



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA

UQ School of Public Health

# qadrec

The Queensland Alcohol and Drug  
Research and Education Centre

**annual report 2014**





# qadrec

The Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC) is a centre within The University of Queensland's School of Public Health that provides education, training and research in a range of alcohol and drug areas. The centre places a strong emphasis on teaching in alcohol and other drug-related areas and publishes research results at a national and international level. Tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs are all part of QADREC'S research program. **QADREC** is a centre within the Disease Control and Prevention Division of the School of Public Health (Head of School Professor Charles Gilks), in The University of Queensland's Faculty of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

## mission statement

**QADREC's mission** is to inform policy and guide practice through outstanding research and excellent teaching in the alcohol, tobacco and other drug field.

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## Director's report

*"There is no debate about the most effective and efficient policies which need to be implemented. The debate is only about the political will and the political costs associated with implementing these policies."*

The use of substances has always had a political dimension. American prohibition legislation was an early attempt to address some of the then perceived harms of alcohol. Prohibition as a policy demonstrated that efforts to ban the use of some substances may lead to a range of unintended harms. The war on drugs in the United States is associated with thousands of deaths reflecting efforts to enforce legislative bans on a variety of illicit drugs including cocaine.

In Australia the harms associated with efforts to enforce drug legislation have probably been modest. Certainly they have never been systematically studied. With a range of substances now legally available in other countries (e.g. cannabis in Uruguay, Holland and the US states of Washington and Colorado) the political dimensions of drug policy are more evident. Recent advocacy for medical marijuana has raised additional political questions with some conservative legislators supporting greater availability of cannabis in some circumstances.

However, many of these political concerns with illicit drugs are relatively easily understood compared to the larger problem of alcohol. Alcohol is associated with more deaths and hospital admissions than all the illicit drugs combined. There are perhaps five times more deaths and hospital admissions for alcohol related problems than for those involving the use of illicit drugs. There are three policy options which are relatively inexpensive and which would produce substantial reductions in alcohol related harm. These are increasing taxes on alcohol, reducing availability (reduced number of outlets, reduced hours of opening) and reduced advertising and promotion.

The resistance to these policy initiatives comes primarily from industry rather than consumers. The alcohol industry is not a monolith. It includes a range of large producers and exporters, as well as many small growers. The export of alcohol products is valued by government as well as industry. Retailers contribute another somewhat diverse group, with both shared and competing

interest. This is an industry which profits from maximising the sale of alcohol products. They will resist effective policy options because their profits will be affected. That is precisely why these policies must be implemented. There is no substantial debate about the harms which flow from alcohol use. There is agreement that the harms involve both moderate and high levels of alcohol use. There is strong evidence supporting the contention that moderate levels of alcohol consumption lead to more total deaths than does binge drinking or high levels of consumption. The debate then is about the political will and the political costs associated with implementing these policies.

Now the news from QADREC ...

Following a change in Queensland government a few years ago, core funding to QADREC ceased. Despite this QADREC continues to be active in the field. Staff obtain grants, are actively involved in publishing, teach a range of courses and contribute to health, political, economic and social debates relating to licit and illicit substances.

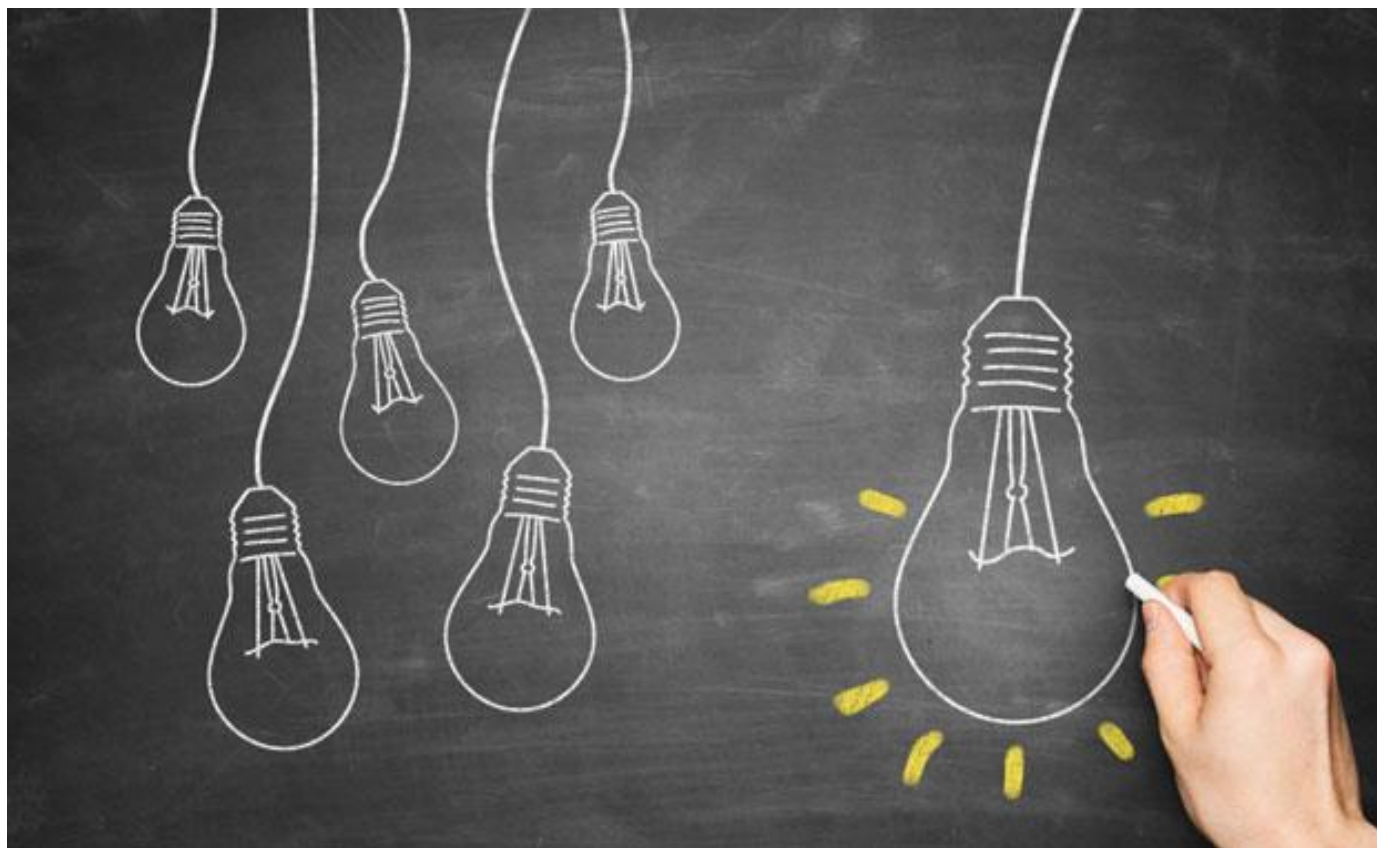
Stability of funding remains a concern, as it does throughout the university sector. In 2014 QADREC lost two valued members of staff. Clinton Kempnich has been a staff member at QADREC since its creation in 1996-7. He has made an extraordinary contribution to our teaching program. Many students have publically commented on his charismatic and committed teaching. It is my hope that Clinton will continue to engage with QADREC, from his new position. Sophie Hickey spent many years working on the EDRS. She has now moved to a full time research position. She will be missed.

Dr Andrew Smirnov has been affiliated with QADREC for many years, and we are pleased to welcome him to the full time staff in 2014. Ellen Leslie has also recently joined QADREC in a research capacity.



Jake M Najman PhD FASSA

Professor of Medical Sociology and Director of QADREC



## Research

*In conjunction with teaching and other educational activities, QADREC conducts a targeted research program. This research program operates from a public health perspective, focusing on the determinants and contexts of alcohol and other drug use problems. QADREC also takes an explicitly policy-oriented approach, undertaking research to support evidence-based supply reduction strategies, for the prevention and treatment of drug-related harm, and harm reduction initiatives.*

# Research Area 1

## Substance Use over the Life Course

### Genetic and environmental contributions to the life course of the common mental disorders

#### Funding

\$1,474,526, NHMRC project grant, 2011-2014.

#### Researchers

**Prof Jake Najman**, Prof Gail M Williams, Prof John McGrath, Prof David McIntyre, Assoc Prof Michael O'Callaghan, Dr William Bor, Assoc Prof Alexandra Clavarino, Assoc Prof Abdullah A Mamun, Dr James Scott, Assoc Prof Naomi Wray, **Assoc Prof Rosa Alati**, Dr Reza Hayatbakhsh, Dr Ryan Mills, Assoc Prof Leonie Callaway.

