (Chair), Geoff Manu, Trevor Hallewell (Deputy Chair), Gerard Byrne & John Bartlett. ABSENT: Ara Harathunian.

The QNADA Annual Breakfast was held on 6 June 2012 to co-incide with Winter School. In keeping with the theme of Winter School, our guest speakers—Geoff Manu, Niki Parry, John Bartlett and Dennis Young took the opportunity to showcase the achievements of the AOD sector over the last 25 years and discuss the challenges and opportunities for the future.

Thank you to those who were able to join us for the day, including David Crosbie (former CEO of ADCA and current CEO of the Community Council for Australia.)

QNADA will be hosting more events over the coming months so stay tuned.

Do you know someone who's dedication to the AOD sector should be recognised?

As a sector, we should take the time to recognise these tireless efforts in others. This monthly newsletter presents a great opportunity to do so. Take a minute to look around for that special person your service or another that you work closely with (often they are the person working quietly away) and contact us to do them in!



QNADA members across Queensland.

Do you know that 17 Hospital and Health Services (formerly known as Local Health and Hospital Networks) commenced from 1 July 2012? The HHSs are statutory bodies, governed by local Hospital and Health Boards, accountable to the local community and the Queensland Parliament.

Queensland Health will continue to provide health care in rural, regional and remote areas; undertake centralised planning of system-wide services, capital builds and other significant infrastructure projects and train the QH workforce.

Do you know The Chair and members of your local Hospital and Health Services? You can find out more at www.health.qld.gov.au/healthreform.

Do you know the community engagement officer at your Medical Local? Find out who you should be talking to at www.yourhealth.gov.au.

QNADA is building relationships with each of the Medicare Locals and Hospital and Health Services to ensure AOD issues aren't forgotten and to keep our members in the loop on funding and training opportunities in your local area.

Queensland Health Funding Arrangements

The funding announcement recently made by Minister Springborg, Minister for Health, on 29 June 2012 (available on the QNADA website) has created some significant concern within the NGO AOD sector. This concern is shared across the community sector.

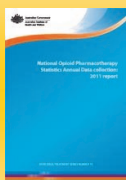
The QNADA Board met on 5 July 2012 to discuss the implications of the funding announcement and has sought a meeting with those conducting the review to highlight the importance of the NGO AOD sector in reducing demand on hospitals in Queensland.

Recently, Mark Henley, CEO of QCOSS and Chair of the Future's Forum, met with a Senior Advisor within the Office of the Premier and reported he was pleased to hear the message of the importance of delivering the best possible outcomes through enhanced frontline services. Importantly, there was an acknowledgement of the good work of the community services sector and the value it provides to individuals and the broader community. An important message conveyed was if it was felt that there was a loss of front line services in the sector, it needed to be communicated to the relevant Minister and Premier for their further consideration. A second announcement on the process is anticipated in the next few weeks.

QNADA will continue to keep member organisations up-to-date with further information as it becomes available. Member organisations can contact Rebecca on (07) 3010 6501 for further information.

Have you seen?

FROM THE AIHW —*National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data Collection (2011 Report)*. This report provides data snapshots of opioid dependent clients. It found that clients receiving pharmacotherapy for opioid dependence are getting older, with the proportion of those aged 30 and over increasing from 72 % in 2006 to 85% in 2011.



IS YOUR SERVICE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING OR UNDERTAKING AN ACCREDITATION PROCESS?

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND CAN PROVIDE SUPPORT IN IDENTIFYING AND SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE ACCREDITATION FRAMEWORK, AS WELL AS GETTING YOUR ORGANISATION READY FOR REVIEW.

CONTACT REBECCA ON (07) 3010 6501 TO DISCUSS ACCREDITATION FURTHER.



MEMBERSHIP WITH QNADA

The benefits of being a QNADA member are evolving as we grow. In the coming year we will be adding a number of new services, like offering support and advice to members in engaging with quality accreditation processes and exploring opportunities to support members with workforce development and networking.

To find out more about joining QNADA, view the membership page on our website at www.qnada.org.au or contact our offices on (07) 3010 6500.

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latest with DoHA ...

