

A 'Climate for Change' 2-day summit, with post-summit professional development workshops, that will inform, enliven and expand your understanding of addiction.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual General Meeting suggests changes
- Treasurer's Report
- Funded Supervision for Post-graduate students in AOD
- Conferences and Workshops
- A Climate for Change: An International Summit

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Psychology & Substance Use

An Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2007

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUGGESTS CHANGES FOR PSU

The PSU AGM, held in Melbourne on Thursday 15 November at the Park Hyatt Hotel, drew a number of interested psychologists who were also attending the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association annual conference.

Nominations were received for the positions of *Convener, Treasurer and Committee*, and as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions, no election was necessary.

The positions for the current term are :
National Convener: Lynne Magor-Blatch, Treasurer: Stefan Gruenert, Committee Members: Debra Rickwood (ACT), John Brown (ACT), John Howard (NSW) and

Raimondo Bruno (Tas). The position of **Secretary** remains vacant.

Stefan Gruenert was unable to attend the AGM as he was involved in far more pressing business—welcoming his second son into the world (our congratulations to the Gruenert family). His Treasurer's Report is included at page 2 of this newsletter, and shows a current balance of \$13,110.19.

Members attending the AGM discussed possible changes of name and focus for the PSU that would better reflect the reality of comorbidity as an issue for our client group.

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Funded Supervision of Postgraduate Psychology Students in AOD Services

Are you interested in helping non-government alcohol and other drug (AOD) services increase their capacity to deliver on-site training? Are you interested in helping probationary psychologists gain effective AOD experience? The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is seeking expressions of interest from registered psychologists with demonstrated experience in clinical supervision of students working in the AOD field.

The APS is currently administering a clinical supervision scheme for postgraduate psychology student trainees to enable them to undertake

placements in non-government AOD services.

The scheme aims to develop workforce capability to deal with comorbid substance use and mental illness, by addressing the shortage of psychologists in the non-government AOD workforce.

This federally funded project will provide clinical supervision for postgraduate psychology students enrolled in Clinical, Counselling, Neuropsychology, Forensic and Health Psychology programs. Students will be required to attend the AOD service two days per week for twenty weeks.

Clinical supervisors recruited specifically for the project will be expected to deliver one hour per week of on-site supervision to participating student psychologists.

Clinical supervisors may also be funded to train and supervise staff of participating non-government AOD services on supervision days.

If you have any questions about the project or would like to register your interest, please contact Margaret Anderson

m.anderson@psychology.org.au

**Australian Psychological Society: Psychology and Substance Use Interest Group
Annual General Meeting
Treasurer's Report
November 15th 2007**



**PSU Treasurer,
Dr Stefan Gruenert**

Stefan is also CEO of
Odyssey House
Victoria

'The PSU as an Interest Group is set to play an increasingly important role in relation to substance use and mental health, families and child protection, drugs in sport and other areas of social debate.'

	September	YTD
<i>Non-Student Members</i>		151
<i>Student Members</i>		31
Total Members		182
<u>Available funds unspent as at 31 May 2007</u>		13,161.69
<i>Funds carried over from 06/07</i>		\$13,161.69
Income		Allocation (\$1,899) not received due to large balance carried forward.
Less Expenses		
<u>Telephone</u>		(51.50)
Total Expenses		(51.50)
Balance*		\$13,110.19
<p>* Standing Order 13.6.5 (ii) of the Standing Order of the APS</p> <p>Board of Directors states that</p> <p><i>"At the beginning of the Society's financial year, the Balance in a Unit's account should not exceed a Limit which is an amount equal to three (3) times that Unit's Allocation, except that this Limit shall not be lower than \$1,000 nor higher than \$20,000. The limit may be varied by the National Treasurer when a Constituent Unit can demonstrate that its Limit is unworkable or that it will restrict a planned activity. When this Limit is reached the Unit will be notified that its Allocation will not be available if the Balance remains higher than the Limit at the beginning of the following financial year."</i></p> <p>Three (3) times the Year to Date allocation shown above is</p>		
		\$5,697.00
Prepared by Stefan Gruenert		

Comorbidity Professional Development Scholarships

FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) has \$1.9 million in funding to be awarded for Comorbidity Professional Development Scholarships.

Applications are open to Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Workers employed in Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

The Scholarships aim to build expertise across Mental Health and AOD Comorbidities.

Round 2

Applications open:
Monday 5 Feb 08,

Applications close:
Monday 3 Mar 08

Applications available from
www.nceta.flinders.edu.au



A Climate for Change : An International Summit - Policy & Practice in Advancing Theory, Research, Addiction 10-12 July 2008 Melbourne

A Climate for Change' is a 2-day summit, co-sponsored by the PSU Interest Group, with post-summit professional development workshops, that will inform, enliven and expand your understanding of addiction.

