

# Drug Action



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NSW COMMUNITY DRUG STRATEGIES NEWSLETTER

## Dharawal Family Matters launched



The Special Minister of State John Della Bosca recently launched the *Dharawal Family Matters*

booklet, a project of the Yura Yulang Community Drug Action Team and the NSW Premier's Department.

The booklet, written by community members, contains six paintings by a local Aboriginal artist showing images of how drugs and alcohol can affect families. It also shows the good things that can happen when families and communities work together to deal with drug and alcohol problems.

Each painting has a story that has been translated into traditional *Dharawal* language (see page 3 for an example). Inspirational messages from local Aboriginal people are also included. *Dharawal* is the traditional language of the *Dharawal* people around South Western Sydney.



*Geoff Corrigan, Member for Camden, Thomas Smith, Chairperson of the Yura Yulang CDAT, artist Andrew 'Saddles' Bell and John Della Bosca, Special Minister of State at the launch of Dharawal Family Matters.*

This project plays an important part in reviving the *Dharawal* language and it is believed that this is the first time that the language has been used to promote health messages to the local Aboriginal community.

The original paintings featured in the booklet were presented to the Mayor of Campbelltown at the launch by Minister Della Bosca.

The Yura Yulang CDAT was formed in 2001 and arose from the need for an Aboriginal CDAT to address issues that affect the Campbelltown area Aboriginal community. The name Yura Yulang was chosen by the local community and means "Peoples Ceremony".

*The Dharawal translations were done in good faith by members of the Yura Yulang CDAT using information available to them.*

## Changing the Culture of Alcohol Use in NSW

The Premier of NSW, Mr Bob Carr, recently released the Government's response to the NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, *Changing the Culture of Alcohol Use in New South Wales*.

The Alcohol Summit held on 26-29 August last year drew together experts, community leaders, industry representatives, support services and members of parliament to examine alcohol abuse issues and ways of combating them.

The report details the Government's response

to the 318 recommendations from the Summit, including action in the following areas:

- more education and communication about alcohol
- reducing alcohol-related crime
- preventing and reducing damage to families and young people
- promoting responsible service and supply
- helping indigenous communities
- more targeted health and treatment services
- preventing injury and trauma

- building the capacity of the workforce, and
- regular monitoring and coordination of alcohol abuse initiatives.

"Dangerous alcohol consumption has a serious impact on individuals, families and the community – and is estimated to cost the nation \$7.6 billion a year," Mr Carr said.

"The Alcohol Summit was an important catalyst in raising awareness of the problems of dangerous drinking and promoting more informed debate.

*Continued page 3...*

Welcome to the Winter 2004 edition of *Drug Action*. In the past twelve months all Drugs and Community Action Strategy regions have held successful CDAT conferences. I have been fortunate enough to attend most of these conferences and seen first hand the enthusiasm and creativity of people involved in CDATs.

Many CDATs are planning events and activities to coincide with the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's *Drug Action Week 2004* from **21-25 June 2004** (see article on this page). The week provides an excellent opportunity for CDATs to work with others in their local community to promote the achievements of those working to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm. I encourage CDATs to get involved.

The NSW Government has released its response to the NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse. In acknowledgement of the important local work that CDATs undertake teams will now be encouraged to address alcohol issues, in addition to illicit drugs, and to get involved in the development of local liquor accords. *Changing the Culture of Alcohol Use in New South Wales* can be found at [www.alcoholsummit.nsw.gov.au](http://www.alcoholsummit.nsw.gov.au)



Yvonne Korn, Project Director,  
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# Working with communities to promote safe and responsible drinking

*Changing the Culture of Alcohol Use in New South Wales* includes initiatives aimed at improving community awareness and new ways to prevent the impact of alcohol abuse on local communities.

NSW Special Minister of State, John Della Bosca, said improving community awareness was a key recommendation of last year's Summit.

"All Community Drug Action Teams across the State will be asked to tackle the issue of alcohol abuse in their local communities," said Mr Della Bosca.

