National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction

Annual Report 2010-2011
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NCETA is an internationally recognised research Centre that works as a catalyst for change in the alcohol and other drug (AOD) field. We are particularly well known for our work in relation to:

1. Workforce development (WFD)
2. Workplace AOD issues
3. Translation of research into practice.

NCETA is a collaborative venture between Flinders University, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and the South Australian Department of Health. NCETA is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing through the National Drug Strategy and by the South Australian Department of Health. It is located within the School of Medicine at Flinders University in South Australia.

NCETA is one of three national research centres in the AOD field. The other Centres are the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) located in Sydney and the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) located in Perth.

Our Principles
NCETA is committed to the following principles:

- Harm minimisation
- Leadership
- High quality research
- National and international research
- Ethical research
- Conducting research based on sound theoretical models
- A multidisciplinary approach
- Working in partnership
- Reciprocal collaboration with key stakeholders
- Ensuring that Indigenous research upholds the values outlined in the NH&MRC Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research.

Our Mission
1. To build the capacity of health, human services and related sectors and their workforces to respond to AOD-related issues and problems.
2. To undertake innovative research that will contribute to best practice by policy makers and practitioners.
Our Aims and Goals

NCETA aims to:
1. Provide leadership on issues related to the AOD workforce
2. Undertake high quality, innovative research on AOD-related issues
3. Build the knowledge base and raise awareness of workforce development and its implications for AOD strategy
4. Identify and promote best practice in building the capacity of, and managing the AOD workforce.

Our goals are to:
1. Increase our research programs in the AOD-related field
2. Increase our research impact
3. Expand our research funding capacity
4. Increase our research products including peer reviewed publications and reports
5. Expand our research collaboration to include a broad range of stakeholders and partners
6. Increase our capacity to develop and disseminate resources for the AOD-related field
7. Improve our capacity to provide timely and appropriate advice to key stakeholders
8. Increase our capacity to mentor new researchers and Indigenous researchers.

Our Role

NCETA works in partnership with a range of stakeholders in the AOD-related field to build the capacity of health and human services sectors, organisations and individuals to respond to AOD-related issues.

This may include, but is not limited to the following:
- Consulting with key stakeholders and representative bodies
- Coordinating or contributing to formal partnerships
- Providing project management and evaluation
- Conducting, commissioning or collaborating on research
- Translating and disseminating research findings
- Assisting stakeholders to focus on AOD-related workforce development
- Identifying, developing and implementing prevention strategies for:
  - Workplaces
  - Young people
  - Schools.

Our Stakeholders

NCETA engages with a wide range of organisations and workers who deal with AOD-related issues in the government, non-government and community-controlled sectors. These include:
- AOD specialist workers
- Health workers (including medical practitioners, nurses, psychologists)
- Volunteer workers engaged in a range of community groups (e.g., parent and family groups, church groups, counselling support groups)
- Police and law enforcement professionals
- Welfare professionals (including social workers, youth workers and other community-based workers)
- Education sector including teachers and other education professionals
- Child protection sector
- Academics
- Workplaces and industries
- Indigenous AOD workers
- Governments.
From the Chairperson

I am pleased to present NCETA’s Annual Report for 2010-11. NCETA has continued its tradition of excellent contributions to the development of both the generic and specialist alcohol and other drug workforces through its research, knowledge transfer and dissemination activities. The Centre’s focus on its original research program together with the dissemination of research findings was strengthened throughout this period. NCETA has further reinforced its position as a leader in innovative research on alcohol- and drug-related matters.

Beyond its research role, NCETA has also developed a range of practical resources and tools for the AOD and related workforces. Resources such as the Indigenous Wellbeing Kit and the Family Sensitive Policy and Practice Toolkit also embedded workforce development research and evaluation as the Centre’s core business. These resources are highly valued by the generalist and specialist alcohol and other drug fields and provide a unique contribution to the AOD and human services fields.

NCETA successfully executed a wide range of projects during 2010-11. The research undertaken and the resources developed could not have been completed without the input of many stakeholders and contributors. I would like to acknowledge all those who completed submissions, participated in interviews, surveys and project reference groups, and provided ongoing support and advice to the NCETA team. Of particular note are the members of NCETA’s Board of Management. NCETA is indebted to these members for their commitment and continual support which has played a significant role in ensuring NCETA’s success.

I offer a warm thank you to members of NCETA’s Board and look forward to working with them in ensuring NCETA’s continued success in the future.
This was a very busy period for the Centre. A significant number of research projects were concluded, important grants won, new projects commenced, papers produced and conference presentations delivered.

Over the past few years, NCETA has increasingly focussed on consolidating its research role in relation to AOD workforce development and related areas by conducting research to identify salient contextual issues and disseminating research findings. NCETA’s expanded research program includes a greater emphasis on original studies and secondary data analysis and undertaking a diverse array of quantitative and qualitative research initiatives.