#### Background

This is an ongoing study concerned with factors over the life course that impact on child health and development. The cohort was recruited over the period 1981-4, from a large obstetrical unit in Brisbane. Children born to the mothers recruited to the study have been followed up at intervals, and this is the most recent follow-up. It has also been the most difficult as it involved the collection of biological samples which will enable researchers to assess a range of biological and genetic factors as they contribute to mental illness.

Because of the resource-intensive nature of these studies they are best conceived as vehicles for a wide number of research questions. At one level such studies represent a resource, a data-gathering project across a wide range of disciplinary topics. Current data collection is at 30 years after the birth of the child. The MUSP has produced a diverse range of more than 200 published papers. These papers focus on predicting the characteristics of those young people with alcohol, nicotine and/or illicit drug use disorders.

Our papers also address the cause-effect association between selected forms of substance use and mental health and cognitive outcomes. A number of these papers cross topic area and discipline boundaries. For example, a series of papers have appeared addressing the long-term impact of substance use in pregnancy.

#### 2015 Aims

During 2015 we will continue data analysis, conference presentations and the submission of research papers. Data, of the type we have now assembled, are rare and highly valuable. Given the time, energy and effort involved in collecting this data, its analysis and presentation is a very high priority.

#### Publications

**Alati R**, Betts K.S, Williams G.M, **Najman J.M** and Hall W.D. 2014. Generational increase in young women's drinking: A prospective analysis of mother-daughter dyads. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 71(8), 952-957.

Betts K.S, Williams G.M, **Najman J.M** and **Alati R**. 2014. Generational changes in tobacco use by young women: A cross-generational analysis of mother-daughter dyads. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 33(5), 540-547.

For more publications check

<http://www.socialscience.uq.edu.au/musp-publications>



## The illicit drug reporting system (IDRS)

*The IDRS is an ongoing collaboration with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), University of New South Wales (UNSW)*

### Funding

\$64,956 from the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund, 1 April 2014—31 March 2015.



### Researchers

Fairlie McIlwraith; Sophie Hickey; Rosa Alati

### Background

The IDRS serves as a strategic, early-warning system for emerging trends in drug use and drug markets amongst people who inject drugs. The primary focus of the IDRS is on four illicit drugs: heroin, amphetamines, cocaine, and cannabis; but other drugs are also monitored along with drug-related harms. Information is collected from three complementary sources:

- structured interviews with a purposive sample of 100 people who regularly inject illicit drugs
- semi-structured interviews with key experts in the alcohol and other drug sector (eg. needle and syringe program workers, police, and social workers)
- existing indicator data from relevant government and non-government agencies.

QADREC is responsible for the IDRS's Queensland component.

### 2014 highlights

- Successful completion of the 2014 monitoring project
- Dissemination of 2013 reports and quarterly bulletins
- Joint IDRS–EDRS poster presentation on overdose, 2014 Drug Trends Conference, Sydney
- Bulletin published: *What is happening with heroin?*
- Paper published:

**McIlwraith F.**, Betts K.S., Jenkinson R., **Hickey S.**, Burns L. & **Alati R.** (2014) Is low BMI associated with specific drug use among injecting drug users? *Journal of Substance Use and Misuse*. 49(4) 374-382.

### 2015 aims

- Renewal of the IDRS contract in 2016, with QADREC continuing to manage the Queensland component of this national study
- Completion and publication of the 2015 Queensland IDRS report
- Dissemination of the Queensland IDRS report and national report to stakeholders and key experts
- Dissemination of quarterly IDRS bulletins
- Presentation of findings from 2015 IDRS at local and national seminars
- Publication of papers from Queensland and national data.

## The ecstasy and related drug reporting system (EDRS)

*The EDRS is an ongoing collaboration with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), University of New South Wales (UNSW)*

### Funding

\$65,856 from Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund, 1 April 2014—31 March 2015.

### Researchers

Rosa Alati; Fairlie McIlwraith; Sophie Hickey

### Background

The EDRS is an annual monitoring system of national drug markets, and is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund. It serves as an early warning system for trends in ecstasy and related drug use, attendant risk behaviours and harms, and changes in the drug market. Each year QADREC conducts the Queensland component of the EDRS, triangulating information from three sources:

- Structured interviews with a purposive sample of 100 people from Brisbane and the Gold Coast who regularly use ecstasy
- Semi-structured interviews with key experts whose work brings them into contact with people who regularly use ecstasy (outreach workers, police, party promoters)
- Existing indicator data from government and non-government agencies.

### 2014 highlights

- Successful completion of the 2014 monitoring project
- Dissemination of the Queensland and national EDRS report to stakeholders and key experts
- Dissemination of quarterly EDRS bulletins
- Joint IDRS–EDRS poster presentation on overdose, 2014 Drug Trends Conference, Sydney

- Abstract accepted for presentation of findings at the Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference, Brisbane

### 2015 aims

- Renewal of funding for the EDRS in 2016, with QADREC continuing to manage the Queensland arm of this national study
- Completion and publication of the Queensland 2014 EDRS report
- Dissemination of the Queensland and national EDRS reports to stakeholders and key experts
- Dissemination of quarterly EDRS bulletins
- Presentation of selected findings from the 2014 EDRS at local and national seminars
- Publication of papers from Queensland and national data.



## The Over-Dose Information Network (ODIN)

*The ODIN project is a pilot project conducted by QADREC.*

### Funding

\$36,363.60 from the National Drug Strategy Law Enforcement Funding Committee (NDSLEFC)

### Researchers

**Jake Najman**; Robert Kemp; **Fairlie McIlwraith**; **Kathy Griffiths**

### Background

Drug related overdose is one of the most serious harms associated with illicit drug use; with people who inject drugs being particularly at risk. With non-fatal overdoses, there is a range of potential harms associated with oxygen starvation resulting in varying degrees of acquired brain injury and disability. Moreover, experiencing a non-fatal overdose substantially increases the risk of a fatal overdose.

ODIN is a pilot project that aims to evaluate the benefit and feasibility of a non-fatal overdose monitoring system. In the pilot stage, it aims to document the circumstances and treatment of non-fatal overdoses amongst a purposive sample of people who inject drugs. The objectives are to:

- Identify any trends in drug use leading to non-fatal drug overdoses
- Identify the services accessed by people who have recently experienced a non-fatal drug overdose.
- Identify barriers and enablers to seeking professional assistance
- Provide information relevant to introduction of naloxone programs in Queensland and other states, and the national overdose strategy
- Compare the quality and comprehensiveness of data gathered via the project with existing data reports.

### 2014 highlights

- Final report
- Paper submitted for publication
- Abstract accepted for oral presentation at Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference, Brisbane.



### Project Completed

## The Natural History of Licit and Illicit Drug Use in a Population Cohort of Stimulant Users

*This is an ARC Linkage Project (LP120200474) conducted by QADREC in partnership with Queensland Health (QH) and Dovetail.*

### Funding

Cash - \$270,000 and In-kind (from UQ and QH) - \$410,957: 2013 to 2016

### Researchers

**Jake M. Najman, Andrew Smirnov**, Robert Kemp (Queensland Health). Project Advisory Group: Cameron Francis (Dovetail), Adam Frost (QPS), Jason Ferris (ISSR), Helen Taylor (QH)

### Background

Amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) use is associated with the use of other illicit (e.g. cannabis) and licit (e.g. alcohol) drugs. This project examines whether ATS use may lead to excessive alcohol consumption, that is, whether the relationship between ATS and alcohol use could be considered synergistic. In particular, the study will (a) describe longitudinal patterns of the use of licit drugs, particularly alcohol, among young adult ATS users and non-users, with consideration of whether these patterns constitute synergistic drug use; (b) describe the short- and long-term harmful health and social consequences of alcohol use among young adults, both with ATS and without ATS; (c) identify the individual and environmental predictors of harmful patterns of substance use, including an assessment of the role of alcohol and drug use expectancies and social settings of use, (d) examine the extent of contact with health services and prevention programs, and the effects of this contact in regard to relevant health behaviours. Recommendations will be provided for the development of prevention programs.

### 2014 highlights

- Publication of 2 peer reviewed articles;
- Development and submission of manuscript concerning ATS use and involvement in recreational venues;
- Completion of face-to-face interviewing of young adult ATS users and comparison group of non-users (4½ year follow-up; 5th wave of data collection for ATS-using cohort);
- UQ School of Pharmacy seminar on nicotine dependence and ATS use among young adults.

### 2015 aims

- Six year follow-up Internet survey of young adults;
- Papers developed and submitted to peer-reviewed journals;
- Conference presentations and public seminars;
- Submission of report to ARC;
- Collaboration with Dovetail and other agencies for dissemination of research findings.