"The Teams are ideally placed to know what the drug and alcohol problems are in their towns and cities and what will work to address these issues.

"Community Drug Action Teams have formed the backbone of the Government's illicit drug program at a local community level. There are now over 80 teams involving over 1,000 people.

"Many teams have already put in place successful projects to reduce the damage caused by alcohol misuse and we want to encourage more of this kind of activity," the Minister said.

"Only last week a group of indigenous young people from Bourke launched a music CD and television campaign with the theme *He ain't drinking, he's drivin* which highlights the importance of responsible drinking.

"In Surry Hills, the local Community Drug Action Team was successfully involved in the development of a local liquor accord", Mr Della Bosca said.

The *Drug Information at Your Local Library (Di@YLL)* project will be expanded to include more information resources on alcohol. Located within 382 local libraries, Di@YLL provides

easy access for parents and young people wanting information on illicit drugs.

Mr Della Bosca also announced the Government would establish a new *Alcohol Education and Information Taskforce* to oversee community alcohol education and information programs across the State.

The Taskforce will include independent experts, alcohol industry representatives and community representatives. It will ensure that the community receives positive messages about safe and responsible drinking.

NSW Health will also develop an *Alcohol Communication Plan*, in partnership with the Taskforce, to provide direction for cross-Government alcohol education and information.

The Summit on Alcohol Abuse had also recommended amending the *Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code*.

"The retail liquor industry has already agreed to amend the Code to encourage responsible advertisements for alcohol and promote drinking standards that are consistent with the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Alcohol Guidelines," the Minister said.



Minister Della Bosca addresses the NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse.

# drug action week® 21-25 JUNE 2004

**Drug Action Week® 2004** will be held from **21-25 June 2004**. The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia hosts *Drug Action Week®* each year. The event raises awareness about alcohol and other drug issues in Australia. Last year over 260 events took place throughout the country, ranging from film festivals to open days and public forums.

CDATs are encouraged to get involved by holding their own events or getting involved in events planned in your area.

Each day of *Drug Action Week®* has a specific theme to allow event organisers to target their activities and reflect the issues involved in the alcohol and drug field.

For more information about *Drug Action Week®* or to find out what is happening in your area, visit the website [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au), or contact your Regional Project Officer.

## THE 2004 THEME DAYS

Monday	21 June	Alcohol
Tuesday	22 June	Treatment
Wednesday	23 June	Prevention
Thursday	24 June	Indigenous Australians
Friday	25 June	Prescription Medicines

*Drug Action Week® 2004 is proudly sponsored by the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation.*

## CDATs to promote activities on new Drug Action website

The Drug Action website is currently being redesigned to allow users easy access to the latest resources, news, local projects and drug action information. Many new features are being added to the site.

CDATs will be able to promote upcoming events, highlight achievements and showcase local activities through their own web pages.

A browse facility will allow users to look for information by *geographical area*, *topic* e.g. alcohol or *population group* e.g. families,

Indigenous communities, etc.

CDATs will receive e-mail updates on the latest projects, resources and upcoming events through the latest *newswire* service.

The site will continue to provide contact information, resources and key links to a range of drug related websites.

The new web site will be launched in the next few months. **[www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs\\_action](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action)**



## Tree of knowledge

Will you be the first to speak of good things?

*Ngyini baya-na marana budyari.*

Be first to be strong as a great tree.  
*Marana bulbuwal marri daramu.*

Be first to seek out and embrace good things.  
*Marana naa dyalgala budyari.*

Will you run away from fear and evil (drugs, grog) and be first to be strong (make an example of yourself)?

*Djirrun marana miri bulbuwal.*

Take hold of good thoughts and pass them to others. Take hold of the truth and speak strong.  
*Mawa budyari mawa yuwing baya bulbuwal.*

*From Dharawal Family Matters.*

...from page 1

The Government's response is a long-term strategy aimed at changing a culture that results in excessive and binge drinking in our community. It involves new initiatives from a range of agencies and departments to better target and co-ordinate our services and programs and to promote greater community awareness and responsibility.