NCETA is now also developing a broader program of translational research that involves undertaking research that will contribute to best practice by policy makers and practitioners by identifying existing research evidence, conducting new and innovative research and undertaking translational research.
New Projects

The development of the National Pharmaceutical Misuse Strategy (subsequently renamed as a ‘Framework’) formed an important part of the Centre’s work program during this reporting period. There was a high level of national interest in this issue and NCETA assembled a strong multi-disciplinary team to undertake the project. Burgeoning issues in relation to the structure of the service delivery system to deal with growing numbers of pharmaceutical drug misusers and the issue of chronic pain were highlighted during the development of the Strategy.

As part of NCETA’s National Cannabis Prevention Information Centre (NCPIC) related activities, NCETA undertook a national survey of Registered Training Organisations that offer AOD related courses at the Certificate IV and Diploma levels. In doing so, a register of trainers in the AOD field was created. In addition, the extent of cannabis coverage in these courses was identified.

Completed Projects & Resource Development

Several research projects were completed during this reporting period and important resources subsequently produced. Key projects completed included:

1. Family Sensitive Policy and Practice. A national survey of AOD specialist frontline workers and treatment agency managers was conducted to identify service providers’ and managers’ perceptions about facilitators and inhibitors in relation to building the capacity of specialist services to be ‘family centred’. Results from the survey were published in the report, ‘Taking First Steps: What Family Sensitive Practice Means for Alcohol and Other Drug Workers: A Survey Report’. This project explored the extent to which alcohol and other drug workers consider the parental role of their clients and take into account the needs of clients’ children. The project was undertaken in response to the growing recognition of the complex relationship between alcohol and drug misuse and child wellbeing.

Building upon the findings from the survey, NCETA developed a comprehensive practical resource kit: ‘For Kids’ Sake: A Workforce Development Resource for Family Sensitive Policy and Practice in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector’. This package was designed to provide workforce development/capacity building knowledge and strategies for AOD interventions that are sensitive to the needs of, and involve, families and children.

2. Indigenous Worker Wellbeing. This national project involved a literature review, consultations with Indigenous workers (35 individual consultations and 17 focus groups), and a survey of 184 Indigenous workers, 108 non-Indigenous workers and two unknown. Consultation findings were triangulated with data from the online survey. Findings were disseminated through a suite of resources including three reports, an Indigenous WFD checklist, Talking Stones, “Feeling Deadly” cards, peer reviewed publications, and case studies.

Building on the findings of this initial research project, NCETA was funded to develop further Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drug Workers’ Wellbeing “Working Deadly/Feeling Deadly” resources. These resources will be developed in consultation with several key Indigenous advisors.

3. Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Workforce Development in the Community Services and Health Industries. This research project examined the role of the vocational education and training sector.
in addressing the workforce development needs of the alcohol and other drug sector of the health and community services industries. The capacity of VET to respond to recruitment challenges, and the quality and adequacy of AOD specific training provided by the VET sector was assessed through a survey of managers of alcohol and other drugs service agencies and an analysis of student enrolment data.

4. **A National Alcohol Data Knowledgebase (NADK).** The NADK comprised over 125 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) derived from secondary data analyses undertaken by NCETA, newly developed data standards to inform consistent reporting of alcohol data, and details of all relevant alcohol-related datasets.

This project involved establishing the number and range of existing alcohol-related datasets potentially available, examining the information that these datasets contain, and assessing the quality of the data contained in the datasets. An Expert Working Group consisting of policy makers, alcohol data custodians and alcohol researchers was established to determine selection criteria and assess the datasets against these criteria. A comprehensive examination was undertaken of each dataset's content, methods, and approaches in order to assess concordance with these criteria. Of the 42 potential datasets identified and scrutinised, 20 met the quality criteria established.

Secondary analyses of the 20 selected datasets was undertaken to inform the development of the FAQs. The purpose of the FAQs was to provide information on alcohol use in Australia in a consistent, comparable and 'user friendly' manner. The FAQs cover a range of topics including: general alcohol information, Australian drinking patterns, youth drinking, alcohol and health, the social and economic costs of alcohol, alcohol and crime, and treatment for alcohol problems.

Identification of the most reliable national alcohol-related datasets provides a useful aid to researchers, practitioners, policy makers and public commentators, and contributes to development of the evidence base to inform alcohol-related policy and practice in Australia. The identification of gaps and limitations in current datasets will also help improve alcohol-related data collection and appropriate data utilisation into the future.

This project is ongoing and will be expanded to include illicit drugs.

5. **Liquor Licensing: A National Review of Legislation.** This project involved a review of liquor licensing legislation across all states and territories in Australia. It identified similarities and differences in legislation, administrative regimes, and enforcement practices. Interviews were also conducted with police in every jurisdiction to ascertain their views about the benefits and/or impediments of the legislation, powers granted by the legislation, their relationship with the licensing and administrative bodies, as well as what changes were needed to improve the legislation. The review enabled the identification and promotion of best enforcement tools for use in the development of liquor licensing legislation. The initial 500 page report was subsequently repackaged into smaller reports for dissemination to diverse audiences.

