



ABORIGINAL CORPORATION DRUG & ALCOHOL NETWORK

Beginning Our Journey, 2023 Symposium



OVERVIEW

The 2023 Aboriginal Corporation for Drug and Alcohol Network NSW (ACDAN) Symposium launched the beginning of ACDAN's new journey as an incorporated body.

The ACDAN Board of Directors, with the help of their newly employed Admin worker, hosted the Symposium on Gumbaynggirr Country in Coffs Harbour.

ACDAN aimed to have a variety of different keynotes and abstracts that represented all areas of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD Sector.

This goal was to coincide with elements of Culture, self-care, engagement and sharing.

An awards night highlighting the best of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD sector was also held during the week.



DAY 1

Day 1 of our Symposium was kicked off with a beautiful Welcome ceremony by Aunty Jenny, Troy & kids from Wajaana Yaam Adventure Tours.

Followed by an Introduction from Daniel Madeddu - Centre for Alcohol & other Drugs.

An official launch of our ACDAN new logo, branding, artwork & website.

We had inspiring individuals such as Jimmy Perry - Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA, Professor James Ward - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and Julian Docherty with a panel of Adele House Clients.

Attendees were also able to learn about new and informing data across the sector with Louise Murphy & Tina Taylor - SWSLHD and Robyn Mills - HNELHD

Many laughs, questions and stories were shared throughout day 1.



AWARDS NIGHT



James Ward Outstanding Worker of the Year - Vickie Louise Simpson Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service

Female Worker of the Year - Tina Taylor South Western Sydney Local Health District

Male Worker of the Year - Shawn Galea Weigelli Centre



DAY 2

Day 2 of our Symposium saw our attendees connect with Jeff Amatto and his story - More Cultural Rehabs Less Jails.

Followed by amazing presentations from industry-leading researchers such as Professor Kate Conigrave - University of Sydney, Doctor Suzie Hudson - NSW Health & Doctor Steven Bothwell - Nous Group.

We had the ladies from ISISTAQUIT - Rebecca Hyland & Doctor Gina La Hera Fuentes present the latest on the ISISTAQUIT initiative.

Attendees were also able to listen to the knowledge of Doctor Adrian Dunlop - HNEHLD, Robert Stirling & Raechel Wallace - Network of Alcohol & other Drug Agencies.

Doctor Gina La Hera Fuentes, Doctor Alison Seccull, Doctor Catherine Foley & Gillian Raby - University of NSW gave a wonderful presentation around Opioid Agonist Treatment.

DAY 3

Day 3 of our Symposium was only opened to members of ACDAN.

During this time, the ACDAN Board of Directors hosted a panel where attendees were able to ask questions & the Directors were able to gather information on how ACDAN can better the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AOD sector.

Overall, the ACDAN 2023 Symposium was a great couple of days that saw individuals from all areas and positions of the sector come together.

Everyone learned, laughed and linked together.

