

Drug Action



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NSW COMMUNITY DRUG STRATEGIES NEWSLETTER

The Living End out West

Popular Australian band, The Living End, headlined a concert in Broken Hill after a group of local high school students won a national competition run by the ABC's Triple J youth network.

This concert, with the unique title of the 'Act Now/Reconnect Living End Up Your End Concert' was drug and alcohol free and attracted a crowd of more than 5,000 young people from Broken Hill and surrounding communities.

The organising committee predominantly made up of local young people, had less than 8 weeks to organise the event. They relied on the support of Broken Hill City Council, youth workers and community groups from Broken Hill, and the generosity of local businesses to make the event happen.

The Premier's Department contributed financially towards t-shirts, banners, flyers and posters



The Living End rocks Broken Hill. Picture courtesy of the Barrier Daily Truth.

used to promote the event. Local young people designed all promotional materials.

The concert is a great example of a community working together and creating awareness of drug issues.

Drugs and Community Action on-line

The *Drugs and Community Action* website is an on-line resource with the latest information on the NSW Drugs and Community Action Strategy (DCAS) and Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) activities.

When you first enter the site, all information is sorted under five headings:

- about drugs and community action
- regions
- resources
- events
- feedback.

If you are interested in any available resources, whether they are relevant to a specific region or the whole of NSW, you can view these under the 'Resources' heading.

If you are interested in information that relates to a specific region go into the 'Index by Region' or click on the 'Interactive maps'.

The site also lists contact details for each of the DCAS Project Managers and contact details for the CDATs. You can read about what the Teams are focusing on and find out where and when they are next meeting.

This is an interactive site and will be most effective if you add your own stories and experiences – local resources, case studies, meetings or up coming events. There are clear instructions on how to do this and it's a lot easier than you'd expect!

Throughout the entire communitybuilders site there is information on community development, community action and links to other interesting websites. Information and resources are added regularly, so keep checking for new items.

www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action



Music and entertainment play an important part in the lives of young people,

however, some communities have little access to visual and performing arts.

To help overcome this, the NSW Government has established the INDENT program – an Independent Entertainment Network for Young People. INDENT helps young people in NSW to access:

- event funding
- workshops and training
- support and resources
- information and communication.

INDENT offers grants to help establish 'Partnerships' between committees of young people and support organisations across NSW. Fifteen Partnerships are established each year – 10 in regional areas and 5 in metropolitan areas.

INDENT Partnerships for 2001 have been announced, however funding support of between \$500 and \$2000 for 'one off' events is still available to INDENT Committees. If your CDAT is thinking about running a youth event you can get in touch with INDENT and combine efforts. You might also like to lend your support to INDENT events in your region.

Where are the INDENT Partnerships for 2001?

INDENT Partnerships are operating in Leichhardt, Waverley, Gordon, Newcastle, Katoomba, Gosford, Bega, Broken Hill, Lithgow, Wagga Wagga, Armidale, Muswellbrook, Taree, Port Macquarie and Lismore.

How to get in contact with Partnerships in your area?

For more information contact Andy Kelly or Tracy Ellis Tel 02 9247 7540 email inbox@indent.net.au or visit the website at www.indent.net.au

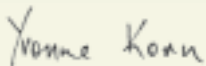
Welcome to the second edition of *Drug Action* and welcome to the Drug Action Editorial Committee who advised on this edition and who will guide future editions (see page 4).

Over the past 3 months the community interest in CDATs has increased dramatically. There are already more than 50 CDATs operating across NSW.

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's *DRUG ACTION WEEK* provides CDATs with an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of drug-related issues in their communities (see page 5).

Sadly, after 12 months as North Coast Regional Project Manager, Jennifer Parke is returning to the Department of Juvenile Justice. Jennifer has been instrumental in developing and writing the *North Coast Drugs and Community Action Regional Plan of Action* and helping the CDATs in this region to get up and running.

On behalf of her colleagues and myself I thank Jennifer for all her efforts. She will be sorely missed.



Yvonne Korn, Project Director,
Community Drug Strategies

Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy

On 27 March 2001 the Premier announced a new 3-stage plan to address drug and crime problems in Cabramatta. Key elements of the plan include:

- enhanced police powers in relation to drug houses and searches
- establishment of a City Watch program to bring local businesses and police together to develop solutions to local crime
- compulsory treatment for drug users arrested in Cabramatta and expansion of drug rehabilitation and treatment services in South Western Sydney, and
- expanded early intervention and prevention programs, including community alcohol and drug education.

