

## Building on Shaky Ground – a Peer Educator/Peer Leader Program in the ACT

Peter Parkes, Peer Education worker  
Sione Crawford, CAHMA Manager

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## CAHMA & the Connection & DUOs

- Drug user organisations / Consumer groups across Australia and the world.
- Peer-based
- Range of activities :
  - frontline service provision
  - Peer education and community education
  - Policy and advocacy
  - Consumer participation
- CAHMA embedded in ACT ATOD sector
- We have a unique position “across” the client/service divide



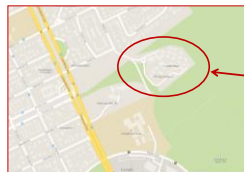
## Canberra

- Canberra's 'satellite' centres
  - Planned “villages”
- The issues:
  - Isolation physical – eg lack of public transport routes
  - History of key services like NGOs and health services being in centre.
  - So access both for consumers and services is an issue.
  - Has led to some cultural isolation



## Ainslie Village

- History
- Location
- Demographics
- Peer Group

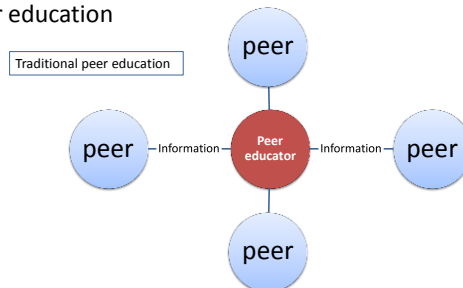


## What are we doing and Why?

- An environment where people are kept ‘afloat’ by minimal services
- No real expectation of any development or change
- Unrealistic expectations- without understanding system
- How systems interact – uncover the workings
- How do people fit in?

## Peer Ed vs Peer Educator training

- Peer based organisations have long history of peer education



## Process

- 8 Peer Educators recruited to commit to a 12 month series of education sessions
- Each month a three hour education session delivered participants
- Each session focused on different topic or skill
- At halfway mark a small tablet provided for those who are still involved and engaged. This is to provide opportunity to use multimedia resources in their peer ed and to keep data!

## Curricula

- Three broad sections:
  - Blood borne virus prevention and harm reduction
  - ACT Service sector introduction, including simple referral pathways
  - Skills and technique building
    - Eg active listening; info sharing skills; self advocacy; data collection
- Each session has it's own handbook and session details which can be used as reference

## Early outcomes

- So far only two sessions, with next one next week.
- The real outcome so far is community engagement
  - Group made their own behavioural outlines
  - Group has agreed to monitor their own and their peers involvement to ensure the quality of the final outcomes
  - Group decided on topics and on aims of project overall

## Next

- Continual improvement of sessions
- By December the training will have encompassed peer education provision and data collection – next phase is the group beginning to record their peer ed and brief interventions



[peterp@cahma.org.au](mailto:peterp@cahma.org.au)

[sionec@cahma.org.au](mailto:sionec@cahma.org.au)

Ph 02 62791670

**CAHMA**



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PEER LED PROJECT