



DASA

Drug and Alcohol Services Australia

Jan

2020



OUTREACH NEWSLETTER





A Note from the CEO

Welcome to the first edition of the Aboriginal Outreach team's newsletter for 2020. This is not only a new year but the beginning of a new decade.

We are always happy to commence the year with news and in this case, we are able to announce the beginning of a new program for Outreach and a new service pathway for us here at DASA.

At the end of last year, we applied for some funding from the Commonwealth Government to fill a gap in our Services had been identified for some time. We were fortunate enough to have been successful, and can now announce our Step-Up program designed to focus on young Aboriginal people who are in need of our outreach team and may struggle with other programs not specifically designed for their needs.

There is no doubt that BushMob Aboriginal Corporation do a great job and we do work with them where possible. But for the past year or so, our Meth team has received calls from parents and the courts to ask for outreach support for young people, many of whom are suffering from the ravages of Meth use and the use of hard drugs in general.

Until now we have not had the capacity to deal with young people in an outreach capacity, and our Meth program is already inundated with clients who are older and, in many cases, longer term users.

Now we do have some capacity to take on young people who are in need and our trained Case Manager who is young but experienced in this field will be able to add to the service of the Aboriginal Outreach Team, the Meth team and the Commit2Change team.

DASA has a strong belief that we do not apply for funding just for the sake of it but are always looking at filling service gaps where we can.

This has been a glaring gap for a while now and we are thrilled that we have been trusted to commence down this path.

The new Case Manager will have the benefit of experience from the Outreach team as well as the others who make up our extensive outreach program and he already has a pretty big case load to kick it off.

On a more general note, the Outreach team, as usual, is once again wearing lots of hats and has already started Drink Driving classes in town, with Bush ones to come. They are also kicking off the year with their first BBQ today on the council lawns. So, if you want breaky, come on down.

So, in general, we have started 2020 with a bang and intend to continue in the months ahead.

Happy 2020, and I hope it is good one for you.

Carole Taylor

Outreach BBQ Dates

Each year the Indigenous Outreach Team is funded to deliver eight free BBQ events. This is a wonderful opportunity for the team to catch up with old clients and potentially meet new ones. It is a relaxed atmosphere, with plenty of food, good laughs and a chance to promote DASA services.

We have been delivering this wonderful event for over ten years and we are still going strong. DASA is always happy to work collaboratively with other services, to participate in events e.g. Stress Less In The Park, to support other agencies to get our messages across.

So it is no surprise we have more BBQs coming your way. Please feel free to drop by, say hello and meet our friendly team.

BBQ DATES:

- ♦ 31 January
- ♦ 21 February
- ♦ 27 March
- ♦ 24 April
- ♦ 29 May



Fantastic feedback about our

My two greatest acting coaches left me with 2 pieces of wisdom that I've endeavored to live by for my entire life. "I had a great mentor, Elia Kazan who said you know, I only want to work with people who give everything they have to give and make their work the important thing to them in their life" - Elizabeth Kemp ♥

I've been very blessed to work with people who are staunch in this belief. But I don't think I've ever seen it so beautifully in action than when I went to visit DASA in Alice Springs. I remember watching Danny, Eddy and Dion speak at a conference in Melbourne about the work that they're doing in the NT with methamphetamine and honestly, the room stopped. There was no ego, there was no clinical speak - there was just heart.

What was clear to everyone in that room was that these outreach workers don't see numbers on a spreadsheet. They simply see stories of hope. And it became clearer when I went to visit to meet the whole team because their fearless CEO has given her team the space and flexibility to not only respond to the needs of the community but also to quite literally hold their hands and walk them through the process of renewing and rebuilding their lives. The way in which it's set up means that if another drug became the flavor of the month tomorrow, they could respond quickly. It's honestly one of the most inspiring things I've ever seen.

When I was training young actors I'd say to them that their one job is stand on stage and be brave enough to tear their chests open and just let people see because that act in itself will be life changing for an audience member. But in visiting DASA I realise that this brave workforce do it every damn day. They rip their chests open and do whatever it takes to save lives. They ripped their chests open for me and I saw, I really saw and I am heartbroken as I know you all would be too.

This is beyond a 'Territory issue'. What's become clear (I hope) to the country in the face of the horrendous bushfire crisis is that we're all the territory, we're all Queensland, we're all NSW, we're all Victoria - we really are one. There is a deep collective consciousness that touches all of us and therefore it is imperative that all of the states work together to heal. Take a moment to look at how many people we have incarcerated for drug use in Victoria. Take a look at how much we spend on it. It's the same story state by state. We have a lot of healing to do.

I went through an arduous court case. I made it. But I made it because I'm white, my parents had the capital to help me and my best friends are superstars. It's not right that I'm alive because of my privilege and I know that many of you would have very similar stories. If I didn't have those lifelines I genuinely don't know where my life would be. Capishe?

Therefore it's incumbent on ALL of us to act.

"It's not a question of age or technique, it's a question of will and spirit" - Suzuki Tadashi ♥

I have been completely and utterly overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit, the willingness to help and the bravery that the workforce, community members, trade unions, politicians, medical professionals and celebrities have shown in sharing their stories thus far. And it only makes our asks feel even less scary and less impossible.

What are we asking for? We want DASA's funding at least doubled. We want a DASA or two in Victoria (and indeed all of our states). Unlike most southerners flying up to the NT to tell them how to do their job we're wanting what they got. Cause what they've got is LEGIT.

Meth Through-care Program

As we begin a journey to launch a campaign with incredible organisations and trade unions I wanted to put the call out to you Facebook family - we need help. We need to collate media, we need more lived experience stories, we need more friends of friends of friends that know people who can help us make this campaign a reality. And it can be. I sit with politicians and union secretaries expecting them to say "it can't be done".

Every single one has said "how can we help and when can we start?" Every. Single. One. So if you have an idea or a story or a willingness to help or whatever really - DM me! The DASA team should win Australians of the year every damn time. We're crystal clear on this: A storm is coming and DASA have the answer.

Written by: Stephanie Thuesen, Progressive Public Health Alliance
Stakeholder Engagement Officer / Research & Campaign Coordinator



Pictured Above : Danny Lloyd (DASA), Stephanie Thuesen, Gavin Ryan (executive officer Progressive Public Health Alliance), Glenn Donohue (Consultant and organiser Progressive Public Health Alliance), Adam Drake (Balanced Choices prison and remote community program CEO) and Edward Chandler (BRADAAG).

PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC 
HEALTH ALLIANCE



Our new program for young people



Step Up Program

The Aboriginal Youth Engagement Officer role enhances the existing DASA Aboriginal Outreach program by meeting the needs of young people referred to Outreach and other DASA services, such as the aboriginal outreach service and the methamphetamine through-care program.

This position works as a member of the Outreach team and is responsible for carrying out a range of supportive, responsive and quality Outreach services, together with providing assistance to Aranda House and other key stakeholders. The Engagement Officer will work with

young aboriginal people up to the age of 25 who are adversely impacted by the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

DASA would like to welcome Jordan Lockerbie to the position. He is already proven to be a force to contend with, and has jumped in with both feet. Jordan has been working at DASA for the past 5 years collecting a wide range of experience working in the Sobering Up Shelter, Aranda House and Outreach program.

Step Up