

REALLY!

1. 43% of the patients examined after a suicide attempt presented with Alcohol Use Disorder. ¹

2. "For the past 100 years, car crashes have been the nation's leading cause of accidental death in the USA. Now, for the first time, more Americans die from prescription pills—including ten very popular meds." ²

3. "Illicit drug use shaves approximately 13 million years off the world's collective drug users lives." ³

4. 'ONE in three Scottish teenagers is binge drinking by the age of 13.' ⁴

5. 'Children exposed to as little as half an alcoholic drink a day in utero—even if they didn't have fetal alcohol syndrome - appeared to suffer in their achievement test scores' Ruth Rose-Jacobs, Sc.D., an associate professor of paediatrics at Boston University Schools of Medicine ⁵

Emergency! All Fences Down?

"Before you tear down a fence, it is important to ask why was it erected in the first place?" So sprouted the remarkable social commentator G.K. Chesterton some 100 years ago.

But do we ask? In our 'bedazzling', 'bling' obsessed technocracy, the only thing that seems to get attention is... 'that new thang!' When the current generation and Gen Next are caught in the 'headlights' of this juggernaut of 'progress' and have no context or even inkling of heritage, then they are to quote Karl Marx... "a people ... easily persuaded".

There is a growing and manufactured consensus that goes something like this... 'Freedom' is the abandonment of all restraints and the exploration of all and any option including social experiments that may 'give us a buzz' and consequences be damned! After all, if the experiment with social amenity goes wrong (alcohol misuse or drug use) then what will happen? An ambulance will come, doctors will fix me up, someone else will pay the bill and best of all I'll get a great 'Facebook' post and a bunch of hits on Youtube!" Well so the peer propaganda spins!

I recall a meeting I had with a key official in a government funded drug 'think tank.' We were discussing the rehabilitation process of a number of teenagers they had studied, who after having seen themselves as 'hardcore party animals' had descended into the inevitable brokenness of substance abuse, and were now setting personal goals of 'cleaning my teeth properly' and 'learning how to wash my clothes.' I made the statement that there is absolutely no upside to drug use. To my surprise she quickly retorted... "What about fun!" After I picked my

jaw off the floor and gathered my thoughts, hardly believing what I heard, she began to espouse the virtue of drug induced 'fun'. What disturbed me more was that this indigenous person, had just overseen a study of teenage rehabilitation that had addressed the needs of young lives wrecked by drugs.

I challenged her on her definition of fun and that a faux chemically induced 'buzz' was not only shallow, but unsustainable without further substance use. When I asked her about things like fulfilment, meaning and satisfaction that bring a joy that negates the need for the specious and superficial influence of drugs, she looked quizzically and didn't quite know how to respond!

So, is that really all that is now left to pursue in our increasingly shallow and meaning disconnected culture? Is the goal for 'fun' now the sole motivator for social connection?

I'm not so sure, its 'fun' that is the goal, rather a pursuit of a noisy distracting haze that prevents a culture that is adrift addressing the real issues of meaninglessness and hopelessness.

Philosopher Dr Damon Young of Melbourne University writing for the Age Newspaper posited...

"...many drunken revels today are negative rather than positive. They are about diverting or destroying, rather than commemorating: saying

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What emergency? Who cares?

¹ Alcohol Use Disorders among Patients Examined in Emergency Departments after a Suicide Attempt *Eur Addict Res.* 2012;18(1):26-33. Epub 2011 Dec 6.

² 'The Fix' Kevin Gray 22/12/11

³ <http://gma.yahoo.com/blogs/abc-blogs/200-million-people-illicit-drugs-study-finds-120123343-abc-news.html>

⁴ <http://www.scotsman.com/news/health/1-in-3-teenagers-binge-drinking-by-age-of-13-1-2165982>

⁵ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article/pregnancy-exposure-alcohol-associated-lower-academic-scores-17978.html>

Growth, Expansion and your partnership!

One of the most prominent signs of life, is growth and it is genuinely exciting to see the development of the Dalgarno Institute (C.O.A.D.E Inc.) work. In this edition of Fence Builder we have focused in part on the fences are, if not ignored, then torn down by a small but vocal lobby who trade on the 'disconnect' that the vast majority of Australians have with the drug issue. This lobby group have the disturbing ability to manipulate the anchorless post-modern Gen Y and Gen next who have been set up and sucker punched by a 'careless' culture.

However, Fence Builders are growing again and Harm Prevention and genuine alcohol and drug free recovery are gaining traction. After 25 years of the 'harm reduction' war on good drug policy people have had a generation to reap the whirlwind of that dysfunction. With the permissibility of the Harm Reduction Model, drug use, dependence, 'Needle Exchange' is now 'Needle distribution'—Are we seeing healthier people and less addicts? No! Fortunately governments around the world are waking up (for some a little late) to this failed policy platform.

We are excited to share that Dalgarno is getting more and more traction.

