Welcome to another edition of our newsletter, the first for 2017, and the first for Tony to create, and for me to write the welcome. This is our biggest year yet- our 10th Year Anniversary of our Remote Alcohol & Other Drugs Workforce Program. Ten years ago, this program was funded to create a Territory-wide program in drug and alcohol in Primary Health Care Centres.

As most of you know, our program founder Jennifer Frendin started this workforce as a greenfield site- meaning it was a blank slate that had to be created right from the beginning. Jenn consulted community members and Primary Health Care Centres staff all over the NT, in both Department of Health sites, and Aboriginal Medical Services, to see what they wanted in a drug and alcohol worker. When people said they wanted a local Aboriginal person, not a nurse, an Indigenous workforce was born. And here you all are, ten years later.

My hope, is that in ten years’ time, our Workforce will still be here. How are we trying to make that happen? By being the best Workforce we can be. By doing PCIS audits so that all Department of Health Remote AOD Workers understand what is expected of them, can communicate the needs of their clients in the health centre, and by demonstrating to the Commonwealth who fund us the need for a drug and alcohol service in your communities. By showing that an Aboriginal workforce can kick goals as good as anyone else! (continued on page 2)
We’ve made so many achievements in our ten years:

- Over ten drug, alcohol and mental health resources
- From 8 funded positions to 55
- 1 external evaluations
- 8 conference presentations
- Two DVDs
- Several published articles and documents including your Relapse Prevention Guide and Community Development Framework
- Our website
- 16 Remote AOD Workforce Forums
- The first Aboriginal Leadership Group in Primary Health Care in the NT
- Hundreds of trainings to the Department of Health staff, non-government organisations and Aboriginal Medical Services
- And most importantly: thousands of community members and clients educated and supported with their drug and alcohol and social emotional wellbeing issues
- Uptake of our resources across Australia
- Chief Minister’s Award for Enhancing Health & Wellbeing 2013
- Resources being used extensively throughout QLD
- Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education supporting and promoting our Yarning about Alcohol & Pregnancy tool

I hope we can only grow and continue to succeed from here. I know we can do it. Let’s do it together.

Lauren
A/Program Manager
On behalf of the Remote AOD Workforce we would like to welcome the following people to the team!

**Alice Springs**
- Jean Manda
- Tania Taylor
- Jennifer Jenkins
- Fiona Jolley

**Tiwi Islands**
- Susan Reid
- Paul Portaminni
- Richard Tungatalum
- Anthea Kerinaiau
- Virgil Puruntataneri
- Damien Burak
- Susan Mungatopi

**Malabam Health**
- Sophie Firmin

**Groote Eylandt**
- Jason Yantarrnga

**Yuendumu**
- Jennifer Baarda

**Jabiru**
- Patricia Miller

**Sunrise**
- Chris Cookson
- Stuart Martin
- Sandra Martin
- Adam Bostock
- Sasha Ashley
- Scott Lee
- Josephine John
- Simone Baker
- Samuel Daylight
- Nicky Ryan
- Rhys Daniels

**Tjitikala**
- Lisa Sharman

**Wurli Wurlinjang**
- Michael Taylor

**Wadeye**
- Juliette Chula
- Basil Dumoo

**Katherine West**
- Jennifer Silcock

**Daly River**
- Troy Mardigan

Don’t Forget to check out our website at [www.remoteaod.com.au](http://www.remoteaod.com.au)

**Fortnightly Teleconference**

Ring: 8924 3666
Enter pin: 91800079 47 #
Record your name, then press #
Every Second Thursday at 9.30am
The Leadership Group met for their first face to face meeting on the 26th & 27th of April. The meeting was very productive and valuable for providing the Leadership Group with the opportunity to plan for the year ahead, evaluate how we are working as a group and to build on our strengths to work better in 2017.

We did some evaluation of the Leadership Group roles and responsibilities. It is important to give understanding to the members about how we are accountable both as the Leadership Group and as individual workers of the workforce. We learned about decision making processes, developing more effective leadership policies and rules. There was also some discussion around the challenges of Leadership such as accountability, decision making and continuous, stable leadership and renewal.

**SITE VISIT — Salt Bush Mob**

The Leadership Group conducted a site visit to Saltbush Mob in the old jail. We met with all Case Managers and Support staff and had some great discussion around support when returning to country. As the Saltbush Mob are residential part of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment it was sad to hear they will no longer be taking any clients after August 2017 as the AMT option will no longer exist.