## Consequences of concurrent stimulant and alcohol use by young adults: Offending behaviour, victimisation other harms

*Granting Body/Scheme: National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund*

### Funding

Funding: \$90,837.72: 28-Mar-2013 to 30-Jun-2014

### Researchers

**Jake M. Najman**, Robert Kemp (Queensland Health), **Andrew Smirnov**, **Ellen Leslie**. Project Reference Group: Lucas Ride (WA), Susan Beattie (QLD), Maria Borzycki, (AIC) Katie Hall (NSW), Megan Salih (SA)

### Background

This project examines drug use, offending behaviour and engagement with the police among users and non-users of illicit stimulants such as methamphetamine, ecstasy (MDMA) and cocaine. It also examines the relationship between characteristics of the illicit stimulant market and offending behaviour. Specifically, the study addresses a) whether concurrent use of stimulants and alcohol (compared to separate use of stimulants or alcohol) is associated with offending behaviour, being a victim of crime, and contact with police; b) whether participation in open (versus closed) illicit stimulant markets associated with increased variety of available substances, patterns of licit & illicit drug use, offending behaviour, being a victim of crime and contact with police; and c) under what circumstances does contact with police occur, how is that contact perceived and what are the consequences of that contact, in terms of criminal justice and personal outcomes?

### 2014 highlights

- Completion of face-to-face interviews, including structured and qualitative components;
- Completion of NDLERF project report;
- Submission of AIC Trends and Issues paper;
- Confirmation of PhD candidate examining drug use, offending behaviour and contact with the police;
- Acceptance of two papers for Australasian Drug & Alcohol Strategy Conference (ADASC 2015).

### 2015 aims

- Development and submission of peer-reviewed papers concerning ATS use, offending behaviour and policing;
- Development and submission of peer-reviewed papers concerning drink-driving and drug-driving, using linked driving records;
- Conference presentations and seminars.



## Quantitative analysis of qualitative ATS user data

*Granting Body/Scheme: National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund*

### Funding

Funding: \$44,879

### Researchers

John Scott (QUT), **Andrew Smirnov**, Judy Putt (UNE), Elaine Barclay (UNE), Ralph Weisheit (Illinois State Uni), **Ellen Leslie**. Project Reference Group: Monica Boyle (AIC), Sarah Mayes (QPS), Abby McLeod (AFP), Zoe Langridge (NT), Anne Rathjen (SA)

### Background

The Natural History Study of Drug Use offers both quantitative and qualitative data drawn from a representative sample of ATS users (n=352) and a non-using control group (n=204). The qualitative data have been transcribed and prepared for coding. Five waves of interviews have been conducted with the Natural History Study respondents. The present study statistically analyses the qualitative Natural History data to identify the threshold moments in the life course of young adults, with the goal of developing the most effective messages and leverage points for moderating or stopping ATS use and associated problematic alcohol and other drug use. It is anticipated that analysis of the qualitative data will offer insights into the experiences of 'mainstream' ATS users who have largely avoided any significant contact with either law enforcement agencies or public health bodies. This is critically important given that the primary alternative sources of information about ATS users are typically derived not from the mainstream but instead from the dysfunctional and/or 'unlucky' margins.

### 2014 highlights

- Completion of coding of qualitative data, including construction of quantitative variables from qualitative data;
- Completion and submission of 6-month progress report to NDERLF;
- Teleconferences with the Project Reference Group.

### 2015 aims

- Workshop to discuss and develop appropriate harm reduction messages and strategies;
- Development and submission of AIC Trends and Issues paper;
- Submission of NDLERF project report;
- Papers to be developed and submitted to peer-reviewed journals.

## Research Area 2

# Substance Use/Abuse by Indigenous Australians

### Improving alcohol prevention in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drug and alcohol services

*This study is a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award awarded to Anton Clifford*

#### Funding

2013-2016, Australian Research Council

#### Researchers

Dr Anton Clifford

#### Abstract

This project will identify priority strategies to improve alcohol prevention in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drug and alcohol services in Queensland and examine the process and effect of their implementation. The outcomes of this project will provide local and practical evidence to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drug and alcohol prevention across their member services, and a feasible process for their implementation.

#### 2014 highlights

- PhD student commenced working on the project
- Conducted in-depth interviews with 15 clinical and management staff of an Indigenous drug and alcohol services in Far North Queensland

- Commenced analysis of in-depth interviews
- Prepared draft of bibliometric review of drug and alcohol research for Indigenous peoples

#### 2015 aims

- Publish findings of in-depth interviews in peer review journal
- Publish bibliometric review in peer review journal
- Conduct focus groups interviews with clinical and management staff of Indigenous drug and alcohol service to match their priorities for improving healthcare delivery to best evidence strategies
- Analyse focus group interviews and prepare draft of manuscript reporting findings for publication

## Intervention trial to reduce alcohol related harms among high risk young Indigenous Australians

*This study is a collaboration between NDARC, UNSW, QADREC, University of Queensland, James Cook University and the University of Newcastle*

### Funding

2013-2016, National Health & Medical Research Council, Project Grant Administering Institution, NDARC, UNSW, \$379,000

### Researchers

Prof Anthony Shakeshaft, **Dr Anton Clifford**, Prof Komla Tsey, Prof Chris Doran

### Background

This study aims to estimate the benefit-cost of a community based program combining skills based education and training, social support and empowerment, for reducing criminal incidents and substance use among high-risk young Indigenous Australians. The hypothesis is that the benefits of the multi-component community based program will outweigh its costs. A Multiple Baseline Design will be used to evaluate the multi-component intervention. Baseline data will be established for both participating communities, followed by implementation of the interventions and post-test data analyses. The implementation of the intervention will be staggered across the communities by six months and the order of implementation determined randomly to minimise the possibility of systematic bias.

### 2014 highlights

- Collected and analysed community level baseline data

### 2015 Aims

- Continue collection and analysis of self-report data to measure effectiveness of intervention strategies
- Contribute to drafting of papers for publication
- baseline data





## Queensland injecting drug survey (QuIDS)

*QuIDS is a collaboration between QADREC, QH, the Queensland Aboriginal Health Council (QAIHC) and National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) UNSW*

### Funding

2010, \$200,000 from Queensland Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Development Branch

### Project Team

#### Project Advisory Group

Coralie Ober, **Jake Najman**, Andrew Young (QH), Robert Kemp (QH), James Ward (NCHECR), Vanessa Gela (QuIHN), Sidney Williams (QAIHC)

#### Chief Investigators

**Jake Najman**, Sidney Williams, James Ward, Robert Kemp

#### Associate Investigators

**Andrew Smirnov**, Abhi Dev, **Fairlie McIlwraith**

The project also relies on the support and involvement of a number of local organisations throughout Queensland, including; needle and syringe programs, community controlled organisations, Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN), and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATODS).

### Background

Injecting drug use is an important health issue affecting both individuals and communities throughout Queensland. While there is growing concern about injecting drug use among people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, there is little quantitative research in this area. Key policy initiatives at the national and state levels have identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as a priority population for research. The project recruited and conducted structured interviews with 570 people who inject drugs (PWID), from a number of urban and regional centres throughout Queensland. Participants have completed a questionnaire about patterns of use, levels of drug dependence, blood borne viruses, risky behaviour and the different social, cultural and health issues that may relate to the outcomes of injecting drug use.

This study is unique in its inclusion of a matched comparison group; approximately half of the sample identified as Indigenous allowing for important comparisons to be made between groups. The study aims include: a) evaluating patterns of Indigenous injecting drug use in Queensland, including the nature of dependence and transitions to injecting; b) reviewing demographic and social characteristics of diverse user populations; c) examining the mental health status of Indigenous PWID; d) assessing the prevalence of blood-borne viral infections and other injection-related health issues in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous PWID; e) assessing behavioural aspects of injecting drug use, including the relationship between injecting drug use and engagement in other illicit activities; (d) determining 'user-understanding' of injection and associated risks; (e) evaluating 'user-perception' of existing programs and services, including the needle and syringe programs. Comparisons for all aims will be made between Indigenous and non-Indigenous PWID, and findings will support development of relevant services and education initiatives.

### Primary aims

- Evaluate the patterns of Indigenous injecting drug use in Queensland, including the nature of dependence and transitions to injecting
- Review demographic and social characteristics of diverse user populations
- Review the mental health status of Indigenous PWID
- Assess the prevalence of blood-borne viral infections and other injection related health issues in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous PWID
- Assess behavioural aspects of injecting drug use, including the relationship between injecting drug use and engagement in other illicit activities
- Determine 'user-understanding' of injection and associated risks
- Evaluate 'user-perception' of existing programs and services, including the needle and syringe programs

Comparisons for all aims will be made between Indigenous and non-Indigenous PWID.

