

# Drug Action



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NSW COMMUNITY DRUG STRATEGIES NEWSLETTER

## Brewarrina youth work on cannabis campaign

A series of posters aimed at encouraging Indigenous young people to discuss cannabis use has been developed. The series is an extension of the NSW Government's Cannabis Information campaign.

A group of Indigenous young people in Brewarrina has produced thought-provoking images and messages to highlight the potential problems associated with cannabis use amongst their peers. The posters were distributed to service providers and community groups that work with Aboriginal young people.

"The messages use the young people of Brewarrina's ideas and language, reflecting their feelings about how cannabis can impact

on a young person's life", said NSW Special Minister of State, John Della Bosca as he praised the efforts of the young people.

"Striking images of teenagers hanging out and playing sport show the ways that cannabis can impact on friendships and physical health", Mr Della Bosca said.

These posters will assist community based workers in metropolitan, regional and rural NSW to raise awareness about cannabis use and encourage Indigenous young people to discuss its health, social and other effects.

Copies of the poster are available from Tangi Tearii Toru, Assistant Project Officer, Community Drug Strategies, on (02) 9228 3731.



## NSW ALCOHOL SUMMIT 26-29 AUGUST 2003

The NSW Government hosted the Summit on Alcohol Abuse from 26-29 August 2003. Using the successful Drug Summit approach, the Alcohol Summit invited parliamentarians, experts, community members, industry representatives and other interest groups to examine issues associated with alcohol misuse and abuse. New ideas and strategies for future action were discussed.

Ten Working Groups discussed many issues including: community action, advertising and marketing; dependence and treatment issues; family health; crime and justice; and responsible supply and consumption.

Each Working Group was asked to prepare an assessment of their issues, conduct an environmental scan and address issues concerning: young people; women; Aboriginal communities; people from non-

English speaking backgrounds; and rural and regional communities.

The groups were asked to assess current strategies and programs for strengths and weaknesses; to find areas in which there was a maximum of agreement and build a consensus to identify a way forward.

The Summit program included visits to over 50 locations in the Sydney Metropolitan, Central Coast and Illawarra regions. Visits to North Coast and Western NSW locations occurred before the summit. Delegates visited agencies such as PCYCs, prisons, detoxification units, domestic violence services and hospitals, amongst others.

The Summit Communiqué includes 318 agreed recommendations. Public submissions were received from 300 individuals and

organisations for consideration in the Summit deliberations and in the Government's response.

Several CDATs made submissions to the Summit on a range of topics including:

- preventing harms and abuse
- beach partying
- police enforcement of liquor laws
- parent education on alcohol related dangers
- street drinking
- alcohol misuse and abuse.

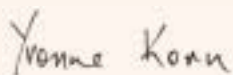
The Government will consider the Summit Communiqué and respond to each recommendation. For information on the outcomes of the Alcohol Summit visit [www.alcoholsummit.nsw.gov.au](http://www.alcoholsummit.nsw.gov.au). For information about the NSW Government's approach to drug and alcohol issues visit [www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au).

Welcome to the Spring 2003 edition of *Drug Action*. This edition highlights just a small number of the many projects and activities conducted through the Community Drug Strategies.

The NSW Government hosted the Summit on Alcohol Abuse from 26-29 August 2003. Many CDATs made submissions to the Summit on a range of topics (see the *Alcohol Summit* article). Melita Luck, Kyogle CDAT, attended as a Community Representative. Her views and experiences of the Summit are expanded on in this edition. I would like to thank Melita for her participation and contribution. The Government is currently preparing its response to the 318 recommendations that came out of the Summit.

This newsletter showcases a number of projects that meet the needs of our Indigenous communities. The *Moree Rap*, *Koori Family Matters* and *Brewarrina Cannabis* projects are just a sample of the work undertaken in partnership with Aboriginal communities. These projects have been exciting and fulfilling for the team and communities.