As AOD workers on the ground we are to be a key contact prior to sending clients home, providing ongoing support for clients when they return to community. They can provide feedback to the Case Manager about community issues, home and family issues or even other community issues such as a client being banned from community.

We were shown around the facilities and the program offers onsite training, supports clients to get their licenses, trains them to use equipment, music programs, building programs so the clients are skilled to gain some employment when they return to community or they are given an opportunity to gain employment with Salt Bush Mob.

**Office of Aboriginal Health Policy and Engagement**

We will provide you all with a copy at the forum

- *NT Cultural Security Framework 2016-2026,*
- *Cultural Security Self-Assessment Tool,*
- *Cultural Security Organizational Assessment tool.*

**Nominations of new Leadership Group Members**

Voting in of new executive Leadership Group positions took place and results were:

- **Chairperson:** Diane Mayers:
- **Deputy Chairperson:** Tania Taylor
- **Secretary:** Blossom Buckland
- **Members:** Leon James, Phillip Butler, Debbie Coombes and Mary Suka (formerly Babia), Shane Franey

Rus Nasir met with the Leadership Group
In collaboration with Phill Pallas of Spark Australia we facilitated an AOD Health Promotion and Education Project in Finke. Other workers who supported the project include NPY Women’s Council Youth Coordinators, Finke Clinic Staff, Elders, Community members and Indigenous Engagement Officers. We attended the disco and supported the Youth Centre with activities with the children. Educational items were given out during the week and the event was promoted as Alcohol & Drug free weekend. There were lots of discussions and brief interventions with community members from surrounding communities, women playing softball and the men playing football about their communities and the AOD issues that they face. Approximately 200 people from communities across the NT attended this event and were engaged. At least 30 people (both genders and all ages) participated in the beer goggle activities. Goodie bags were handed out containing AOD information, fruit, water and other AOD promotional items.

*Contributed By Tania Taylor—RAOD Outreach Worker*

---

**From Titjikala**

*DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TALK OUT BUSH.*

One of the highlights so far was going out bush to the Hugh River with a group of young people to have talks on drugs & alcohol.

These trips are done in collaboration with Nathan Coleman from (MACYOUTH)

*Contributed by Lisa Sharman Remote AOD Worker*
Hi Everybody – Holy brief interventions it’s nearly September, I can’t believe the year is this far along already. From that you can imagine I’ve been fairly busy with orientations, training delivery, and all the other bits that go with my job since the beginning of February and since Jessica went on maternity leave. I’m also doing parts of Jessica’s role until after the Forum and until we back fill Jessica’s position......hooooooray!

At the end of last year it was decided I would spend the bulk of my time focusing on orientating and providing professional development and support to new workers who have recently been employed as remote AOD workers. Also a focus for me has been the roll-out of the Relapse Prevention & Community Development training to the workforce initially, then later to other AOD/community service organisations as appropriate.

What’s been good about these training opportunities is there’s been lots of interest and up-take from remote health centres, allied AOD community based organisations and other community service groups. So far the trainings have been delivered to Tiwi (Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti and Wurrumiyanga) Tennant Creek (BRADAAG), Katherine (Sunrise Health and Wurli Wurlinjang) and Jabiru Health Centre with about 50 participants all up.

Another part of my role as the TEO is not only to provide orientations to new remote AOD workers but also provide inductions and orientations to Doctors and Nurses employed to work in remote communities. Since the beginning of this year I have provided orientations to 25 Nurses and 14 Doctors and conducted 3 in-service training to 3 remote Health Centres.

Well that’s it from me. If you would like to know more about the training the RAODW provides, please contact me Tony (TEO) Hand on 8951 7096.
Hi Everyone - My name is Jennifer Baarda and I live on a community called Yuendumu, which is about 280 km west of Alice Springs.

And I’m very glad to introduce myself and tell you a little about myself and about the job. I have been in an A.O.D. worker for now six month. Being in this position has inspired me and is providing me with experience and skills to work with our people and our community. My co-worker is Robert Robertson; some of you would have met Robert at the last forum. You will get to meet both of us at the next one.

Starting in this role with the Remote AOD Workforce Program has been an adventurous step for me because I’m not only beginning a new career but with Robert we’re building strong and important connections within the community with various stakeholders including the Yuendumu Health Centre WYDAC, the School, Night Patrol, the Police and community members. I would also like to mention the support provided by the Program Support Unit, for helping us making us develop strong communication, and working with other links to other area’s in and around Yuendumu. I would like to mention and congratulate these wonderful people who have supported us like a growing a tree with strong views, strong support skills and understanding.