### 2014 highlights

- Virological analysis of blood samples
- Paper submitted for publication: Smirnov A, Kemp R, Ward J, Henderson S, Williams S, Dev A, & Najman J. (2015) A comparison of drug dependence in a Queensland (Australia) sample of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who inject drugs.
- Further dissemination of findings to the AOD and Indigenous health workforce, including conference presentations.

### 2015 aims

- Completion of report, and submission to Queensland Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Development Branch
- Distribution of report to key stakeholders and interested parties.
- Publication of additional peer-reviewed papers.

## Reducing alcohol-related harm in rural Aboriginal communities: Integrating clinical care and community development

*A collaboration between researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), QADREC, University of Queensland and the University of Newcastle.*

### Funding

2013–2016, NSW Department of Health, Aboriginal Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion Demonstration Grants Program.

**Researcher:** Anthony Shakeshaft, Melisa Haswell Elkins, Stacey Meredith, Joanne Clark, Anton Clifford, Christopher Doran.

### Aim

This project will examine the cost-effectiveness of a community empowerment and reinforcement training intervention for reducing alcohol-related injury and violence among Aboriginal people in 3 rural locations in NSW. The team of investigators will work closely with Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) to implement and evaluate the intervention in each of the three locations. The intervention will be evaluated in each of the three locations using a Multiple Baseline Design.

The effectiveness of the intervention will be assessed by comparing a number of outcome variables at both individual (using self-report

data) and community (using routinely collected police and hospital data) levels.

### 2014 highlights

- Analysed community level alcohol-related crime data to identify high risk times and locations.
- Selected intervention strategies to reduce alcohol-related crime in study site one.
- Set-up intervention strategies in study site one.
- Commenced of training Aboriginal Medical Staff in Aboriginal specific Family well-being program
- Commenced collection of baseline community survey data.

### 2015 aims

- Deliver intervention strategies in study site one.
- Select intervention strategies
- Commence implementation of intervention strategies

# Major research collaborations

## Can parents teach their children to drink alcohol responsibly? Or, is one drop a drop too many?

*This study is a collaboration between UNSW, UQ and the University of Newcastle.*

### Funding

ARC DP 1096668, \$760,000 to the UNSW, 2009–2014.

### Researchers

Richard Mattick; **Jake Najman**; Kypros Kypri; Tim Slade; Laura Vogl; Delyse Hutchinson.

### Background

Parents provide their children with alcohol as they believe it is their responsibility to teach them when, where and how to drink. The impact of parents supplying alcohol is well understood but may be unintentionally harmful. This research will explore the consequences of parental supply within the broader context of parent, child and peer relationships. It will help to determine how parental supply influences the different patterns of adolescent alcohol consumption over time, providing essential information to help parents prevent alcohol misuse in their children. Parents can play a pivotal role in prevention of alcohol misuse but at present we don't know exactly how. This research will help to provide that understanding.

### 2014 Highlights

Multiple waves (X4) of data have now been collected. Both mothers and fathers actively supply alcohol to young children. Papers are now being prepared for publication.

### 2015 Aims

This project involves a large research team and some 10 research papers are in the drafting stage.

Further NHMRC funding has been secured for 2014–2015 and QADREC will receive a portion of the funding: Alcohol use and psychosocial development over the lifecourse. NHMRC Project Grant APP1064893 UNSW - \$437,533 CIA - Prof Richard Mattick CIB - A/Prof John Horwood CIC - Prof David Fergusson CID - **Prof Jakob Najman** CIE - Prof George Patton CIF - Prof John Toumbourou CIG - Dr Delyse Hutchinson CIH - Prof Louisa Degenhardt CII - Dr Edmund Silins.

## The Cannabis Cohort Research Consortium (CCRC)

### Chief Investigators

Dr Delyse Hutchinson, Prof Richard Mattick, Prof George Patton, Dr Wendy Swift, Prof Louisa Degenhardt, Prof David Fergusson, A/Prof John Horwood, **Dr Reza Hayatbakhsh**, Prof John Toumbourou

### Other investigators

Prof Jan Copeland, Dr Tim Slade, Prof Steve Allsop, Prof Wayne Hall, **Prof Jake Najman**, Prof Bryan Rodgers, Dr Robert Tait, Ms Carolyn Coffey, Dr Craig Olsson, Dr Rachel Skinner, Dr Edmund Silins, Ms Elizabeth Spry

*This Consortium is an unfunded collaboration between: Christchurch Health and Development Study (CHDS), University of Otago, Christchurch, NZ; Mater University Study of Pregnancy (MUSP), UQ, Brisbane; Australian Temperament Project (ATP), Australian Institute of Family Studies, Canberra; Victoria Adolescent Health Cohort Study (VAHCS), Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.*

### Background

**MUSP** – ongoing since 1981 - refer to Research section

**ATP** - a longitudinal study of the psychosocial development of a sample of Australian children born between September 1982 and January 1983. 2443 infants were recruited at 4–8 months old. Approximately two-thirds of the families were still participating after 24 years

**CHDS** - a longitudinal study of a birth cohort of 1265 children born in the Christchurch urban region in 1977. These children included 97% of all live births occurring during the recruitment period. The cohort has been studied on 22 occasions from birth to age 30 years.

**VAHCS** - a longitudinal study of a representative sample of mid-secondary adolescents resident in Victoria. A total of 2032 participants were recruited in 1992 at the end of Year 9 (wave 1) or the start of Year 10 (wave 2) and reviewed on four occasions in adolescence and three in adulthood.

## Aims

The Consortium aims to foster relations among partners; identify limitations in knowledge on patterns and causes of cannabis use, potential harms and adverse outcomes; examine priority issues in an efficient and timely way through secondary data analysis of existing national and international cohorts; and, provide health and policy feedback to the commonwealth, health professionals and the public.

## Design and Method

The Consortium aims to achieve its goals by involving partners in capacity building activities, and by providing capacity to allow collaborative work to proceed to high-level grant application stage. Collaboration between researchers involved in existing longitudinal cohorts allows for better assessments of relationships to be made, uses existing data more efficiently and increases opportunities for knowledge translation.

## 2014

During 2014, Dr Silins, Dr Hutchinson, Prof Mattick and the broader Consortium have further developed methods and protocols for the integration of participant-level data from across several Australian and New Zealand longitudinal studies. The harmonized dataset has been extended to include additional harmonized variables. A capacity-building data harmonization workshop for investigators was conducted in Melbourne. The team have been working together to prepare numerous peer review papers, and are currently applying the analytical techniques developed during earlier work to investigate the developmental predictors and young adult outcomes of adolescent binge-drinking. Partnership with the Western Australian Pregnancy Birth (Raine) Study has been formalized and an NHMRC Project Grant which builds on current work is in development.

## 2015

This study has now developed a broader framework and now addresses alcohol as well as cannabis use. A series of papers are underway with a major paper (now submitted) comparing health outcomes for those who misuse alcohol compared to cannabis.

Research by the group using the integrated dataset was published in *Lancet Psychiatry* (Silins et al., Young adult sequelae of adolescent cannabis use: An integrative analysis; *Lancet Psychiatry* 2014; 1: 286-93). Press briefings for the Australian Science Media Centre and the Lancet Journal were conducted and resulted in study findings receiving widespread national and international print, radio, television and online media coverage.

An invited paper has been published. Hutchinson, D.M., Silins, E., Mattick, R.P., Patton, G.C., Fergusson, D.M., Hayatbakhsh, R., Toumbourou, J.W., Olsson, C.A., Najman, J.M. et al (2015) Cannabis Cohorts Research Consortium. How can data harmonisation benefit mental health research? An example of The Cannabis Cohorts Research Consortium. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 49(4):317-23

Numerous papers related to the current study on binge alcohol use are in preparation: (1) Adolescent substance use and specificity of association with educational outcomes in young adulthood; (2) Patterns of alcohol use and the transition to first parenthood; (3) Patterns of alcohol use and violence/aggression; (4) Patterns of alcohol use and alcohol-related problems in adolescence and suicide attempt.

## Research Performance

As figures 1 and 2 indicate QADREC staff have reason to be pleased with their research performance. Figure 1 only includes funds and grants directly available to QADREC and for which QADREC staff have primary financial responsibility. This figure does not include a number of grants which involve QADREC staff as principal investigators but where the grant is awarded to a first-named investigator who is in another group within the SPH (eg. Associate Professors Mamun and Alati), or at another centre/location (eg. Professor Richard Mattick, NDARC).