Continued over page
NCETA’s national and international reputation as an innovative leader in alcohol and other drug policy, workforce development and workplace interventions also expanded with NCETA invited to provide expert advice to several major bodies.

NCETA was invited to contribute to the development of the new National Drug Strategy (NDS) 2010-15 which now places greater emphasis on workforce development. As a consequence of the increased prominence given to workforce development, NCETA was requested by several bodies to give advice, support, and input into workforce development policies and targets, and NCETA’s workforce development resources were in noticeably heavy demand.

The Skills Training Board commended NCETA’s excellent workforce development work during the 2010 launch of the Health and Community Services Workforce Action Plan.

NCETA discussed Australia’s approaches to treating alcohol problems with representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Justice, provided input and advice into workforce development initiatives implemented in the United Kingdom, and conducted a 2-day national Workplace Symposium on alcohol and other drugs in the workplace. The Symposium showcased Australian initiatives and NCETA’s research and resources in this area, and provided an opportunity to share experiences with Finnish colleagues about alcohol and other drug workplace interventions.

NCETA continued to expand and consolidate its workplace initiatives, and the Centre received numerous requests to provide workplace-related input. These included two day workshops for the SA Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, TAFE NSW, and invitations to undertake NCETA workplace consultations with groups such as SafeWork SA and Svitzer (an international shipping company).

Overall, 2010-11 was a period of very positive progress for the Centre. I would like to thank staff, Board Members, collaborative organisational partnerships, and everyone who participated in NCETA’s projects for their positive contributions and commitment to NCETA’s continued growth.
1. **Professor Paul Worley**  
Dean, School of Medicine  
Flinders University

2. **Dr David Filby**  
Executive Director, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations  
South Australian Department of Health

3. **Professor Ann Roche**  
Director, National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction  
Flinders University

4. **Dr Ken Pidd**  
Deputy Director, Research  
National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction  
Flinders University

5. **Mr Allan Trifonoff**  
Deputy Director, Programs  
National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction  
Flinders University

6. **Dr John Howard**  
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), University of New South Wales

7. **Simon Cotterell**  
Assistant Secretary, Drug Strategy Branch Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing  
(not pictured)

8. **Mr Darius Everett**  
Director, Research, International and Policy Section, Drug Strategy Branch Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing  
(not pictured)

9. **The Honorable Trish Worth**

10. **Daniel Flaherty**  
Director, Finance, Financial Services Division Flinders University

11. **Professor Paul Arbon**  
Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery Flinders University

12. **Dr Adam Tomison**  
Director Australian Institute of Criminology

13. **Mr Scott Wilson**  
State Director Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council South Australia  
(not pictured)

14. **Mr Chris Milton**  
Director, National Drug Strategy Analysis Unit Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing  
(not pictured)

15. **Mr Joe Upston**  
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing  
(not pictured)

16. **Dr Tahnya Donaghy**  
Executive Director, Policy & Intergovernmental Relations South Australian Department of Health  
(not pictured)
Staff Members

Management Team
1. **Professor Ann Roche**  
   Director
2. **Dr Ken Pidd**  
   Deputy Director, (Research)
3. **Mr Allan Trifonoff**  
   Deputy Director, (Programs)

Senior Research Team
4. **Professor Nicole Lee**  
   Senior Researcher
5. **Dr Samantha Battams**  
   Research Officer
6. **Dr Clarissa Hughes**  
   Senior Research Officer
7. **Ms Vinita Duraisingam**  
   Project Manager/Psychologist
8. **Mr Roger Nicholas**  
   Senior Project Manager
9. **Mr Corey Taylor**  
   Statistician
10. **Mr Michael White**  
    Senior Project Manager
Research Assistants

11. Ms Liz Aber
    Research Assistant

12. Ms Rachel Andrews
    Research Assistant

13. Ms Amanda Carne
    Research Assistant

14. Ms Suzana Freegard
    Research Assistant

15. Ms Fiona Gleadle
    Research Assistant

Project and Administration Team

16. Ms Stacey Appleton
    Finance Officer

17. Ms Karen Brandon
    Administration Assistant

18. Ms Lindsay Breugem
    Research Officer

19. Ms Tania Steenson
    Project Officer

20. Ms Paula Wilson
    Project Officer
During 2010–2011, NCETA successfully tendered for numerous externally funded projects. Accessing external funding extends the program of work and secure the longevity of the Centre; ensures research conducted is reflective of current community concerns and directions in the AOD field; and provides valuable opportunities for NCETA to collaborate with external organisations, both public and private.

A table detailing competitive funds obtained during the July 2010–June 2011 period is shown below together with a table displaying NCETA’s core funding.

