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COMMUNITY DRUG INFORMATION STRATEGY

Many communities face similar drug and alcohol issues. To support the work of CDATs a variety of social marketing campaigns and printed resources on drug and alcohol issues are developed every year by a small team at NSW Health, the Community Drug Information Strategy (CDIS).

The feedback from CDATs about the issues they face is essential in developing this material and ensuring its relevance. For example, Dharwal Family Matters is an Aboriginal specific resource developed by Yura Yulang CDAT with the assistance of the CDIS team.

Two particular resources developed by CDIS with much demand from CDATs include:

- *Drug Smart Z-Card* – a popular fold-out resource for teenagers, providing information about alcohol and other drugs.

- *Family Matters: how to approach drug issues with your family* – a booklet describing the risks of drug and alcohol abuse, information about specific drugs (cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines), tips for talking with family members about alcohol and other drugs and contact details for services to give further information and help. Family Matters is available in 16 community languages.

Other information resources are available to help CDATs, including:

- Posters, brochures and information cards to assist CDATs address local drug issues
- *Drug Action*, a regular newsletter specially for CDATs, and
- a wide range of drug information fact sheets.

Recent information campaigns run by CDIS have focussed on club drugs, cannabis and alcohol.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drug_action

Email: drugaction@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Phone: 02 9391 9000

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SPEAKING ABOUT CDATS

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“Every bit of information that we get out into the community will hopefully help someone. I would recommend the experience, the resources and training have been excellent.”

Helen Hodgson, Samaritans, Cessnock CDAT

“I first became involved with CDAT through my current A&OD work over six years ago. You really get a sense of what is happening within your local community and get to have input into activities for our local young people. Memorable highlights have been the trivia nights, the Drug Expo, Battle of the Bands competitions, info stalls and movie nights, and the support from the Orange TAFE welfare students has been fantastic. Being a part of Orange CDAT has been very worthwhile I will continue to be involved as long as I can.”

Lynette Bullen, Lyndon Community, Orange CDAT

GRIFFITH

“The highlights of my involvement in Fairfield CDAT have included acting chair for two months, preparing a training package for local family support workers to work effectively with drug-affected families and organising the CDAT participation in Fairfield Youth Festival. Also, the project officer from Community Drug Strategies has been very helpful in clarifying issues and assisting with funding applications.”

Vuong Van Nguyen, Burnside, Fairfield CDAT

“The individuals I have talked to over the years of my involvement with the CDAT have all said that they learnt new things out of all the activities the Liverpool CDAT presented and I know I have learnt new things myself or I had old knowledge reinforced and brought to the surface again.”

Nora Gomez, South West Child Adolescent & Family Services (CAFS), Liverpool CDAT

“I wasn't sure what the outcome would be when I was able to attend the CDAT conference in Port Macquarie. I am so happy I went because meeting other CDAT groups and seeing their projects was so encouraging, it made you feel that we can make a difference in our community. The workshops were so positive and helpful.”

Judy Griffiths, Naranon, Lake Macquarie CDAT.

“As a senior police officer I was concerned with increase in crime figures and the links between drug use and crime. Because we had formed the CDAT in Orange, we were one of the first rural towns to get the MERIT programme (allowing early treatment for offenders with drug and alcohol problems). After that we ran a number of youth/lifestyle education programs for youth at risk, and we also conducted our first Youth Trivia night with celebrities from the Big Brother House. It was a huge success and very rewarding.”

Greg Birtles, NSW Police, Tamworth CDAT

“As members of our family were caught up in drugs, we needed to obtain info and education. A highlight for me has been an increased knowledge of how to assist those affected by drugs and alcohol.”

Victor Holland, Goulburn CDAT

“One project that is a stand out to me was the Experiences of Methadone/Buprenorphine clients in the Canterbury Local Government Area'. Talking to these people, listening to their stories and life experiences and hearing what they needed not only to help them, but what would help others, really helped me understand what people with drug and alcohol problems were going through.”

Cheryl Field, Canterbury CDAT

“I wanted to educate children about the repercussions of getting involved in drugs. It's been great to get involved in something that benefits our community. The experience has been very worthwhile.”

Jackie Edgar, Narrabri CDAT

“I became involved because of concern about the impact of drugs on the local community, particularly young people. I have enjoyed the contact with other like minded people and the exchange of information and strategies.”

Cecilia Blackwell, TAFE, Inverell CDAT.

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