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VAADA's Drug Expo a success!

VAADA held the inaugural Drug Prevention and Services Expo at the Melbourne Town Hall on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th June 2002 as part of Drug Action Week.

The atmosphere was alive with enthusiasm as exhibitors scrambled on the first morning to set up their displays. When fully set up, the room was an eye catching spread of colour, movement and buzz as exhibitors talked to interested members of the public and amongst each other about their work.

It is difficult to accurately estimate how many people attended the Expo over the course of a day and half, but it was standing room only for the public forum and launch at midday on Thursday. The Expo also attracted some media attention.

The public forum, launched by Lord Mayor So, provided an excellent opportunity for some considered and lively discussion of the issues.



At the launch of the Expo, Police Commissioner Christine Nixon with Lord Mayor John So and VAADA Executive Officer, Carol Bennett.

Police Commissioner Christine Nixon challenged traditional approaches to policing, outlining her agenda for evidence based law enforcement to drug problems. Her use of personal anecdotes added to an impressive and informative presentation.

The ABC's Jon Faine continued to impress with a controversial and provocative perspective on the role of the media in reporting on drug issues.

Jon provided an honest and personal reflection on the hypocrisy and superficiality of some media and (human) behaviour when it comes to drug issues.

Peter Maher (Chair Premier's Drug Prevention Council), Bill Stronach (sector discussant on the role of the media in reporting on drug issues) and David Crosbie (broad treatment perspective) all continued to challenge and interest participants with their unique and thought provoking perspectives.

Presentations from experts across the sector continued throughout the Expo and continued to captivate the interest of the many people who attended the Expo.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the Expo was the level of pride and positivism shown by the sector in promoting its work. The range of activities and quality of displays was very high.

Many participants, including those from the general public who had previously had little reason for interest in the work of the drug sector, commented on the level of professionalism and the quality of work being done across the sector.

VAADA believes that the Expo provided one of the best opportunities for recognition and acknowledgement of the sector's efforts to reduce drug problems in the community. We would like to commend all who participated for an excellent effort!

National Launch of Drug Action Week

VAADA was pleased to have the opportunity to co-launch national Drug Action Week with the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia on Monday 24 June, 2002.

The launch was attended by about 80 sector representatives. Presenters included Professor Ian Webster (President ADCA), VAADA's President, Neos Zavrou, and Minister Bronwyn Pike (acting Health Minister and Minister for Community Services).

Broadcaster and comedian, Julie McCrossin, proved to be an entertaining host for the event. A great start to Drug Action Week 2002!

Visits to Agencies by Politicians

Again this year, VAADA facilitated visits to agencies by Victorian politicians. There were 21 visits conducted during Drug Action Week and many others have been organised for other times.

VAADA would like to commend all politicians who demonstrated a keen interest in the work of drug agencies. The following politicians participated in the program:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms Ann Barker, Member for Oakleigh▪ Mr Peter Loney, Member for Geelong North▪ Ms Joanne Duncan, Member for Gisborne▪ Mr Noel Maughan, Member for Rodney▪ Mr Bruce Mildenhall, Member for Footscray▪ The Honourable Andrew Brideson, Member for Waverley▪ The Honourable Cameron Boardman MLC, Chelsea Province▪ Mr Tony Robinson, Member for Mitcham▪ The Honourable Robert Smith MLC, Chelsea Province▪ Mr Don Nardella, Member for Melton | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms Anna Burke, Federal Member for Chisholm▪ Mr Gary Rowe, Member for Cranbourne▪ Mr Hugh Delahunty, Member for Wimmera▪ The Honourable Janet Powell MLC, North Eastern Province▪ Mr Don Kilgour, Member for Shepparton▪ Mrs Judy Madigan, Member for Essendon▪ Mr Martin Ferguson MP, Federal Member for Batman▪ Senator Lyn Allison, Senator for Victoria▪ Senator Tsebin Tchen, Senator for Victoria▪ Mr Tony Plowman, Member for Benambra▪ Ms Maria Valmvakinou, Member for Calwell |
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Photo Gallery: Drug Prevention and Services Expo

Trialling the Knowledge Game



Information anyone?



*Local Government
Drug Issues Forum*



*Students from
Altona Secondary
College
performing in
Creating
Conversations*

Your Say

Paul McDonald, Director, Drugs Policy and Services - Department of Human Services Victoria

I refer to the *Your Say* section of VAADA News, May 2002 in which Janet Farrow, CEO of Moreland Hall, writes on the issue of DHS funding of the Drug Treatment Services Sector.

The section titled 'DHS Funding' claims that DHS does not fully pass on Consumer Price Index (CPI) funding. In addition, this article fails to clearly make a distinction between the cost supplementation provided through CPI – payable only in respect of the operating component of services, and wage adjustments payable in respect of award movements and safety net adjustments.

Funding for drug treatment and prevention services is provided through a number of fund sources, including State appropriation and the Community Support Fund (CSF), as well as a number of other State & Commonwealth funding sources. The Turning the Tide initiative is 100% funded through CSF and more than 70% of the Victorian Government Drug Initiative is funded through CSF. The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) does not provide indexation in respect of CSF-funded services.

The level of indexation available is determined by DTF through the budget process. Cost supplementation of indexation is provided in respect of 20% of the total funding for individual services, for the operating component. Indexation from DTF on State appropriation lines this year was 1.5% based on 2.5% (Melbourne CPI) less 1% (whole of government productivity dividend.) The CSF is not subject to adjustments for indexation or productivity dividends.

