



DRUG AND ALCOHOL NURSES OF AUSTRALASIA INC.

Dear DANA Members,

The past 8 months or so have proved an interesting, and challenging but exciting time for DANA Executive and Management Committee. The 1st International Conference for Nurses and Midwives on Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs [ATOD], hosted by DANA and Flinders University School of Nursing and Midwifery was a fabulous success for DANA on all accounts. Spurred by the success of the conference, our new team were keen to embrace the range of new opportunities presented to us as a professional organisation representing nursing and ATOD issues, both nationally and internationally. While keen to seek out opportunities to increase our profile at this level, we realised that we needed to examine what was happening at the local level, and to ensure that the needs of our members were met in the first instance. This has thus been our priority to date.

Since the last AGM, the Executive and Management Committee, which has representatives from all states and territories except WA, and includes NZ, have spent significant energy examining our respective roles and functions, services we can offer our members, and ways of improving communication between us and our members. The result of these discussions was the drafting of a new strategic plan, intended to formalise our ideas about how, with our limited resources, we can progress the work of DANA.

The purpose of this newsletter is to describe the range of activities we have undertaken lately and to seek your active participation in guiding our future. We are now at the stage where we are seeking all members' critique and support to advise us how best we can make this all happen, and we seek your feedback on our draft Strategic Directions document in the first instance. We aim to present the revised document at the next DANA AGM to be held later in 2004 for endorsement by members and the incoming Executive.

So please read this newsletter and accompanying documents with a critical, but supportive eye, and with the view to assisting us to provide you, as a DANA member, with the type of organisation in which you are proud to be a part of, and are willing to assist to grow and develop. **Where we have requested, would you please provide feedback to the Secretary (by phone, mail or email) by the dates requested. Several of the items below require your feedback to enable us to vote on any proposed changes at the next AGM.** We are particularly interested in the talents of our members, so if you have strengths in any of the areas below (or are interested and willing to contribute to DANA in other ways) please advise us ASAP. We can't do it alone!

Please find enclosed:

- DANA Strategic Directions, 2004-2007
- Contact details of Executive and Management Committee
- Member survey

If any of these items are missing please contact the Secretary for additional copies.

With thanks and good wishes

Charlotte de Crespigny, President



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Newsletter
March, 2004

DANA is the peak nursing organisation in Australasia providing leadership to nurses and midwives with a professional interest in ATOD issues. We aim for excellence & the ongoing improvement of quality care in nursing in all practice contexts. To do this effectively, DANA aims to:

- ◆ actively promote a legitimate role for nurses and midwives to respond to Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug-related issues
- ◆ provide opportunity for relevant professional development, education, mentoring & support for all nurses and midwives
- ◆ provide consultancy, advice and advocacy to our members, nursing organisations & key stakeholders in relation to ATOD matters
- ◆ promote inclusion of ATOD in core undergraduate curriculum, staff development programs and continuing education, and within postgraduate clinical and research degrees
- ◆ promote evidence-based practice and research in Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug-related interventions, and other key issues.

This newsletter aims to provide members with information about a range of crucial 'behind the scenes' activities undertaken by DANA Executive over the past months.

Strategic Planning

DANA Executive and Management Committee held a Strategic Planning meeting in September, 2003 in Adelaide. Those who were unable to attend in person attended teleconferences, to ensure national representation. The meeting resulted in the development of the (Draft) DANA Strategic Directions 2004-2007, a document intended to describe sustainable strategies for improving services offered to DANA members, and increasing DANA's profile amongst its members and other key stakeholders. A copy of the document is enclosed.

We are now seeking your advice and input in refining the document in order to develop a final draft for presentation and endorsement at the 2004 AGM. Although some of the work we identified will be commenced or completed by the AGM, the document is intended to guide the work of DANA for the years 2004-2007, the final version of which will of course, depend on the talents, time and energy of the incoming newly elected team. A copy of the draft document is enclosed. If you prefer an electronic version to make 'tracked changes', or wish to respond by email, contact Jodie Shoobridge at secretary@danaonline.org for a copy. Please send your feedback to us at the address below by **Monday, 17th May, 2004**.