Figure 1 shows that QADREC's annual budget has previously averaged over \$1,000,000 per year. Following the loss of Queensland Health funding, the QADREC budget is around \$800,000 per annum. A substantial component of QADREC funding is derived from NHMRC competitive research grants. With the cessation of QH core funding, QADREC now receives some SPH core funding, supplemented by funds obtained from competitive research grants. The track record of QADREC staff in obtaining competitive grants has been outstanding.

**Figure 1 : Annual funding levels since 1997**

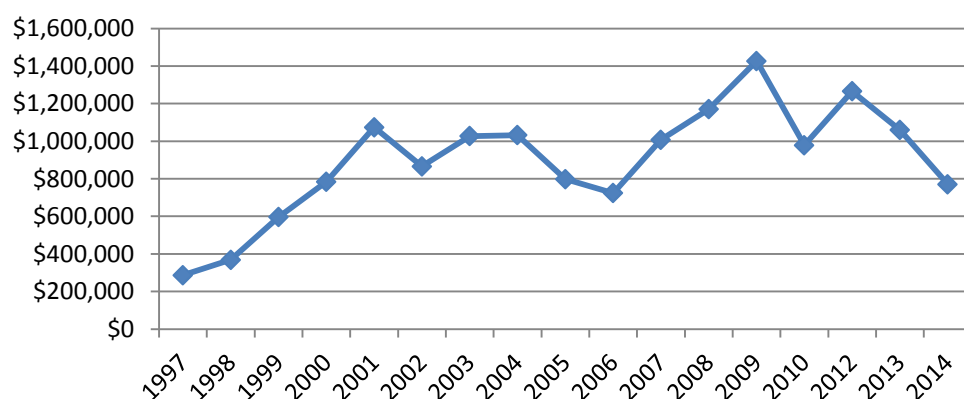
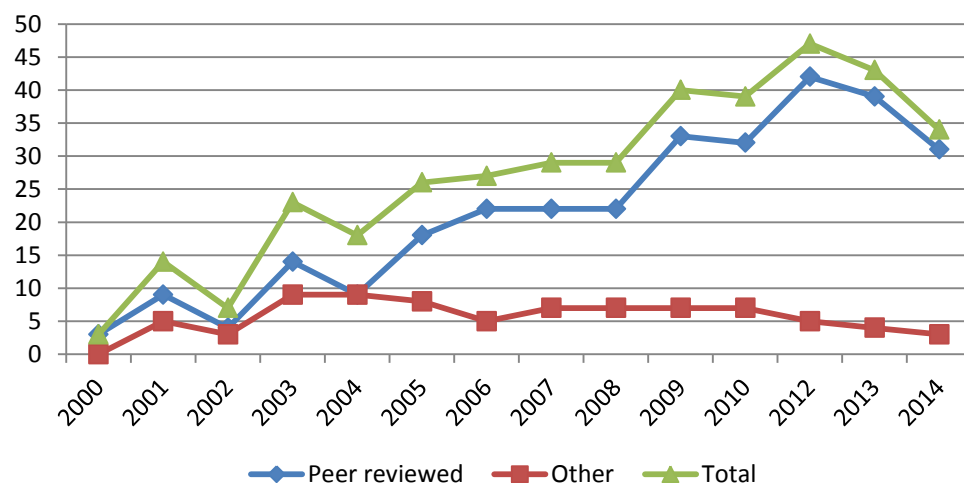


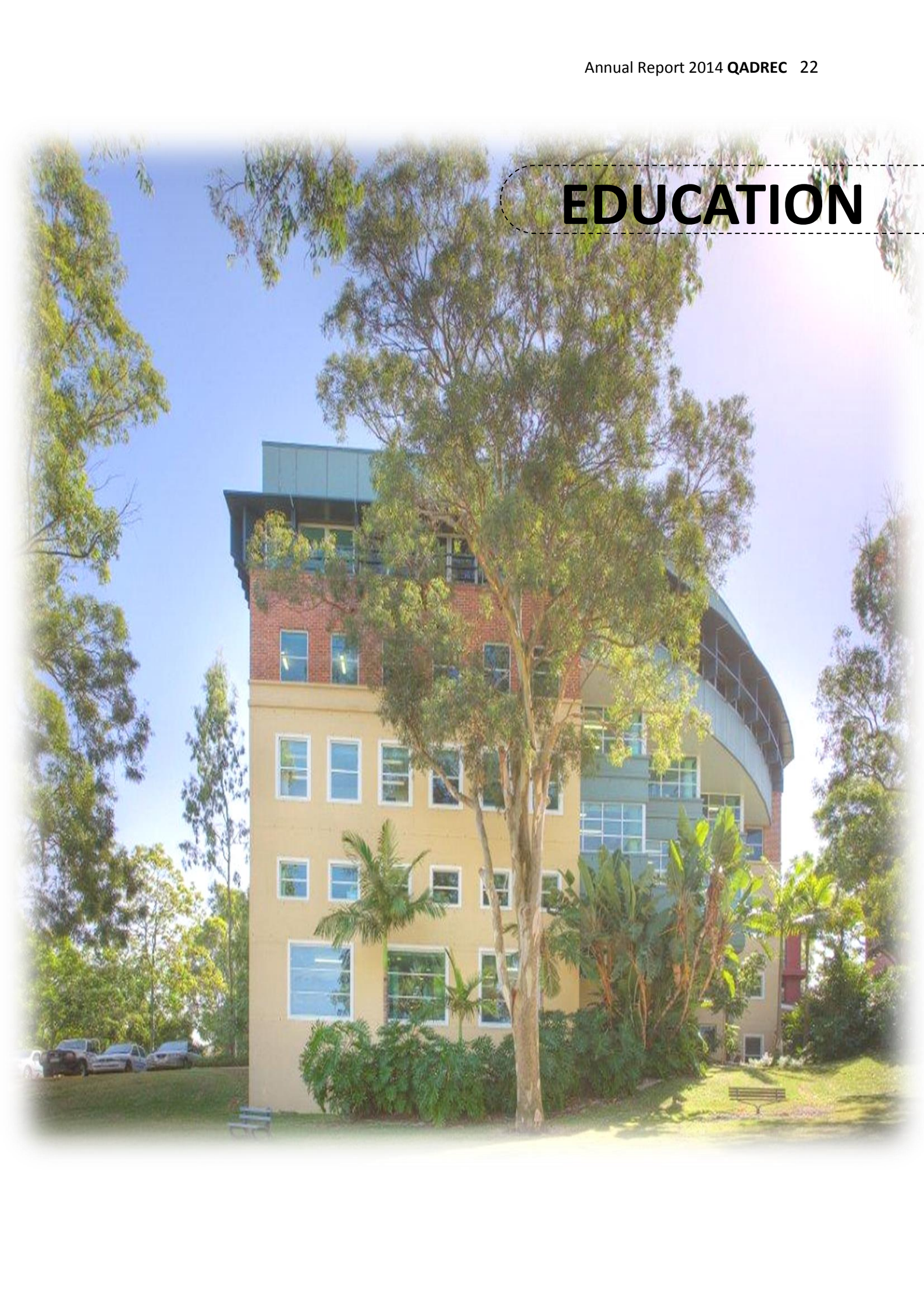
Figure 2 indicates what these changes have meant in terms of publications. The publication of refereed articles published in national/international journals was at a near record high in 2012 and 2013. With the loss of QH funding (and the consequent reduction in staff) there has been a modest decline in refereed research papers. QADREC staff will be seeking to increase their productivity despite the decline in funding.

**Figure 2: Annual number of publications**





# EDUCATION





# Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Program

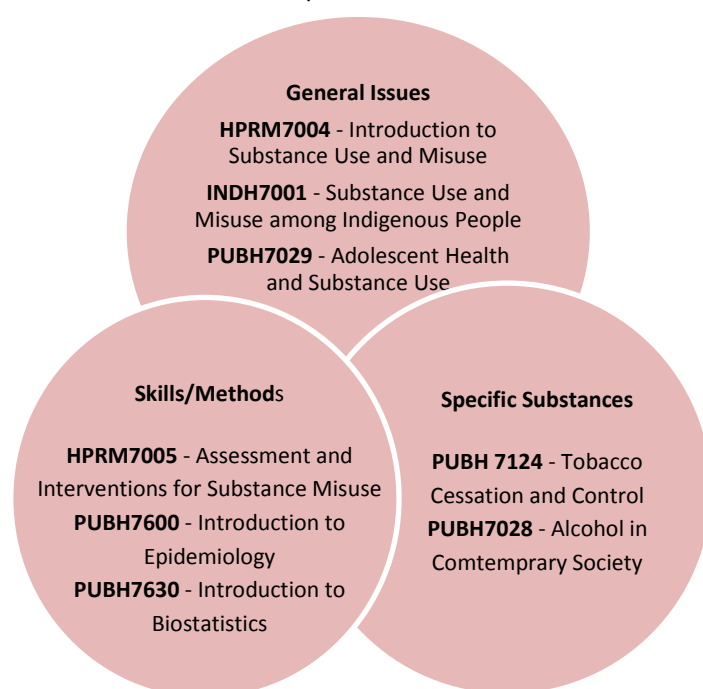
Feedback from students strongly suggests that the courses offered by QADREC fulfil a major need of upskilling the existing workforce within all fields of public health (see student comments). The negative impact of alcohol and other drugs is clear to those working in Public Health both here in Australia and internationally. These issues fill our news broadcasts, our prisons and our hospitals. Australia has an alcohol culture that impacts everyday life. There seems to be unconscious effort to diminish the role this plays in underpinning a raft of negative social and health consequences.

