



SYMPOSIUM 2008

“Alcohol is a Drug too”

EVALUATION/FINAL REPORT

Introduction

The 2008 DANA Symposium was held at Citigate Central, Sydney on June 27th, 2008. The Symposium was highly successful in terms of outcomes, content, staging, and overall delegate satisfaction with the event. It was also recognised by delegates as contributing significantly to the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) field, and in particular, was perceived as an important event for nurses interested in preventing and responding to, ATOD issues.

Planning

Mr Wade Norrie as President of DANA elected to be responsible for the event. The DANA Executive Committee assisted as necessary. The symposium was planned as an event for Drug Action Week and the DANA AGM was planned for the same timing to assist members to attend from over Australia if possible. Mr Norrie engaged the keynote speakers, organised the venue and planned the programme.

Professor Charlotte de Crespigny and Mr Peter Athanasos DANA members from South Australia agree to chair the symposium. Registrations and budget matters were managed by Mrs Janice Ough (Vice-President International – SA member) and Ms Robin Murray (Treasurer – NSW member) respectively.

The decision to convene a symposium in 2008 was made by the DANA Committees when they realized that convening a conference on 2008 was not possible for varying reasons. However the Committees were dedicated to upholding the aim that an annual event was important in supporting DANA's strategic and long term vision to promote DANA as a peak professional body for nurses and others interested in ATOD issues. The Committees decided to provide a forum specifically for nurses and their professional peers by planning a 1 day symposium. The symposium was important for networking amongst members in lieu of a conference and to encourage nurses and their peers to actively participate in future DANA national events and conferences.

Some attendees who participated in formal Evaluation described the 2008 Symposium:

Great day- thankyou

Very enjoyable, very educative & interesting

Good programme, good length for each presentation, venue & food great

While the number of attendees in the symposium was relatively small, the symposium differs from other major events in that it highlights the contribution of one key professional group in the ATOD field as both individual practitioners and as members of the multi-disciplinary team.

Supporters, Sponsors and Exhibitors

The 2008 Symposium hosted 35 individuals, and this year did not include representatives from our key supporter, the Alcohol Education Rehabilitation

Foundation. Reckitt Benckiser as a long term supporter of DANA provided delegates with promotional material and reported that even a small gathering of this type was of value to them.

Delegates represented many education and health services (government and non-government) from around Australia.

As an organisational member of ADCA and an active supporter of Drug Action Week, DANA actively promoted the Symposium as a Drug Action Week event, and incorporated DAW themes into the symposium program.

Symposium Promotion

The Symposium was advertised widely to DANA and APSAD members, through email databases (which includes contacts in Government and NGO sectors), through established contacts, on the DANA website, and on the ADCA listserv UPDATE.

Programming

Final Symposium Program

The Symposium was intended to provide ATOD nurses and other health professionals with an opportunity for professional development which includes nursing practice, clinical interventions, models of care and pharmacotherapy practice in the specialty field of ATOD nursing. The programme also included a brief look at international student and indigenous life following the introduction to alcohol.

Program presentations included:

- Implementing the Drug and Alcohol Clinical Guidelines for Nursing and Midwifery Practice
- The role of Drug and Alcohol Consultation Liaison Services in management of alcohol dependence in hospital settings
- The impact of culture on teaching international students about alcohol related issues

- The Advanced Pharmacotherapy Nurse: History, National and International Concepts, Education, Training and Future.
- Alcohol & Indigenous Australians: a brief overview
- The opioids in a pregnancy clinic – a model of care

Excellent program, well connected themes, flowed very well!

Good programme, good length for each presentation.

Symposium Attendees

Of the 45 delegates (including keynote speakers and exhibitors) 35 were registered individuals. The data presented below pertains to those individually registered delegates.

Attendee profile

Respondents were primarily female (86.6%), and represented South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. Respondents primarily represented metropolitan (85%), rural and regional (15%) areas. Respondents were primarily nurses or of nursing background, however other professions and fields of work were represented, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of nursing work and the importance of developing effective relationship with professional peers, such as medical, social work, policy development and project work.

DANA Membership

Overall 25 (71%) of attendees were existing DANA members. An additional 4 new members joined at the commencement of advertising of the symposium.

DANA is a fantastic organisation that brings a specialist workplace together from around the country

Evaluation response rate

The return rate of evaluation forms was 42.85%, a rate considered very acceptable by the Executive Committee.

Relevance and applicability of content

Symposium participants reported a very high overall satisfaction with the symposium content, keynote speakers and program. Over 100% of those completing formal evaluations stating that the symposium met or exceeded their expectations in terms of quality and applicability of content to work or practice, quality of keynote speakers, and opportunity for networking. Most (66.6% or more) were satisfied or very satisfied with all aspects of the symposium organisation, chairing of sessions, food and the social program.

I really enjoyed the content of the presentations. I always like to see the innovative presentations where in spite of lack of resources, good clinical care is given anyway and new developments happen.

Very educative and interesting

Professional development points and recognition of contribution to the Symposium

To attract nurses to the Symposium, professional development points were sought and awarded from key professional bodies:

- The Royal College of Nursing, Australasia (RCNA) awarded 5 Continuing Nurse Education (CNE) points for use on the 3LP Professional Development program.

Certificates of attendance were distributed to all participants for their professional development portfolios (with respective PD point allocation included) and a certificate of appreciation was available for the portfolios of all speakers.

The Executive Committee recognises and would like to thank the valuable contribution and tremendous effort from Professor Charlotte de Crespigny and Mr Peter Athanasos in achieving a successful and stimulating outcome for the day

Planning for DANA Conference 2009

The Conference evaluation from 2007 sought information and ideas from participants regarding the topics they would be interested in seeing at a future Conference. This information is under consideration and includes a list of topics:

- Safe alcohol consumption and how to get the cooperation of the media and politicians
- “From the Heart”, information from the coal face ATOD workers
- A Plenary session dedicated to discussion of common issues raised within the conference
- Psychiatric assessment, medication treatment for emergency department presentations with psychosis
- Specific nursing care focus
- Mental Health – rotation project (Victoria)
- Health Promotion/Harm Reduction
- More useful relevant information for frontline workers
- Less statistics/research
- Make more time for questions

The 2009 DANA Conference will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland. Planning has commenced, the venue has been finalized.