

# Program

## Grog - Drugs and Wellbeing: Understanding the Mix

Public Information Forum 8.30 start

Wendy Morton

Executive Director for Northern Territory Council of Social Service Inc (NTCOSS)

Welcome to Country: Presented by Allyson Mills *on behalf of the Larrakia Nation*

Opening by Minister McCarthy the Northern Territory Minister for Children's and Families

- 9.00am      **Speaker:**      Brevet Sargeant Scott Mitchell: *Grog and Your Head—the numbers*
- 9.45am      **Speaker:**      Ilana Eldridge: *Alcohol as Medicine: Managing Trauma in the Long Grass*
- 10.30am                      Morning Tea Break
- 11.00am      **Speaker:**      Jeff Brownscombe: *Alcohol and Drugs—Back to Grass Roots*
- 11.45am      **Speaker:**      Associate Professor Tricia Nagel: *Two Way Stories—Strength Wellbeing and Empowerment.*

12.30 – 1.30                      **Networking Lunch**

1.30 – 4.30                      **PART II    Service Providers Consultancy  
'Building Bridges from Strong Foundations'**



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incorporated in the Northern Territory  
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**Speaker: Brevet Sergeant Scott Mitchell:**

Scotty is the current Officer in Charge of the Drug and Alcohol Policy Unit and Senior Policy Adviser of the Drug and Alcohol Policy Unit for the NT Police, Fire and Emergency services. He has been a member of the NT Police for some 30 years. During his career he has been the Police officer of the year and was the proposer of the School Based Policing Program which resulted in him being the first ever School Based Police Officer in Australia.

In 1987 he was selected by the Ministerial Council Drug Strategy to attend Los Angeles and study police delivered drug education. On his return he introduced the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program into Northern Territory Schools and has been responsible for training police members from almost every jurisdiction in Australia and a number of overseas police forces in Police delivered drug education.

During the last 15 years he has had extensive experience in crime prevention, drug and alcohol related work. He has worked on a number of national projects in relation to drugs, alcohol and National Crime Prevention Pilot projects, including the Pathways to Prevention Project as part of the management team and as part of the next National Drug Strategy writing team. In all of this work the issues for Indigenous people has been of significant importance.

**Speaker: Ms Ilana Eldridge:**

*A paper jointly prepared by Ms Ilana Eldridge and Dr Catherine Holmes*

Ms Ilana Eldridge is the Coordinator of the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation. The Nation was established about a decade ago to advance the rights of the Larrakia and has continued to be their peak representative body. The operations of the Larrakia Nation have expanded under the leadership of Ms Eldridge and today the organisation is the key provider of critical front-line services to homeless and houseless Aboriginal people staying in Darwin's Long Grass. With her professional grounding in journalism, Ms Eldridge is a dynamic leader and a visionary. She has spent the past 15 years working with disadvantaged communities in Australia, South East Asia and East Timor.

Dr Catherine Holmes is the principal researcher at the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation and is responsible for driving the organisation's research agenda. Through this Division, a range of issues that impact on Larrakia people, country and on visitors on country are explored. One of Larrakia's large research project relates to the impact of the Federal Government's Northern Territory Emergency Response on Larrakia land and people.

Dr Holmes has worked for more than 20 years in diverse cultural settings in South East Asia, the Pacific Islands and Australia in the areas of education, environmental and public health and anthropology. Her doctoral research explored the lived experience of homelessness in Darwin and the key dimensions of that experience which have the greatest impact on health.

**Speaker: Jeff Brownscombe:**

Jeff is currently the Northern Territory Emergency Response Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Clinical Director. He has worked in Alcohol and Other Drugs and primary health care in the Northern Territory for the past four years. Most recently, he has been involved in establishing a new Alcohol and Other Drug workforce within Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs), as well as other workforce and training initiatives. He enjoys challenging the status quo and finding new ways to approach challenges within the Alcohol and Other Drug sector. Jeff will talk about new service initiatives in the Alcohol and Other Drug sector that were funded by Northern Territory Emergency Response and discuss a future vision for outreach Alcohol and Other Drug services.

**Speaker: Dr Tricia Nagel:** Tricia's career has been characterised by commitment to improving the quality of rural and Indigenous mental health services in the Territory over more than 25 years. As Senior Psychiatrist and Director of Psychiatry in the Top End (1996-2002) she had key roles in the NT Youth Suicide Prevention strategy and Emotional and Social Wellbeing Strategy development. She has been Director of the NT RANZCP postgraduate training program (1997-2000), and coordinator of Flinders and James Cook University medical education programs since 1998. She has led the AIMhi NT research program for the past 5 years. She was awarded the RANZCP Rural Research award in 2007, and the AIMhi research team was awarded the TheMHS Gold Award for rural services in the same year. She recently completed her thesis 'Relapse prevention in Indigenous mental health' and is Head of the 'Healing and Resilience' Division at Menzies. The new division is focused on research across the spectrum from prevention and early intervention of mental illness and comorbid disorders, to investigating new approaches to service delivery and treatment.