### Table 1 Core Funding Received 2010–2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCETA’s June 2010</th>
<th>July 2011</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGDHA ($)</td>
<td>SA DoH ($)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$535,772.00</td>
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</table>

### Table 2 Grants 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Total Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy</td>
<td>Victorian Department of Health</td>
<td>$214,875.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving child and parent sentivity practices among alcohol and other drug worker</td>
<td>Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF)</td>
<td>$19,985.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement in Australia - Liquor Licensing Legislation</td>
<td>MCDS - CSFM</td>
<td>$75,470.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Workforce Development Cannabis Enhancement Project: Systems change model</td>
<td>NCPIC</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of an Indigenous Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Worker Wellbeing Resource Kit</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Health &amp; Ageing</td>
<td>$151,160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Voluntary Smoking Restrictions in Outdoor Hospitality Venues</td>
<td>SA Department of Health</td>
<td>$156,800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of national minimum standards for service delivery for a national alcohol and drug telephone counselling service</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Health &amp; Ageing</td>
<td>$114,545.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$832,835.54</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Areas

NCETA conducted a comprehensive program of work aimed at integrating the following three areas of action:

1. Research
2. Resource development
3. Research dissemination.

These areas of action are intended to strengthen the capacity of the alcohol and other drug (AOD) workforce; promote evidence based best practice; and, identify and respond to emerging trends. Throughout the 2010–2011 reporting period, NCETA undertook a range of projects aligned to the following key strategic program areas:

- Workforce Development/Capacity Building
- Innovative Research
- Law Enforcement
- Identification of and Responses to Workplace Issues
- Indigenous Worker Wellbeing
- Young People.
Workforce Development (WFD) is a multi-faceted, systemic approach to building the capacity and sustainability of the alcohol and other drugs workforce. It offers a comprehensive way of thinking about and responding to the complex interplay of issues that affect the specialist and non-specialist workforce.

A workforce development approach means moving the focus from individual workers to organisations and systems. It shifts the emphasis from skills deficit to systems enhancement.

Workforce Development involves an emphasis on individual, organisation, and systems. Whilst acknowledging the importance of enhancing skills, it places a central focus on systems enhancement.

National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy

Funding
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Staff Members
Ann Roche
Roger Nicholas
Nicole Lee

Deliverables
A National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy endorsed by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments.

Description
In May 2010, a consortium led by NCETA successfully bid for a project to develop Australia’s National Pharmaceutical Drugs Misuse Strategy. Consortium members were Professor Ann Roche; Associate Professor Nicole Lee; Allan Trifonoff; Roger Nicholas; Tania Steenson; Professor Michael Kidd; Professor James Dunbar; Associate Professor Robert Ali; Professor Jason White; Dr Penny Briscoe; Mr Colin Brown; and Ms Carol Bennett. Ms Anne Lawrance is a technical advisor to the Consortium. The Project is being managed by the Victorian Department of Health. A Steering Committee and an expert advisory group also informed the project.

The project commenced in November 2010. A literature review was published, and a Discussion Paper for the consultation fora was developed. Consultation fora occurred in each state and territory, and with other key individuals and groups. NCETA also received 46 written submissions in response to a public call.

In keeping with the complex nature of pharmaceutical drug misuse, the draft strategy adopted a multi-layered response, which addresses issues such as prescribing and dispensing practices, health literacy issues, and regulation and monitoring.

The strategy is due for release in 2013.

Publications
Registered Training Organisation Project

Funding
National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC)
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Collaboration
NCPIC

Staff Members
Ann Roche
Allan Trifonoff
Michael White
Paula Wilson

Deliverables
Survey report and compilation of courses provided by Technical and Further Education Institutes (TAFEs), and industry based and private registered training organisations (RTOs).

Description
The increasing emphasis on minimum qualifications in the alcohol and drug field has created an imperative for the provision of appropriate qualifications to meet this demand for increased professionalism and elevated skill levels in this workforce, and there has been a growing interest in the provision of formal qualifications in the alcohol and drug area.

A national survey of training providers involved in the delivery of alcohol and other drug (AOD) qualifications through Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) across Australia was undertaken to examine the content and delivery of AOD qualifications, the demand for and availability of these courses, and to develop a national database of RTOs that delivered these qualifications. Specific attention was given to the extent to which cannabis content was addressed within these qualifications. Training providers’ interest in offering input into the development of cannabis-specific training and associated resources was also ascertained.

To-date there has been little readily available information about what alcohol and drug courses are available and who provides them across Australia. To address this gap, the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) examined the availability of vocationally accredited training qualifications in the alcohol and other drugs field, and developed a comprehensive database of providers of nationally accredited qualifications. The database presents up-to-date details of the training providers of alcohol and drug related vocational education qualifications, as at 30 August 2011 and includes details of the courses offered by publically funded Technical and Further Education Institutes (TAFEs) and industry based and private registered training organisations (RTOs).