Measures included in the Government's response to the Summit are:

- The establishment of a **Liquor Accord Unit** to strengthen the Government's successful strategy which has created over 100 Accords in NSW already.
- Development of **legislation to require mandatory and enforceable liquor accords** in all police local area commands.

- The creation of a **taskforce to develop legislative proposals on alcohol related offenses, penalties and law enforcement** including intoxication offenses, offenses concerning secondary sales, minors, alcohol free zones, penalty notices and police powers.
- Expanded rollout to ten local area commands by NSW Police of the **Supply Means Supply Program** to tackle underage drinking through education for young people, adults and the liquor industry.
- **Expansion of the Good Sports Accreditation Program** in NSW to encourage safe drinking in sports clubs and associations. This will be promoted by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and the Australian Drug Foundation, with the aim of

bringing more sporting clubs into the program.

- Development by the RTA of a state-wide, **coordinated drink driving education and rehabilitation program for young, high range offenders**. The program will target drivers with a high risk of involvement in alcohol related injury and trauma on NSW roads.

These measures are in addition to a range of programs already in place.

The NSW Government already spends over \$190 million per year on alcohol programs. *Changing the Culture of Alcohol Use in New South Wales* includes funding of \$12.5 million over four years on specific initiatives that foster cultural change and reduce the damage associated with alcohol abuse.

# DRAMA AND MUSIC

## New ways to tackle drugs and alcohol in the New England region

Two inspiring projects launched recently in Moree by the NSW Government showcase new ways to help young people (in regional NSW) tackle drug and alcohol issues.

The *Handle with Care* performance uses film, music, circus, dance and photography to tell young people's stories about the effects of drugs and alcohol. It was developed as part of the regional *Drugs Misuse Prevention Strategy* a partnership with Big hArt, Arts North West and Outback Art.

The show will travel to northern and western NSW in 2004 and visit towns including Armidale, Cobar, Coonamble, Gunnedah, Inverell, Nimbin, Moree, Narrabri, Nyngan, Tamworth and Walgett. It will also be showcased at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum and at Parliament House as part of the twenty-year celebration of Streetwise Comics in November.

The Government also announced the expansion of the 'No Shame, No Blame' – rap and radio campaign – across New England and Western NSW.

'No Shame No Blame' is a highly successful education campaign that has run on Moree local radio. The project features a series of eight radio ads, five recorded rap songs and interviews with local drug and alcohol service providers.

Produced by Indigenous young people from the area, the project was initiated by the Moree Community Drug Action Team and was the result of widespread community consultation.

The radio ads and rap songs were produced by Aboriginal rap artist Joel Wenitong who worked with the young people to construct lyrics, record tracks, teach dance moves and discuss family drug and alcohol issues.

"The ads and songs use young people's thoughts and language – reflecting the messages community members in Moree want to hear," Joel Wenitong said.

During March the radio ads aired across the New England/North West region including Moree, Tamworth, Inverell and Armidale.

# PLAY NOW/ACT NOW VIDEO/FILM FESTIVAL 04



## YOUNG PEOPLE IN NSW HAVE THEIR SAY ABOUT THE INFLUENCE AND EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

**Budding film makers will play a role in educating their peers about the dangers of excessive drinking through a film and video festival and competition designed specifically for those aged 18 to 25.**

Organised by NSW Health in conjunction with Metro Screen NSW, the *Play Now Act Now* initiative encourages the State's young adults to showcase their creative talent through the production of a short film or video

centred on the issues of excessive alcohol consumption in young people.

The theme *Your Shout* has been developed to encourage young people to explore the cultural phenomenon of the 'shout' in heavy drinking sessions and have their 'shout' or say about the important role of alcohol use in Australian youth culture.

