

# ORTICARE NEWS

NEWS + INFORMATION + TRAINING + EVENTS



FEBRUARY 2023



**CLINICAL  
NETWORK MEETING**  
*2023 plan and survey*

**MATOD  
TRAINING UPDATE**

**PHARMACOTHERAPY MENTORS**  
*connect with a mentor in your area*

**INTRODUCING PEER**  
*a new service*

# INTERNATIONAL MEDICINE IN ADDICTION CONFERENCE

*IMiA Registration Subsidy*

**Leigh Thornton**  
Opioid Management Clinic Coordinator  
& Pharmacotherapy Project Officer



## A MESSAGE FROM *Orticare*

From all of us here at Orticare, we wish you a happy and healthy 2023 and we look forward to working with you again this year.

We acknowledge your dedication and commitment in providing care to an often-marginalised patient cohort. We are here to support you. If you need our help, please reach out.

I would like to advise you of the recent changes we've had to Orticare staff.

- Sadly Henryka Benson is no longer with us, we wish Henryka all the best as she commences her pharmacy internship and thank her for the great work she accomplished during her time with us.
- Deb Harris has reduced her hours and will now be working one day a week (Wednesday) to focus on GP engagement.
- Katherine Hancy will be changing her working day from Monday to Wednesday commencing in March.
- We are very pleased to welcome Leigh Thornton to the team full time. Leigh will continue to oversee operations of the Opioid Management Clinic, as well as taking on pharmacy engagement and Orticare events management.

*Pauline Molloy*  
Manager, Orticare



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Visit

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**IMiA**  
International Medicine in Addiction

# International Medicine in Addiction Conference 2023

## **COLLABORATE, INNOVATE AND SURVIVE**

MELBOURNE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE | 17-19 FEBRUARY 2023



Orticare is offering a \$500 subsidy on the cost of IMiA conference registrations for MATOD prescribers, MATOD dispensing pharmacists and RAMPS nurses in the Grampians Loddon Mallee (limited to the first 25 applicants).

If you are interested in attending the conference or have already purchased a ticket, please send the following information in an email to Orticare:

1. Evidence of your conference registration
  2. Invoice - please use the template via the download button
- Your full name
  - Address
  - Email address
  - BSB and account number

Note: it may take up to 30 days to receive your reimbursement.





# OPIOID MANAGEMENT CLINIC

Opioid Management Clinic

Adam Straub | Addiction Medicine Physician

02:54

*Dr. Adam Straub (AMS)*

The Opioid Management Clinic (OMC), funded by Orticare, was established in July of 2022 with a specific focus on assisting patients with opioid dependence, including those with chronic pain conditions, whether a patient may be better suited to or is currently on opioid replacement therapy (pharmacotherapy), whether there are multiple/complex concerns around a patient's substance use or if expert

advice is required regarding medical withdrawal.

As part of the OMC's promotional campaign, we created a video that provides information on who we are and what we do.

For more information please visit our website via the link below.





## MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR OPIOID DEPENDENCE

the Victorian Department of Health (DoH) provide fully funded MATOD training to general practitioners, specialists, and nurse practitioners throughout the state of Victoria, so that they are equipped to practise opioid pharmacotherapy in Victoria.

## TRAINING UPDATE

RACGP's contract with the Department of Health to provide MATOD training in Victoria expired early in 2023. The training contract has gone to tender. We will let you know as soon as we learn of the outcome. In the meantime, if you or any of your colleagues, are interested in MATOD training please contact us.

## VICTORIAN PHARMACOTHERAPY POLICY

In 2020, policies and procedures were developed to support continuity of pharmacotherapy treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please be advised these policies and procedures are still current and DID NOT expire when the State of Emergency ended on the 15th of December 2022 as was previously communicated.

See the relevant documents via the link below.



# ORTICARE

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE



Orticare continues to offer a workforce development incentive payment to GPs who complete MATOD training.

For more details, contact us via the button below.



# CLINICAL NETWORK MEETINGS

This year will see the return of face to face Clinical Network Meetings across our catchment. We know how much these meetings are valued as an opportunity to network and share CPD.

This year we will offer four statewide virtual meetings, hosted in rotation by the five PABNs, two face to face meetings each in Ballarat, Bendigo and Horsham, and one each in Swan Hill, Echuca, Mildura and Kyneton. To ensure we are providing quality, targeted and relevant events, please complete the following survey to help us plan our CNMs.