Enrolment in QADREC courses has seen an upward curve of more students across various disciplines seeking a grounding in or a higher level of knowledge in this important field of study. Student numbers are at record levels and continue to grow. These courses offer invaluable levels of investigation and knowledge exploration for a myriad of professions. The level of positive feedback and engagement of students continues to rise. Many international students seek these courses as electives and become immersed in an area that they knew was of importance to their professional development, but is most likely not on the agenda of their home governments. The students receive sound guidance and rigour in formulating theoretical understanding that is relevant and clear in its application. The human side of interaction and communication with the students has been something that QADREC staff have been able to offer and this is a facet students find highly important.

Via feedback from students, and by having coordinators who are experienced and up to date with this field, courses and content are kept highly relevant for all disciplines across the gamut of public health. QADREC also has a strong quota of international students which could be expected to rise given the falling Australian dollar.

QADREC courses, leading to the degrees offered, can be broadly divided into three categories. First, some courses offer a substantive focus on the type of substance and attendant factors relating to its use (separately for alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs). A second set of courses deal with matters that are common to understanding substance use. For example, changes in substance use over the early life course, policy issues that are of generic significance, and substance use in Indigenous communities. The third set of courses is 'skills' based and is part of a common core within the School of Public Health (e.g. epidemiology, biostatistics).

Figure 1 presents a typical QADREC degree structure. Candidates are able to select more courses in their areas of interest and expertise.



For a Graduate Certificate (ATOD) four courses must be completed; eight for graduate diploma and twelve for MPH (ATOD). For specific course requirements visit [www.sph.uq.edu.au/alcohol-tobacco-and-other-drug-studies](http://www.sph.uq.edu.au/alcohol-tobacco-and-other-drug-studies)

# Student Comments

## Joel Zimmer



I am 34 year old father of two and I work in an Indigenous drug and alcohol outreach program in remote communities in NSW. I provide mentoring/training and specialist consultation to Aboriginal medical services on drug and alcohol issues. My qualifications are currently Certificate 4 TAFE level.

Up until now I have attempted a couple of undergraduate courses but found them inflexible when it came to combining work and study. The Graduate Certificate (Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs), offered by The University of Queensland's, Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre has been a transformational experience.

I found the course enhanced and built on my existing knowledge, and I found the course co-ordinator, Clinton Kempnich, very approachable and thorough. I earned a distinction on my first essay, which was a huge confidence builder. I also found the other students great to interact with on blackboard; they were supportive of any input given with regard to the topic of discussion.

I am confident that when I complete this certificate level course, it will increase my capacity in the work that I do.

## Jayne MacLachlan

I have thoroughly enjoyed completing my graduate certificate in ATOD through UQ's School of Public Health on a part time basis. I achieved my nursing qualifications many years ago through the hospital system, so had no formal study under my belt. It was a steep learning curve as I didn't even know how to do a literature search when I first started the course, or how to properly reference what information I found. The support I received, especially in the early days of commencing my study, was fantastic; with help just an email or phone call away.

At times, it was a struggle, juggling a family with the usual dramas that five children bring to your life, full time work as a clinical nurse consultant in an ever changing environment and then taking on study, but, well worth the effort. It has equipped me with a knowledge base and new found skills that have given me confidence within my workplace at ATODS. I feel that the study I have done has changed the way I look at how I work and made me more aware of the importance of reflective practice, researching ideas and trying new ways of doing things. I work across a variety of areas within the drug and alcohol service, including harm reduction, treatment and management. The information provided in the course was comprehensive and relevant, and I find I use it on a daily basis, whether it is sharing information over the phone when doing intake assessments, face to face interactions in the needle and syringe program, working with people on the opiate treatment program or explaining to students the challenges and rewards of working with people who use and misuse substances. With all the materials being online, this meant I could study at anytime and anywhere a computer and internet was available. I would gladly recommend this course to anyone.



## 2014 Courses

### **HPRM7004 - Introduction to substance use and misuse**

**Course Co-ordinator: Mr Clinton Kempnich**

This course provides a general understanding of the core concepts surrounding alcohol and drug use and the concepts and behaviours associated with drug use are described. Key elements include drug actions and styles of use, links between drug use and government policy, health initiatives, epidemiology, socio-cultural issues, policing and media.

### **HPRM7005 - Assessment and interventions for substance misuse**

**Course Co-ordinator: Mr Clinton Kempnich**

This course addresses assessment and treatment options for substance abuse with the emphasis on critical evaluation of their efficacy and effectiveness.

### **INDH7001 - Substance use and misuse among Indigenous People**

**Course Co-ordinator: Mr Clinton Kempnich**

This course presents an introduction to issues related to the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Included is an overview of policies dating back to colonisation and its impact on ATOD use, as well as an examination of contemporary Commonwealth and State responses.

### **PUBH7124 – Tobacco cessation and control**

**Course Co-ordinator: Clinton Kempnich**

This course describes the history of the 20th century tobacco smoking epidemic and the consequences for population health and public policy. It equips students to carry out detailed analyses of the prevalence of tobacco use and tobacco-related harm as well as tobacco control policy and programs at the regional, national and international levels.

### **PUBH7028 – Alcohol in contemporary society**

**Course Co-ordinator: Mr Clinton Kempnich**

This course examines patterns of alcohol use from a national and international perspective, social and community factors influencing alcohol use, legislation to control the distribution and sale of alcohol and population efforts to limit the harms associated with alcohol use/misuse.

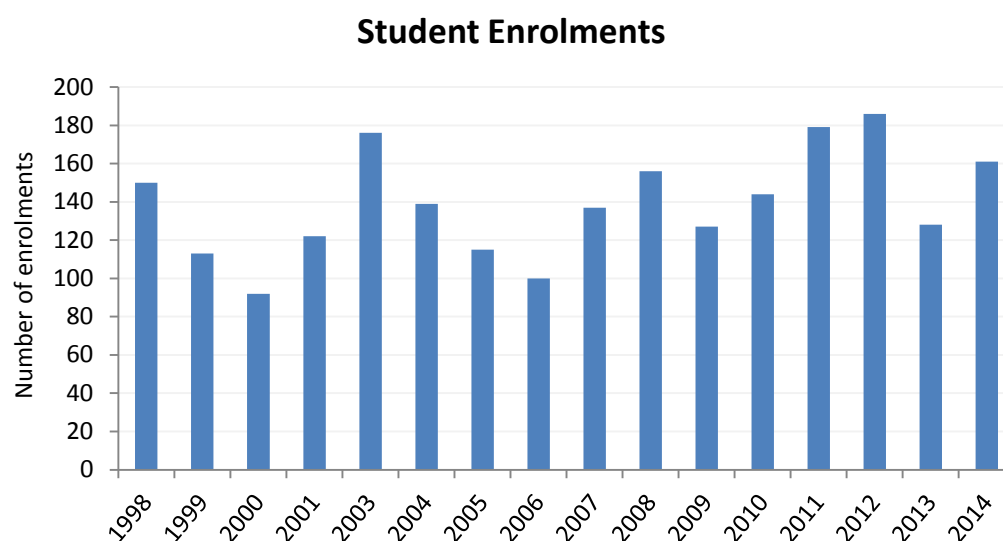
### **PUBH7029 – Adolescent health and substance use**

**Course Co-ordinator: Mr Clinton Kempnich**

This course provides students with a framework for understanding the changing patterns of drug use and drug-related harms amongst young people. Licit and illicit use of legally available drugs and use of illegal drugs will be investigated.