The theme illustrates the 'fallout' effect from a young person's point of view that comes with extreme drinking, including antisocial behaviour, unsafe or unwanted sex, drink driving and violence.

The competition will end in a finalist's screening and awards presentation of \$17,500 in prize money.

Winning entries may be used in other NSW Health campaigns to increase awareness of the effect of excessive alcohol use in younger people. Last year's winner went on to produce a televised advertisement for the Ted Noffs Foundation.

Entry forms and other information about the festival and about the issues associated with excessive drinking are available from the PLAY NOW ACT NOW website.

**[www.playnowactnow.net.au](http://www.playnowactnow.net.au)**

**Entry deadline:** 5pm 9 August 2004



# Action Around the State



Working hard at the Riverina/Murray CDAT conference.

The **Riverina/Murray Region CDAT Conference** was held on March 25-26 2004 in Albury. The theme of the conference was 'Building Community Capacity to address issues of drug misuse'.

Eighty people from across the region participated in the two day conference hosted by Albury Wodonga Community Drug & Alcohol Action Team.

The conference featured a combination of key note speakers, panel discussions, presentations and interactive workshops. Highlights of the conference included a panel discussion and workshop about the NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse and a keynote address and chomping workshop by the Youth Substance Abuse Service.

Overall, the conference achieved its aims of

enhancing CDATs capacity to take action at a local level and to increase networking between CDATs.

**North Wyong CDAT** held the annual GOATS Festival (Going off at the Swamp) at San Remo as part of Youth Week 2004. This Festival traditionally launches Youth Week on the Central Coast. Activities included 50 cent rides, a barbecue, a band competition, tattoos and face painting.

**Glebe CDAT** is running a poster competition with local school children to coincide with Drug Action Week. Students will be designing posters around the topics of 'health' and 'safe choices'. Posters will be displayed in the shopfronts and agencies in Glebe during Drug Action Week. Judges will award prizes to the best primary and secondary school entrants.

For more information contact Emily Dempster, Project Officer Coastal Sydney, on (02) 9228 3723.

**Ryde CDAT** will be holding a Drug Awareness Forum for Youth and Families on 24 June. The forum is for teenagers and their parents and will explore issues of safe celebrating and drinking choices. The evening will include a debate with local high school debating teams on issues of drugs and

culture, a panel discussion with Tony Trimmingham from Family Drug Support and Angry Anderson, drama performances by high school students around safe celebrating and responsible alcohol consumption, and more. Ryde CDAT will also be launching their Local Service Provider Resource on the night, which will be distributed to all families in the local area by council.

**Coffs Harbour and Clarence Valley Community Drug Action Teams** have received grants from the Drugs and Community Action Strategy Special Fund and the National Illicit Drugs Strategy Community Partnerships Initiative to conduct a community consultation and information project about drug issues in their area.

The consultation will be complemented by media coverage using one or more local 'champions' to promote dialogue about drug-related matters throughout the community.

There are five target groups for the project: the public, parents of young people, human service providers, users of illicit drugs and their families/ carers, and employers. The project will use a different methodology for each target group.

The project will include the local government areas of Coffs Harbour City and the Clarence Valley.

## Just be aware...

### Cannabis Information Campaign

A third phase of the Cannabis Information Campaign is due to launch in late June. The Campaign continues its prevention and early intervention focus and aims to appeal to a wide range of young people, avoiding the use of fear inducing messages.

A series of striking black and white posters have been developed to promote the message that there can be negative consequences associated with cannabis use.

The negative effects associated with heavy use of cannabis include:

- health effects, including mental health problems, breathing problems, and a decrease in fitness levels
- social problems, including withdrawal from

friendships and relationships, apathy and anti-social behaviour

- work/employment problems
- loss of opportunities.

The posters feature young people in scenarios relevant to teenagers. The posters again use language that is meaningful to teenagers to educate and inform them of the potential negative effects of cannabis use:

- "Pot. It mightn't kill you. But it could turn you into a dickhead";
- "Just be aware. Pot can do more than get you wasted"; and
- "What else will you miss when you're stoned?"