[TAKE SURVEY](#)



## HORSHAM

23  
MAR

### CLINICAL NETWORK MEETING

**Guest speakers:** TBC

**When:** 23rd of March - tentative, pending confirmation of speaker

**Time:** 6pm registration for a 6:30pm start

**Where:** Horsham - details will be sent out in the coming weeks

## BALLARAT

??  
MAR

### CENTRAL HIGHLANDS CLINICAL NETWORK MEETING

**Guest speakers:** TBC

**When:** March TBC

**Time:** TBC

**Where:** Ballarat - details will be sent out in the coming weeks

## VIRTUAL STATEWIDE CNM

03  
APR

### TRAUMA INFORMED CARE: HOW TRAUMA PRESENTS IN AOD PATIENTS

**Guest speaker:** Dr. Richard Cash

**When:** 3rd April 2023

**Time:** 6pm registration for a 6:30pm start

**Where:** Online - details will be sent out in the coming weeks





VAADA's 2023 Conference, Shifting Landscapes: Building the holistic treatment mosaic, is our first state-wide sector conference since 2019. It will seek to unpack the many issues impacting our Victorian AOD system and our cross-sectoral colleagues. We are looking to consider the importance of mutually shared problems and approaches, including the sort of collaboration that can make a difference.

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## SHIFTING LANDSCAPES *BUILDING THE HOLISTIC TREATMENT MOSAIC*

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Service deliverers are becoming increasingly aware that to deal with consumer needs and complexity effectively, a holistic approach can bring significant benefits. The recent Royal Commissions into Victoria's Mental Health System and Family Violence have prioritised reform headlined by holistic approaches. This includes implementing reforms to embrace the intersection of multiple issues and the means to address them. Focusing narrowly on formal diagnosis or treatment plans, be it in mental health, family violence or other areas, fails to address the complexities impacting an individual's circumstances.

TICKETS  
AVAILABLE

REGISTER



### Conference 2023 Venue:

Pullman Melbourne of the Park Hotel  
192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne

### Keynote Speakers:

Wim van den Brink - Professor of Addiction Psychiatry at the Amsterdam University Medical Centre

Alison Ritter - Internationally recognised drug policy scholar and the Director of the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) at the University of New South Wales.

Arie Freiberg - Emeritus Professor at Monash University.

# PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT EDUCATION & RISK (PEER)

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

PEER is an education initiative designed to assist opioid prescribers and practice teams to optimise prescriber capacity and patient care.

**PRACTICE ENGAGEMENT** - Orticare can visit your practice and discuss how we can support you as an opioid and/or MATOD prescriber. This discussion may include referral pathways, resources, clinical mentors and changes in policy and practice.

**EDUCATION** - One of the main ways we support practitioners is by providing quality, evidence-based, education. The PEER activity will optimise safe prescribing by assisting prescribers to identify at-risk patients and potential treatment options. As an RACGP CPD Accredited Activity, the education component will earn you 40 CPD points. The five hour activity includes an online learning module and case study discussion.

**RISK** - A short clinical audit can be conducted, this will inform the education component of the activity. This also attracts 40 RACGP CPD points, giving you the opportunity to earn 80 CPD points in total, while identifying risk and improving patient care.

- ✓ Education facilitated by specialists and GPs
- ✓ RACGP and ACCRM accreditation pending
- ✓ Evidence-based
- ✓ No cost to your practice



# PHARMACOTHERAPY MENTORS

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

Orticare understands that prescribing and dispensing MATOD therapy has its challenges. To help support you in this work we have experienced pharmacotherapy prescribers and dispensing pharmacists from across the Grampians Loddon Mallee who are available to provide mentoring support to you. The concept of this service is to connect you with a peer from your local area whom you can call to discuss MATOD prescribing or dispensing issues, challenging cases etc.

If you would like to access this service, please contact Orticare and we will connect you with a mentor in your area.

## WHERE ARE MENTORS LOCATED?

We have mentors in Ballarat, Bendigo, Echuca, Horsham, Mildura.