Thank you for those who have been there for us.
Tony Hand (Alice Springs)
Tania Taylor (Alice Springs)
Jennifer Jenkins (Darwin)
Andrew Scholz (Darwin)
Fiona Jolley (Early Childcare Program)
Yuendumu Community Council
Yuendumu Police station (Stg Annie,
Yuendumu W.Y.D.A.C. (Rohan, Ashleigh, Perlin,)
Yuendumu Health clinic staff and (Luana, Christine)
For the month of June the AOD team at Danila Dilba Health Services have been involved with and provided the following:
Deadly Choices ‘Harmful Substances’ education session including a small activity was delivered to the Palmerston Girls Academy out at Roseberry Middle School. Health Expo at Roseberry Middle School. An Information stall with promotional and educational resources were set up. Staff engaged with years 7, 8 & 9 students providing information on the health effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, beer goggles and smokerlyzer activity.

Staff participated in the World No Tobacco Day events throughout the week 29th May – 2nd June with the NTG Tobacco team. Information stalls with promotional and educational resources were set up at Coolalinga, Palmerston, Nightcliff and Casuarina Shopping Centres including Danila Dilba clinics with a BBQ being at the Palmerston Clinic.

Palmerston and Malak Clinics. Outreach – Darwin Safer City Patrol
Brian (Bruno) has been busy engaging with the homeless population on a fortnightly basis with the Darwin Safer City Patrol. For this month so far they have engaged with to approximately 15 people in the CBD area, parks and foreshores offering support, information, advocacy and referrals.

‘Men’s Health Week’ – AOD worker Bruno along with the Men’s Clinic staff joined government and non-government organisations at Rain-tree Park in Darwin. An informational stall with promotional service brochures and educational resources were available and giveaways handed out included AOD & Tobacco draw string bags with Deadly Choices stress balls.

Contributed by Patricia Raymond
PCIS Award Recipients

PCIS data is a very important part of how the Remote AOD Workforce Program provides evidence the program is meeting its objectives. The data (information) that each worker puts in to PCIS is valuable for a number of reasons including -

- How many people have accessed the program
- What drugs are predominant or used in each community
- What service is being provided (BI & MI)
- Where people are referred to and from

PCIS awards are given to the worker who has inputted the most data for the month or the most improved over all for the month.
See you later.

Farewell to:

Stella Downs
Robbie Kopp
Richard Wurrawilya
Jessica Thompson
Cynthia Mirniyowan
Amanda Ngalmi

Readers are encouraged to send their feedback to:

tony.hand@nt.gov.au

The next Newsletter will be due to come out in March 2018 — If you would like to contribute please send newsletter items in.

Thank you.

Tony Hand
Training and Education Officer

Remote AOD Workforce Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
<th>TELEPHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remote AOD Program Manager</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8951 9585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Supervisor</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8951 7823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Mentor</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8999 2697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Operational Policy Officer</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8999 2698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and Education Officer</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8951 7096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote AOD Outreach Worker</td>
<td>Department Of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8951 7092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce Development Officer</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8951 9126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support Officer</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8958 2503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ali Curung</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8962 4621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angurugu</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8987 6516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aputula</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8956 0961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borroloola</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8975 6614 or (08)8975 6610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daly River (Nauiyu)</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8978 2435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)89692 060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunbalanya</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8979 0178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jabiru</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08)8979 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titjikala</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08) 89560906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ti Tree</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8956 9736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiwi Islands</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8978 3953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umbakumba</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8987 6772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadeye</td>
<td>Department Of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8978 2360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuendumu</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
<td>(08) 8956 4030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT)</td>
<td>0409 944 095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine</td>
<td>Danila Diliba Health Service</td>
<td>(08)8920 9575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katherine West Health Board (KWHB)</td>
<td>(08)8971 9328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wuri Wurlinjang</td>
<td>(08)8972 9186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nhulunbuy</td>
<td>Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation</td>
<td>(08)8939 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntaria</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Congress</td>
<td>(08) 8954 8888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Teresa</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Congress</td>
<td>(08)8956 0911 REMOTE OFFICE: (08)8958 4895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutitjulu</td>
<td>Central Australian Aboriginal Congress</td>
<td>(08) 89562054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennant Creek</td>
<td>Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation</td>
<td>(08)8963 2914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maningrida</td>
<td>Malabam Health Service</td>
<td>(08) 8979 5772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jilkmingann</td>
<td>Sunrise Health Service</td>
<td>(08) 89721120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mataranka</td>
<td>Sunrise Health Service</td>
<td>(08) 89721120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>