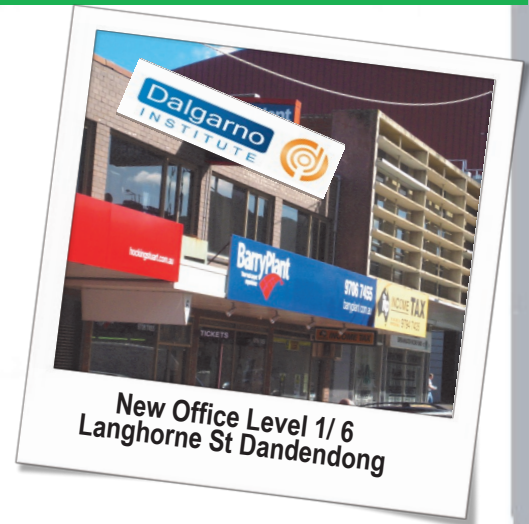
NSW Campus

After some remarkable and patient maintenance work by our retired DAC (Drug Advisory Council) staff Clyde Dominish and Roslyn Oliver, we were able to close one door and open another. We have reopened our NSW Campus in the Hunter Valley. This is quite providential as we have some key supporters from WCTU and will be working in the same region as Tony Brown and the Community Drug Action Team. We have developed a team starting with two coordinators Wayne Miller and Wayne French and four young adults, two male and two female. We will continue to develop and work with them in their local context looking at ways of adding to and supporting Harm Prevention works around alcohol and other drugs.

South Australia Campus

We are about to officially launch our new South Australian campus. It has been very exciting to work with some wonderful people in S.A. to pilot this new initiative and again, add another proactive and protective voice to the Fence Building endeavour. Jo Baxter and volunteers are partnering with us to establish this new campus which will focus on affording Fence Building initiatives to the community/State, as well as give us a greater profile in advocacy

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Education, Research & Resources

No Brainer: WE are just about to complete our Curriculum addendum workbook for the No Brainer DVD Series, which will give this excellent resource greater flexibility in roll out and end user facilitation. We are looking to Pilot this with a number of schools over the next 12 months and then take it to regional and then hopefully state level.

You can purchase the complete 'I wish I never....' 4 x DVD Set by emailing us at admin@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au or calling 1300 975 002. The sets are for sale at \$88 inc GST (Members \$66) or individual DVD titles can be purchased for \$22 each (\$18 for members). The trailers for the series can be viewed on the website or simply go to YouTube and type No Brainer 101, 102, 103 or 104.

NO Brainer Website www.nobrainier.org.au

Resources:

We continue to research, write and update our various web forums including Dalgarno and NO Brainer Websites, FACEBOOK and TWITTER. If you have not already joined us, do so today.

PARTNER RESOURCES ON THE WEB: Along with our Monitoring Alcohol and Research Reports we advised you of in our last newsletter, we have also added another resource platform spe-

cifically for our Dalgarno Members and Isabella List Partners. You will find Power Points for your use on our Resource page at **Dalgarnothanks** <http://www.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au/main-partner-resources.html>. Similarly Isabella's list, resources for Women and mums go to <http://www.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au/enter-resources-area.html>

Greater Risk Campaign continues: Our TV ad campaign throughout country Victoria proved productive generating a lot of traffic on our website and some feisty emails from protagonists, challenging our assertions. It was a joy to be able to respond with 5 page emails just listing the overwhelming evidence proving that the earlier you start drinking the greater the risk of a number of health and development issues occurring. Whilst the TV campaign has concluded we have now secured an incredibly inexpensive option to broadcast the advert into supermarkets, hospitals or other places via 'Community Networking'. The Ad will be played every 8 minutes 12-24 hours a day on screens in places of our choice. We can also move the advert to different venues in different states enabling this message to keep rolling out. www.greaterrisk.com/

Advocacy & Community

Isabella's List: Continues to grow as we see more and more people, particularly women/mums who are beginning to understand the depth of damage of the legal drug alcohol, but also the growing threat of illicit substances on our family and community well-being. It was a privilege to honour the ongoing prevention and rehabilitation work of Jewish House, based in Bondi NSW. We continue to develop collaborative partnerships with Harm Prevention focused groups and agencies in an ongoing drive to 'rebuild the fences' torn down by much of the poorly thought through harm reduction ideology.



Executive Director Presents Isabella's List Community award to Rabbi Kastel of Jewish House

MLDA 21 Project —This advocacy project continues to gain momentum, though slowly. Many agencies, councils and other groups are in agreement, but still not quite ready to 'sign up.' So we continue the painstaking process of lobbying...all in our spare time of course!

Name Addition. We have decided to rebrand this project as the **'21 Be There' MLDA** Project to connect with our past and utilize this great tag line from earlier advocacy. You can get on board with this by downloading our petition and getting your community to sign up. Go to <http://www.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au/advocacy.html>

'Smashed'—Harm Prevention Sampler

In our continuing search for ways to maximize our impact and continue to 'punch above our weight' we want to get usable and distributable resources into the hands of not only our members and partners, but more importantly the community. **'Smashed'** DVD is one such resource. It has a lively animated menu and includes a number of Harm Prevention Video clips as well as list of key PDF resources advocating harm prevention and challenging many of the fallacies of the pro-drug lobby. This is great for schools, churches, clubs, and even families.

To secure your copy email or call the office and purchase it today. It is only **\$5**, but if you purchase 10 or more the cost goes down to **\$3 per unit**.

Growth and expansion cont from page 2

to both public and private sector. We are going to the Launch the Campus officially in Drug Action Week 18th – 22nd of June with a community Mayor officially opening the work before school students and invited guests. This is a great opportunity for our South Australian Supporters to get behind this new initiative.

Central: Well, thanks to the work of M.T.A.S and W.C.T.U we have finally moved into our new premises... well still unpacking, but in! It is great to finally have a permanent home for our Central office. Sharing the premises with WCTU will enable us to better use space, communications and other amenities. We are looking forward to strengthening our Coalition and opening up the new facility for community use in time.

We are now looking to the next phase of development and of course with growth comes the need for resources. We are looking for new ways in which you, our partners/members can not only benefit from our growth but partner in sustaining our growth into the future.

Now is a great time to consider your investment in Dalgarno. Please contact our office and discuss with us how you can invest in this important work.



Front Reception of Office