Please note that our future directions are guided by the energy and work that can be feasibly undertaken by our office bearers in their volunteer status. Any assistance to assist us in the work we would like to do to promote and support DANA would be greatly appreciated. We are seeking your active involvement in the organisation to make things happen, so if there is a working party where you have an interest, please contact us!



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Our thanks are extended to the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, Adelaide, for providing the venue and facilities to conduct the meeting.

Website and Database

Our Webmaster David Holloway and VP, Al Scerri, have been working tirelessly to update the database to enable us to keep better track of membership tasks and information. To this end, an IT company, OneReason, were contracted to develop a webbased database to enable easier access to membership information for Regional Representatives. The database is in its final production mode, and should be operational shortly. Please respond to the short survey below by 17th May, 2004 regarding content you wish to see on the website.

Website design

We are currently investigating the costs associated with updating the look and function of our website, with a view to launching a 'new look' (and new products and activities) later this year. Websites not only reflect the professionalism of an organisation but are a valuable means of information sharing and dissemination. We have enclosed a short survey seeking your ideas about the website and a range of other matters. Please take the time to respond to ensure that we can meet your expectations. Results of the survey will be circulated prior to the AGM.

EMAIL access to members

A key task of the database was to develop ways of increasing access and communication to our members. Email is a much more effective way of communicating to our members about events, activities and opportunities for members to provide input into the organisation, and for answering queries or passing on general information. However, as few of our members have provided an email address we are asking you all to dash off an email to Jodie (Secretary) for inclusion on our email list or respond to the enclosed survey by 17th May, 2004. Be assured that email addresses will not be used for any purpose other than DANA business. Should you not have ready access to email at work or home, consider joining your local library or internet café and gaining a Hotmail address, or if this is impossible, please advise us to ensure you continue to receive information by post.

Secretariat

Due to our growth (and potential for growth) as an organisation, and to further DANAs Strategic Directions, we have considered that it is timely to engage a paid professional secretariat to undertake key tasks associated to assist in organisational management. Key tasks will include account management, membership processing and renewal, product ordering, conference planning and organisation and maintaining the membership database. Negotiations have commenced with the view of utilising the services of the APSAD Secretariat, who are familiar with the range of tasks we are proposing. We intend to pilot and evaluate the three hours a week position for a period of six months.

Constitution

Consistent with the strategic planning process and changes the team would like to instigate, we agreed during our planning meeting that the Constitution (which also describes the roles of Executive and Regional Representatives) needed to be



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reviewed. A document will be forwarded soon for your comment. Please direct any queries about this process to Al Scerri at vicepresident_nsw@danaonline.org.

Promotion

DANA has invested a range of promotional materials to promote DANA at conferences, seminars etc. We currently have a banner for displays, and pens, business cards and the Nurse Practitioner Framework to provide as handouts or for placement in satchels. Guidelines for the use of the banner are available on the website, but for further information on any of these items please contact Leanne Keen at vicepresident_non_nsw@danaonline.org.

An example of recent successful promotion was the DANA table at the APSAD conference, held in Brisbane late last year. As a result we were able to attract several new members, and were also invited to send a DANA delegation to the First Asia-Pacific Institute of Addictions Conference in Singapore from May 30th to June 3rd 2004. See www.apia2004.org for information about the conference.

Treasurer

The Treasurer position is currently vacant. If you can contribute some time, possibly have some experience in budgeting and financial matters and are interested in gaining some further experience in the role of DANA Treasurer, please contact the Secretary.

Annual Conference

For a number of reasons, we have decided to postpone the Annual DANA Conference until 2005. Instead, and to ensure the DANA AGM is held, we will be conducting a seminar program mid-year in Melbourne. Details will be forwarded to all members when confirmed. Postal votes will assist election processes at this AGM. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested in attending the Seminar or wish to present a paper or conduct a workshop.

National Phone Number

Our NT Rep Anne Davies has been investigating options for a national phone number. We are about to endorse the proposal for a national phone number, which aims to increase access and responsiveness to our members. Keep checking the website for further details.

Membership cards

To acknowledge our members and increase benefits associated with being a DANA member, DANA members will soon be issued with a numbered membership card. The potential for linking the card with benefits and discount offers will be explored. If you have any ideas about organisations you believe DANA could contact with regards to benefits and discounts, please advise us through the Secretary.

