



The Consortium for **Social and Policy Research** on **HIV, Hepatitis C** and **Related Diseases**

Workshop The “Tough on Drugs” Policy: What are the research and policy issues?

Thursday 11 November

Dockside, Cockle Bay, Sydney

Aims

- ▶ To explore the interplay between the Commonwealth Government's nominated policy and its research, service and policy implications;
- ▶ To generate collaborative or cooperative strategies for strengthening the relationships between research, policy and practice; and
- ▶ To generate research into the service and policy implications of the 'Tough on Drugs' Policy.

Introduction and framework for the workshop

The policy environment has arguably more influence on research and service delivery in the injecting drug sector than in any other health area. The interplay between evidence-driven and politically-driven activities is a rich and complex area to explore at the macro and local levels. This workshop is designed to provide opportunities for delegates to analyse the impact of drug policies on local, state, national and international activities in research and service delivery. Guest speakers will provide analysis of the police and its impact at national and state levels. The workshop will provide opportunities for delegates to consider the impact of this policy in their own contexts, and structured discussions around the relationships between policy, research and practice at different levels.

By happy coincidence, the workshop will be held soon after the federal election. If there is a change in policy direction for the drug sector, the workshop will provide opportunities to reflect on research and practice implications in a new policy environment.

Delegate profile: who should attend?

The workshop has been designed for delegates with an active interest in social research in the area of injecting drug use. Employees of research centres, area health services and government and non government organisations should apply.

Guest Speakers

Dr Alex Wodak Dr Wodak is renowned for his expertise in the area of HIV/AIDS, injecting drug use and harm reduction, internationally and locally. He has conducted workshops, given invited papers at conferences and provided consultancies in a number of developing countries (including Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Iran) on controlling HIV and encouraging the adoption of harm reduction approaches to the spread of blood borne viral infections among injecting drug users.

Dr Wodak's expertise in drug policy stems from his involvement in the establishment of the first needle exchange in Australia in 1986. After visiting the United States in 1987 on sabbatical leave, his interest intensified. He was involved in the establishment of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform and the subsequent formation of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation. Dr Wodak is President of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation, President of the International Harm Reduction Association and the Co-chair of the Global Research Network (founded by NIDA and WHO). Furthermore, Dr Wodak has authored over 260 journal and book publications on drug policy, intravenous drug use and HIV/AIDS. Dr Wodak also teaches in the Master of Public Health program and supervises PhD students.

Annie Madden Annie Madden is currently the Executive Officer of the Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) which is the national peak body representing state and territory drug user organisations and illicit drug users at the national level. Prior to her current role, Annie was the Co-ordinator of the NSW Users & AIDS Association (NUAA) for six years. She has an honours degree in Social and Political Sciences. She is on numerous national, Commonwealth Government and research committees including the recently appointed Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis C. She has been working in the areas of illicit drug use, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis for over 12 years, has been an injecting drug user for over 17 years and has been on methadone for the past 10 years.

<http://theconsortium.nchsr.arts.unsw.edu.au>

Cost

There is a registration fee of \$55 (including GST) per participant per workshop.

You may be eligible for funding from NSW Health Workforce Development Program to attend. Funding covers registration fees and, where appropriate, travel and accommodation costs. 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 send an email to Rodney McDonald at rodney.mcdonald@unsw.edu.au and include your name, job title, the organisation you work for, postal address and contact phone numbers (work and mobile) in the email.

Please note: there are strictly limited numbers and delegates will be selected on a first come first serve basis contingent on them meeting the delegate profile above. **Registrations open on 7 October and close on 5 November, 2004**

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