



# GoldCoast DrugCouncil Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

### SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mary Alcorn - Executive Director

As we say good bye to 2009 we would like to thank our Funding Bodies; Partners; Supporters; Staff and Volunteers for the huge contribution made during the year.

Throughout the year we have substantially increased partnerships with Government agencies; NGO's; Mental Health; ATODS; ATSI and many others.

It has indeed been a busy year, the Board & Staff wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerley



**Mary Alcorn**  
Executive Director

### BANJARA MEDICAL CENTRE



'Banjara Medical Centre'

We were very pleased to announce the completion of our new Medical Centre (Banjara) thanks to a one off, capital infrastructure grant through the Amphetamine Type Substance grant from Dept. Health & Ageing. "BANJARA" meaning goodness or wellness in local aboriginal dialect, has begun as a specialist medical service centre.

My personal thanks to Cultural Liaison Billie Edwards from Kalwun Health Services for researching the local dialect.

Our hope is that this building will improve service delivery for those experiencing drug related and/or mental health issues, utilizing a holistic model of care. The official Medical Centre opening will be held in February 2010.

### NEW LOGOS

Thank you to Tony Fox from Fox Signs for designing our new look logos which are more streamlined and professional.



### 2009 GRADUATION

On 4th November, Staff, Volunteers and Family members all joined the Mirikai Graduates of 2009 in their celebrations with a formal dinner party at Bond University. A memorable night was had by all who attended. A well earned congratulations goes out to those clients who received their Graduation Award.

## NEW PROGRAM - Youth Outreach Drug & Alcohol Program



*YODA TEAM: (from right) Co-ordinator Patricia Wall & Evette Braunstein*

Funded by Queensland Health, GCDC were excited to launch the YODA Program this year.

The program provides flexible alcohol and drug outreach services in partnership with local youth agencies and other programs. Generally clients are young people aged 12 to 25 years in the Beenleigh to Coolangatta area.

## NEW PROGRAM - Complex Needs Assessment Panel

The Complex Needs Assessment Panel (CNAPIS) provides a coordinated response to highly complex clients, between the ages of 17 – 29 years of age, with varying individual needs. Many panel clients present with multiple high end needs such as chronic disease and mental health; mental health and drug and alcohol misuse or mental health and disability. The aim of the panel is to improve

service delivery by assisting government and non-government agencies to work together in a

more integrated and effective way to achieve positive outcomes.



*CNAPIS TEAM: (from right) Frankie Whiteley, Kristina Mamic & Co-ordinator Grant Robin*

## INTER-URBAN ARTS - Elanora Skatebowl Project



*The completed project - Elanora*

Inter Urban Arts was granted art + place funding through Arts Queensland and Gold Coast City Council, to do a community cultural development project which implemented the public art at the new Elanora Skate Bowl. This project worked with over 450 people in the Elanora community and Gold Coast Skate community.



## HEADS UP STAGE 2



The newly established Heads Up Stage 2 Consortia is achieving great systems collaboration and integration, and there have been some dedicated leaders driving the systems changes.

I wish to personally express my gratitude to General Practice Gold Coast; Child & Youth Mental Health Services; Adult Community Mental Health Services; Youth at Risk Alliance; and the expanded Department of Communities; as well as all the other consortia members who continue to demonstrate a shared vision and commitment to improved partnerships and multi-agency collaboration on the Gold Coast. Each agency is motivated to share

information and resources to achieve better outcomes for their clients, and identify and address service gaps.

Thanks to the Primary Care Partnership Council for their wonderful commitment to partnering and bringing us all together, and thanks also to Marcia Dwonczyk for her outstanding work in creating and supporting collaborative partnerships on the Gold Coast.

## HEADSPACE GOLD COAST CELEBRATE THEIR 1ST

### ANNIVERSARY



The headspace team are celebrating their successful first year in operation. Utilizing referral pathways from a variety of medical, vocational and schooling support networks, in conjunction with community awareness campaigns and the establishment of a headspace Gold Coast website page, headspace has been highly successful in reaching its target clientele.

A snapshot of statistics shows that 1000 young people have been seen through effective promotion and marketing of GP services; 700 have been referred for psychological strategies; 200 clients have been referred through school guidance counselors; 50 young people have been referred for Alcohol and Drug treatment; 100 young people have received psychiatric treatment, assisted by three and a half day per week GP coverage; 300 clients have been referred to vocational/social

networks, utilizing five day per week cover with one employment provider; 100 young people have engaged with the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE.

Thank you to Kate Swanton for all of her hard work, we wish her all the best.

## VOLUNTEERS

It has been an exciting year for the Volunteer Team with more and more volunteers working in varied roles within the organisation.

A huge thank you to our wonderful Volunteers for their dedication and commitment during the year. Due to our funding challenges, we are very grateful for the overwhelming number of volunteers who are donating their time and skills to help our staff and clients.



*Volunteers enjoying the 2009 Graduation Dinner*

## QUALITY



*James McGregor - Quality Manager*

The highlight of the year in Quality was gaining Accreditation with QIC under the Mental Health Standards. We did this as a stand-alone module review and were the first to ever apply to QIC for such a review midway through our normal Accreditation Period (for awhile they were unsure as to how to deal with our request).

So it was another first for us in the Accreditation arena. Our reviewers (which for the first time included a "consumer" as part of the team), waxed long and eloquently about the extent and quality

of the services that we provide. The review confirmed the quality of the services provided and congratulations must go to all staff, in whatever capacity for their huge contribution to the overall result. So congratulations all.

Preparations have begun for September 2010 when we are to undergo the next review, which will include measuring ourselves against the standards of an Integrated Service (we have always been strong on integration so this should provide no difficulties) – but it will make the time interesting. The Department of Communities also required us to undergo a Self-Assessment against their standards which were sufficiently different from QIC, in both the wording of the standards and the evidence required. However the result demonstrated significant conformity to their standards and

our Quality Plan. We have until 2011 to conform to them but have already completed the requirements of this plan. It does however demonstrate to movement towards standards for all funding bodies. At present we are trying to demonstrate to the Disabilities Services Queensland that we conform to their standards, without having to do a self assessment. We will see how we go.

The positive news in the Standards area is that QIC is trying to develop a more universal set of standards that could be accepted by all sectors, and so prevent the multiplicity of self assessments that seem to be looming. We are hoping that they will be successful in this endeavour in the very near future.

## PSYCHIATRIST - DR ASHAR KHAN

Psychiatrist, Dr Ashar Khan, has also joined us amidst his busy schedule for two half day clinics each week. Dr Khan is Clinical Director of the Acute Care Team (ACT), Homeless Health Outreach Team (HHOT) and Clinical Director ECT, Gold Coast Integrated Mental Health.

Dr Khan is a well recognized expert in the field and is an imperative member of our medical team and contributor to client treatment plans. We thank him for accommodating us in his hectic schedule and once again, for providing such a high level of service at no expense to our clients.



*Mary Alcorn - Executive Director and Dr Ashar Khan*



*Dr Carla Patist*

## PSYCHIATRIC REGISTRAR

■ We have also been lucky enough to acquire the part-time services of a Psychiatric Registrar, Dr Carla Patist in partnership with Qld Health, and Dept. Health & Ageing under an Expanded Settings Training Program. Dr Patist will assist Dr Khan, and has already become a valued member of our specialist mental health team. The Psychiatric Registrar program works on a six month rotation, so we will be wishing Dr Patist goodbye shortly, and welcoming Dr. Allan Pascoe in the new year.

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