Variations for wage movements are passed on in line with award changes. While unit costs are adjusted each year, I am conscious that the limited indexation funds result in a slightly lower variation to service funding levels, and I am hopeful that over time there will be a staged process of program funding transferring from CSF to State appropriation where funds will be eligible for full indexation.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to these claims and to confirm that DHS passes on all CPI funds to agencies and separately funds for all wage movements. DHS will continue to seek approval for programs currently funded through CSF to be transferred to State appropriation lines to ensure that all drug treatment service funds are eligible for indexation and growth funding.

VAADA Media Release 26 June 2002

Drug prevention and treatment exposed

Ever wondered how we prevent drug problems and what happens to someone when they enter a drug treatment program? The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) are giving everyone the chance to find out first hand when it hosts the Victorian Drug Prevention and Services Expo on 27 June and 28 June 2002.

According to VAADA's Executive Officer, Carol Bennett, *"what we usually hear about drugs is the dark side of drug problems, the crime, the damage to families, the deaths. There is another story about how people overcome drug problems. For the first time in Victoria, the general public will be able to talk to people who work with the reality of drug abuse and know how to prevent and treat drug problems."*

The Expo, involving interactive displays from more than fifty of Victoria's leading drug prevention and treatment agencies, will get underway at midday on Thursday. It will be opened by some high profile speakers who will talk about their views on drugs including **Lord Mayor John So; Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon (Victoria Police), the ABC's Jon Faine**, and drug prevention and treatment experts, Peter Maher, Bill Stronach and David Crosbie.

The Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks, strongly supports the Expo. *'Events such as this Expo provide an excellent opportunity to come together to share information, test ideas, think of new approaches and to take time to recognise the considerable achievements that we have all made in tackling drug problems. I wish the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association well for a successful and fruitful event.'*

Many leading Victorians have also supported the event including: **David Johnston (Seven News), Poppy King, Rev Tim Costello, Glenn Manton (Carlton AFL player) and Tania Doko (Bachelor Girl).**

The Expo is the first time so many specialist agencies have come together in one place. There will be continuous activities, presentations and performances throughout the Expo.

Calendar of Events

23 July	Early Intervention in School and Community Settings An interactive seminar showcasing practical strategies for Early Intervention. St Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy 9.15am – 3.30pm Registration and further details are available on the Australian Drug Foundation website www.adf.org.au
24 July	Living on the edge: working with adolescents who self harm: an overview The focus will be on the assessment, management and treatment of young people with a border-line personality disorder and/or significant borderline traits. Spectrum, The Personality Disorder Service Vic. Ph: 9871 3900 Workshop runs from 9.15am to 4.30pm Cost \$99 or subsidised \$44
29 – 30 July	National Indigenous Substance Misuse Council (NISMC) First National Conference Contact Sharon Junker or Tracie Hopwood Phone 07 4945 7122 or email icskooori@mackay.net.au
31 July – 2 August	VCOSS Social Policy Congress 2002 - Developing Visions for New Way Forward A forum for those in the social and community sector to engage in dialogue around innovative strategies across policy, program and legislative areas that address key needs and issues in our community. The focus of the Congress is on options and solutions for ways forward across policy, program and legislative areas. Contact: Carolyn Atkins, phone 03 9654 5050 Email: carolyn.atkins@vcoss.org.au Website http://www.vcoss.org.au
9 August	Talking Point Seminar – Syringe exchanges in European prisons Dr Friederike Veit, Adolescent Medicine Physician & 2001 Winston Churchill Fellow 1-2pm Turning Point Training Room142 Gertrude St, Fitzroy. Bookings essential. Ph: 8413 8413
20 - 21 August	Inaugural Alcohol and Other Drug Symposium- "Alcohol and Other Drugs: Collaborating for Better Care". The Symposium will be held at The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. For more information follow the links to the Symposium at: www.nextstep.wa.gov.au
23 August	3rd Annual Southwest Alcohol & Drug Forum Warrnambool Alcohol & Drug Advisory Committee Speakers include: Dr John Howard, consultant Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Adolescent Psychiatry, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney and Commissioner Beth Wilson, Health Services Commissioner Victoria
13 September	Talking Point Seminar – Drugs: addiction or adrenalin Rev. Tim Costello – Director, Urban Seed & National President, Baptist Union of Australia 1-2pm Turning Point Training Room142 Gertrude St, Fitzroy. Bookings essential. Ph: 8413 8413
11 October	Talking Point Seminar – Media and the drugs policy agenda: what are the relationships? John Tebbutt – Media Studies Program, La Trobe University 1-2pm Turning Point Training Room142 Gertrude St, Fitzroy. Bookings essential. Ph: 8413 8413
8 November	Talking Point Seminar – Full speed ahead: developments in treatment for amphetamine use Dr Nicole Lee – Senior Clinical Psychologist & Senior Research Fellow, Turning Point 1-2pm Turning Point Training Room142 Gertrude St, Fitzroy. Bookings essential. Ph: 8413 8413
18 – 20 November	APSAD Alcohol and Drug Conference (incorporating the National Methadone Conference) The conference will be held in Adelaide and will place equal emphasis on licit and illicit drugs. For further information visit: www.plevin.com.au/APSAD2002 or phone 08 8379 8222
2-3 December	VAADA Annual Conference – focus on alcohol Call for abstracts – contact vaada@infoxchange.net.au or phone 9416 0899 Venue to be advised.

VAADA E-NEWS

VAADA's E-NEWS electronic information service provides subscribers with access to current information about drug issues from media to parliamentary reports. Subscribers have also found the service valuable for posting information to the Victorian alcohol and drug field. VAADA developed the service in response to members' requests for an interactive information source with a unique Victorian focus.

As always, VAADA invites your comments on the quality and value of the E-NEWS service. To provide comments or to subscribe to E-NEWS, send an email to vaada@infoxchange.net.au