



**CONFERENCE  
COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO COMPLEX  
AND DIVERSE NEEDS**

6 – 8 May 2009  
Dockside, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Co-hosted by the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC)  
and the Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (NADA)



The presence of coexisting problems for many people accessing services requires a paradigm shift in service delivery approaches that will provide meaningful responses to people's diverse needs.

The Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (NADA) and the Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) are the NSW peak bodies for the drug and alcohol and mental health community sectors. Their memberships represent agencies ranging across mental health and drug and alcohol specialist and other community organisations.

# THE CONFERENCE WILL:

<b>EXPLORE</b>	innovative and creative ways to engage and assist people with complex and diverse needs
<b>HIGHLIGHT</b>	different community sector approaches, challenges and areas for development.
<b>CREATE</b>	a space to network with a diverse range of providers, policy makers, researchers, consumers/clients and carers.
<b>CELEBRATE</b>	community sector achievements and leadership in working with people who have complex and diverse needs
<b>INSPIRE</b>	by exposing delegates to speakers and workshop presenters who will provoke and motivate with challenges, brainstorming opportunities, new thinking and strategies
<b>INFORM</b>	with the latest on policy directions and new approaches at state and national level.

At the end of the conference NADA and MHCC will facilitate a “moving forward-working together” session. Following this session a report will be written that will summarise keys areas for development and highlight ways forward for the community sector.

## Symposiums on current innovative, challenging and controversial topics will be a feature of the conference:

- Iatrogenic effects – what happens matters
- Exploring criminal justice issues
- Talking youth
- Lifting the burden of smoking
- Progress in the Improved Services Initiative
- The road to better data use
- Sexual orientation reflections
- Social and emotional health and wellbeing: Aboriginal issues
- Talking change: CBT, DBT and other psychosocial therapies
- Families and carers upfront
- Leadership and organisational development
- Where’s the commitment? Consumer participation in mental health and drug and alcohol
- Researching community based approaches
- Pathways out of homelessness
- Understanding cultural diversity
- Recovery oriented workforce development
- Creativity in recovery
- Lived experience and peer support

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Anyone managing complex and diverse needs in service delivery from across Australia & New Zealand
- Consumers/clients and carers
- Community organisations with an interest in mental health and/or drugs and alcohol
- Managers, Board members, staff and frontline workers
- Volunteers
- Researchers and academics
- Policy staff
- General Practitioners and clinicians
- Delegates from health and other human service agencies and departments

## CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference venue is Dockside, Cockle Bay overlooking Sydney's beautiful Darling Harbour on the edge of the CBD. The venue is a short walk from city buses, train (Town Hall), monorail and ferry (Darling Harbour/King St Wharf).

## ACCOMMODATION

A range of accommodation options is available within a reasonable distance to the venue. Check the websites [www.mhcc.org.au](http://www.mhcc.org.au) and [www.nada.org.au](http://www.nada.org.au)

## TRAVEL SUBSIDIES AND ASSISTANCE TO ATTEND

Travel subsidies and assistance to attend will be available for some individuals (particularly for consumers/clients and those from rural and remote areas) and small NGOs (5 or less full time employees). Applications will be considered on a case by case basis. Preference will be given to those presenting a paper, MHCC & NADA members and consumers/clients from NSW. Applications for assistance can be downloaded from [www.mhcc.org.au](http://www.mhcc.org.au) or [www.nada.org.au](http://www.nada.org.au) or obtained by phoning MHCC on 02-9555 8388 or NADA on 02-9698 8669. Applications for subsidies and assistance close on 17 April 2009.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Details will be included and updated on our websites [www.mhcc.org.au](http://www.mhcc.org.au) or [www.nada.org.au](http://www.nada.org.au)

Wednesday 6 May 2009 - 9am to 5pm then 5.30-7pm Welcome Reception

Thursday 7 May 2009 - 9am to 5pm

Friday 8 May 2009 - 9am to 3.30pm

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

The conference will feature papers on a range of different topics relating to the conference theme and covering areas such as:

**Bridging research into practice:** The latest research and its practical applications.

**Responding to need:** Showcasing effective interventions, innovative approaches and practice wisdom across a range of services including: drug and alcohol; mental health; homelessness; women's health; young people and the criminal justice system; gambling addiction; disability; aged care; childhood abuse; indigenous health; and housing.

**Demonstrating effectiveness:** Understanding how to use data to demonstrate and articulate outcomes for people accessing services.

**Workforce development:** Supporting organisations to have the right people, with the right skills and the right attitude, at the right time.

**Organisational Development:** Building capacity to manage change and be sustainable and relevant into the future.

**Valuing the lived experience of consumers/clients and carers:** Integrating consumer/client and carer perspectives into individual support and organisational development.

**Collaboration without borders:** Exploring the implications of working collaboratively with a range of partners across geographic and sector borders.

**Note that the conference program and speakers are subject to change. For updates on the program, speakers and conference details check [www.mhcc.org.au](http://www.mhcc.org.au) or [www.nada.org.au](http://www.nada.org.au)**

Registrations close: 24 April 2009

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**The Hon John Della Bosca** - NSW Minister for Health

**The Hon Michael Kirby** - Former Justice of the High Court of Australia

**John Mendoza** - Chair, National Advisory Council on Mental Health

**Professor Margaret Hamilton** - Chair, Multiple and Complex Needs Panel (Victoria) and University of Melbourne

**Janet Meagher AM** - Psychiatric Rehabilitation Australia (PRA)

(note that keynote speakers are subject to change)

## CONTACT

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