Project Outcomes
Most training was provided by public TAFEs and concentrated in New South Wales and Victoria and face-to-face delivery was the most common training format. Respondents identified:

- a need to improve the standard of all qualifications delivered to the AOD field and increase collaboration among training providers
- the provision of forums and other forms of professional development to facilitate training improvement and improve linkages between training providers and service providers
- improved training pathways and credit transfer between VET and higher education providers
- the need to reduce generic units and address comorbidity/mental health issues in AOD qualifications, as well as provide specific guidance on the amount of coverage to be given to particular drugs, including cannabis
- a dearth of sufficiently qualified trainers in rural and remote areas and a need to ensure trainers received on-going professional development
- greater access to online or distance professional development for trainers
• the need to ensure training was relevant to and accessible for the diverse needs and backgrounds of students
• the decentralisation of RPL procedures
• a demand to develop national AOD-specific RPL guidelines that stipulated key knowledge and skills.

Publications

Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Workforce Development in the Community Services and Health Industries

Funding
National Centre for Vocational and Educational Research (NCVER)

Staff Members
Ann Roche
Ken Pidd
Amanda Carne

Deliverables
Report
Journal articles
Conference Presentations

Description
NCETA was awarded a competitive grant from NCVER in 2009 to examine vocational education and training (VET) as a workforce development strategy for the community services and health industries. The final report was published in November 2010.

This study surveyed alcohol and other drug treatment agency managers about their attitudes, opinions, and satisfaction with VET qualifications in alcohol and other drug work, as well as VET qualifications as a minimum standard for working in the alcohol and other drugs sector. Data analyses were also undertaken to identify demographic profiles of students enrolled in alcohol and other drug courses at both the VET and undergraduate level, as well as examine pathways between the VET and higher education sectors.

Project Outcomes
Findings from the study indicated that most managers preferred specialist workers to have either higher education qualifications with explicit alcohol and other drugs content, or relevant higher education qualifications with additional accredited or non-accredited alcohol and other drugs training. In addition, most managers believed that the specialist workers they employed required more alcohol and other drugs training and supported a compulsory minimum alcohol and other drugs qualification for workers.

While VET qualifications were seen as ‘sufficient’ for a minimum qualification, managers suggested that VET could be improved by placing greater emphasis on:
• counselling
• intervention
• mental health/alcohol and other drugs comorbidity issues
• provision of clinical placements.
VET plays an important role in the provision of entry-level qualifications and has the potential to meet the increasingly complex needs of alcohol and other drugs workforce by providing ongoing training and higher-level qualifications at the vocational graduate level. In order to meet the needs of the alcohol and other drug workforce, more effective linkages and relationships between the VET sector and the alcohol and other drugs sector need to be developed.

**Publications**


**Guidelines for Australia’s Alcohol and Other Drug Telephone Services**

**Funding**

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

**Staff Members**

Ann Roche  
Ken Pidd  
Nicole Lee  
Tania Steenson

**Collaborating Partners**

Associate Professor Keith Evans  
Dr Lynette Cusack

**Deliverables**

A guide for Australia’s Alcohol and Other Drug Telephone Counselling, Advice, Information and Referral Services

**Description**

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) was engaged by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) to develop a guide for the provision of quality services for Australia’s alcohol and other drug telephone information, referral, and counselling services.

The guide was developed in consultation with jurisdictions and provides a benchmark for states and territories to assist them to offer consistent telephone services, whilst recognising that there may be minor variations between services within each jurisdiction. The guide will provide a basis for jurisdictions to appraise their existing policies and service standards and is designed to assist in the provision of appropriate, high quality services to the community.

**Project Outcomes**

A guide was developed and delivered to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. A copy of the report can be downloaded from NCETA’s website www.nceta.flinders.edu.au
NCETA has undertaken unique primary research, large scale secondary data analyses, cost analyses, literature reviews, and theoretical examinations of causal and contributory factors involved in alcohol and drug problems.

**Beverage Types and Risky Drinking Behaviours**

**Funding**

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Fund (AERF)

NCETA Core funding

**Staff Members**

Ann Roche
Ken Pidd
Petra Bywood
Suzana Freegard

**Deliverables**

Report

**Description**

Alcohol consumption, in particular risky drinking behaviours, is an issue of topical consideration in Australia. In addition, there is interest in the role played by specific beverages, particularly ready to drink (RTD) beverages, in harms associated.

NCETA investigated the association between specific beverage types and risky drinking behaviours by undertaking a secondary analysis of the national Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS). The analysis aimed to identify the beverages associated with risky drinking, examine characteristics of population groups in relation to beverage type and risky drinking, produce new and unique data, and elucidate the relationship between beverage types and patterns of risky drinking by age, gender, and other demographic variables.

**Project Outcomes**

Findings presented descriptive statistics on consumption of different alcohol beverage types among Australians aged 14 years and older, and drinkers alcohol consumption patterns were categorised into two discrete levels of risk for short-term harm (low risk and risky) using the 2009 NHMRC guidelines for alcohol use. While most Australians who drank alcoholic beverages did so at low risk for acute alcohol-related harm, RTDs were one of the main beverages of choice for young people, especially those who drank heavily and frequently. Other preferred beverages included regular strength beer, bottled spirits, bottled wine and RTDs.