*Look back at the past.
Look forward to new ideas.*

The world's leading experts in the field - who have brought cutting-edge theory, science, and practice to bear on the devastating problem of addiction - have been gathered together for this event.

All in one place. For one seminal event. Plenary addresses, in-depth workshops, interactive presentations and panel discussions -

Steve Allsop
Alex Blaszczyński
Carlo DiClemente
Dennis Gray
David Hodgins
Harold Kalant
Ian MacEwan
Alan Marlatt
Barbara McCrady
Thomas McLellan
William Miller
Theresa Moyers
Ann Roche
Doug Sellman
Howard Shaffer
Constance Weisner
Ted Wilkes
Allan Zuckoff

Post-summit workshops will feature - David Hodgins, William Miller, Theresa Moyers, and Allan Zuckoff

**Groundbreaking.
Provocative.
Unprecedented.**

Counsellor, psychologist, psychiatrist, academic, social worker, mental health professional, policy maker, corrections

worker—this is the event for you.

Post Summit Workshops

12 July 2008 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Carlo DiClemente
Addiction and Change: Matching Interventions to the Process of Change



David Hodgins
Fundamentals of Gambling Problems and their Treatment

William Miller
Introduction Motivational Interviewing: The Basics

Theresa Moyers
Using Client Language to Improve MI Practice: An Advanced Workshop for Practitioners

Allan Zuckoff
Engaging the Difficult-to-Engage: Motivation, Change and Co-Existing Disorders.

Call for Abstracts
Original evidence-based research is required for consideration. Broad and diverse topics consistent with the conference theme:
Advancing Theory, Research, Treatment, Policy and Practice in Addiction are encouraged.

Closing Date for Abstract Submission 15 April 2008

For more information and details of Program see:

www.pacificcmc.com -
summit@pacificcmc.co

Summit Venue
The Sofitel Hotel situated in the heart of Melbourne



Office Bearers for 2008 are:

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The newsletter provides us with another avenue for professional development, and we were thinking it would be good to focus in on particular themes in our newsletters. This also provides members with a greater chance to contribute, and indeed this idea will only truly work through members contributing their diversity of knowledge and experience.

Complete contributions are welcome, but so too are ideas that we can compile into a combined article. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Lynne Magor-Blatch at clinical.dir@adfact.org

With the new Medicare numbers, many psychologists are reporting increased referrals from GPs where substance use is an issue. These are people who have not previously received specialist interventions. If you are seeing people now through referral from General Practice, please share those experiences.

The Commonwealth Government has recently provided funds to the NGO sector to increase the capacity of AOD services to better work with people with a comorbidity of mental health and substance use disorders.

Many of these organisations will now be seeking to employ psychologists to develop and lead these projects. Many jurisdictions will also be developing Headspace projects, which again will increase opportunities for psychologists. If you are involved in any of these new initiatives, please share your experiences through the newsletter.

Psychology and Substance Use Interest Group

The Psychology and Substance Use (PSU) Interest Group offers members an opportunity to engage with other psychologists who share an interest in substance use issues. The group aims to be of relevance to psychologists in a broad range of settings, including research, policy development, clinical work within the drug and alcohol system, and clinical work in other settings. We are always looking for ways the group can be of practical benefit to members, and we encourage members to become involved in whatever way they can. One important way is through the establishment of PSU groups in each jurisdiction—so if you are interested in bringing a group together in your area, we are keen to support you and provide help through the provision of seeding grants.

AGM SUGGESTS CHANGES FOR PSU contd. from P.1

With comorbidity of mental health and substance use disorders (or co-occurring disorders) the **EXPECTATION** rather the **EXCEPTION**, the need to increase the focus of the PSU was suggested to members attending the AGM.

Members also considered the fact that there is no Interest Group devoted to Mental Health issues, although mental health is clearly a focus at College level.

Any changes to the Terms of Reference for the Interest Group need to be submitted to the Board for approval, and would need to be accepted prior to this by PSU members. The suggested changes to the Terms of Reference are outlined below:

1. To facilitate communication among psychologists interested in substance use **and mental health** issues.
2. To promote professional activities and practice, information sharing, research and discussion related to the psychology of substance use **and mental health**.
3. To provide a network of APS psychologists able to respond, as deemed appropriate by the APS, to emerging issues related to substance use **and mental health**.
4. To promote the role of psychologists as practitioners, researchers and commentators in relation to substance use **and mental health** issues.
5. To generate and maintain links with organisations that have a focus on

psychology, substance use **and mental health** issues within Australia and internationally, who are congruent with the aims of the APS and the Interest Group.

A number of name changes were discussed to reflect the change of focus, and included:

- Psychology, Substance Use and Mental Health Interest Group (PSUMH)
- Psychology and Co-occurring Disorders Interest Group (PCOD)

The first was considered preferable as it did not appear to limit the focus to comorbidity alone.

We need your feedback before we move forward with any changes. Please let us know—contact either Lynne or Stefan.