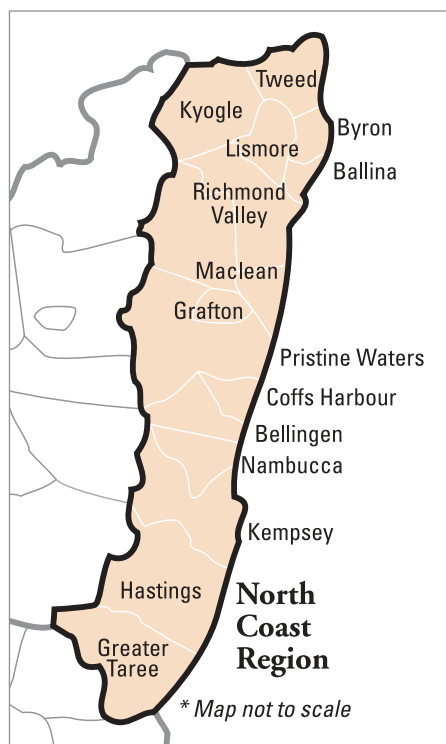
Finally, you will soon notice new names and faces in your regional offices. I would like to welcome the new Administrative Assistants and Project Officers to the team. Please make them welcome.



Yvonne Korn, Project Director,  
Community Drug Strategies

## Drug Action Editorial Committee

Kate Toohey, *Blue Mountains CDAT*  
Aileen Ogilvie, *Pittwater CDAT*  
Peter Ryan, *Orange CDAT*  
Liz Junck, *Senior Project Manager DCAS – State-wide Issues*  
Peita Shirvington, *Project Manager, CDIS*  
Michael August, *Project Manager, CDS*  
Anjali Boronowskis, *Senior Project Manager, DCAS Central Coast/Hunter*  
Lisa Simone, *Senior Project Manager, DCAS Illawarra/South East*



## Kyogle CDAT Building Social Capital

The longer term benefits of CDAT-hosted public events are not always as easy to see as those emerging from Kyogle's "Teenage Partying" forum held in April this year. Over 300 Kyogleans filled the town hall to capacity to listen and talk about alcohol and other drugs and keeping teenagers safe. This turn-out was a fabulous achievement in itself.

Since the forum, the community has truly shown its commitment to its young people in the following ways:

- a continuing dialogue on the topics raised is regularly found in the letters pages of the local paper;
- a community brainstorm generated support and ideas for more action;
- funds were raised to send youth leaders to an Edmund Rice camp;
- "Youth Ventures" was established to develop and support a program of mentoring as a way to help support young people safely through their teenage years; and
- Geraldine Doogue of Radio National and Compass fame has agreed to be Kyogle's Patron for this important work.

Kyogle is proud to lay claim to having the richest social capital of any town in Australia and its CDAT is a valuable asset on their balance sheet.

## CDAT Partnerships Get Results

The five CDATs of the Northern Rivers area hooked up by telephone in March this year to brainstorm ideas for working together. Two projects were born from that teleconference and are featured in this newsletter – the *Trackie Duck Family Street Theatre* project and the *Art Express – Drugs and Alcohol Exhibition 2003* (incorporating the postcard and sticker design project). Both projects have challenged the communication and negotiation skills of CDAT Chairs – it's hard to work effectively at both the local and regional level and to balance the needs and interests of your CDAT members with the practical concerns of delivering on a regional project with multiple stakeholders. And all the while you're a volunteer with many other demands on your time. The results demonstrate that hard work is often worth it, especially when you're working in a partnership.

## CDATS in the region

### Ballina

Peter Moore 6686 7776  
0415965404

### Casino

Patricia Spencer W 6662 2848  
H 6666 1422

### Coffs Harbour

Andrew Robertson W 6652 3116  
0401 033 222

### Clarence Valley (Grafton)

Leigh Edson 6642 6843  
0409 056 512

### Hastings

Beth Sawilejskij 6581 8624

### Kyogle

Melita Luck H 6632 3738  
Youth Centre 6632 2972

### Lismore

Jenny Ryan (Secretary) 6622 1631

### Nimbin

Andrew Kavasilas 6689 0199

### Taree

Ken Sheather W 6552 0317  
Laura Henson W 6552 0317  
Cottage 6551 0368  
Dept. Housing 6551 1980

## New CDATs

### Clarence Valley (Grafton)

Concern about poor access to drug and alcohol rehabilitation and treatment services in the Clarence Valley led to the establishment of a new CDAT in April. Chaired by Leigh Edson, this CDAT quickly geared up to run a series of community awareness events in *Drug Action Week* and to host a visit by Tony Trimmingham in July. A major community consultation and information project is planned for early 2004 in partnership with the Coffs Harbour CDAT.