Recruitment of nurses with AOD experience

Due to several recent requests, and as a means of generating additional income, we are investigating potential for advertising nursing jobs in the AOD field on the



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website. Please submit any ideas or requests if you are interested in either advertising jobs or in seeking a job using the website, to the Secretary.

What's happening in NZ (From Brian Neal)

An approach was made to DANA NZ by Terry Hurawai from the Dept of Health re input from DANA into a study on workforce development in the AOD field. Discussions were held via email with Charlotte and Jodie and with NZ DANA members, particularly Daryle Deering, Raine Berry and Helen Warren. This is seen as an ideal opportunity to promote DANA. What has happened is that we now have an email discussion group started for AOD nurses, not just DANA but with many DANA members belonging to it, will hopefully be a recruiting ground for DANA. Daryle has set this up through her organisation and has also spoken to Ian MacEwen who is heading the taskforce into the WFD study. It is our intention to have a DANA meeting later in the year (probably at the Cutting Edge Conference – our NZ AOD annual conference) to discuss our response and to meet with Ian. We are hoping to have someone from the DANA executive come over for that. Daryle is currently negotiating funding with Ian.

Recruitment goes slowly. In my own organisation which employs the largest number of nurses in the AOD field in NZ, nurses who are working in a non-nursing position are not reimbursed for DANA membership. With a change in management we are hoping to change that as I have had approaches from some nurses in those positions who would join if they were reimbursed.

Keep an eye on the website for newsletters from NZ.

Projects

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Guidelines. Framework for Policy, and Standards, and Clinical Guidelines for Nurses and Midwives (South Australia)

In September 2003 the Flinders University School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Drug and Alcohol Services Council of SA published Version Two of this major package entitled ***Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Guidelines. Framework for Policy, and Standards, and Clinical Guidelines for Nurses and Midwives***. This evidence-based resource has been built on the *NSW Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy for Nursing Practice in NSW: Clinical Guidelines and A Framework for Progress 2000-2003*.

The SA Department of Human Services funded this initiative, which has been endorsed by the DANA Executive. Since its release the WA Department of Health has officially adopted the SA package and distributed it state wide. NSW Department of Health is currently reviewing the package in line with NSW Health policy and practice guidelines and will most likely be adopting the package later this year.

Since its release much interest has been received in the package from metropolitan, rural and remote services and clinicians, Aboriginal health services, educators and GPs, from various parts of Australia and NZ, Japan and Denmark. The package will



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be promoted by DANA at the forth coming Asia Pacific Addictions conference in Singapore this year.

Copies of the Package containing the Clinical Guidelines can be ordered through Charlotte de Crespigny at FUSA on 08 8 201n3469 or downloaded from the 'professional resources' section on this website www.dasc.sa.gov.au.

NSW Nurse Registration Board Nurse Practitioner Applications

As president of DANA and Professor of Nursing (Alcohol and Other Drugs) Charlotte de Crespigny has now chaired two sittings of the NSW NRB committee to consider applications for 2 AOD Nurse Practitioner applications. This process will continue as more applications are received.

DANA's Guidelines for AOD Nurse Practitioner were referred to by the NSW NRB in the above process, and have been formally adopted by SA Nurse Registration Board.

ATOD Nurse Practitioner Project (National)

The AOD Nurse Practitioner Project is an initiative of a consortium comprising Drug and Alcohol Nurses Australasia (DANA), Drug and Alcohol Services Council (DASC), Flinders University School of Nursing and Midwifery (FUSA), the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) and the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (APSAD). The broad aim of the project is to develop a national approach to the development and implementation of Alcohol and Other Drug Nurse Practitioners across Australia. The Project Officer is our Secretary, Jodie Shoobridge.

Since the project commenced at the beginning of 2003, the project has held two national meetings with the Steering Committee (many of whom volunteered their time and own resources to attend, and to whom we extend our thanks) and a survey of nurses and other health professionals was conducted in December last year. With permission, DANA and APSAD members were mailed a copy of the survey and invited to respond. Over 100 people responded to the survey, and results are currently being analysed and reports and papers are being prepared. Congratulations go to Bronte Thomson, an RN from DASWest, Vic, and Drs Rene Pols (FMC) and Michael Bolton (Damascus, QLD), the winners of the prize draw of a free conference registration or a book voucher, respectively. Thanks are extended to all participants - your thoughts are invaluable!