**Publications**

National Alcohol Data Knowledgebase (NADK)

Funding
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Staff Members
Ann Roche
Ken Pidd
Corey Taylor
Suzana Freegard

Collaboration
Richard Cooke, DASSA

Technical Reference Group Members

Deliverables
Design and construct an electronic template for the dissemination of alcohol-related information
Develop national data standards and procedures
Import data and information into the National Alcohol Knowledgebase
Undertake relevant secondary data analyses Report

Description
To-date, Australia has produced a large number of important, but disparate, datasets in relation to alcohol. This project sought to overcome the limitations found in already produced datasets by coordinating the data collected, reconciling anomalies, and increasing utilisation of information by reducing access issues. The National Alcohol Knowledge Database and the accompanying data reporting standards aimed to present alcohol-related information obtained from select datasets in a consistent, comparable and ‘user friendly’ manner.

A set of data standards was developed to standardise the approach to alcohol data management. These standards were informed by a range of key stakeholders and experts who provided guidance and advice on a range of matters. These standards also provided an agreed mechanism for reporting alcohol data that is consistent with both current and previous iterations of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) alcohol guidelines. Applying the standards will allow all Australian alcohol data to reflect the current NHMRC guidelines and provide a mechanism by which to present data in a consistent and comparable manner.

Project Outcomes
This project is complete and has been delivered to the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Two resources have been developed from this project:

The Alcohol data reporting standards report set out the standards and processes involved in the development of the alcohol data reporting standards. The initial data reporting standards addressed four key issues: age, abstainers, quantity and frequency of consumption, and risky consumption. The adoption of alcohol data reporting standards will go a considerable way towards ensuring greater consistency between the large and diverse number of alcohol-related datasets, optimise the utility of these datasets, and minimise potential confusion that can stem from the varied reporting methods that currently exist.

The second report is Australia’s key alcohol-related datasets. This report provided an overview of Australian alcohol-related datasets. These datasets cover a diverse range of areas including health, social welfare, law enforcement, and education among others, and can be difficult to locate, access, and utilise. In addition, relevant alcohol-related data is often contained in other larger and more detailed datasets such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey. The development of this resource serves was an important resource to assist the development of an alcohol research agenda.
**Publications**


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**Evaluation of Voluntary Smoking Restrictions in Outdoor Hospitality Venues**

**Funding**

South Australian Department of Health

**Staff Members**

Ann Roche
Allan Trifonoff
Rachel Andrew
Suzana Freegard
Tania Steenson

**Deliverables**

Report

**Description**

Following an announcement by the SA Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, NCETA was awarded a grant from Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA) in May 2011 to undertake a 12 month evaluation of the effectiveness of voluntary initiatives implemented by the hospitality industry to reduce smoking in outdoor eating and drinking areas in South Australia.

The evaluation methodology was developed in consultation with DASSA and representatives of the three hospitality industry groups, the Australian Hotels Association (SA), Restaurant and Catering SA and Clubs SA. The research design incorporated a mixed-method approach using both qualitative and quantitative measures including pre- and post-implementation measures to assess change during the evaluation period. The project involved collecting baseline data and using this data to identify the venues which have implemented smoke-free outdoor eating and drinking areas over the 12 month period. The NCETA team will undertake on-site direct observations and interviews with venue managers, staff and patrons. The data collected from the four components of the project will be synthesised to identify the extent to which the selected hospitality venues have voluntarily implemented smoking restrictions in outdoor eating and drinking areas between October 2011 and October 2012.

**Project Outcomes**

A final report will be developed and submitted to DASSA for consideration by the Minister.
Australian studies and crime statistics have shown that operational police spend a large proportion of their time responding to alcohol and drug-related harm. Even though police frequently manage intoxicated people, or encourage those with drug dependency into treatment, along with dealing with crimes that often involve illicit drugs, there is a lack of exposure to drug education and training for police and law enforcement officers.

As such, understanding the workforce development needs of police and law enforcement officers has become increasingly important.

National Review of Liquor Licensing Legislation in Australia

Funding
SA Police  
MCDS

Staff Members
Rachel Andrew  
Tania Steenson  
Allan Trifonoff

Collaboration
SA Police

Deliverables
Final Report

Description
This innovative research project examined liquor licensing legislation across all states and territories in Australia with a particular focus on enforcement provisions. It identified similarities and differences in legislation, administrative regimes, and enforcement practices, and ascertained examples of good practice across these areas.

These issues were examined from a law enforcement perspective. Interviews were undertaken with key police personnel with a role in the enforcement of liquor licensing legislation.

A semi-structured interview protocol was used to guide interviews with police personnel in every Australian jurisdiction. The interviews ascertained police views about the benefits and/ or impediments of the legislation, powers granted by the legislation, their relationship with the licensing and administrative bodies, as well as what changes were needed to improve the legislation and ensure that police were able to adequately perform their role in preventing and reducing alcohol related crime and associated harms.