### Kempsey

The new Kempsey CDAT is excited by the opportunity to do practical and useful work across a number of portfolios. Chairperson Carol Gibson sees the Kempsey community as rich in diversity of both its citizens and services. Working to address universally shared drug and alcohol concerns is a powerful way to use that diversity for the good of the whole community.

For more information contact Jenny Grant, Senior Project Manager, DCAS North Coast.

## CDATs on the big screen

### Hornsby, Glebe and Randwick CDATs

are now appearing on the big screen.

In an innovative strategy aimed at promoting their work and attracting new members, each of the CDATs has commenced a twelve month cinema advertising campaign.

Local cinemas in each area are screening brief advertisements featuring an image from a Community Drug Information Initiative poster. The accompanying voiceover message suggests that cinema patrons can pick up a brochure in the foyer for more information about their local CDAT. The brochures also contain contact details for drug and alcohol information and treatment services.

For more information contact Aqua Robins, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Coastal Sydney.

# Art Express

## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL EXHIBITION 2003

Drugs and alcohol were the themes for the **2003 Art Express Exhibition**. Art Express is an initiative of Ballina Youth Service. Previous themes have included war, domestic violence and racism.

This year, through a partnership between **Ballina Youth Service** and **Kyogle, Casino, Lismore, Ballina** and **Nimbin CDATs**, the exhibition encouraged reflection and conversations about drug and alcohol use, especially among young people, through the medium of art.

The exhibition attracted over 130 entries from young artists across the Northern Rivers and Far North Coast areas. Supported with a grant of \$10,000 from the Drugs and Community Action Strategy, Premier's Department, the exhibition also received corporate sponsorship as well as logistical support from Ballina Youth Service. Prize money of \$2,000 was awarded in five categories.

The exhibition attracted great interest from shoppers at the Ballina Shopping Fair when entries hung for a week in early September.

Ballina CDAT chairperson Peter Moore said it was clear from the entries that young people had strong views on drug and alcohol use and abuse. "Young people need to be given every opportunity to express their views on the issues involved around drugs and alcohol", he said.



*One of the entries in the 2003 Art Express – Drugs and Alcohol Exhibition.*

"Young people's drug and alcohol use needs to be seen in context with the whole community. In Australia, drinking alcohol and, to a lesser extent drug use, is viewed as a rite of passage in some sections of the youth sub-culture", said Mr Moore.

A selection of entries has been made into postcards and stickers for distribution to young people across the region. They include contact telephone numbers for drug and alcohol-related services in the region.

For more information contact Jenny Grant, Senior Project Manager, DCAS North Coast.

## Koori Family Matters supports Aboriginal families on the South Coast

Aboriginal communities in the **Illawarra/South East** region have received the *Koori Family Matters* booklet. The publication is an adaptation of the popular *Family Matters* booklet launched late last year.

The content and look of *Koori Family Matters* was revised to meet the needs of Aboriginal parents, carers and other adults in a position to influence young people. It outlines valuable ways to approach drug issues and highlights key services that can help.

*Koori Family Matters* was produced in partnership with the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Taskforce, the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Committee (ADAAC) and the NSW Premier's Department.

Over 10,000 copies were printed and distributed to schools, youth centres and neighbourhood centres in the Illawarra/South East region.

For more information contact Lisa Simone, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Illawarra/South East.

# Action Around the State

## Rap music helps Moree families tackle drug and alcohol issues

The **Moree CDAT**, in partnership with a number of local services, has developed an innovative project to help Moree families and community members respond to drug and alcohol issues.

'**No Shame, No Blame**' is the theme of the rap music and radio education campaign launched on 13 October 2003. The campaign raised awareness of the huge effects drugs and alcohol can have on families and encouraged people to seek help.

The project featured a series of eight radio ads, five recorded rap songs and interviews with local drug and alcohol service providers.

New England Area Health Service provided the 1300 66 00 59 information line for people to get further information and assistance.