Young people were consulted throughout the development of the Campaign. The negative

consequences illustrated in the new posters are a result of this input from young people.

As well as being displayed in the toilet facilities of cinemas and shopping centres across NSW, the posters will be animated and appear on cinema screens as part of pre-movie entertainment across NSW. The posters will also be seen on buses and in free music magazines in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

Community radio stations will again play translated advertisements targeting parents of teenagers. The advertisements have been produced in eight community languages and are based on the 'Answering Machine' radio advertisement that was developed last year for phase two of the campaign.

## Questions answered at Orange trivia night

The **Orange Community Drug Action Team** organised a successful Trivia Night for the young people of the Orange district on 14 May 2004.

Sara Marie Fedel from Big Brother 1 was the guest compere and was a great hit with the young people. She entertained them with her stories about the 'big house' and what went on that was not seen on TV. The volunteers who helped on the night also enjoyed her vivacious and humorous personality.

Two hundred young people, many from local schools, attended (and made up tables of ten).

Dozens of prizes were given out throughout the night for all sorts of activities and competitions including the best male and best female 'bum dancer' which was Sara Marie's trademark on 'Big Brother'. 'Heads and tails' was also popular as was listening to songs and identifying the singer. The kids raced to get to Sara Marie first and give her the answer.

Health related questions were mixed through the general knowledge

questions and each table had information packages with messages about the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

The Orange Community Health Centre staff made mocktails and the Daybreak Rotary Club cooked the BBQ. The event was made possible through the generous donation of food and prizes by local businesses.

Harvey Norman donated ten \$50 first prize vouchers for the winning table and the local motel donated the accommodation for Sara Marie.

Many hours of preparation went into organising the night and the reward for the CDAT was to see the young people of Orange having so much fun. The best part was seeing Sara Marie answering the questions being asked by the young people in such a positive and



*Young people queue to meet Sara Marie.*

encouraging way. Sara Marie said she 'had a ball' as guest compere and enjoyed her time in Orange.

An evaluation of the night will be completed and will give a clear idea about how successful the night was in terms of getting the message to young people about the risky activity of using and abusing alcohol and other drugs.

*Peter Ryan,  
Orange Community Drug Action Team.*

## CREATING SYNERGY

### Current issues in the alcohol and other drugs field

Conference on 21 & 22 June 2004 at University of Wollongong

The Illawarra Regional CDAT is organising a two-day conference to kick off *Drug Action Week* this year.

It will provide health professionals, academics and service providers with an opportunity to share evidence based practice that improves the effectiveness of treatment, prevention and harm minimisation programs in the field of alcohol and other drugs. The conference program will combine keynote speeches and skills based workshops.

The main conference themes are treatment, alcohol related issues, prevention, indigenous issues, prescription medications and youth.

The conference will also highlight the growing need for services to develop more efficient working partnerships to address the misuse of alcohol and other drugs in the community. Developing innovative ways of thinking about and dealing with these issues will be high on the agenda.

Thanks to the great financial assistance and support of a number

of Illawarra services, the conference can be offered at the affordable rate of \$110 for the two days and is sure to attract a great deal of interest.

Sponsors include Illawarra Area Health Service, Oolong House, Shellharbour City Council, the NSW Premier's Department's Drugs and Community Action Strategy and the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Centre.

Further details and registration forms can be obtained by contacting [martin.millgate@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au](mailto:martin.millgate@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au)

# Building stronger communities

## Cummeragunja Family Fun Day

The Cummeragunja\* community annual 'Family Fun Day' was held on Saturday 1 May 2004. The day included family entertainment and a barbecue. The highlight of the day was the launch by Tony Catanzariti MLC of the Cummeragunja Community Drug Action Team's Dangers of Petrol Sniffing pamphlet.