## OTHER SUPPORTS

### Opioid Management Clinic

The Opioid Management Clinic is a free service available to patients and healthcare professionals across the Grampians Loddon Mallee, delivered by Dr. Adam Straub (AMS). For more information please visit [bchc.org.au/opioid-management-clinic](http://bchc.org.au/opioid-management-clinic)

### RAMPS Nurses

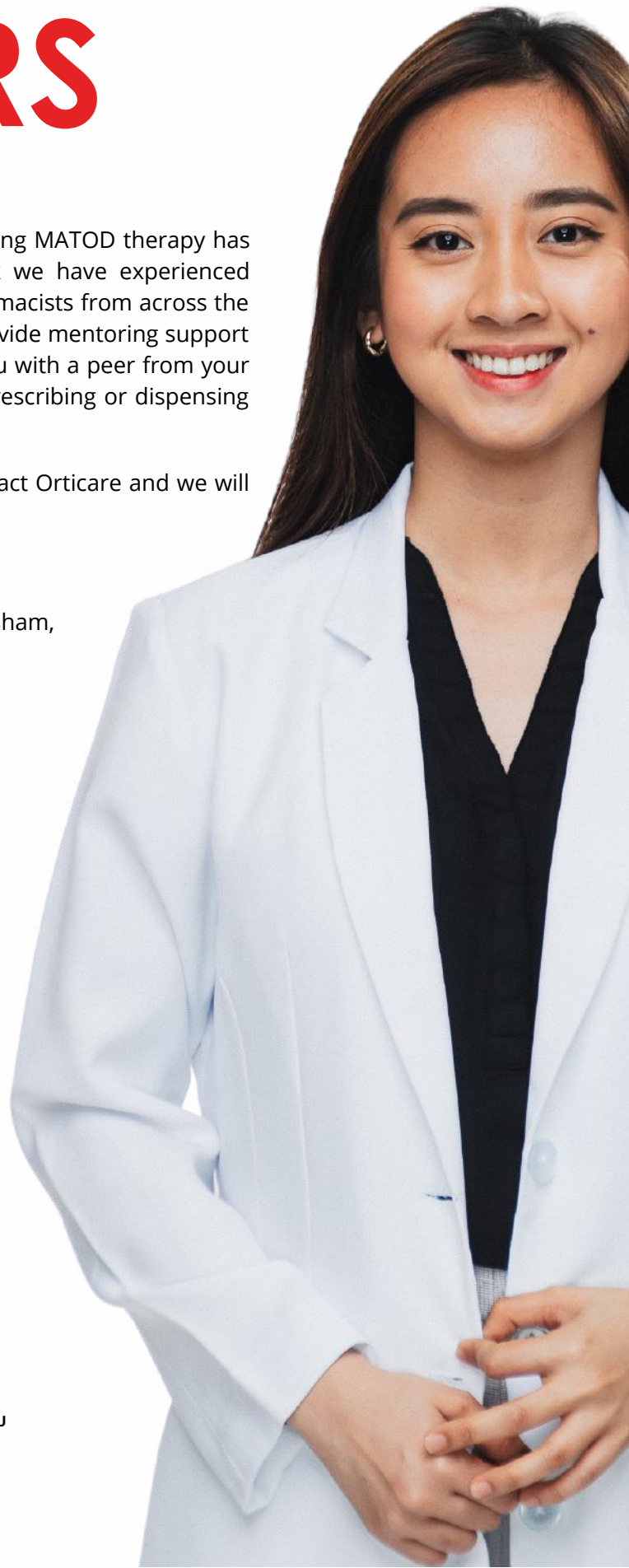
Rural Addiction Medicine Pharmacotherapy Nurses available in Ballarat, Bendigo, Horsham and Mildura who can provide additional support. For more information please contact Orticare.

### Victorian Opioid Management ECHO

Opioid management for primary care practitioners. For more information please visit [echo.pabn.org.au](http://echo.pabn.org.au)



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL [ORTICARE@BCHC.ORG.AU](mailto:ORTICARE@BCHC.ORG.AU)





# VICTORIAN OPIOID MANAGEMENT ECHO

We are using ECHO to bring specialist knowledge and support in opioid management to Primary Care practitioners throughout Victoria.

Every Wednesday from 7:30am - 8:30am



Case presentation & discussion

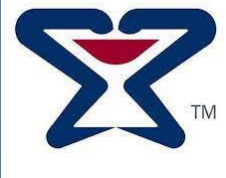


Free to access

REGISTER



For more information visit [echo.pabn.org.au](http://echo.pabn.org.au)



# VOPP TRAINING FOR PHARMACISTS

PSA offers the following training programs to enable pharmacists and pharmacy staff deliver a safe and patient-centred Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) service.