The next phase of the project will include reviewing existing standards or competencies for AOD nurses. Although the project team is aware that many organisations have commenced or already developed nursing practice standards/competencies in AOD work (from novices, CNS, advanced practice or NPs), it has proven somewhat difficult identifying or obtaining copies of this work. If you or your organisation have been involved in the development of AOD nursing clinical standards at any level, we would love to hear from you in order to develop standards that will be nationally acceptable. Any person or organisation willing to share information to assist the project will be appropriately acknowledged.



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Reports and newsletters associated with the project can be found on the DANA website, but if you have particular interest in the project, please contact Jodie at shoobridge.jodie@saugov.sa.gov.au.

NSW DRUG AND ALCOHOL NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

DANA has been asked for a representative to attend this committee which is a clinical advisory committee for the Centre for Drug and Alcohol – NSW Health. Al Scerri is the DANA representative to this committee

The Terms of Reference for the committee are as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To increase Nurse and Midwife Alcohol and other Drug knowledge and skills, and develop/enhance supporting structures, organisations and systems to improve health outcomes.
- To work with other health sectors through the development of organisations, knowledge, skills and systems of nursing practice (in relation to Alcohol and other Drugs) to improve health outcomes.

DESCRIPTION

The NSW Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Advisory Committee functions to provide the NSW Health Drug Program with expert advice regarding the management and implementation of programs that achieve the above terms of reference. These programs are collectively known as the NSW Drug and Alcohol Nursing Project.

The NSW Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Advisory Committee aims to:

1. Oversee and advise on all activities undertaken by the NSW Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Project.
2. Promote collaboration between Area Health Services and Corrections Health on the implementation of the *Framework for Progress*.
3. Provide a forum for ongoing review of *Framework for Progress and Clinical Guidelines*.
4. Provide a forum for NSW Drug Programs Bureau to discuss nursing workforce issues pertaining to practice within the drug and alcohol field.
5. Establish core knowledge and skill in drug and alcohol in all areas of nursing practice.
6. Link activities of the NSW Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Project to initiatives of the NSW Workforce Development Strategy.
7. Establish competencies and standards for nursing practice in relation to management of alcohol and other drug related issues.
8. To support the development of resources required to implement or enhance the *Framework for Progress*.



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9. Identify and respond to emerging clinical and policy issues of relevance to effective nursing practice with regard to alcohol and other drug issues.
10. Promote the NSW Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Project.

NSW ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG NURSING PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

The NSW Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Project will:

- Review, publish and distribute the Clinical Guidelines for Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Practice in NSW.
- Review, publish and distribute a “Framework for Progress” for Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Practice in NSW.
- Support the establishment of National Clinical Guidelines for Alcohol and other Drug Nursing Practice.
- Provide leadership and advice to Area Health Services in the development and implementation of area plans to implement the Framework for Progress.
- Broker and establish needs based education and training programs for nurses (specialists and generalists).
- Provide support initiatives to establish Alcohol and other Drug Nurse Practitioner positions.
- Establish forums for Clinical Nurse Consultants and other relevant staff to discuss issues relevant to the implementation of the Framework for Progress.
- Develop a strategy to address the need of Substance Using/Impaired Nurses.
- Produce a newsletter and other relevant communication tools to promote the Project’s activities.

Participants

Tonina Harvey, Chairperson

Representative – Centre for Drug & Alcohol NSW Health, Co Chair

Representative – Centre for Drug & Alcohol NSW Health, Secretariat

Representative - Area Directors of Nursing

2 Representatives - Rural Sector Clinical Nurse Consultants

1 Representative – D&A CNC Network

1 Representative – Corrections Health

Representative – Office of Nursing and Midwifery, NSW Health

Representative – College of Nursing

Representative – NSW Nurses’ Association

Representative - Juvenile Health

Representative - Drug & Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA)

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

The NSW Drug and Alcohol Nursing Advisory Committee will report to the NSW Quality in Treatment Advisory Group

The NSW Nursing Advisory Committee will report to the NSW Health Drug and Alcohol Council.

Please forward any potential newsletter items to the secretary@danaonline.org