A sample of one of the radio ads is below.

*My dad gives me direction  
My dad gives me guidance  
My dad makes me proud to be Aboriginal  
My dad gives me identity  
My dad eases my pain  
My dad makes me feel safe  
My dad gives me love  
But only when he's sober.  
Strictly confidential.  
Call 1300 66 00 59  
No shame, no blame.*

For more information contact Andrew Parker, Senior Project Manager, DCAS New England/North West.

## Croc Festival rocks Moree

The **Moree CDAT** successfully promoted a drug-free message to thousands of visitors at this year's **Moree Croc Festival™**, held from 24-26 September 2003.

More than 2,000 students and educators in NSW and Queensland participated in the annual 2-day event which aimed to broaden the career horizons and build self-pride amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people.

The visitors snapped up more than a thousand *Drug Smart* z-cards, Community Drug Information posters, bookmarks, balloons and information packs at the Moree CDAT stand. The new Drug Information @ Your Local Library (di@yll) service was showcased and the Moree Youth Council conducted a short drug use survey.

*Written by Ros Ingham, Library Activities Coordinator, Northern Regional Library.*

## "Trackie Duck Family" Drug Awareness Street Theatre Show

A street theatre production called The Trackie Duck Family, has been produced by **Kyogle, Casino, Lismore, Ballina and Nimbin CDATs**. The Community Drug Information Initiative provided \$10,000 from the Community Activity Fund to NORPA Dance Action, who supported and administered the project. Gradient Street Theatre created the show.

The show features the Trackie Duck family as they deal with various drug and alcohol issues. The production gives an idea about the pressures that can impact on families when they exclude someone and what happens when they support someone. Call NORPA on 6622 3279 for more information.



*The Trackie Ducks give Dad a hand.*

## Hunter / Central Coast CDATs build on their successes

The **Hunter and Central Coast CDATs** continue to consolidate their activities. In 2003, we built capacity to provide presentations at schools and community gatherings (Forster, Lake Macquarie, Newcastle); beautify towns (North Wyong); conduct peer education programs (Peninsula and Forster); run discos and talent quests (Newcastle and Killarney Vale – Bateau Bay – Tumbi Umbi).

In 2004 the focus is on working with schools (Newcastle CDAT) to increase support for teachers in building resilience in our communities. Northern Wyong is bursting with energy to continue its beautification and community market garden project at San Remo. The Muswellbrook CDAT will be Painting their Walls with stories of their community as told by the elders and drawn by the youngsters.

We wish all our fellow CDATs the very best for 2004.

For more information contact Anjali Boronowskis, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Hunter/Central Coast.

## Wagga Wagga CDAT Community Fair

On Sunday 9 November 2003, the **Wagga Wagga CDAT** held a Community Fair. Over 200 people attended the fair to celebrate a sense of belonging, support and community participation in the Wagga Wagga Community. A diverse range of community groups were invited to put up displays, run stalls and activities.

We received a positive response from the community and our sponsors – The Riverina Leader, The Wagga Market Place, The Oasis Aquatic Centre, Greater Murray Area Health Service, NSW Premier's Department and Wagga Wagga City Council.

For further information contact, Andrea Bax on (02) 6921 3159.

## CDAT Profile – Yura Yulang

The **Yura Yulang CDAT** arose from the need for an Aboriginal CDAT that would address issues that affect the Campbelltown area Aboriginal community. The name, Yura Yulang, came about after a number of meetings and in consultation with the local community.

“Yura Yulang” means “Peoples Ceremony” in the Tharawal language. Ceremonies were performed by men and women to discuss hunting, food gathering and law. People also used ceremonies to make decisions about marriages, causes of death, the use of ‘medicines’ and access by community members to the resources of medicinal plants and foods.

We felt that naming our CDAT after a traditional approach to controlling issues relating to community health was most appropriate.

Many things have come from the Yura Yulang CDAT including a Men’s Group and now a Women’s Group. The Men’s group is recognised as the largest regular gathering of Aboriginal men in NSW. Yura Yulang CDAT has recently assisted in the establishment of an

incorporated body – “Muru Nanga Mai” (the pathway to the dreaming). Again this name indicates that by following traditional methods appropriate beneficial outcomes will follow. Muru Nanga Mai Inc will eventually become the auspice for Yura Yulang CDAT.

