



DASA

Drug and Alcohol Services Australia

Sept

2020

Outreach Newsletter





A Note from the D/CEO

I thought it was time to give my CEO a well deserved break from writing and thought I would give it a go.

I can't believe how time flies, Christmas is only around the corner. Spring is here and the weather has been beautiful with the welcoming of a little rain. Let's hope there is more rain coming our way.

The Outreach team have been busy as usual, they say Covid-19 is the new norm and will be around for some time. We have had to change the way we do things, but we are always up for a challenge.

The team continues to go out to the prison to deliver the Safe and Smart Program. We have had to reduce the number of participants due to the pandemic.

We continue to host our BBQ's and teamed up this year with MHACA and other services to raise awareness around suicide prevention as it is an ongoing problem in the community we live in. The event was a success and you will hear a bit more about it in this newsletter edition.

Welcome another new program to our organisation the ATC program, this will enable another option for our clientele. If you haven't visited the facility I strongly recommend as it has a calming, therapeutic approach to it. This means DASA staffing numbers have increased to 56 and the DASA family continues to grow.

We continue to travel out bush to deliver the Drink Driver program, however due to ongoing circumstances beyond our control we have not been able to travel to the respective communities to deliver this much needed course.

Outreach has some exciting news ahead as we will be launching our new identity. We have the wonderful and talented artist Amunda Gorey who has been commissioned to do a painting for the Indigenous Outreach team. This has been a long term vision of ours and we are excited to finally make this a reality. We hope to showcase the new painting that will represent who we are and what we do.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition, that's all from me.

Til next time.

Jocelyn Dhu

Sobering Up Shelter

Jeremy McKellar and Richard Tilmouth headed off to the Top End for their fact-finding trip of the Territory Sobering up Shelters. They had a few issues with accommodation and the like but seem to have had a great trip.

Richard wrote of their experience stating:

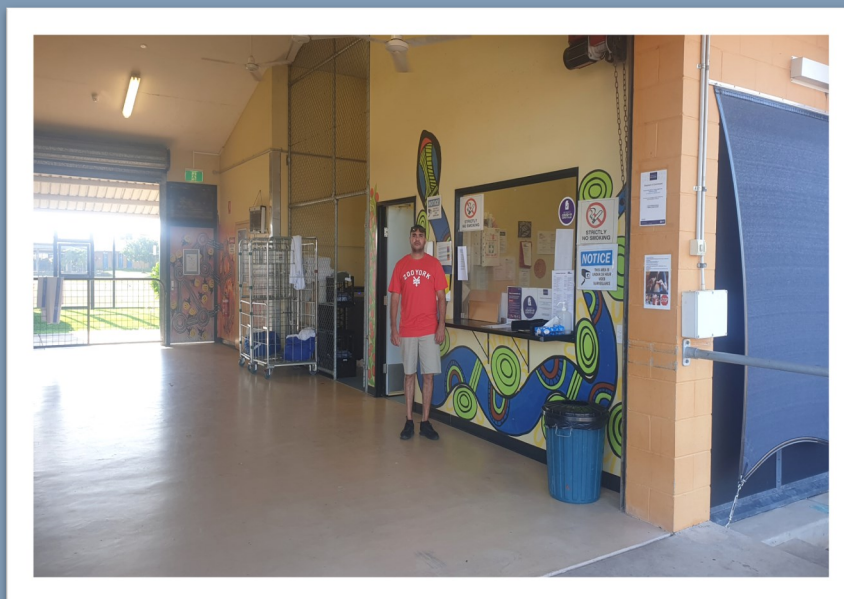
“On the 18th of August Jeremy and I took a trip to Katherine and Darwin to visit the sobering up shelters to see how they run in comparison to us here in Alice Springs.

The Katherine facility is very much similar to Alice Springs. Although Darwin had many similarities to ours, there were some major differences I noticed such as they have a much larger facility and accommodate up to 40 clients at a time, where Alice Springs and Katherine have a maximum capacity of 16 clients at a time. The second big difference with Darwin is they have a logbook for each client whereas Alice Springs and Katherine have 1 log book for all clients.

A few other things that Darwin provided that we don't is soup on arrival, then a meal later on after they have had a rest. We wait 2 hours before giving our clients a meal. The facility also received food and clothing donations from other organisations, which the clients have a choice on whether they want to keep the clothes or not before they depart.

Larrakia Nation provide a pick up/drop off service for the sobering up Shelter in Darwin (I believe it's similar to a night/day patrol) I find this to be a very helpful service that they have to ensure that their clients get home safely.