# Student Enrolments



**Figure 2: Total Student Enrolments in ATOD Programs 1998- 2014**

**Table 2: Student enrolments in ATOD Courses, 2005-2014**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
PUBH7124 Tobacco Cessation and Control	4	9	15	24	16	32	37	27	17	23
HPRM7004 Introduction to Substance Use and Misuse	27	18	31	30	35	39	66	39	38	67
HPRM7016 Recent Dev in Substance Use and Misuse	21	9	13	9	10	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
HPRM7005 Assessment and Interventions for Substance Misuse	18	21	22	32	17	17	32	38	30	31
HPRM7006 Alcohol and Drug Harm Minimisation and Policy Development	5	5	9	8	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
PUBH7009 Substance Use and Misuse in Special Populations	22	22	35	33	26	19	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
INDH7001 Substance Use and Misuse among Indigenous People	11	9	5	10	9	5	10	13	13	8
HPRM7015 Counselling for Substance Misuse	7	7	7	10	9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-
PUBH7028 Alcohol in Contemporary Society	-	-	-	-	-	12	20	45	15	16
PUBH7029 Adolescent Health and Substance Use							14	24	15	16
	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>161</b>

## Lectures

### Jake Najman

Course Coordinator for Bachelor of Social Science courses:

- SOCY2179 Sex, Drugs & Disease: Health of the Marginalised (N = 100)
- SOCY1030 Introduction to Health, Illness and Society (N = 300)

### Anton Clifford

Course Coordinator for INDH7002 Issues in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health.

## QADREC seminar series

As a process of information dissemination and knowledge exchange, the QADREC Seminar Series is presented free of charge to provide forums for practitioners, educators, policy makers and the general public to meet and discuss pertinent alcohol or drug issues and current research findings. In 2014, the following presentations took place:

### February 19

Presented by Prof. Jake Najman, QADREC  
Adversity in childhood and substance use behaviour in adulthood

### March 16

Presented by Nam Tran, PhD candidate at the School of Social Science, UQ  
Trajectories of alcohol consumption by women over their reproductive life course

### July 17

Presented by Dr Fairlie McIlwraith, QADREC  
Findings from the Overdose Information Network (ODIN) pilot project

## Conference presentations

### Najman, J.M

Townsville Health Research Week. Keynote address: Does the Experience of Trauma/Adversity Lead to Mental Illness: A 30-Year Prospective Study? [October 8]

### Hickey, S.

Experiences of overdose and drug dependency among regular illicit drug users. Poster presented at National Drug Trends Conference, Maritime Museum, Sydney. Hickey, S., McIlwraith, F. & Alati, R. [October 20].



## Other presentations

### Jake Najman

- Sept 5: Brisbane Writers Festival: Reasons to be optimistic about drug and alcohol research: A conversation about the importance of research. Does Depression Early in the Life Course Lead Cardiovascular Disease in Adulthood? State Library of Queensland. The sessions were broadcast live as part of 612ABC's Drive program with Tim Cox.
- March 13: Meeting with Jarrod Bleijie, Attorney General and Minister for Justice at the Attorney's office, State Law Building, Brisbane. Discussion regarding prevention of alcohol harms in Queensland.
- March 19: Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol presentation. Prevention of alcohol harms in Queensland: The need for reform. Held at Premiers Hall, Queensland Parliament House.
- October 11: Sociology Seminar, St Lucia. Marital stability and marital quality over the productive life course: A 27-year longitudinal study.
- Dec 3: Panel member for 2014 Summer Alcohol Summit held at Parliament House, Brisbane.

### Andrew Smirnov

- October 24: School of Pharmacy Seminar Series. Nicotine dependence, illicit stimulant use and smoking quit attempts in early adulthood: a prospective analysis of a population-based cohort.

## Media report

### Sophie Hickey - July 15th

Live interview with Nicole Dyer on 91.7 ABC Gold Coast radio on whether there was any empirical basis to Art Vs Science band member Dan McNamee's claim that drug detection dogs at music festivals increase the chance of risky drug taking practices.

The rationale was that people who have drugs on them are likely to consume them quickly when they see the dogs to avoid getting caught. Our study found that among a national sample of regular ecstasy and related drug users, approximately two-thirds of participants who had seen the drug detection dogs, had drugs in their possession at the most recent sighting (Hickey et al 2012). The majority of participants in possession of drugs took no action after sighting the dogs, yet a small group hastily consumed the drugs. Less than 7% were positively identified by the dogs.



Hickey, S., McIlwraith, F., Bruno, R., Matthews, A. and R. Alati (2012) Drug detection dogs in Australia: More bark than bite? *Drug and Alcohol Review* 31: 778–783.

## PhD supervision

QADREC staff provide PhD thesis advice and supervision to a significant number of candidates. A number of these candidates do additional work with QADREC staff, and are involved in ongoing teaching and research. For this latter group, the relationship between the supervisor and the PhD candidate tends to be collegial and focused on mentoring the candidate.

### Professor Jake Najman

PhD Candidate	Project	Area of Study
Ryan Mills	Child abuse and neglect – characteristics and outcomes in a birth cohort	Public Health
Jane Fischer	Drug use and Quality of Life (submitted 2014)	Pharmacy
Andrew Smirnov	Amphetamines in Queensland (completed)	Public Health
Bonnie MacFarlane	Determinants and outcomes of family and domestic violence from a large Australian birth-cohort study	Public Health
Abdulaziz Aloufi	Body Image and Obesity among Children, Adolescents, and Adults in Australia.	Public Health
Amanuel Alemu Abajobir	Gender Based Violence and the Risk of HIV Infection among Female Transactional Sex Workers in Debreworkos, North West Ethiopia: Mixed Methods Study.	Public Health
Thy Anh Meddick	Exploring family mental health as predictors of children's education and vocational outcomes across the lifespan.	Public Health
Ann Kingsbury-Humphreys	Does maternal substance use and mental health in pregnancy impact on the woman's health in later life?	Public Health
Caroline Salom	Impact of maternal mental health and substance use on the substance use comorbidities of their children (submitted early 2015)	Public Health
Nam Tran	Why do women's patterns of alcohol consumption change over their reproductive life course	Social Science
Nurzalinda Zalbahar	Maternal haemoglobin status and long-term child health status	Public Health

### Assoc Professor Rosa Alati

PhD Candidate	Project	Area of Study
Coralie Ober	Indigenous Risk Impact Screen (IRIS) Project	Public Health
Simon Forsyth	NHMRC prisoner mortality data linkage project	Public Health
Caroline Salom	Impact of maternal mental health and substance use on the substance use comorbidities of their children	Public Health
Ryan Mills	Child abuse and neglect – characteristics and outcomes in a birth cohort	Public Health
Michael David	Attrition in longitudinal studies	Public Health
Kim S Betts	Life course risk factors in the development and maintenance of anxiety disorders	Public Health

**Dr Reza Hayatbakhsh (honorary senior lecturer)**

PhD Candidate	Project	Area of Study
Andrew Smirnov	Amphetamines in Queensland	Public Health
Ann Kingsbury	Does maternal substance use and mental health in pregnancy impact on the woman's health in later life?	Public Health
Mohammad Soltani	Patterns of subjective sleep quality in middle-aged Australian women: Correlates, predictors and consequences (completed)	Public Health
Erika Langham	The Potential of Intelligent Messages as a Responsible Gambling Feature on Electronic Gaming Machines	Social Science

**Dr Anton Clifford**

PhD Candidate	Project	Area of Study
Bianca Calabria	The evaluation of family-focused intervention to reduce alcohol-related harms among Indigenous Australians.	NDARC, UNSW
Neelam Malik	Improving the treatment and management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with alcohol problems: A partnership between researchers and an Indigenous drug and alcohol treatment service.	Public Health

**Dr Andrew Smirnov (Associate Advisor)**

PhD Candidate	Project	Area of Study
Ellen Leslie	Young adult amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) users' attitudes toward and perceptions of police and policing and implications for ATS users' compliance with police.	Social Science

## Honorary Staff

**Dr Peter d'Abbs** is a sociologist with a research background in alcohol and other drug policy issues and in program evaluation, much of it conducted in northern Australia. He is currently Professor of Substance Misuse Studies at the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin, and in 2014 took up an Honorary professorial appointment with QADREC. Recent and current research activities include a national evaluation of the rollout of low aromatic fuel as a deterrent to petrol sniffing in remote Indigenous communities, evaluations of alcohol management plans in several towns and remote communities, and a review of liquor permit systems in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. From 2001 to 2010 he was a Director of the Alcohol Education & Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF – subsequently renamed Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education), and in 2007 he was placed on the Honour Roll of the National Drug and Alcohol Awards for his research into substance misuse in remote and regional settings. Recent publications include:

- d'Abbs, P. (2015). Reform and resistance: Exploring the interplay of alcohol policies with drinking cultures and drinking practices. *Contemporary Drug Problems*. doi: DOI: 10.1177/0091450915587535
- d'Abbs, P., & Chenhall, R. D. (2013). Spirituality and religion in responses to substance misuse among Indigenous Australians. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 48, 1114-1129.
- d'Abbs, P., Togni, S., Rosewarne, C., & Boffa, J. (2013). The Grog Mob: Lessons from an evaluation of a multi- disciplinary alcohol intervention for Aboriginal clients. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 37(5), 450-456.

