



Welcome

The end of June see us celebrating the third anniversary since the launch of the National Inhalants Information Service. We can now boast that we host the world's largest accessible collection of items related to inhalant misuse, and we aim to make them freely available. Even with 881 items, it is far from complete and we continue to work to expand it even further. Your contribution to the database, newsletter or the website is always welcomed - You can do this by sending an email to ruth.mahon@adca.org.au

Regards

Ruth Mahon -NIIS Coordinator

Focus on research

Two recent publications highlighted a major problem with regard to the amount of evidenced-based studies to inform treatment options for inhalant misuse clients. The Cochrane Review *Treatment for inhalant dependence and abuse (2010)* and the NHMRC **draft** *Clinical practice guideline for the management of volatile substance use (2011)* both noted the lack of literature on which to base a recommendation. As a result when the Clinical practice guidelines are released later in the year they will, on the whole, be based on Good Practice Points; consensus-based recommendations of the guideline development committee.

This lack of research, on all aspects of inhalant misuse, is not just an issue here in Australia but a global problem. The journal *Substance Use & Misuse* has just released a special issue: *Volatile Substance Misuse: a global perspective (Vol. 46, no.1, 2011)*. Sarah MacLean from Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre in Melbourne is a guest co-editor along with Colleen Dell (Canada) and Steven Gust (USA). The issue has 20 peer-reviewed articles representing the efforts of 12 nations to address the issues around the observation, research and the application of interventions to manage inhalant misuse.

The issue is divided into three sections :

1. Socio-cultural understandings about the epidemiology of volatile substance misuse
2. Understanding the neuroscience and health impacts of volatile substance misuse
3. Interventions for volatile substance misuse.

Australia is well represented in the journal with articles from Kylie Dingwall & Sheree Cairney; Michael Takagi, Dan Lubman & Murat Yucel; Peter d'Abbs & Sarah MacLean; and Gill Shaw, Tristan Ray & Blair McFarland.

The editors point out that inhalant misuse is 'an under-recognized and underestimated global public health issue' (p.5) and ask that the readers take an active role in promoting the need for research, find new research opportunities and collaborate to find new ways to address the issues around inhalant misuse.

A full list of all the articles from this special issue can be found at the end of this newsletter along with other items added to the database in the last 3 months. You can request copies of articles that are relevant to you either through the database or via email ruth.mahon@adca.org.au Please note however, due to copyright restrictions I can't copy the whole issue of *Substance Use & Misuse* for you.

Save the Date

It might still be 12 months away but planning is well underway for the second National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee conference (NIDAC 2012). With the theme of *Beyond 2012: leading the way to action*, the conference aims to highlight how the sector is *able to lead the way to action* in addressing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and its associated harms among Indigenous Australians.

NIDAC 2012 will be held in Fremantle, Western Australia from 6-8 June 2012.

Visit the conference website for all the details.

<http://www.nidaconference.com.au/>



Emergency first aid

The Victorian Department of Health has produced information sheets listing emergency procedures as part of the *Management response to inhalant use: guidelines for the community care and drug and alcohol sector*. Click on the links below to print out the factsheet.

If drowsy or unconscious: [Factsheet: [If unconscious](#)]

Remove the inhalant and make sure there is a supply of fresh air.

Check their airways and pulse regularly and commence CPR if necessary.

Call an ambulance if they lose consciousness (dial triple zero 000).

Lay the person on their side so that they won't choke if they vomit.

Do not leave the person until medical assistance arrives.

If conscious: [Factsheet: [If conscious](#)]

Remove the inhalant and make sure there is a supply of fresh air.

Keep them calm and relaxed (**do not give chase** or get them stressed) and try not to talk to them until they have sobered up.

Be mindful that an intoxicated person may act very erratically and sometimes violently.

These information sheets also carry the following warning: "Loud snoring or gurgling noises often mean that a person is not just 'sleeping off' the effects of inhalant use but is in a coma. Never leave a person like this, try and wake them but if you can't, call an ambulance immediately."

Need to learn or update your first aid skills? St. John Ambulance provides first aid training in all states of Australia. Check them out at <http://www.stjohn.org.au/>



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The NIIS is an initiative of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) - National Drugs Sector Information Service
<http://ndsis.adca.org.au>

Our Service

There are three components of the NIIS, all of which are provided **FREE** of charge to everyone .

Our **Website** - Your first contact point if you are looking for information about inhalants. The site is divided into different sections to make finding information easy and is updated regularly. <http://www.inhalantsinfo.org.au>

Our **Database** - A list of all the inhalant resources we hold. We aim to collect all types of resources including books, journal articles, pamphlets, multimedia, posters & conference papers. This database currently holds 881 resources.

Our **Library Service** - We can supply you with information or resources through our Ask-A-Librarian service or keep you up to date with our current awareness newsletters. Feel free to make contact by emailing

info@inhalantsinfo.org.au

Inhalants Database

The NIIIS can supply you with copies of journal articles as well as loaning items including books, CDs, and DVDs. There is no charge for this service. For a full listing of all resources please visit www.inhalantsinfo.org.au/database. Please email your requests to info@inhalantsinfo.org.au

Items recently added to the database.

- Bone, R., Dell, C. A., Koskie, M., Kushniruk, M., & Shorting, C. (2011). The lived experience of volatile substance misuse : how support contributes to recovery and sustained well-being. *Substance use & misuse, 2011, 46, S1, 119-127.*
- Bowen, S. E. (2011). Two serious and challenging medical complications associated with volatile substance misuse : sudden sniffing death and fetal solvent syndrome. *Substance use & misuse, 2011, 46, S1, 68-72.*
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- Cruz, S. L. (2011). The latest evidence in the neuroscience of solvent misuse : an article written for service providers. *Substance use & misuse, 2011, 46, S1, 62-67.*
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- Lopez-Quintero, C., & Neumark, Y. D. (2011). The epidemiology of volatile substance misuse among school children in Bogota, Colombia. *Substance use & misuse, 2011, 46, S1, 50-56.*
- MacLean, S., & d'Abbs, P. (2011). Five challenges for volatile substance misuse policy and intervention in Australia. [Commentary]. *Drug and alcohol review, 2011, 30, 2, 223-227.*

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- Neumark, Y. D., & Bar-Hamburger, R. (2011). Volatile substance misuse among youth in Israel : results of a national school survey. *Substance use & misuse*, 2011, 46, S1, 21-26.
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