Overall the trip was enjoyable and interesting to see how other facilities are run”.



Alternative to Custody Program

Alternative to Custody (ATC) Program.

DASA opened the ATC Program on Tuesday 25th August 2020. It was a small opening with just two ladies as residents, but we are positive the numbers will increase in the next few months. Alternative to custody is now a goer.

We now have a full compliment of staff, with Becky Myers employed as the ATC Co-ordinator and Kristy Ryan as the administration officer. We also have a social worker who is attached to the program Rachel O'Nearly who is employed under Congress.

The ATC program provides an alternative to prison for Aboriginal Women. The model is based on a Therapeutic rehabilitative and educational approach and is a real alternative to prison. The rehabilitation program will run for 6 months or longer depending on their individual needs.

The model is designed specifically for Aboriginal women who have experienced negative contact with the criminal justice system. The model includes accommodation and access to extensive, targeted and tailored rehabilitation services for the clients and their families.

The program aims to provide clients with real employment opportunities and preparing them for when they return back to community, whilst ensuring this is being delivered in a culturally appropriate framework.

DASA is very excited to launch this new program, it is another service within DASA to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community and giving more options to our clientele.

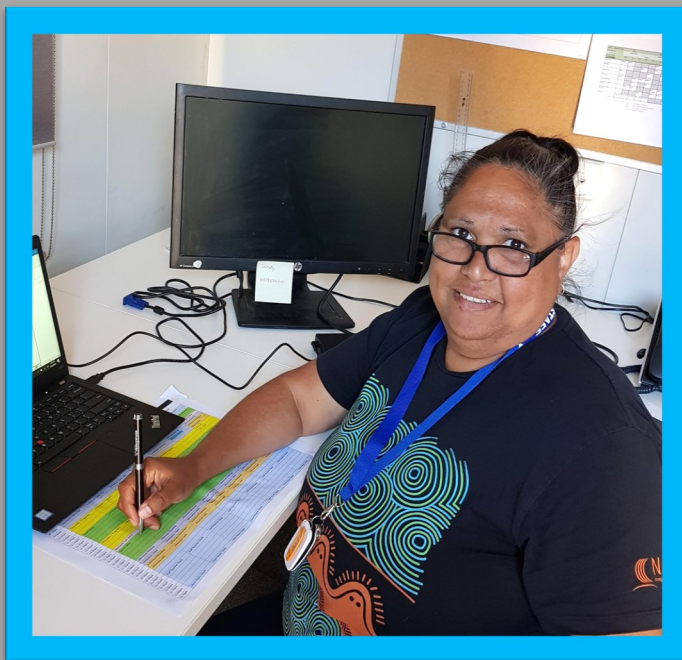


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Cont...



Becky Myer's - ATC Co-ordinator

Werte my Name is Becky Myers..!

I'm a local Alice springs aboriginal women of the Arrernte tribe.

Lived in many states and worked in various communities around Australia, I'm very passionate about my culture and love the work I do.

I'm currently now coordinating this amazing program under DASA and hope to continue this journey.



Pictured Above: Sue Anderson, Mary-Jay Nepe-Fuamatu and Becky Myers.

World Suicide Prevention Day



DASA was successful in securing a small grant from the Northern Territory Suicide Prevention Community Grant.

MHACA approached DASA to find out if we would be interested in joining their event this year. We were very excited to be part of this event with other organizations. Over 120 people attended "Working Together to Keep Each Other Safe" event which was held on Thursday 10th September for World Suicide Prevention Day in Alice Springs

DASA in partnership with MHACA, Congress

National Indigenous Australians Agency and Tangentyere Men's Family Safety Group, Life-line, Headspace, RU Ok, CAAAMA 8CCCFM hosted the community event to highlight the important role of communities working together in suicide prevention.

World Suicide Prevention Day is a day to remember those who have died by suicide and it is about acknowledging families, friends, workplaces and communities who have been impacted by suicide.

A local focus for the event was the issue of suicide and aboriginal men, and it was great to hear about some of the programs that are supporting men and mental health, more broadly in our community. Attendees were part of a smoking ceremony for healing by local Elder Sabella Turner, BBQ provided by DASA and music with Jessie K and Anders.

The Indigenous Outreach Team would like to say a special thank you to the Methamphetamine Through-Care Outreach Team, Commit2Change Team, Youth Outreach Program and Aranda House for your support during this event.

**WORLD
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
DAY** ● ● ●

10th September