- Victorian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program (VOPP) for pharmacists and pharmacy staff
- Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine Administration by Pharmacists Training (LAIB Training) – for pharmacists

## **WHY ARE THESE PROGRAMS IMPORTANT?**

The aim of these training programs is to provide pharmacists and pharmacy support staff with the relevant knowledge, skills and tools required to deliver a safe and patient-centred Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) service.

## **WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

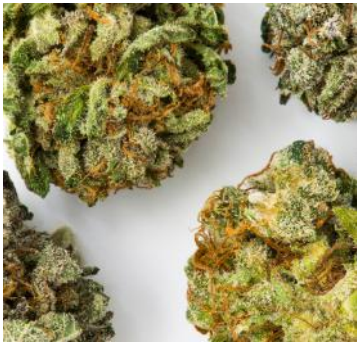
The VOPP and LAIB training

- are FREE for all pharmacists and pharmacy staff in Victoria
- have all you need to know about delivering an ORT service
- help you establish your pharmacy to support patients with an opioid dependence
- enable you to play a key role in reducing the health, social and economic harms to individuals and the community



# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

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## TRENDS IN THE AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS SOLD ON THE INTERNET VIA CRYPTO-MARKETS

From 1st October 2021 to 30th September 2022, 27 cryptomarkets were monitored, of which 11 closed before the end of the reporting period. We began monitoring 10 new cryptomarkets during this period.

Cannabis comprised the greatest percentage of drugs listings from October 2021 to September 2022 (30%), followed by cocaine (7.6%), benzodiazepines (7.5%), MDMA (7.5%), meth/amphetamine (illicit) (6.1%), opioids (excluding heroin) (6.1%) and PIEDs/weight loss drugs (6.1%).

[MORE >](#)

## HARM REDUCTION TIPS FOR VAPING NICOTINE E-LIQUIDS

Many young people who vape aren't interested in quitting, and so harm reduction conversations can be really useful. But what is harm reduction for people who vape?

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## SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The specialist homelessness services web report is an annual report summarising data from the Specialist Homelessness Services Collection (SHSC). It describes the characteristics of clients of specialist homelessness services, the services requested, outcomes achieved, and unmet requests for services.



[MORE >](#)

## COVID-19 WITH ENDOCARDITIS IN PATIENTS WITH COCAINE OR OPIOID USE DISORDERS IN THE US

The incidence of endocarditis in the US is increasing, driven in part by the rise in intravenous drug use, mostly opioids and stimulant drugs (cocaine and methamphetamine). Recent reports have documented that individuals with COVID-19 are at increased risk for cardiovascular diseases. However, it is unknown whether COVID-19 is associated with increased risk for endocarditis in patients with opioid or stimulant use disorders.

# ARTICLES OF INTEREST

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[MORE >](#)

## UNDERSTANDING THE COST OF ADDICTION IN AUSTRALIA

The Rethink Addiction campaign have partnered with KPMG to publish the following report.

One in four Australians will struggle with alcohol, other drugs, or gambling in their lifetime, and one in ten currently smoke tobacco daily – so it’s no surprise that Australia has one of the highest rates of addiction related health burdens in the world. What has been unclear until now is the combined cost to the Australian community, and it is significant.

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## PENINGTON INSTITUTE: CANNABIS IN AUSTRALIA 2022

Penington Institute is known for producing Australia’s Annual Overdose Report, the authoritative study on overdose in Australia. With Cannabis in Australia 2022, we aim to fill the gap for accurate, up-to-date data on Australian trends, attitudes and approaches relating to cannabis.

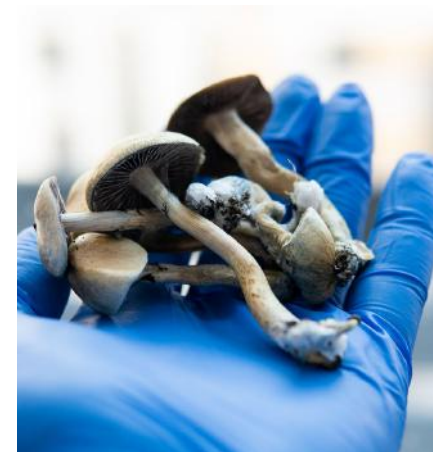
A fixture of the Australian drug landscape for over half a century, cannabis is our most widely consumed illicit drug. Despite its prevalence, a lack of reliable data paired with conflicting messages from our government and media mean that community understandings of cannabis remain poor. What are the health risks of cannabis use? Is there a viable market for medicinal cannabis?

