

DASA

Drug and Alcohol Services Australia



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

November Edition

2019





A Note from the CEO

It seems only a few weeks ago, when I wrote for the last news letter but here we are approaching the end of the year. Its been a very busy twelve months, with the Outreach team particularly flat out.

The Outreach team serves a variety of functions, not the least being their one on one counseling to a number of clients in need of their support. They also work at the prison undertaking programs for both men and women to assist them with their drug and alcohol problems prior to release.

Outreach hold a number of BBQ's each year and their curry day this year went down very well with the townspeople of Alice. Outreach is also the prime force behind the Drink Driver Education programs here in town and out bush, and these have been greatly sought after in the past few months.

One of the key responsibilities for the team is being the linkage between many of the other DASA programs. They serve as a connection between the Aboriginal people in our rehab and others there, and they are often used as translators to make sure the residents who need them have a voice as well as an avenue for complaint if they feel they need it.

Outreach also spends some time at the Sobering Up Shelter to try and provide brief interventions for people and so see if any of the clients to the Shelter, would benefit from and would like to spend some time in the rehab itself. They provide cultural awareness to the DASA staff and are a valued resource for the organisation in general.

So as mentioned, this team is very busy and wears many hats, all of which they do well. I would like to thank them once again, and in particular their manager Jocelyn Dhu, and look forward to working with them again next year. On that note, I would also like to wish all of our clients, friends, supporters and colleagues a very happy Christmas and a wonderful new year for next year.

Stay safe

Carole Taylor



ATCA Conference

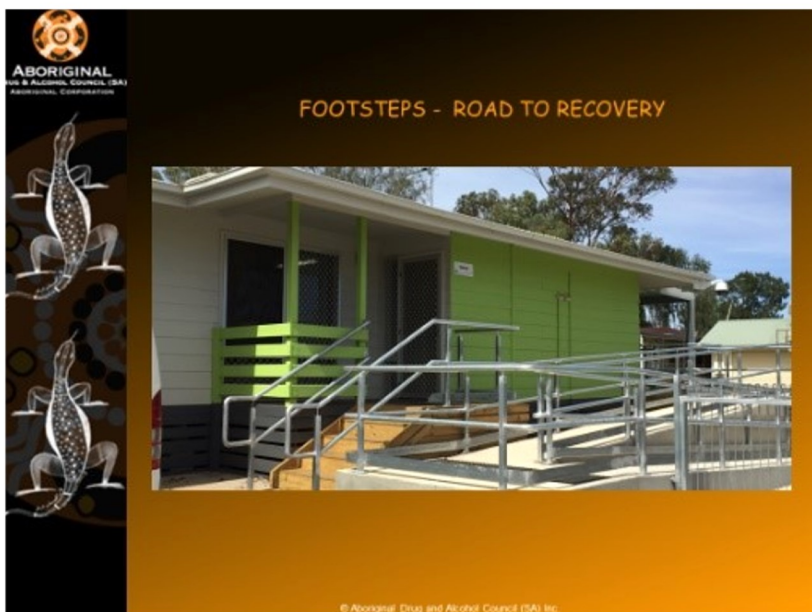
Each year the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) hosts an international conference in the Alcohol and Drug (AOD) field and affiliated areas. Carole Taylor (CEO), Jocelyn Dhu (Deputy CEO), Jeremy McKellar (Team Leader), Sailosi Tupou (TCSW) and Yasitha Malalasekara (Senior Case Manager) attended the 33rd Annual Conference held in Adelaide recently.



The conference provided delegates with a special opportunity to focus on restorative practices, with presentations from keynote speakers working with clients within the justice system and in partnership to provide options that will provide the chance to restore hope.

This year's conference aimed to build on the strong foundations ATCA has built over the past 33 years, reflecting on the past and moving forward into the future.

The conference also gave the opportunity for delegates to visit a Therapeutic Community (TC). Carole and Jocelyn opted to have a look at Footsteps in Port Augusta, whilst Jeremy, Yasitha and Sailosi attended the Woolshed and Teen Challenge site. It was a great opportunity for all of us to have a look at different TC's and the amazing work they do.



