

# 'Can Do' and Drug Action Week funding opportunity

## About Drug Action Week

Drug Action Week is an initiative of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA), funded through the Australian Government Department of health and Ageing and runs from **22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008**.

This week is a fantastic opportunity for divisions to help promote awareness of alcohol and other drugs and to promote the role that divisions and GP practices play in supporting people in the community to improve their drug health.

The theme for this year's Drug Action Week is

### ***Alcohol is a drug too***

As part of our mental health and substance use programs, AGPN encourages divisions to consider the impact of *co-occurring* mental health and alcohol problems.

## Funding opportunity

Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd and the Department of Veterans' Affairs have generously offered funds to help Divisions of General Practice promote Drug Action Week. AGPN is also working with the Mental Health Council of Australia to promote Drug Action Week across the Divisions' Network.

**AGPN is pleased to offer Divisions grants of up to \$1000** to coordinate an activity or event in their local community. The grants will be allocated on a 'first in' basis to interested divisions.

Divisions who are successful will receive a grant of up to \$1000 and an AGPN Drug Action Week kit as well as promotional resources from the Drug Action Week organisers.

## Aims of Drug Action Week

Through Drug Action Week and the grant opportunities AGPN aims to:

- Increase community understanding of alcohol and associated risks and harm in the community.
- Create an awareness that ***alcohol is a drug too***.
- Promote awareness of the relationships between substance use and mental health
- Promote the role of the GP in managing patients with mental health and substance use issues to both health professionals and consumers
- Create an awareness of Divisions of General Practice and their role in primary health care.

More information on Drug Action Week can be found online at [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au).

## About the grants opportunities

The involvement of the Divisions of General Practice Network in Drug Action Week has the potential to promote wide community participation and exposure across metropolitan, rural and regional Australia. Many Divisions facilitate health promotion partnerships with local mental health and substance use services and local communities.

This grants opportunity has the potential to enhance this work through co-convening local Drug Action Week activities and the promotion of the theme *Alcohol is a drug too*.

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## What kind of activities will be funded?

Divisions are encouraged to be as creative as they like in planning an activity. Some ideas and suggestions for an activity could be:

- hold a information session/forum for consumers
- hold a seminar/information session for health professions
- organise an information booth in a shopping centre
- hold an open day at a local GP practice, mental health service or drug and alcohol service
- arrange a community picnic/barbeque
- run a sporting competition
- host a trivia night
- run a community art competition using the Drug Action Week theme.

More ideas for activities can be found online at [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au)

## Requirements of activities

Divisions who wish to apply for funding for an activity must fulfill the following requirements:

- Provide an outline of the activity they plan to run.
- Register their activity with Drug Action Week at [www.drugactionweek.org.au](http://www.drugactionweek.org.au)
- Demonstrate that they are collaborating with allied health colleagues (e.g. local mental health and/or alcohol and other drug services, community pharmacy, Veterans and Veterans Families Services) for their chosen activity.
- Develop a resource/contact list of local mental health and drug and alcohol services and distribute this at the activity.
- Run their event during Drug Action Week or in the week before or after it.
- Provide a breakdown of the funds required
- Provide a simple report about the success of the activity after the event.

## Applications for AGPN Drug Action Week grants

An application form for the Drug Action Week grants is available online at [www.agpncando.com/whatsnew.htm](http://www.agpncando.com/whatsnew.htm) or by contacting Leah Parker at AGPN.

The closing date for applications is COB Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May. As there are a limited number of grants available applications will be assessed on a 'first in' basis and must fulfil all requirements.

## AGPN Drug Action Week Kits

AGPN has developed a kit to assist divisions in coordinating and promoting their drug action week event. The kit includes:

- Sample media release
- 'In my life' book of stories about families and carers of people with substance use issues
- 'Another day' book of stories of people living with schizophrenia
- Two brochures about GP services for people with mental health and substance use comorbidities for consumers and health professionals
- Factsheets from DVA, Janssen Cilag and the Mental Health Council of Australia.

AGPN kits will be available to all interested divisions regardless of their success in applying for a grant.

Parts of the kit will also be available in electronic form online at [www.agpncando.com.au/whatsnew.htm](http://www.agpncando.com.au/whatsnew.htm) and information will be provided on how to order additional copies of resources.

Divisions who would like a kit should indicate this on their application form or contact Leah Parker.

### Leah Parker

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