From the Program Manager
Hi everyone,

Welcome to 2016 and our first newsletter for the year. We are distributing a new newsletter every quarter now so you can have regular input about your programs and we can communicate to you more regularly too, besides the fortnightly teleconferences.

It’s already been a big year of change. Our Workforce is continuing to grow with new funding in both Department of Health sites and Aboriginal Medical Services. I extend a warm welcome to our new workers who have started or are about to start at Ti Tree, Ali Curung and Wadeye. Great to have Lawrence and Debbie join us on Tiwi, Paul at Yuendumu and James at Wadeye. I also give a warm welcome to Tania at Malabam at Maningrida and new workers starting at Sunrise Health in the Katherine East region.

So much happening this year and our first forum of the year almost upon us at Jabiru. I can’t wait to see you all and meet those I’ve not met before as we gather together to yarn about our communities and the good work we are doing in them. These forums are always a great gathering of passionate people from across the Territory, we come together to learn, inspire each other, and have fun. This forum we have the chance to visit the community of Gunbalanya, and see some very special parts of west Arnhem Land that few people ever get to see. Sampson Henry from Jabiru, and Leon James from Gunbalanya are hosting us for this forum and we will have a special welcome to country from the Traditional Owners. I hope you all have your presentations ready for the forum. It’s just 10 minutes sharing your learnings and work you are doing on community, so others can learn from you, and to take pride in the work you are doing. It is also an opportunity to put questions to the Workforce on issues you want assistance in. It’s up to you how you approach it.

We are so looking forward to seeing you all again, and continuing to work together throughout the year. This is a very special and unique Workforce. Feel proud of your place within it, and your work as a role model in your community.

Jennifer Frendin—Program Manager
On behalf of the Remote AOD Workforce we would like to welcome the following people to the team!

Alice Springs
Charlie Hodgson
Danila Dilba
Jonathon Ahkit
Blossom Buckland
Groote Eylandt
Len Marawili
Borroloola
Mary Babia
Bruce King
Raymond Mawson
Tiwi Islands
Debbie Coombes
Lawrence Costa
Yuendumu
Paul Briscoe
Wadeye
James Jimarin
Maningrida
Tania Taylor
Marissa Stuart
Wurli Wurlinjang
Bruce Lake
Sunrise
Helena Lardy
Joey Wunungmurra

That’s right, Our Remote AOD Workforce Fortnightly Teleconferences will be commencing again on Thursday 3rd March 2016. Our first one for the year 2016!!

The agendas and relevant information are sent out on the Tuesday prior to the fortnightly teleconferences. It is an expectation that all Remote AOD Workforce Members link in to the teleconferences where possible as these are excellent opportunities for information sharing, professional development & mentoring among the team.

Please note: Teleconferences last for 1 hour, participants are to link in by 9:30am using the details below

We look forward to hearing from you all then.
If you have any questions at all about this process please phone or e-mail Jess

**TELECONFERENCE DETAILS:**
At 9:30am
Phone: 89243666
At the prompt enter GUEST PIN NUMBER: 9180007947#
Tania has joined our team all the way from Adelaide. She is a proud Narungga woman from the York Peninsula in SA.

Her professional placements span across many government and non-government agencies throughout metropolitan, rural, regional and remote areas of SA, NT and WA. She has 12 years experience living and working in remote Aboriginal communities. These include the APY Lands (Far North SA), Yalata (Far West SA) and Ngalapita in the Fitzroy Valley (the Kimberley WA).

Tania is excited about joining the Social & Emotional Wellbeing team and looking forward to walking alongside the community and other agencies for improvement in the area of Alcohol and other drugs for the people of Maningrida.

Tania Taylor—Malabam Health Services

Good day, my name is Charlie Hodgson and I currently live in Alice Springs with my wife, 5 children and 3 Granddaughters. I was born in Darwin and grew up there until my late teens because I went to Alice Springs to be with family from Central Australia and play football. In my work experience I have worked in building outstations, a variety of labouring work, Men’s Health, in community development and in suicide prevention.

Now I am currently an AOD support worker and like the approach of working with people in where they are at and to support people were it is manageable to address their AOD issues, I am currently doing AOD work in the southern region in the communities of Titjikala and Finke. I look forward to meeting the AOD workforce at the forum and hearing about the great work you all have been doing in your communities and some of the hard situations, challenges and obstacles that you have gotten around to support individuals, families and your community to gain a better insight for my own understanding and work performance.

