



Workshop 31 Peer education: information exchange, empowerment and more!

Tuesday 7 July, 10.00 am – 3.30 pm

Star Room, Level 6, IMAX Theatre Complex, Cockle Bay Wharf

Introduction to the workshop

Peer education has a long history being used informally in everyday life, in social and political movements, and more recently seen as a core component of NSW's response to hepatitis C and HIV. However, there are many interpretations of peer education which warrant discussion and debate. Issues like the purpose, practice and settings for peer education, among others deserve close consideration. This workshop will provide an opportunity to critically reflect on our understandings of peer education and provide examples of how it is conducted by community controlled organisations with a view to developing a more coherent and powerful statement particularly with regard to individual and community empowerment and identity. We will also scrutinise the funding, policy, research and practice implications of peer education activities.

Aims of the workshop

- ▶ To locate peer education within the broader context of education theory and practice and to validate it as a tool for use within our target groups
- ▶ To explore the diversity of applications and settings in which peer education is appropriate and to examine a range of methodologies
- ▶ To explore internal and external challenges of doing effective peer education
- ▶ To highlight the value of peer education from a community perspective beyond knowledge exchange.

Delegate profile: who should attend

This workshop has been designed for those who have an active interest in peer education. Employees of research centres, area health services and non-government agencies should apply. Workers in harm minimisation, health promotion, alcohol and other drugs and youth services will find this workshop particularly relevant.

Cost

There is a registration fee of \$55 (including GST) per participant per workshop. Note: You may be eligible for funding to attend from the NSW Health Workforce Development Program (WDP). Check the guidelines for applying for a WDP grant in the *WDP Training Directory* or at www.wdp.nsw.gov.au

Registration

To register, please email Ann Whitelaw at a.whitelaw@unsw.edu.au. Please include in the email your name, job title, the name of your organisation, its postal address and your contact phone numbers.

Please note: There are strictly limited numbers and delegates will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis, given that they meet the requirements of the delegate profile above.

Registrations are now open and close on Tuesday 30 June 2009.

Confirmed guest speakers and panellists

Aimee Capper has worked for The Connection for the past year as the Indigenous Peer Support Worker and previously worked in the youth sector as a peer researcher. Aimee has made a significant contribution as a peer worker being able to incorporate her personal and professional experience into her role at The Connection, working with marginalised Indigenous illicit drug users.

Dulcie Flower is a retired nurse and a member of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN) and a board member of the Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative in Redfern.

Dr Rick Flowers has researched and taught in the field of popular education for the last twenty years with the University of Technology, Sydney. Rick is currently Head of Adult and Postgraduate Education in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UTS.

Gary Gahan has worked in the harm minimisation sector since 1993. He has worked as a needle and syringe program worker, manager of a HIV & Sexual Health Promotion Unit, HepCare research officer, hepatitis C coordinator and most recently working with the HARP Unit in South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service.

Annie Madden is currently the Executive Officer of the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) – the national peak organisation representing people who use illicit drugs and consumers of drug treatment services in Australia. She has been working in the areas education and drug user representation for 20 years.

Professor Lisa Maher is Professor and Program Head at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow. Trained as an ethnographer she has experience in research, program development and service delivery with injecting drug users, sex workers, PLWHA and other vulnerable groups in North America, Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

Susan McGuckin is the Community Mobilisation Team Manager at NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA). Her team is responsible for PeerLink, a community controlled peer educator training and support project in regional NSW and for implementing NUAA's Peer Education Framework, which Susan also wrote.

Lisa Ryan is the Manager, Harm Minimisation, AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch, NSW Department of Health.

Rachel Sandford has extensive work experience with sex workers, injecting drug users and other marginalised communities in both domestic and international settings and is currently the Manager at the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) and previously the Needle and Syringe Program Team Leader for Blacktown and Mt Druitt.

John Van Den Dungen is the Indigenous project officer at AIVL; developing publications and resources such as the prison diary and Aboriginal hepatitis C training kits aimed at educating Aboriginal injecting drug users about hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses (BBVs). In 2004 he started The Connection which is a peer support and referral network for Aboriginal injecting drug users run by ex-and current injecting drug users.

Facilitator

Norman Booker currently manages the statewide NSW Health Workforce Development Program in Hepatitis, HIV and Sexual Health.

Proudly brought to you by the Consortium members: National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR), Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC), ACON (AIDS Council of NSW), Hepatitis C Council of NSW, NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), Positive Life NSW, Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC), Workforce Development Program (WDP).

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