Yura Yulang CDAT in conjunction with the men’s group is able to give clear direction regarding Aboriginal health issues in the Campbelltown area. The men felt that their connectedness to the community gave them a clear focus on family and issues relating to men, and gave them an opportunity to direct health services and health messages to the appropriate people in the appropriate way.

The Women’s Group met for the first time in October 2003 and had twelve women present. A series of meetings have been organised until the end of the year. There is strong support in the community for the formation of a Women’s Group. The women feel they need a way to identify and address the needs of women and families in order to develop ways to resolve

problems for the benefit of the community. The Men’s Group is subsidising the Women’s Group for a short period of time during this set-up process. Hopefully funding will be available to the group soon. Once funded both groups will meet on a regular basis to support each other and discuss joint issues.

The soon to be developed *Dharawal Family Matters* will be the first time that Aboriginal people in the Campbelltown area have made decisions entirely based upon their intimate knowledge of issues affecting them. The booklet will contain paintings by a local Aboriginal artist and shows six images of how drugs and alcohol can affect families. It ends with messages of hope. The booklet will be made available to over 1,500 families in the Campbelltown area.

For more information contact Andrew Putt, Senior Project Manager, DCAS South Western Sydney/Western Sydney.

*Les Bursill, Yura Yulang CDAT Member.*

## A Community Voice at the Alcohol Summit

### Interview with Melita Luck, Chairperson, Kyogle CDAT.

Melita Luck is the Chairperson of the Kyogle CDAT. She attended the NSW Alcohol Summit from the 26-29 August as a Community representative. *Drug Action* interviewed Melita about her experiences.

Summit delegates came from a wide range of organisations. Ms Luck was in the Informing and Engaging the Community Working Group which was chaired by The Hon John Della Bosca MLC, Special Minister of State, with Dr Col Gellatly, Director General, Premier’s Department and Ms Geraldine Doogue, Presenter, Life Matters, ABC Radio National as co-facilitators.

The Working Group included sporting associations and non-government organisations such as the Centre for Youth Drug Studies, Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation and Centacare. Representatives from different cultural and age groups also attended.

**How did you feel before you went down to the Summit?**

*I was very excited but I didn’t know what was*

*going to happen. How was I going to fit in? It was like I was a minnow in with some very big fish.*

**What did you do to prepare yourself?**

*The CDAT met before I left and we talked about advertising standards, which was our big thing. We were angry about those brightly coloured alcoholic drinks that are so attractive to teenagers.*

*There was a lot of reading. We got this big package of papers: I’m not good at reading that sort of stuff. I find public service language very dry and difficult to keep my attention but I plodded through as best I could.*

**What was your role at the Summit?**

*I was one of a couple of community members in our group. We started talking about values and I drew a diagram on the board about how stress in our society contributes to drug and alcohol abuse.*

**What value did you add as a Community Delegate?**

*I was very pleased that our group passed a resolution that CDATs should take on alcohol. I think that was because they could see what*

*CDATs were about. I think they were impressed with the grass roots voice of CDATs.*

**What was a highlight for you?**

*A real highlight was visiting Jarrah House at Prince Henry Hospital. It’s a detox, treatment and rehab unit where young women in detox have their kids stay with them. It was fantastic. These girls told us their stories and it had us in tears and they were pleading that more such centres should be opened. That really went to my heart.*

**What did you draw from the experience?**

*It was very invigorating. Instead of being on the sidelines, knocking it as I’ve done, I was suddenly in it: I was a participant. It was an amazing experience. I’m certainly glad I did it. It was nice to say to them that CDATs are community, grass roots movements that are supported by the government. I think that’s a wonderful coalition.*

You can find Melita Luck’s speech at [www.alcoholsummit.nsw.gov.au/hansard](http://www.alcoholsummit.nsw.gov.au/hansard) click on Day 2, 27 August 2003 and go to page 37.

## End of Year Celebration Kit

An *End of Year Celebration* kit has been developed by the NSW Department of Education and Training to increase young people's knowledge and awareness of the issues relating to end of year activities.