Cummeragunja CDAT developed the information pamphlet for parents, in response to the concerns of local families. The pamphlet explains the harms and effects of sniffing petrol, suggests reasons why people do it and outlines support services available to the community. The pamphlet includes the paintings of a local artist, Rochelle Patton, who worked with local young people to develop the artwork. The

paintings give visual messages about the dangers of petrol sniffing.

One of the strengths of the Cummeragunja CDAT is that it recognises that solutions to issues need to come from the Aboriginal community itself.

*\* Cummeragunja is a small Aboriginal community near Moama on the New South Wales Victorian border.*



Jeaneaka and Kalira enjoy the Cummeragunja Family Fun Day.



# Hip hop, rap and film making

## Bourke's young people lead the way on tackling alcohol abuse

**Indigenous young people from Bourke have used hip hop and rap to encourage their peers to drink responsibly. Two projects, a music CD and television campaign developed by young people in Bourke, were launched in Bourke late last month.**

Working with film maker Richard Snashall and hip hop musicians MC Wire and Morganics, Bourke's young people have written scripts, developed lyrics and produced a television campaign and music CD.

NSW Special Minister of State, John Della Bosca said that the young people had come up with a fresh approach to drug and alcohol issues.

*He ain't drinking, he's drivin'* is the theme of two 30-second TV advertisements which will air on Imparja Television, an Indigenous TV station for four weeks.

The campaign features 'Paul, a smart man' and shows social occasions where he is the designated driver while out with friends.

The Bourke group also produced a hip hop and rap music CD. "Working with well known hip hop artists, the CD features tracks with positive alcohol messages for young people," said the Minister.

"I am very impressed by the enthusiasm, talent, and commitment shown by the young people", he said.

The projects were developed through the Bourke Community Drug Action Team to highlight the importance of young people drinking in a responsible way.

Chair of the Bourke Community Drug Action Team, Sergeant Tim Beattie, was very pleased with the projects. "The Bourke team is very proud of the efforts of the young people who participated in these projects," said Sergeant Beattie.

Some of the young people involved in the project have since gone on to undertake film making and music production courses at TAFE.

The CD and television campaign were funded by \$22,600 worth of grants from the NSW Government.



Special Minister of State John Della Bosca congratulates the young people involved in the Bourke projects. The young people were in Sydney to perform one of their songs at the Message Sticks Festival at the Opera House in June.

## Young people talk alcohol – a new 'Ask the Children' resource

As part of the preparations for the 2003 NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse, the NSW Commission for Children and Young People spoke with 150 young people about their experiences with alcohol and their ideas for reducing alcohol-related harm within the community. The Commission has produced a new resource in their 'Ask the Children' series based on these interviews.

'Young people talk alcohol' explains what young people are going through with alcohol issues and suggests how best to help those youth who are experiencing alcohol-related problems.

The resource is available in hard copy from the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, telephone (02) 9286 7239 and can be downloaded from:  
[www.kids.nsw.gov.au/ourwork/ask.html](http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/ourwork/ask.html)

## Illicit Drug Data Report 2002-03

The *Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR)*, produced by the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), delivers information on law enforcement activity for the 2002-03 financial year. Specifically, the report provides statistics about drug arrests, seizures and detection by Australia's law enforcement agencies.

The *Illicit Drug Data Report 2002-03* report and associated fact sheets can be found at the following website  
[www.crimecommission.gov.au/html/pg\\_publications.html](http://www.crimecommission.gov.au/html/pg_publications.html)

## Throne

WESDARC's Young Women & Alcohol Project (mentioned in previous editions of *Drug Action*) recently won the National Excellence in Prevention Award for 2004 at the National Drug & Alcohol Awards. The Project included the development of a website and a magazine called 'Throne'.

To check out the website, which includes a PDF version of the magazine, go to [www.wesdarc.org.au/throne.html](http://www.wesdarc.org.au/throne.html)

## 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, Senior Project Manager in your region (see below) or visit the website [www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au). Senior Project Managers can provide additional resources that explain the Strategies and the work of the Community Drug Action Teams in more detail.

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