



AOD Provider
Collaborative

ADDICTIONS & MENTAL HEALTH

2017 ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

SUPPLEMENTARY WORKSHOP E

Thursday 15 June

2.30 – 4.30pm

Tāmaki Campus, University of Auckland

SUPPLEMENTARY WORKSHOP E

Harm reduction needs and strategies for couples who inject drugs

Professor Suzanne Fraser

National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Australia

Professor Carla Treloar

Director - Centre for Social Research in Health, University of New South Wales

THURSDAY 15 JUNE

University of Auckland Tāmaki Campus, 261 Morrin Road, Glen Innes

2.30 – 4.30pm

Registration and tea/coffee from 2.00pm in the Function Hall, Building 730.

Register at www.aodcollaborative.org.nz

Thank you to our event partners:



**MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES**
CENTRE FOR ADDICTION RESEARCH

CHAMP
Counties Manukau Mental Health
and Addictions Partnership

The AOD Provider Collaborative is funded by





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Professor Suzanne Fraser and
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In Australia approximately 90% of newly-acquired hepatitis C infections occur through the sharing of 'used' injecting equipment. Although the majority of this sharing occurs between sexual partners, the responsibility for avoiding transmission is usually conceived as an individual one, and prevention measures such as the distribution of sterile injecting equipment in the form of 'fitpacks' have been overwhelmingly aimed at individuals.

This workshop will explore the issue of hepatitis C prevention in sexual partnerships. It will:

1. Present key findings from the CUPID Study, an Australian research project that examined injecting in sexual partnerships (or 'couples') and used the insights to produce new resources for hepatitis C prevention, including a prototype 'couples fitpack', and related posters and fitpack stickers;
2. Present key findings from a subsequent study in which couples who inject drugs were invited to examine and reflect on the prototype and related materials;
3. Discuss the ways safe injecting equipment and messages could better support couples where appropriate, and better recognise relationships that are often dismissed as insincere or insignificant; and
4. Facilitate a general discussion about the implications and transferability of the research findings including the limits of couples approaches, and ways of supporting workers to engage with couples.

You will leave this workshop with:

- an overview of the hepatitis C-related issues and concerns faced by people who inject drugs in couples;
- novel concepts and strategies for engaging people who inject drugs in couples; and
- enhanced knowledge of the diversity and significance of such relationships.

Overall the aim of the workshop is to bring to light ways service delivery could look beyond assumptions to engage service-using couples effectively and deliver relevant support.

SOME RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Treloar, C., Rance, J., Bryant, J. and Fraser, S. (2016). Harm reduction workers and the challenge of engaging couples who inject drugs in hepatitis C prevention. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 168, pp. 170-175.

Fraser, S., Rance, J. and Treloar, C. (2016). Hepatitis C prevention and convenience: Why do people who inject drugs in sexual partnerships 'run out' of sterile equipment? *Critical Public Health*, 26, (3), pp. 294-306.

Fraser, S., Treloar, C., Bryant, J. and Rhodes, T. (2014). Hepatitis C health promotion needs to be grounded in social relationships. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 21, (1), pp. 88-92.

Dwyer, R., Fraser, S. and Treloar, C. (2011). Doing things together? Analysis of health education materials to inform hepatitis C prevention among couples. *Addiction Research & Theory*, 19, (4), pp. 352-361.



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Professor Suzanne Fraser is programme leader for the Social Studies of Addiction Concepts Research Program based at the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University.

*She has published widely on drug use and addiction issues, and is the author of a number of books, the most recent being *Habits: Remaking addiction* (with David Moore and Helen Keane). She has also co-edited a collection of essays on drug use and addiction (*The drug effect: Health, crime and society*, with David Moore).*

Suzanne's main research focus at present is her Australian Research Council-funded Future Fellowship research program. This research explores the notions of addiction underpinning social and health policy and service provision in Australia, Canada and Sweden. Suzanne is also lead investigator on a related project that collected personal accounts from people who consider themselves to have an alcohol or other drug addiction, dependence or habit. These stories were analysed by theme and now form the basis for a publicly accessible website, Livesofsubstance.org. In other recent research Suzanne has explored harm reduction needs and strategies for couples who inject drugs. Outcomes from this project include recommendations for incorporating couples into harm reduction strategies, and a tested prototype for a couples-oriented 'fitpack' as well as couples focused health messaging.



Professor Carla Treloar is Director of the Centre for Social Research in Health at the University of New South Wales and head of the Centre's hepatitis research team. Carla's research interests are in the fields of hepatitis C and injecting drug use. She is a primarily qualitative researcher and is grounded in the disciplines of health and social psychology and public health. However, Carla constantly seeks to work across methods and disciplines. In particular, she sees it essential to work towards blending the insights that an individual-based discipline like health psychology can provide when issues such as hepatitis C and illicit drug use are considered in social, legal and political contexts.