An additional \$14 million over 4 years has been made available. Most initiatives will commence from 1 July 2001. More details next edition.

Across the State, there are 53 Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) working to lessen the impact of drugs in their local communities.

In each *Drug Action* we will profile one or two of the Drugs and Community Action Strategy regions. In this edition we look at activity in South West Sydney and the North Coast of NSW. For more information about CDATs in your area visit www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action or contact the Project Manager in your region (contact details on page 6).

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY



Project Manager: Jan Heslep
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Jan is located at:
Eighth Floor, Civic Tower
Jacobs Street Entrance
Cnr Rickards Road and Jacobs Street
Bankstown NSW 2200

CDATs already established in the region

- Bankstown** Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 11am, Roundhouse, Bankstown City Council. Contact Julie Sloggett, Chair, Tel 9707 9471.
- Campbelltown** In the Campbelltown Local Government Area, a locality-based approach has been adopted. A CDAT has been established at Airds/Bradbury, and other CDATs have been suggested for Claymore, Macquarie Fields, Minto and Ingleburn. Please contact the Project Manager, Jan Heslep if you are interested in any of these teams.
- Airds/Bradbury CDAT** meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, 2:45pm, Airds/Bradbury Neighbourhood Centre, 69 Riverside Drive, Airds.
- Canterbury** Meets on the 1st Monday of the month from 12noon. Contact the Project Manager, Jan Heslep for details of meeting venues, which rotate.
- Fairfield** Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2pm, Fairfield City Council, Avoca Street, Wakeley. Contact Mr Hedley Mooney Tel 9793 4900.
- Liverpool** Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 3:30pm, Liverpool City Council. Contact Project Manager, Jan Heslep.
- Picton** If you are interested in joining the Picton CDAT please contact Jan Heslep for more details.

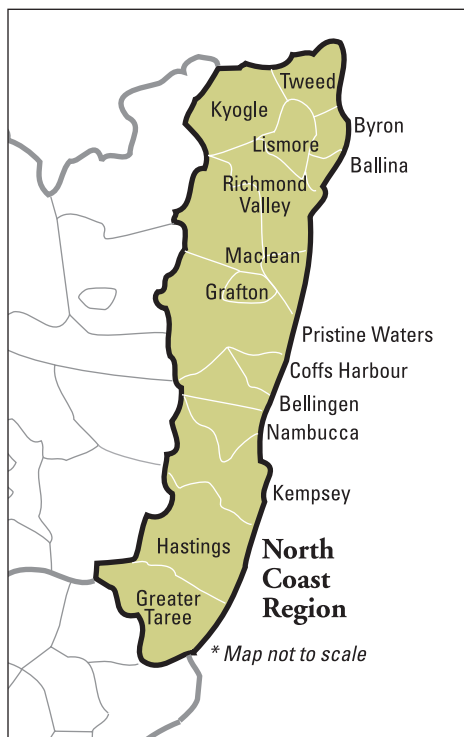


John Della Bosca, Special Minister of State, Tony Waters Campbelltown Police, Jenn Rignold Airds House, Jan Heslep, DGAS Project Manager, and Graham West MP Campbelltown at the launch of the Airds Bradbury CDAT on 29 January 2001.

CDAT activities in South West Sydney

The **Bankstown CDAT** is involved in developing a *Bankstown Community Safety Expo* with Bankstown Council and other agencies. The Expo is scheduled for 16 June 2001 and will provide Bankstown residents with information on drugs and alcohol as well as a wide range of safety issues including personal safety, safety for older and younger residents eg falls prevention, and bike safety. Contact Julie Sloggett, Chair, Bankstown CDAT, Tel 9707 9471 if you would like to get involved in this event.

NORTH COAST NSW



Project Manager: *Currently this position is vacant*
 The office can be contacted on
 Tel: 02 6626 5612 Fax: 02 6626 5613.
 A new Project Manager will be appointed soon
 and will be located in Coffs Harbour.

CDATs already established in the region

- Port Macquarie** For more information contact Lulu Davies, Hastings Illicit Drug Working Group
Tel 02 6581 8634. Contact address: PO Box 84, Port Macquarie, 2444.

- Taree** For more information contact Geoff Buckley Tel 02 65505880.

- Lismore** For more information contact Tony Madden, Chair, Tel 02 66243188.

- Kyogle** For more information contact Antonia Ravesi Tel 02 6687 2835.