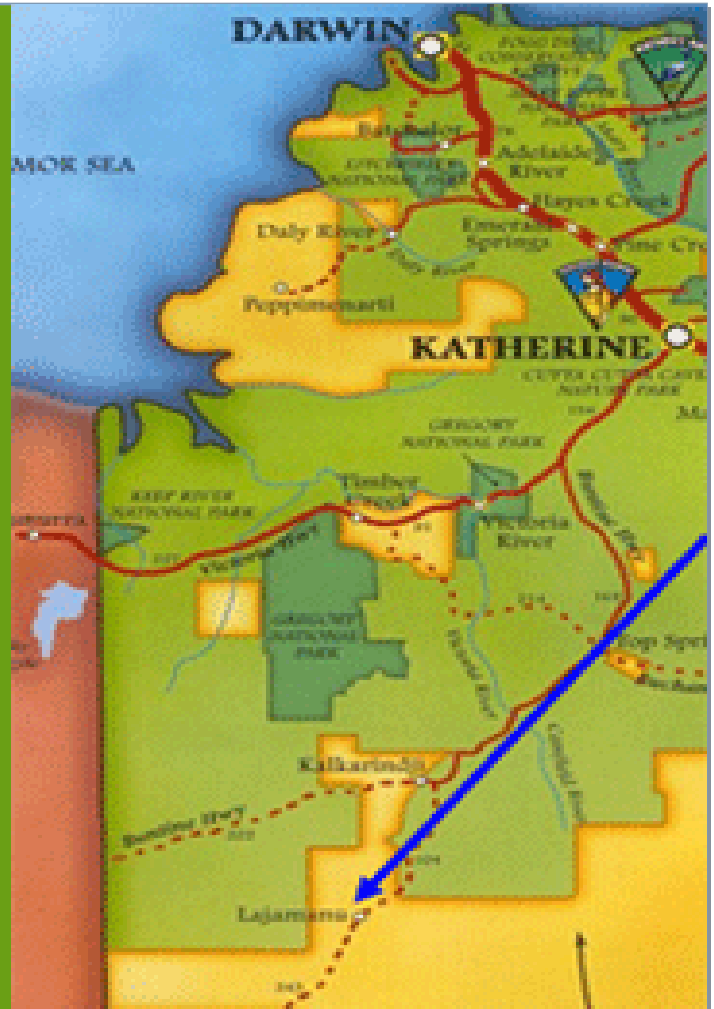
Lajamanu Workshop

The Indigenous Outreach team received funding to deliver a Strong Men's and Women's Workshop in Lajamanu Community.

In August 2019, The Outreach teams travelled out to Lajamanu and delivered the workshop to a group of participants. Below is a picture of Nardia and Brenton delivering at Lajamanu.

The workshop was well received and there was a lot input from the community and interest in wanting to learn more about the effects of alcohol and drugs. In September 2019 the Outreach team's travelled out again to deliver the Certificate II Wellbeing Workshop.

The team travelled 3,000km's each trip to deliver the two programs.



Conference - Melbourne

Last month the Meth team attended a harm minimisation conference put on by the new and exciting Progressive Public Health Alliance. After we met and discussed with them what we do here in Alice Springs at DASA they kindly invited us to attend the conference with all expenses covered by them so we could be guest speakers during the week. I had asked them whether I may bring an ex-client who was now reformed and working in the industry himself. They agreed so we took Edward Chandler to guest speak with us. Edward is now an AOD worker for BRADAAG after originally going there as a client taking part in the program at their rehab.

The three day conference had an array of representatives and guest speakers from all over the world from Vietnam, Switzerland, London, Poland, China, Germany, Asia, New Zealand and around Australia. There were Professors, Politicians, CEO's, AOD workers, Scientists, Doctors and even Police Detectives all sending the same messages in their own ways. It was beyond refreshing in this world full of red tape, negative thinkers and disillusioned people in this industry we learned that there are still many out there advocating for their clients cause and focusing on Harm Minimisation such as new safe injecting room in Melbourne to reduce overdoses and deaths. There was a huge focus on tobacco cessation through Vaping which is a hotly debated topic and it certainly gave me food for thought around this way of quitting my 20 year habit for good.

Written by: Danny Lloyd



Picture: Danny Lloyd, Dion Fuamatu and Edward Chandler.

DASA Christmas Message