The kit is distributed annually to all secondary government schools and includes items such as:

- *HELP card* containing emergency numbers.
- *Frequently asked questions: Marijuana, Amphetamine, Ecstasy.*
- *Dance parties* – fact sheet for parents from NSW Health.
- *What you need to know about drink spiking* from Central Sydney Area Health Service.
- *Way to Go* – brochure provides some basic advice to young party goers, drivers and passengers, on how to get there and home safely from NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.
- *Helping teenagers become safer drivers* – brochure produced by Youthsafe Young Drivers Project.

To order the kit visit [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/eoyc\\_kit/index.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/eoyc_kit/index.php)

## Of Substance – National Magazine on Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

*Of Substance* is a new quarterly publication focussing on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. *Of Substance* is designed for those who work with drug and alcohol issues.

Topics in the first edition include:

- Alcohol advertising and marketing – the current debate is explored and representatives from the different sides have their say.
- Needle and Syringe Programs – provides a snap shot of the program that started in 1987, reviews its progress and casts an eye to future challenges.
- Police diversion – includes findings of the evaluation of diversion programs.

A subscription costs \$50 for four issues. The October 2003 and January 2004 issues are free. Enquiries to [editor@ancd.org.au](mailto:editor@ancd.org.au) or phone (02) 6279 1650.

## 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.

### Central Office

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

Yvonne Korn, Project Director  
Community Drug Strategies  
Ph: (02) 9228 3731 Fax: (02) 9228 5517  
[yvonne.korn@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:yvonne.korn@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

Liz Junck, Senior Project Manager, (State-wide Issues), Drugs and Community Action Strategy (DCAS)  
Ph: (02) 9228 3583 Fax: (02) 9228 5517  
[liz.junck@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liz.junck@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

### Regional Offices

Jenny Grant, Senior Project Manager, DCAS North Coast  
Ph: (02) 6648 7230 Fax: (02) 6648 7232  
Mob: 0409 604 207  
[jenny.grant@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jenny.grant@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

Andrew Parker, Senior Project Manager, DCAS New England/North West NSW  
Ph: (02) 6771 4827 Fax: (02) 6771 3658  
Mob: 0407 491 774  
[aparker@refs.asn.au](mailto:aparker@refs.asn.au)

Annie Fraser, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Western NSW  
Ph: (02) 6881 6377 Fax: (02) 6884 7405  
Mob: 0407 223 625  
[afraser@hwy.com.au](mailto:afraser@hwy.com.au)

Anjali Boronowskis, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Hunter/Central Coast  
Newcastle  
Ph: (02)4927 8799 Fax: (02) 4927 8798  
Gosford  
Ph: (02) 4337 2311 Fax: (02) 4324 2698  
Mob: 0409 301 406  
[anjali.boronowskis@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anjali.boronowskis@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

Andrew Putt – Senior Project Manager, DCAS South Western Sydney/  
Western Sydney  
Parramatta Ph: (02) 9633 3233  
Bankstown Ph: (02) 9793 1577  
E-Fax: 8243 9463  
Mob: 0407 205 289  
[andrew.putt@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andrew.putt@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

Aqua Robins – Senior Project Manager, DCAS Coastal Sydney  
Ph: (02) 9228 3730 Fax: (02) 9228 5517  
Mob: 0407 914 831  
[aqua.robins@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aqua.robins@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

Lisa Simone, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Illawarra/South East  
Wollongong  
Ph: (02) 4224 9903 Fax: (02) 4229 5370  
Queanbeyan  
Ph: (02) 6297 6911 Fax: (02) 6297 9505  
Mob: 0407 242 340  
[lisa.simone@premiers.nsw.gov.au](mailto:lisa.simone@premiers.nsw.gov.au)

Karen MacLean, Senior Project Manager, DCAS Riverina/Murray  
Ph: (02) 6023 8146 Fax: (02) 6023 8166  
Mob: 0417 268 076  
[karenmac@dragnet.com.au](mailto:karenmac@dragnet.com.au)

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Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Assistant Project Officer, Community Drug Strategies, Premier's Department  
Level 32, Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000  
Fax: (02) 9228 5517