- Ballina** For more information contact Peter Moore Tel 02 6686 7776
Contact address: Ballina Council, Cnr Tamar and Cherry Streets, Ballina, 2478.

- Nimbin** For more information contact Bob Hopkins, Chair, Tel: 0419210946.

CDAT activities on the North Coast

The **Kyogle CDAT** involves community members, Kyogle Youth Action, Kyogle Youth Council, Community Health, Police, Kyogle Shire Council, Department of Education, Salvation Army, Alcohol and Other Drug TAFE students and Insight Network Treatment (INTRA).

In December last year the CDAT outlined some of their key projects over the next year including a focus on young people and cannabis, establishing a methadone support group and prevention/education activities.

The CDAT has invited guest speakers to help inform their planning process. For example, the Region's Needle and Syringe Program Team

Leader met with the CDAT and explained the role and aims of the Needle and Syringe Program.

As one of their major activities, the CDAT is organising an arts project that aims to encourage expression of community concern about both illegal and legal drugs. The project will involve consultations and input from the Kyogle community including Aboriginal communities in the Kyogle Shire. A workshop facilitator will ensure, regardless of artistic ability, everyone can join in. The resulting artwork will travel to other towns to stimulate awareness and concern about drug-related issues. The DCAS Special Funds Program will fund the arts project.

Albury Community Forum

The Albury CDAT was involved in a NSW/Victoria cross border drug forum in Albury on 2 March. The forum aims included improving awareness of drug use and options for prevention, and increasing awareness of the responses to drug use being undertaken by government and non government agencies in Albury and Wodonga.

Approximately 250 people attended the forum in the evening and 95 professionals attended a separate session during the afternoon. Margaret Hamilton, Executive Director of Turning Point, Victoria was the key speaker.

An information brochure on local drug related services was produced and distributed at the forum.

The opportunity to discuss drug issues was well received and participants identified issues for



Ms Debbie Heery, Upper Hume Community Health Service, Mrs Bathie-Hansen, Albury CDAT, Sen-Constable Kevin Mack and Det-Seg David Cottee at the forum. (Picture courtesy of the Border Mail)

future action. The forum produced a range of ideas about working across the border, including the possibility of establishing a cross border CDAT.

The Albury CDAT is using information arising from the forum to inform their work.

Benefits of forums

Forums provide an opportunity to:

- show what is happening in your community (both government and non-government agencies)
- showcase initiatives that have demonstrated success
- present new ideas on what does and doesn't work
- debate different approaches (such as round table discussions with a facilitator)
- help identify gaps in knowledge of drug-related issues and services
- allow communities to work out ways they can contribute at a local level
- use information from forums to help CDATs develop local plans.

Action around the State

Orange CDAT has been meeting since February 2000. As part of their work, Orange CDAT hosted an information forum for parents, community leaders and health and welfare workers. Kerri Lawrence and Annie Bleeker from Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre (MDECC) spoke about two of their successful peer education programs – the *Drug Safe Project* and *Parents Prepared, A Parent Peer Education Program*. The response was fantastic with interested people travelling from Mudgee and Dubbo. The Orange CDAT is looking at the possibility of running similar types of programs in the Orange area.

Communities in **Redfern** and **Waterloo** have re-established a CDAT and are identifying priority issues for their work.

Sutherland Community Drug and Alcohol Action Team will hold a planning day to prioritise their work over the next 12 months. The Team, which has a strong representation of community groups and local residents, will focus on prevention programs.

A CDAT is being established in **La Perouse**. The Team has strong community representation and will have a focus on family issues.

As part of their Youth Week activities the **Taree CDAT** and the **Forster CDAT** invited Paul Dillon, Information Officer with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre to conduct information sessions and workshops for young people. Information sessions were held at schools in Taree and Forster. Later that evening an information session for young people, their

families and interested community members was also held.

The **Central Coast Aboriginal CDAT** supported a Community Drug Information Day organised by the Central Coast Area Health Service. The event held on 28 March 2001, provided the community with information on topics like: drugs and what they can do, causes and effects of drug use and abuse, treatment information and how to raise the matter with your kids.

Hawkesbury District CDAT held a business dinner on 31 January 2001 at the Windsor Lodge. Over 40 business and community leaders from Windsor and Richmond attended. Local community members, business owners and government and non government agencies had the opportunity to be involved in the future direction of the Hawkesbury response to alcohol and other drugs. A current member of the CDAT sat at each table and acted as a resource person, encouraging questions and discussion. Many attendants made a commitment to join the Hawkesbury CDAT.