# QADREC

## Professional associations and committees

### Jake Najman

- The Australian Sociological Association (TASA).International Sociological Association (ISA)
- Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia (FASSA)
- Chair of Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR-SAC), UNSW
- Member of the Cannabis Cohort Research Consortium (CCRC), NDARC, UNSW
- Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol (QCAA)
- Chair of the National Policy Council for Health Options Australia

### Clinton Kempnich

- Member of the Australian Winter School Organising Committee.
- Member of ATODS Service Improvement Education Training and Reference Group.
- Member of UQ Postgraduate Coursework Committee.
- Member of UQ Teaching and Review Committee.

### Rosa Alati

- Member of Association for Research between Italy and Australasia (ARIA).

### Andrew Smirnov

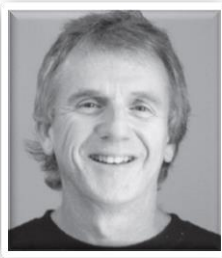
- Board member of Hepatitis Queensland



# Staff of 2014



**Jake Najman**  
PhD, FASSA  
Director



**Clinton Kempnich**  
MPH, BBus, Grad DipED  
*Deputy Director, Teaching*



**Andrew Smirnov**  
PhD, BA, Grad DipLIB  
*Senior Lecturer*



**Rosa Alati**  
MD, PhD  
*Senior Research Fellow*



**Anton Clifford**  
PhD  
*Senior Research Fellow*



**Fairlie McIlwraith**  
MSocSc, PhD  
*Senior Research Officer*



**Maria Plotnikova**  
PhD  
*Biostatistician*



**Yvonne Flanagan**  
BSoc Sc  
*Administration Officer*



**Kelsey Cotton**  
Dip Theol, BBehSci  
*Administration Officer*



**Sophie Hickey**  
BA Hons  
*Research Assistant*



**Ellen Leslie**  
PhD candidate  
*Research Assistant*



**Reza Hayatbakhsh**  
MD, PhD  
*Honorary Senior Lecturer*



**Mohsina Khatun**  
PhD  
*Biostatistician*



**Peter D'Abbs**  
PhD  
*Honorary*



## Funding 2014

Account	Funding
School of Population Health – academic support	\$ 142,451
School of Population Health – teaching support	\$ 84,260
Genetic and environmental contributions to the life course of the common mental disorders	\$ 51,989
Investigating the relationship between Alcohol and other drug use, mental health, early life factors and life course outcomes: Integrative analyses of data from four Australian cohort studies	\$ 40,000
EDRS	\$ 65,856
IDRS	\$ 64,956
Anton Clifford ARC, DECRA. Improving Alcohol Prevention in ATSI Drug and Alcohol Services	\$ 136,252
The natural history of licit and illicit drug use in a population cohort of stimulant users (ARC Linkage)	\$ 69,439
The natural history of licit and illicit drug use in a population cohort of stimulant users (Queensland Health)	\$ 15,000
Quantitative analysis of qualitative ATS user data	\$ 44,879
Queensland injecting drug survey	\$ 55,190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 770,272</b>

## Grants awarded for 2015

Start Year	Title	Funding
2015	<p><b>Generational and developmental pathways of childhood and adolescent obesity: A three generation cohort study (NHMRC Project Grant)</b></p> <p>This study will examine the physical health and lifestyles of a third generation, the offspring of the children originally recruited to the MUSP cohort. A wide variety of lifestyle factors will be related to obesity and the physical development of the child.</p>	\$1,232,041
2015	<p><b>Into the thirties: Persistence and social consequences of risky drinking (ARC Discovery Project)</b></p> <p>Specific Aims: Firstly, to examine the extent of persistent risky drinking into the thirties in a contemporary Australian cohort. Specifically looking at changes in gender roles, in social context of alcohol use and risk factors leading to excessive drinking in adults.</p> <p>Secondly, to investigate the social consequences of persistence of risky drinking beyond the third decade of life. The impact of intimate partner violence and relationship quality, the impact of antisocial behaviour and violence and the role of other additions in the development of problematic alcohol use into the thirties will be investigated.</p>	\$273,200
2015	<p><b>Linked lives: Antisocial behaviour across three generations (ARC Discovery Project)</b></p> <p>This project provides a unique opportunity to add a layer (new body of data) to previously funded data collection. This will be the first Australian, and one of the only studies worldwide, to track antisocial behaviour across 3 generations. As antisocial behaviour has a major impact on the criminal justice system, and impacts on a wide range of life outcomes (employment/family life) knowing more about its patterns across generations will provide insights/multiple research papers and policy related evidence. One potential outcome, the targeting of antisocial families rather than antisocial individuals, with the capacity to significantly alter community based policies and programs, which address antisocial behaviour. Antisocial behaviour includes a wide range of substance using behaviours both licit and illicit.</p>	\$441,400
2014	<p><b>Alcohol use and psychosocial development over the life course (NHMRC Project Grant)</b></p> <p>Drinking excessively in teen and young adult years is an increasing phenomenon and concern. The prevalence of under-age drinking is high and binge-drinking is increasingly common. However, little is known of the antecedents of many of the drinking behaviours and of</p>	\$437,533

	<p>related problems. Existing studies focus on late adolescence with considerably less attention given to understanding the early precursors of teen drinking behaviours.</p> <p>This study will integrate data from four Australasian cohort studies involving over 10,000 young people. The aim is to establish the developmental antecedents to low-risk, moderate-risk and high-risk patterns of teen drinking and the young adult psychosocial consequences. Integrating data from multiple large cohorts to increase sample size provides power to examine intense low frequency exposures not possible in single cohorts separately. This innovative work will be the first to bring together data from large, mature cohorts on the relationships between developmental antecedents, teen drinking and psychosocial consequences. Improved knowledge of the developmental pathways to teen drinking is invaluable in directing the development and implementation of effective prevention and intervention programs for alcohol use in adolescents and young adults.</p>	
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# Publications

- Betts, K.S., Williams, G.M., **Najman, J.M., Alati, R.** (2014) Generational changes in tobacco use by young women: A cross-generational analysis of mother-daughter dyads. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 33(5)540-547.
- Betts, K. S., Williams, G. M., **Najman, J. M., Alati, R.** (2014) Maternal depressive, anxious, and stress symptoms during pregnancy predict internalizing problems in adolescence. *Depression and Anxiety*, 31(1)9-18.
- Betts, K.S., Williams, G.M., **Najman, J.M., Scott, J. Alati, R.** (2014) Exposure to stressful life events during pregnancy predicts psychotic experiences via behaviour problems in childhood *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, doi:10.1016/j.jpsychires.2014.08.001
- Bor, W., Dean, A.J., **Najman, J.M., Hayatbakhsh, R.** (2014) Are child and adolescent mental health problems increasing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? A systematic review. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, 48(7)606-616.
- Calabria, B., **Clifford, A.**, Shakeshaft, A.P., Conigrave, K.M., Simpson, L., Bliss, D., Allan, J. (2014) Identifying Aboriginal-specific AUDIT-C and AUDIT-3 cutoff scores for at-risk, high-risk, and likely dependent drinkers using measures of agreement with the 10-item Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test. *Addiction Science and Clinical Practice*, 9 17.1-17.12. doi:10.1186/1940-0640-9-17
- Calabria, B., **Clifford, A.**, Rose, M., Shakeshaft, A. P. (2014) Tailoring a family based alcohol intervention for Aboriginal Australians, and the experiences and perceptions of health care providers trained in its delivery. *BMC Public Health*, 14 322: 1-10. doi:10.1186/1471-2458-14-322
- Ciketic, S., Hayatbakhsh, R., Doran, C.M., **Najman, J.M., McKetin, R.** (2014) Cost-effectiveness of counselling as a treatment option for methamphetamine dependence. *Journal of Substance Use*, DOI: 10.3109/14659891.2014.900580
- Dalton, E. D., Hammen, C. L., **Najman, J. M., & Brennan, P. A.** (2014). Genetic susceptibility to family environment: BDNF Val66met and 5-HTTLPR influence depressive symptoms. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 28(6), 947-956. doi:10.1037/fam0000032
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## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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