Interviews were also conducted with a small number of liquor licensing authority personnel and other key informants with an interest in liquor licensing legislation.

In addition, the NCETA research team also obtained data about the type of alcohol-related crime data that is collected by each police jurisdiction.

This project built upon the focus on alcohol related issues at the national, policy, strategic and operational levels, and was designed to provide an insight into the perspectives of a range of stakeholders, especially police, concerning the capacity of existing liquor licensing legislation and associated administrative and judicial structures to reduce acute harms associated with alcohol consumption in Australia.
Project Outcomes

Three reports, a CD-Rom, and an executive summary were developed from this project.

The first report presented the background and introduction to the project, the methodology, findings of the literature review, and a summary of the legislation and associated structures in each Australian jurisdiction.

The second report outlined the liquor licensing legislation and arrangements in place in all Australian jurisdictions.

Part three presented the major findings from the consultations with police personnel.

Reports


Publications

Alcohol and other drug-related harm in the workplace is complex. There is no ‘one size fits all’ response.

It is recognised that the majority of Australians who use alcohol and other drugs are employed, that workplaces are not immune from alcohol and other drug use, and that alcohol and other drug use can influence the productivity, safety and wellbeing in the workplace.

NCETA is recognised as a leader in this field and has produced numerous resources which assist workplaces in responding to alcohol- and other drug-related harm in the workplace. Demand for resources and staff presentations continues to grow. NCETA’s work on the economic costs of alcohol-related absenteeism was utilised in the most recent estimate of the economic costs of alcohol and drug abuse in Australia (Collins & Lapsley, 2008).

NCETA aims to provide national leadership in relation to workplace issues and is developing a long term strategic plan in this area. To further this objective, NCETA has developed a broader program of work in relation to AOD workplace issues. NCETA’s website also contains a specific section addressing workplace-related issues.

**Workplace Alcohol and Other Drug Testing**

**Funding**
SafeWork SA

**Staff Members**
Ken Pidd
Ann Roche

**Deliverables**
- Literature review
- Peer reviewed publications
- Factsheets
- Final report

**Description**
Drug testing may hold potential to improve workplace safety by eliminating or minimising risks associated with alcohol or other drug use. However, to-date the effectiveness remains indeterminate. Moreover, for employees to endorse drug testing there needs to be evidence of real safety benefits. In order to achieve this, the efficacy of workplace testing needs to be examined and the features of ‘good practice’ workplace testing practices need to be identified. This research project aimed to:

- critically appraise the collection, storage and access to toxicological data for killed and injured workers
• conduct a literature review that examines issues concerning workplace random alcohol and other drug testing regimes in South Australian workplaces.

A technical advisory group was established to provide advice and assistance to the NCETA research team throughout the course of the project. Membership included representatives from SafeWork SA, SA Health, SA Unions, Business SA, WorkCover and Forensic Science SA.

Interviews were undertaken with key informants regarding a range of issues associated with workplace alcohol and other drug testing.

**Project Outcomes**

In general, the research literature indicated:

- an association between alcohol and drug use and workplace accidents and injuries
- a stronger association for younger workers, males, and certain industries and occupations
- the proportion of injuries caused by alcohol or drug use is likely to be relatively small
- other factors such as fatigue and noise play a more important role in workplace injuries
- workplace testing can detect alcohol and drug use, although the risk of false positives and false negatives is relatively high
- workplace testing may mask the true extent of alcohol or drug related workplace safety risk through drug use displacement effects or by increasing workers’ reluctance to report near misses, minor accidents, or injuries for fear of a positive test.

**Publications**


**NSW TAFE Hospitality Trainee Health and Wellbeing**

**Funding**

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC)

**Staff Members**

Ann Roche
Ken Pidd
Michael White

**Deliverables**

To develop and evaluate a health and wellbeing intervention using an action research framework.

**Description**

This research project employed a mixed methods approach involving both quantitative and qualitative measures. The project will be undertaken over two stages. During the first stage, a series of focus groups, using a semi-structured protocol, will be conducted with young workers in their second year of training to identify workplace factors and practices associated with risky alcohol, cannabis and other drug use and other negative health outcomes. Findings from the focus groups will inform the development and implementation of an intervention to reduce risky health related behaviours.

An evaluation will be undertaken of the strategy administered to young workers undergoing their first year of occupational training at one of two separate TAFEs.

This project will be completed in 2013.
Indigenous Australians are at a high risk of health and social problems associated with alcohol and other drug use, and are often marginalised in terms of access to health care services and other forms of social inequities.

There is presently limited research available on issues related to alcohol and other drugs and Indigenous Australians; the experiences, impact and/or wellbeing of Indigenous workers; and the capacity of Indigenous programs to attract and retain specialist alcohol and other drug workers and health workers generally.