(L-R) Snr Cons. Jeff Parkin and Teresa Luland from the Hawkesbury District CDAT, accepting the endorsement certificate from the Honourable Jim Anderson.

CDAT Planning Tips

Ideas for your Action Plan

The *Drugs and Community Action Strategy Framework for Action* document provides some information for CDATs to assist in developing their local action plan (pages 24 – 25). This suggests that CDATs use a table format and link the identified need or issue to an objective of the *Government Plan of Action*. The *Fairfield Local Drug Action Plan 2001* is an example of where this approach was used (and is available on the website www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action). However, all groups are different and your CDAT may wish to develop its own method.

A common problem for CDATs is identifying more things than they have the energy and resources to deal with. One method to deal with this is to develop criteria to identify the key issue on which to focus. If the issue meets all the criteria the CDAT should include it in their local action plan. Possible criteria are, *that the action:*

- involves a partnership approach (ie groups work together)
- provides opportunities to tie in with existing initiatives/funding/plans
- meets current models of 'what works best' and has measurable milestones
- is achievable within a one year timeframe or could be commenced using a staged approach
- is a specific need in the Local Government Area
- will help generate improvements to services in the area
- is an approach that encourages all local agencies to work together to address service gaps.

If you have any useful planning tips you would like to share with other CDATs please contact *Drug Action* or post something on the Drugs and Community Action website.

Wentworth Area Help Card

The Penrith CDAT in partnership with the NSW Police and Wentworth Area Health Service (Western Sydney), has developed two resources. The first, a wallet sized information help card is designed to help people suffering alcohol and other drug use problems. The second, a referral directory, the Drug and Alcohol Help Guide, will assist police and community workers.

The card and directory include phone numbers for drug and alcohol services and health services in the Penrith, Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury local government areas. Police and community workers

will distribute the card to drug and/or alcohol affected people with whom they come in contact.

The NSW Police Drug Programs Coordination Unit has been working with Area Health Services around the State to develop help cards for Local Area Commands. They are also working with CDATs to produce wallet sized 'help' cards for police to give to people who need assistance as a result of their alcohol or drug use.

Further information can be obtained from Kathy Symonds, Drug Programs Coordination Unit, NSW Police on 9339 5418.

Drug Action Editorial Committee

Kate Butler, *Drugs and Community Action Strategy Project Manager, Riverina/Murray*
Jenny Gilbert, *Airds/Bradbury Community Drug Action Team*

Liz Junck, *Drugs and Community Action Strategy Project Manager, Statewide Issues*

Jan Heslep, *Drugs and Community Action Strategy Project Manager, South West Sydney*

Kate Toohey, *Blue Mountains Community Drug Action Team*

Amanda Pullinger, *Community Drug Information Strategy Project Manager*

Joynt Youth Action inc.

Joynt Youth Action is located in the Southern Highlands of NSW. Their aim is to create better opportunities for young people, in particular, the association focuses on youth drug and alcohol use and abuse in the context of broader youth issues. Michele Scamps, President, Joynt Youth Action explains the group's origin, aims and successes.

Joynt Youth Action was already formed when we heard about the NSW Government's Drugs and Community Action Strategy (DCAS). By the time our regional Project Manager, Kris French, started there was already a message on her desk to call us, which she did very promptly. It was not long after that our association accepted her invitation to become one of the first Community Drug Action Teams in NSW.

The genesis of the association is largely attributable to Lisa Allen, who attended a lecture at her son's primary school given by ex-Children's Court Magistrate, Barbara Holbrow. The inspirational lecture to a small group of parents got Lisa thinking that there were many more people in our community interested in what Barbara had to say.

Lisa arranged for Barbara and others to speak at a public meeting called 'Staying Alive'. Over 200 people attended. It was an emotion charged evening with many people there to tell sad stories about their own children. The message I took away

from the evening was that only a community working together could make any impact on the complex set of drug-related issues facing our children today.

After the meeting, Lisa and others felt that the response to the evening had been so positive that our community would welcome some sort of ongoing initiative. A number of informal meetings were held. These included various stakeholders and community members, and the Macarthur Drug and Alcohol Youth Project (MDAYP). Joynt Youth Action was born in December 1999.

Using an inclusive community model suggested by MDAYP, and with the help of key community members, we formed a Steering Committee, identified all the major stakeholders and asked them to participate.