Charlie Hodgson—Remote AOD Outreach Worker
I'm Bruce King and I've lived all my life in Borroloola. I'm from the Yanyula and Garawa clan groups. I have 3 kids: Gene -14, David -12 and Brucey -2 with my wife Telena. I've been working for AOD for 2 months. Before that I was working on a barge on the port of the MacArthur River. Dan and Raymond encouraged me to join the team because I’m a non-drinker and non-smoker and upcoming leader for my community.

I'm taking this challenge now to work with the community. My vision is working for the community and it’s starting to change - people are slowly starting to respect each other again, it’s slowly coming back. I’d love to see them all come together again. I want to bring that happiness back so we can live a healthy, happy life again.

Originally from the island of Saibai in the Torres Strait Islands, the Territory has been my home for 7 years. My mother is from Saibai and my father is from Papua New Guinea. I am the youngest of three siblings. Since I left QLD (home of the MIGHTY MAROONS), I now have a small family of my own and have worked in a number of jobs such as clinical administration, cleaning and mango packing. For the past 3 years, I have been working as a Remote AOD Worker before moving to Borroloola this month to continue the same type of work and it has been such a rewarding journey so far. I never imagined I would be working in the field of alcohol and drugs. I was nervous on my first day at Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Services (WWHS) in Katherine however I felt a sense of comfort in the position. I have always felt I had a knack in helping others and imagined my work in life would be to do exactly that. When I’m not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, especially my 4yo daughter. I absolutely love fishing and it was always a way for me to relax and step away from community. Last time I did some real fishing was in February 2006 so now that I am in Borroloola, I am looking forward to fishing again. I enjoy good laughs, cooking meals on fire (YUM) and eating it and of course Food Network Chanel. I am quite comfortable where I am in life and can only hope that I will continue to be part of a great workforce.

I’m a Garawa man and I’ve been living in Borroloola most of my life. My partner Kirsten and I have 3 kids Skye-Ray (5), Shoota-Ray (4) and Sugar-Ray (2). I’ve been working with AOD for just over a year while I do my Aboriginal Health Practitioner training. I’ve been working in the health centre since 2014. I used to work in oil and gas, and station work as a ringer.

I like meeting new people and learning new skills every day in AOD. I used to be a drinker and a smoker and I want to help others with these problems because I know what it’s like and how it can drag you down. I love the opportunities I’m getting and the skills I’m learning and I hope to do this for the rest of my life.

I’ve been living in Borroloola for nearly 3 years first as the AOD Nurse, and now as the Family & Community Support Nurse. Before that I was working as a Remote Area Nurse and was visiting Borroloola and other communities. I’m from the Yarra Valley in Victoria, and worked there as an AOD Nurse for 14 years, as the Associate Unit Manager of the Dual Diagnosis Unit at Melbourne Private Hospital.

Borroloola is a wonderful place. The people are very nice, open and gentle. Our team has tried to focus on making a service that has relevance to the local people, and to for them help themselves and come up with their own solutions than us giving them the answers. All of the work we are doing is suggested and driven by the desire of the local people.

I’m Bruce King and I’ve lived all my life in Borroloola. I’m from the Yanyula and Garawa clan groups. I have 3 kids: Gene-14, David-12 and Brucey-2 with my wife Telena. I’ve been working for AOD for 2 months. Before that I was working on a barge on the port of the MacArthur River. Dan and Raymond encouraged me to join the team because I’m a non-drinker and non-smoker and upcoming leader for my community.

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How Exciting!!! The Remote AOD Workforce Forum is fast approaching and is less than two weeks away… The Program Support Unit have been doing an incredible job at making this what could be one of our best forums.
The 3 day event will be held in Jabiru on 19th—21st April 2016. The agenda is jam packed with a focus on Relapse Prevention and Community Development including great education sessions, workforce presentations, guest speakers, role plays, yarning circles and what we hope will be a lovely day trip to Gunbalanya depending on Cahill’s River Crossing.
I hope by now, all your travel arrangements have been booked and your confirmations sent to either Jess Thompson jessica.thompson@nt.gov.au or Renee Richards renee.richards@nt.gov.au so that the final itinerary can be finalised.
Each worker will also have the opportunity to present a 10 minute presentation about your work, community, any good new stories you would like to share or some of the challenges you may face and send them to Jess or Renee.