Rural and Remote Indigenous Workers’ Wellbeing, Stress and Burnout Project

Funding
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Staff Members
Donna Weetra
Nancy Bates
Amanda Tovell
Ann Roche
Toby Freeman
Vinita Duraisingam
Allan Trifonoff
Tania Steenson

Deliverables
• Literature review
• Indigenous-specific instruments for assessing stress, burnout, and wellbeing
• Reports on findings from survey and consultations
• Guidelines describing practical evidence-based strategies
• Presentations of workshops and papers at symposia and conferences.

Description
NCETA was commissioned by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to investigate the key antecedents and consequences of stress, burnout and wellbeing among Indigenous workers responding to Indigenous alcohol and other drug issues. The project involved several components including public submissions, a national online survey, site visits for face-to-face interviews and focus groups, and a literature review addressing key issues.

Project Outcomes
Reflecting the different components of the project, three reports were produced:

1. The literature review formed the initial component of this project. The review examined broader issues affecting the Indigenous population. The complexities of responding to Indigenous alcohol and other drug issues are explained in this context, and specific challenges facing Indigenous alcohol and other drug workers identified.

2. A national survey was conducted among Indigenous and non-Indigenous workers from alcohol and other drug organisations. The survey aimed to examine levels of stress and wellbeing and their contributing factors among Indigenous alcohol and other drug workers and assessed various workplace conditions and work outcomes. Findings from the survey suggested that there were significant differences between Indigenous and non-
Indigenous workers in levels of, and contributors to stress and wellbeing. Results indicated the need for organisations to implement different strategies to address these different needs and issues.

3. Interviews and focus groups were conducted nationally with workers from diverse geographical locations. The focus of these consultations was on Indigenous alcohol and other drug workers’ stories in relation to worker wellbeing, stress and burnout and strategies to enable Indigenous workers’ ideas, stories, and experiences to be freely shared were adopted. Two outstanding characteristics of Indigenous alcohol and other drug workers were highlighted:

i. their principal motivation was to improve the health and wellbeing of their community with whom they felt unified in heart and spirit, and

ii. they felt great reward and satisfaction from the work they did, in spite of the stress, pressure and demands placed on them and the conditions under which they were often forced to work.

Publications


Young people aged 14-25 drink at risky levels at nearly double that of the population overall. Addressing youth binge drinking is a current priority of the Australian Government.

Alcohol and other drug use also affects the children of users, who are more at risk of becoming users themselves.

Schools play an important role in supporting and educating young people, parents, and the community in regard to alcohol and other drugs.

Young People and Alcohol Scoping Project – The Role of Schools in Alcohol Education

**Funding**

Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR)

**Staff Members**

Ann Roche  
Petra Bywood  
Toby Freeman  
Clarissa Hughes  
Vinita Duraisingam  
Allan Trifonoff  
Paula Wilson  
Tania Steenson

**Deliverables**

Final Report including: literature review, analysis of data collected through consultations with key stakeholders, online survey and written submissions, and a set of recommendations regarding effective and appropriate school-based alcohol education and prevention strategies.

Peer reviewed journal articles.

**Description**

This national project was part of the Australian Government’s ‘Youth Binge Drinking Initiative’. It existing research on alcohol education programs aimed at deterring and reducing alcohol use in secondary school students; consult with experts and key stakeholders about their experiences with school-based alcohol education programs; and provide practical recommendations to the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

The methodology for this project included a number of related components. An extensive literature review of national and international alcohol education programs was undertaken.

In addition, a semi-structured interview protocol was developed by the NCETA research team to conduct a combination of face-to-face interviews and group interviews with principals, teachers, and students from schools across Australia. Interviews and focus groups were conducted with students and teachers in government, Catholic, and Independent secondary schools and colleges.

NCETA also invited key stakeholders to take part in an online survey, and to provide written submissions. Participants included people involved in education, alcohol research, law enforcement, as well as policy advisors, health economists, and community stakeholders, such as youth groups, students and parents.
A report synthesising the findings from these activities was submitted to the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and subsequently published on their website: [http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/drugs/Pages/Alcohol.aspx](http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/drugs/Pages/Alcohol.aspx).

**Project Outcomes**

The literature review identified that the most successful programs tended to:

1. use a social influence approach (rather than a competence-enhancement or informational approach) as a key part of the program
2. include wider community and parental involvement
3. address the whole school environment – i.e., promoting positive relationships and behaviours, reducing victimisation and bullying, increasing social connectedness etc (see the Gatehouse project for example).

**The consultations found:**

- Two main factors impacted on the capacity of schools to deliver effective alcohol education programs: 1) time; and 2) resources.
- Schools almost universally adopted a harm minimisation approach to the provision of alcohol education.
- There was great diversity in approaches to alcohol education and the programs and resources currently utilised by schools.

NCETA is developing a user-friendly and condensed version of this report.

**Publications & Materials**


Dissemination Activities

Publications & Reports

2010 Publications

Peer Reviewed


Reports & Resources


2011 Publications

Peer Reviewed


Reports & Resources


2010 Presentations


2011 Presentations