Our achievements to date include incorporation of the association and an effective steering committee. We staged a second successful 'Staying Alive' seminar with Tony Trimmingham from Family Drug Support and Barbara Holbrow. Again, more than 200 people attended. We have established an education sub committee to look at ways we can influence both primary and secondary schools students to avoid the dangers of drugs and alcohol. One primary school is trialing a series of oral history workshops in early 2001. We have also staged a number of fund raising events, including the very successful Garden and Jazz Soirée held at Redlands on 24 March 2001. 160 people attended and \$4,000 was raised.



JYA fundraising committee at the Garden and Jazz Soirée. Picture courtesy of the Highlands News.

Future events include the 2001 Youth Drug Forum to be held in early June. This three-day workshop for students involves all six local high schools (state and private). We are using a peer led model developed by MDAYP and will be asking year 9 & 10 students about what drug issues are relevant in their school community and what strategies they suggest could be employed to deal with them. This forum will go a long way to raise awareness of drug issues both in the school and general communities.

At Joynt Youth Action we are confident that we will be able to make a difference and we are looking forward to hearing about some good ideas from other CDATs.

Michele Scamps
President, Joynt Youth Action

The next edition of Drug Action will include information about the JYA Youth Drug Forum and other youth leadership programs.

DRUG ACTION WEEK

The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's DRUG ACTION WEEK will be held from 25-29 June 2001. It will be a week of activities across the country with events staged at the national, state and local level.

DRUG ACTION WEEK will:

- raise awareness of the broad range of harms associated with the misuse of drugs
- promote the work of alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment agencies
- promote public debate about good practice strategies for reducing drug-related harm.

What will happen in DRUG ACTION WEEK?

All kinds of events will be held during the week, including open days, seminars and information nights, film nights and benefits, public meetings and media coverage.

Five Theme Days

Each day of DRUG ACTION WEEK will have a theme.

Monday	25 June	Treatment
Tuesday	26 June	Prevention
Wednesday	27 June	Alcohol
Thursday	28 June	Indigenous issues
Friday	29 June	Workplace issues

Events will be held to coincide with the themes.

How can CDATs get involved?

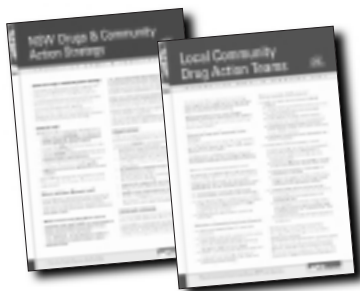
You can either hold your own event during DRUG ACTION WEEK, or get involved in other events planned for your area. A resource kit is available to help you decide what you want to do and plan your activities. For more information or to obtain copies of the Kit contact your Regional Project Manager.

drug
action week
25 - 29 june 2001

New information sheets

The NSW Government's *Drugs and Community Action Strategy* and *Local Community Drug Action Teams* Information Sheets provide an introduction to the Drugs and Community Action Strategy and how communities can address drug related issues.

These resources are available from your Project Manager or via the Drugs and Community Action website at www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action



Community Partnerships Kit and website

A *Community Partnerships Kit* and website have been developed by the Commonwealth Government for groups wishing to undertake community action to prevent illicit drug use or address use where it occurs.

There are four major components of the Kit – a model for community action, a Workbook, a Toolbox and a Library. The Kit can be worked through from start to finish or consulted according to need.

The Kit has been published in both print version and a web based format available at: www.communitypartnerships.health.gov.au

A copy of the free Kit can be ordered from: Department of Health and Aged Care Population Health Division Publications Distribution Officer Fax: 02 6289 8360 E-mail: phd.publications@health.gov.au Voicemail: 1800 020 103 (ask for ext 8654)

National illicit drugs campaign targets parents

A new national campaign urges parents to play an active role in preventing drug use by their children.

The campaign includes a major advertising campaign and information for parents including an information booklet in English and a range of community languages.

To order extra copies of the booklet, call the information line on 1800 250 015 (toll free) or visit the website at www.drugs.health.gov.au

Who can I contact for more information?

If you would like more information about any of these Government responses to community drug issues, contact the central office staff, Project Manager in your region (see below) or visit the website www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action

Project Managers can provide additional resources that explain the Strategies and the work of the Community Drug Action Teams in more detail.

Central Office

General Inquiries – Assistant Project Officer, Community Drug Strategies
Ph: (02) 9228 3731 Fax: (02) 9228 5517

Project Director, Community Drug Strategies

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Project Manager (Statewide Issues)
Liz Junck

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Please put me on the mailing list – return slip

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 Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____

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