As you will be aware, DoHA has been recently confirming contract arrangements for both the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grant Fund and NGOTGP funding. The Federal Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Honorable Mark Butler MP, has acknowledged the concerns of the NGO AOD sector—most importantly that the process by which the funding rounds were conducted and the decision making processes could be improved.

Minister Butler has proposed to consult with the AOD peaks, together with the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA). Rebecca has been closely involved in the discussions to date. Whilst it is unlikely that this issue will be resolved immediately, it is important that the sector continue to take this opportunity to work with the government to ensure that the same issues do not arise again in 3 years time.

The first stage of this process was the submission of a brief ahead of Minister Buttler's attendance at the ADCA policy forum in Adelaide on 20 July. The QNADA board and federally funded members were asked to provide input into the QLD overview which is available on our website.

QNADA is committed to this process having a successful outcome and will be engaging with our member services over the next 12-18 months to ensure that all issues are addressed. Member organisations can contact Rebecca to discuss this issue further on (07) 3010 6501 or at Rebecca.MacBean@qnada.org.au.

Have you received your DoHA contract?

DoHA has recently issued a Communique regarding the process for the development of the new funding agreements for NGOTGP and SMSDGF (available on the QNADA website). In particular, please note the assurance that funding will be provided to cover the full project period, that is, from 1 July 2012.

For those organisations which have had Bruce Collins as their contact, Bruce is on leave until 17 July 2012. In his place, Martin Charters will be your primary contact for any queries regarding the development of the new funding agreements. Martin's contact details are phone (07) 3360 2786 and email martin.charters@health.gov.au or alternatively Kerri-Anne Reeves, Acting Assistant Director, Health Services Branch, Queensland State Office on Kerri-Anne.Reeves@health.gov.au (07) 3360 2918 is happy to assist.

Have you seen?

The *World Drug Report 2012* is produced annually by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. the report aims to improve understanding of the illicit drug problem and contribute to more international cooperation for countering it. The report is available at www.unodc.org.

Have your say

QNADA is committed to a cycle of continuous improvement in the assistance and support we provide to our member services. We're also committed to ensuring that your views on policy and emerging issues are accurately reflected. We can only do this if you let us know what you're thinking. To do this we've developed a page within the members only section, where we'll regularly upload discussion papers, asking for your input. This page will also be a place where we will post consolidated feedback or positions arisen at, following a consultation process. We strongly encourage you to have a look, discuss the papers around your office and provide feedback to us.

UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

ADCA Position Paper—Heroin and other Opioids

UNDER DEVELOPMENT—*thank you for your input to date!*

DoHA Funding Process 2012-2015

To assist processes for negotiating improved funding processes with Minister Butler, QNADA has developed an overview paper, outlining the current service landscape (including gaps) and detailed improved process outcomes. This is currently online for viewing.

AUSTRALIA21 REPORT

The Australia21 Report continues to be a point of discussion in the sector and the broader community. Last week ADCA CEO, David Templeman, supported calls for the Productivity Commission to investigate the decriminalisation of drugs, saying it is timely to consider this issue in an evidence-based, impartial, economically grounded review of a significant community health priority.

A recent opinion piece by Mr Mick Palmer, former Australian Federal Police Commissioner, is reproduced on the next page. A draft QNADA position paper will be released in August 2012 for further comment.

ANEX REPORT: Australian drug policy—harm reduction and 'new recovery'

Anex released a discussion paper in April 2012, which considers whether the policy shift in the US and UK towards 'new recovery' and the apparent shift in policy in Australia (which is evident in Victoria) towards adopting the 'new recovery' approach have wider implications for drug policy in Australia and in particular, what the implications for the long-standing policy of harm reduction might be. A draft QNADA position paper will be released in August 2012 for further comment.

Supporting Families

QNADA has also recently completed feedback to ADCA on a policy position paper - *Supporting families affected by alcohol and other drug use and policies governing those drugs*. Jump online to view this feedback. ADCA will release their finalised policy paper in August 2012.

QNADA Members Only page

Return to the QNADA Members Only page regularly as we'll be posting updates, with your feedback and comments informing policy positions and future directions for advancing the NGO AOD sector.



AFTER 33 YEARS, I CAN NO LONGER IGNORE THE EVIDENCE ON DRUGS

The reality ... drug law enforcement has had little impact on the Australian drug market.