[MORE >](#)

## CHANGE TO CLASSIFICATION OF PSILOCYBIN & MDMA TO ENABLE PRESCRIBING BY AUTHORISED PSYCHIATRISTS

From 1 July this year, medicines containing the psychedelic substances psilocybin and MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine) can be prescribed by specifically authorised psychiatrists for the treatment of certain mental health conditions.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will permit the prescribing of MDMA for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and psilocybin for treatment-resistant depression. These are the only conditions where there is currently sufficient evidence for potential benefits in certain patients.



# ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

## **VICTORIAN PHARMACOTHERAPY AREA-BASED NETWORKS**

Support for health professionals to prevent, identify and manage opioid dependence

[LEARN MORE](#) >

## **DIRECTLINE**

Confidential counselling for people of all ages and backgrounds who are affected by alcohol or other drugs. It also provides referral to specialist AOD treatment service

[LEARN MORE](#) >

## **VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PHARMACOTHERAPY**

Standards to ensure consistent best and safe clinical practice in treating opioid dependent patients

[LEARN MORE](#) >

## **RECONNEXION**

A benzodiazepine dependency counselling, mental health, phone support, education and training service

[LEARN MORE](#) >

## **PHARMACOTHERAPY ADVOCACY & MEDIATION SUPPORT SERVICE (PAMS)**

Phone-based information, support, advocacy and referral for pharmacotherapy clients

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## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL HEP DRUG INTERACTIONS**

Evidence-based drug-drug interaction resource, freely available to healthcare workers, patients and researchers

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## **DRUG & ALCOHOL CLINICAL ADVISORY SERVICE**

DACAS is a specialist telephone consultancy service that is free of charge for health and welfare professionals

[LEARN MORE](#) >

## **MEDUCATE**

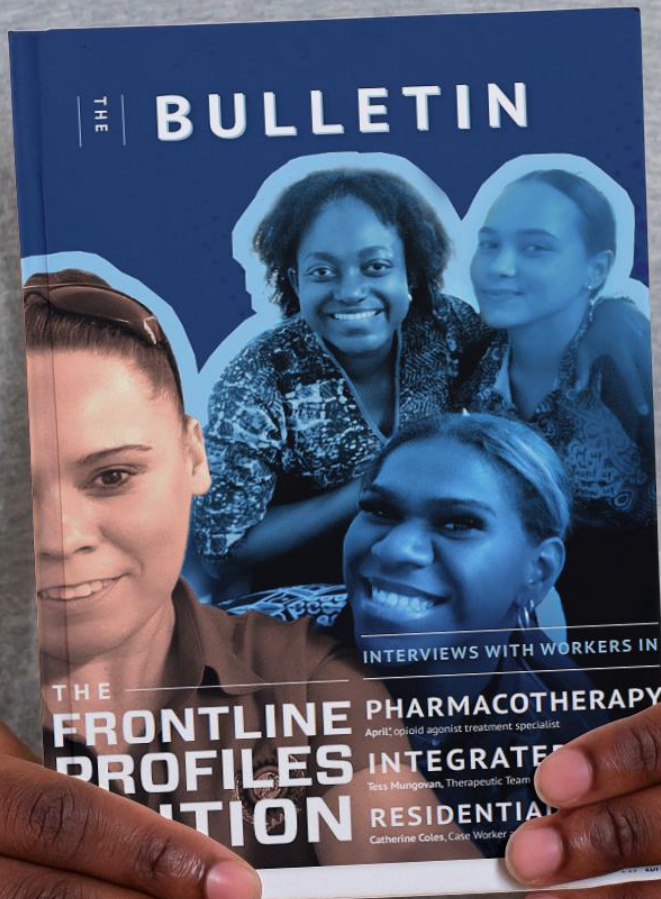
On-demand education for doctors, clinicians, health professionals and the public using the latest technology and expert educators to produce bespoke training packages

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The Bulletin, produced by Penington Institute, is a specialty publication for frontline workers in Australia's Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP)

Click [HERE](#) to view the latest issue



*Penington*

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INSTITUTE



Orticare acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our work takes place and pays respect to Elders past and present.



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