



Elders from Akeyulerre

At the opening of the day Arrernte elders from [Akeyulerre Healing Centre](#) will conduct kwerte-ileme (smoking ceremony).

Arrernte healing comes from the Land. Healing methods are still the same as the old days and the Elders continue this today and they are passing this on the next generation. Within the community Angangkere have a huge responsibility and are highly respected. Healing practices are varied and held within complex knowledge systems through story, song and kinship.

Arrernte people use smoke from bush medicine plants such as Utnerenge (Emu Bush) to heal and cleanse. The smoke is good for sick people, mothers and children, for self-cleansing and to cleanse a building. The smoke is restorative and helps to make people feel comfortable and strong in a place. They would like to welcome all of everyone to participate in a smoking ceremony to cleanse and bring strength for all of us on this day to celebrate women. *If everyone gathers in the courtyard* the ladies will lead you through the smoke, you can follow their actions to cleanse yourself.

Associate Professor Nicole Lee



A/Prof Nicole Lee is one of Australia's leaders in methamphetamine treatment and research and is internationally known for her work in this area. She is Director of the LeeJenn Group, Associate Professor at the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) Flinders University and Adjunct Associate Professor at the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) Curtin University. She is a Deputy Editor of the Drug and Alcohol Review journal and is National President of the Australian Association for Cognitive and Behaviour Therapy.

Session details:

Breaking the ice: How brain science can improve responses to methamphetamine use

With methamphetamine use once again in the spotlight, attention has focused on potential responses. Nicole will highlight key features of methamphetamine use, including the unique effects of methamphetamine on the brain, that may help to explain the often more erratic and protracted recovery. She will discuss creative strategies that can be easily implemented by services and practitioners to improve responses to this group.

Detective Senior Sergeant Peter Malley

Peter Malley Detective Senior Sergeant has worked in the NT for 15 years. He currently heads up the Alice Springs Tactical Investigation Squad and previously managed the Drug and Organised Crime Squad and Major Crime Squad in Darwin. He was previously a Detective in Melbourne where he worked predominately in the Western Suburbs. He was attached to the West gate Task Force which was a mid-level drug supply operation for 2 years and also worked at the Victoria Police Drug squad. He has approximately 27 years of policing experience, with the majority spent within the criminal investigation branch.

Session details:

An NT police perspective on Ice and amphetamines in the region

This presentation will cover the local policing situation, including a summary of the issues currently being encountered by police and information on the costs to the community of Ice use in the region.; The presentation will include information on the retail supply restriction system used to restrict access to the precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of amphetamines

Professor Ann Roche



Ann is Professor and Director of the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction at Flinders University. Previously she was the Director of the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC) at the University of Queensland for five years. She has over twenty five years experience in the field of public health and has worked as a researcher, educator, and policy analyst in various public health areas and has held academic posts at the University of Sydney, the University of Newcastle and the University of Queensland.

Session details

1. The Workplace as Methamphetamine Prevention and Intervention Site 9 -Presented by The Alice Springs Chamber of Commerce

Workers are proportionally less likely to use methamphetamine than unemployed people. However, the larger numbers of workers who use meth, compared to other groups, means that most problems will occur among people in the workplace. Some industries and workplaces have higher prevalence levels. The workplace offers important opportunities for both prevention and intervention. There is a range of strategies that workplaces can implement to help reduce meth use and associated problems. These operate at several different levels and will be outlined in this presentation.

2. Methamphetamine Use In Australia: current patterns and trends, and their implications for treatment and intervention

This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of the levels and patterns of methamphetamine use in Australia, and ice in particular. An examination of patterns of use in rural locations will also be specifically addressed with data drawn from a range of relevant sources. The different demographic profiles of those who use frequently and may be dependent, and those who use infrequently, will be detailed. This will help inform the potential range of intervention and treatment options that might be most applicable in rural settings.

Dr John Boffa:



John is a GP and the public health medical officer at the Central Australian Aboriginal Health Congress in Alice Springs, John has devoted his career to changing alcohol use patterns in Indigenous communities. Campaigns such as ‘Beat the Grog’ and ‘Thirsty Thursday’ highlighted the need to look beyond the individual to focus on the systems and structures that contribute to people’s behaviour. Over the years, John has played an active and inspirational role in changing attitudes toward alcohol in Northern Territory communities through supply reduction, early learning and mental health programs. He continues his remarkable contribution as the spokesperson for the People’s Alcohol Action Coalition reform group.

Session details:

ICE – what does the evidence tell us?

There is considerable concern at the impact that widespread Methamphetamine use may have in Central Australia, but has it impacted yet, who has been most affected and how does the impact of Methamphetamine compare to that of other commonly available substances like alcohol? In this talk Dr John Boffa draws on national and local data to see what it can tell us about the current situation and what the future may hold.

Tracey Brand



Tracey Brand is a Central Arrernte woman born and raised in Alice Springs. Tracey is the General Manager of the Health Services Division of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation.

Tracey has worked as an Executive Director in the MacDonnell Regional Council, held an Executive Director position with the Northern Territory Government and spent over 10 years as the Deputy Director of Tangentyere Council.

Tracey is an active member on a number of community boards and has a passion in Indigenous policy and service delivery; particularly early childhood and youth programs. Tracey is currently a governing member of the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association and Human Services Training Advisory Committee and has served on the Northern Territory Council of Social Services, Australian Council of Social Services, was the appointed Chairperson of the Northern Territory Government Homeless Taskforce, ministerially appointed to the Regional Women's Advisory Committee and Regional Development Australia - Northern Territory Board and was an elected member to the Job Futures board.

Session details:

ICE: an Aboriginal Community Perspective from Central Australia.

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress have been running Ice Community group meetings for many months now which are attended by community members who are having to deal with Methamphetamine use in their own families or who are just wanting to know more. Tracey Brand talks about what people have been saying about Ice in these forums and more broadly in their dealings with Congress including in remote community health Boards.

Ross Bell



Ross Bell is the executive director of the New Zealand Drug Foundation, a position he's now held for 11 years. Before this Ross played around as a university researcher, a foreign affairs adviser, a pizza delivery driver and a social justice advocate. Ross' role at the foundation lets him hang out with the world's drug policy diplomats in Vienna and people living in the real world in New Zealand. He's keen on reshaping the way we deal with the "drug problem" and wants to see an end to the criminalisation of people who use drugs. Ross is chairperson of the [NZ Needle Exchange Services Trust](#), and is a founding member and Vice-chairperson of the [International Drug Policy Consortium](#).

Session details

Men and nations [politicians] behave wisely once they have exhausted all the other alternatives

In 2006 the UN Global Drug Report listed New Zealand as having the highest per capita use of methamphetamine in the world; fast forward 8 years and that use had more than halved. What silver bullet did we fire to knock our meth problem on the head? Well, not so fast. While we've made some significant progress in reducing the harm from methamphetamine, it was a struggle to get there. New Zealand's strategy was first to do all the old school things: law enforcement, clan lab busts, tighter border control, heavier penalties. That didn't make a dent. It wasn't until the government invested heavily in treatment services and promoting those services that we saw the gains. My presentation will take you through New Zealand's journey of trial and error, of the failure of traditional drug control approaches, and then finally the political bravery to back a different, health-focused approach. The moral of the story being: I fear you're making the same mistakes we did (even worse ones), but you don't need to. It's possible instead to create a political climate for doing the right thing.