As a 33-year police practitioner who was commissioner of the Australian Federal Police during the "tough on drugs" period, I fully understand the concerns of those who argue there is no reason to reconsider drug policy and I shared many of them until recent years. My police experience, in both the state/territory and federal jurisdictions, together with some 15 months practicing at the private bar as a defence barrister and several years experience in the drug and alcohol fields, has convinced me that I was wrong.

The reality is that, contrary to frequent assertions, drug law enforcement has had little impact on the Australian drug market. This is true in most countries in the world. In Australia the police are better resourced than ever, better trained than ever, more effective than ever and yet their impact on the drug trade, on any objective assessment, has been minimal.

In the *Herald* last week, the opposition health spokesman, Peter Dutton, asserted that "law enforcement does achieve significant results and is not yet at its peak of effectiveness". I feel compelled to respond, because frankly the evidence does not stack up. In Australia last year, 86 per cent of drug users said that obtaining heroin was "easy" or "very easy", while 93 per cent reported that obtaining hydroponic cannabis was "easy" or "very easy".

The price of street heroin and cocaine decreased by more than 80 per cent in the US and Europe in the past 20 years. Despite a huge investment by the US in drug law enforcement, northern Mexico has descended into a drug cartel battlefield, driven by the demand for illicit drugs within the US. At the local level, our young people can and do purchase illicit drugs with ease and generally with impunity. If this is an effective policy at work, I am not sure what failure would look like.

In any conversation, however, it will be important to acknowledge that there are no good guys or bad guys in the debate, only concerned guys. Too often emotion tends to drive public commentary, with proponents of either side branding their opponents as either "soft on drugs loopies" or "the prohibitionist Gestapo". Neither label is correct or adds value to the debate.

Mr Dutton argues that supporters of the present policy are just as well informed on the subject as those arguing for consideration of change. The truth is I have found it difficult to find informed commentators willing to support the present drug policy. The Australia 21 report was largely based on a roundtable discussion which included two former senior law enforcement officials, two former Commonwealth ministers for health, a former ACT chief

minister, two former state Labor premiers, many of Australia's leading drugs researchers and clinicians, parents who had lost children to drugs and two very impressive young people.

The report came to the same general conclusion as the 2011 report of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, which included former presidents of four countries, a former UN secretary-general, a former chairman of the US Federal Reserve and a former US secretary of state.

One of the advocates for drug law reform in South America is Otto Perez Molina, the President of Guatemala, who used to be in charge of drug law enforcement in his country.

We owe it to future generations to be realistic; to be prepared to listen and consider these commentaries and to examine the facts and the options.

Mr Dutton also cautions against the use of experience of other countries that have benefited from liberalising drug policy.

I ask a counter question: why, in the face of a poorly-performing policy, should Australia not attempt to benefit from the international drug policy experience, when we try to learn from international policy advances and errors in every other area?

The more liberal approach to drug policy in Switzerland and Portugal in the past 20 years appears to have achieved many benefits with no serious adverse effects.

In contrast, drug overdose deaths are high and rising in Sweden, one of the last developed countries that champions a punitive drug policy.

In recent decades, Australian governments have relied heavily on drug law enforcement (while providing more limited funding for health and social responses), yet the drug market has continued to expand. Around the world, drug production has increased, drug consumption has increased, the number of new kinds of drugs has increased, drugs are readily available, drug prices have decreased and the purity of street drugs has increased. It's time the community and its leaders had the courage to look at this issue with fresh eyes.

Author: Mick Palmer, AO APM,
is a former commissioner of the Australian Federal Police and
is a director of the Australia 21 think tank.

June 7, 2012 Sydney Morning Herald - Opinion piece



QNADA Members Only page

Member organisations should have recently received a new log on and password to the Members Only section. If you haven't or have issues logging on please contact Gunnar on (07) 3010 6504.

It's not just EOFY... it's

NMDS data collection time!

In 2009-10, 67 NGO service providers contributed to the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services - National Minimum Data Set (AODTS-NMDS). The AODTS-NMDS is a nationally agreed set of common data items from both government and NGO service agencies for clients registered for alcohol and other drug treatment. This national collection is a subset of the information on alcohol and other drug treatment services that is routinely collected by States and Territories to monitor treatment services within their jurisdictions. Contributing to the AODTS-NMDS is important to ensure that an accurate snapshot of the sector is available, both in Queensland and across Australia.



Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set 2011-12: specifications and collection manual is available on the AIHW website (www.aihw.gov.au). For the coming reporting year (2012-13), the AIHW is requesting that agencies provide an additional piece of information (referred to as the SLK identifier) Statistical data linkage refers to the bringing together of data from different sources to gain a greater understanding of a situation or individual from the combined (or linked) dataset. This facilitates a better understanding of the patterns of service use by groups of clients for research, statistical or policy analysis, planning and evaluation purposes.

Have your say

Have you completed the QNADA Information and Technology Survey? We would appreciate you taking the time to provide QNADA with information which will assist in continuing to improve CADDs. We undertake to provide you with proposals for system improvements as a result of this survey and continue the discussion on how CADDs can be of benefit to your service. The survey is available at:
www.qnada.org.au



QNADA can assist member agencies with data collection and providing your data to Queensland Health, with your permission and in collaboration with your agency project manager.

The deadline for submission of your AODTS-NMDS data to QNADA is **3 August 2012**. If you have any questions or require assistance with collating your AODTS-NMDS data please contact Gunnar on (07) 3010 6504.

Have you seen?

THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (AIHW) has released its biennial report: *Australia's Health (2012)* which showed that Employment within the health services industries sector continues to grow at a faster rate than total employment, with 737,400 workers employed in 2010.



Improved Services Initiative

The ISI project commenced with a key focus on improving the treatment of those requiring complex case management to address co-existing AOD substance misuse and mental health issues.

This month the Improved Services Strategic Working Group met for the first time in 2012. As DoHA are now confirming funding arrangements, the group had a successful meeting sharing the successes of the last four years and how we could work together to support the state-wide implementation and roll-out of the learnings to our member services. You may recall that last month the Gold Coast Drug Council Dual Diagnosis Co-ordination project, developed as part of the ISI project was featured in the newsletter.

Currently the working consists of representatives from QuIHN, ADFQ, Gold Coast Drug Council, Brisbane Youth Service, YETI and DRUG ARM. If your service is considering undertaking service and system improvement, Marguerite would love to hear from you to discuss the opportunity for you to join the working group and can be contacted on (07) 3010 6503.

QNADA's also excited that Belinda Chelius (who had previously worked with QuIHN) is joining our team to support the ISI project on placement for her social work master studies. Belinda's experience will be a great asset to QNADA in supporting member services in forming strategic partnerships and linkages, service improvement and support, workforce development and developing information and resources.

The development of a resources inventory will be a key priority for the project and will be available for all member organisations to utilise. Throughout the development process there will be opportunities for member organisations to provide input to ensure that QNADA is supporting your organisation to meet its' priorities.

Co-morbidity resources

QH Dual Diagnosis Guidelines

www.health.qld.gov.au/atods

Drug Action Week Fact Sheets

www.drugactionweek.org.au

Dual Diagnosis Toolkit (Mental Health and Substance Abuse)

www.qnada.org.au

QNADA Co-morbidity Seminar Series

www.qnada.org.au

Date Claimers

23 July 2012

QCOSS State Conference

28 July 2012

World Hepatitis Day— Love Your Liver

6-8 August 2012

WA Drug & Alcohol Conference 2012— Making it Happen: Improving Services through Collaboration

31 August 2012

International Overdose Awareness Day

9 September 2012

International Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day



**Drug Action Week 2013
funding of \$2.6M**

*New funding for sports clubs
Responsible Drinking program*

**COMMONWEALTH ALLOCATES \$24M FOR DRUG
AND ALCOHOL RESEARCH**

1.8 Million
Queenslanders will use
illicit substances
in their lifetime

Approx 23000
will seek treatment
in any given year

more than 50%
will seek treatment in
the NGO AOD Sector

Alcohol
Cannabis most
often cited as the
primary drug
of concern

Queensland Health Funded the
NGO sector
22 Million Dollars
in 2010-2011

in 2010-2011 Successful treatment

in the NGO AOD sector saved the
Queensland Government

\$242million

qnada
QUEENSLAND NETWORK OF ALCOHOL
AND OTHER DRUG AGENCIES LTD.



...QNADA displayed this poster at
parliament house as part of the
Drug Action Week
display



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