We look forward to seeing you all there!! The agenda and itineraries will be sent in the next few days.
It is with real sadness that Patricia Taylor has left the Remote AOD Workforce. Patricia was the first Remote AOD Worker employed as part of the Workforce in March 2008. Patricia moved from Alice Springs to Borroloola to take up this position. Her vast experience, knowledge and skills were well placed as the Remote AOD Workforce in Borroloola. Patricia, since the beginning has supported me in developing the framework that this Workforce is now governed by.

I personally want to thank her for her ongoing support, commitment and passion over the last 8 years and has been seen as a role model in her community. I am sure you will all agree that Patricia leaving our team will be a great loss. In saying that, Patricia has dedicated many years to service delivery in various positions throughout the Territory and deserves the right to retire and spend time with her beautiful family.

Jennifer Frendin—Program Manager
Hi Everyone, just a short message from me to tell you what I’ve been working on since the last newsletter. The Relapse Prevention Training is now available to be delivered as a 2 day non-accredited training. In January 2016 we successfully delivered the relapse prevention training to a test site and according to the evaluations participants felt it was very relevant to their work and provided them with enhanced skills and a better understanding of relapse prevention to support a client through their relapse prevention journey.

Training and education delivery requests have been fairly consistent since the last newsletter and directly targeted towards primary health care providers and AOD sector promotion of the Remote AOD Workforce Program including the tools and resources. The issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) has fast become a major area of concern in the NT and we’ve been providing training to primary health care centres and other health professionals across the Territory regarding the ‘Yarning about alcohol & pregnancy tool with advice card. Also, training has been provided on topics relating to brief interventions and motivational interviewing, use of the Wellbeing Screener and other tools, harm reduction and health and risk factor information on different drugs including cannabis, Ice, tobacco and alcohol.

At present there are several registered training organisations offering accredited courses ranging from Cert II to Diploma in AOD. If members of the Remote AOD Workforce are interested in accredited training please email or call and I can discuss options available for you and provide contact details.

Have fantastic year everyone and talk soon.

Tony Hand—Training and Education Officer
Remote AOD Workforce—Find A Word Puzzle

Can you find all the words hidden in this puzzle?

A U M G J U G A G U S M T C A Y D G E D
L L A N N L M U N A E S I B Z A I S T
O U B T X A N U N G E K M W L C I D O S
L T L R A P A N E N K R L N T A K E O
O I A I C T O N I A E I U U C C J L M A
R T M A E L I K B L V U S G C O A U N T
R U A R I X M T E R J Y O U T H Y T I
O M E E E Q U A R I P U A U S H I O E T
B S N H A P U T U L A I W E R N G E L J
A T T A Y N A L A B N U G I S T R H Z I
S A A B L I D A L I N A D I L T B B G K
K G N U R U C I L A G U N Z I R P A A A
E L L I O T T T T I W I Y F T M V U R J L
C A Y A R N I N G D I E Y E D A W W D A

ALCOHOL
ANYINGINY
CLIENTS
ELLIOTT
JABIRU
NIWATJ
RELAPSE
TITIKALA
TOBACCO
WURLIWURLIJANG

ALICURUNG
APUTULA
DALYRIVER
GUNBALANYA
KATHERINENWEST
MUTITJULU
SANTATERESA
TITREE
UMBAKUMBA
YARNING

ANGURUGU
BORROLOOLA
DANILADILBA
GUNA
MALABAM
NTARIA
SUNRISE
TIVI
WADEYE
YUENDUMU

There is **FUN** to be done!
~Dr. Seuss
Readers are encouraged to send their feedback to: jessica.thompson@nt.gov.au. The next Newsletter will be due to come out in June 2016—start thinking about the next newsletter. If you would like to contribute please send newsletter items to Jess

Thank you.

Jess Thompson
Workforce Development Officer

See you later.

Farewell to:

Thomas Stewart
Bridgette Doolan
Geoffrey Campbell
Cynthia Mirniyowan
Leroy Daly
Robert Wilson
Shane Russell
Andy Blaney
Pat Taylor

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remote AOD Program Manager</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8951 9585</td>
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<td>Clinical Supervisor</td>
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<td>(08)8951 7823</td>
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<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8958 2503</td>
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<td>Ali Curung</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8962 4621</td>
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<td>Darwin</td>
<td>Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT)</td>
<td>0409 944 095</td>
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<td>(08) 8920 9575</td>
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<td>Katherine</td>
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<td>(08) 8971 9328</td>
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<td>Ntaria</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Congress</td>
<td>(08) 8954 8888</td>
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<td>(08) 8956 0911 REMOTE OFFICE: (08) 8958 4895</td>
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