

Year 9 Workshop

In response to demand, DARTA has developed a workshop for Year 9 students designed to complement our existing Years 10-12 presentations. This workshop is now being offered to schools in Victoria, NSW and SA in 2019.

The workshop is designed to be interactive and facilitated by a new addition to the DARTA team, Ms Kris Bobetic. An experienced trainer and paramedic for 17 years, Kris piloted the program in a number of Victorian schools in Term 4, 2018 and received overwhelmingly positive feedback from both students and teachers.

This session aims to educate and empower young people so as to encourage safe behaviour while socialising and reduce the risks of alcohol-related harm. Most importantly, the workshop promotes positive norms around the prevalence of youth drinking, particularly at Year 9, encouraging the concept of delaying use.

Kris' paramedic experience ensures that this is a practical session and students will be given the opportunity to discuss age-appropriate help-seeking behaviour, including the 'recovery position, with a health professional.

To book the Year 9 workshop at your school or get more information on the content and structure of the session, please contact Kelly Elgin at Booked Out (kelly@bookedout.com.au).

Ecstasy/MDMA and pill testing

The debate about the provision of pill testing has intensified over the summer after the deaths of a number of young people at music festivals. Just a reminder that there are a number of DARTA fact sheets for teachers that deal with this issue. They are as follows:

- [Ecstasy: Patterns of use and problems](#)
- [Ecstasy: Pill testing](#)
- [Ecstasy: Responses](#)

New Parent Information Evening presentations for 2019

Titles of the presentations being offered to schools for Parent Information Evenings are as follows:

- Teenagers, alcohol and other drugs 2019: What's happening, what's out there and how much influence do parents really have?
- 'Risk taking': Why do teens do the things they do? What can parents do to keep them as safe as possible?
- Years 7, 8 and 9 parents: Why it's vital to have the 'alcohol and parties' discussion now

Abstracts for these sessions can be found on the [DARTA website](#).



Teenagers, alcohol and other drugs 2019: What's happening, what's out there and how much influence do parents really have? Paul Dillon Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia

New Staff Session presentations for 2019

Titles of the presentations being offered to schools for staff sessions are as follows:

- Alcohol and other drugs: What's happening and how can teachers make a difference?*
- Alcohol and the teenage brain: What do teachers need to know?
- School-based young people and alcohol and other drugs: Hot topics 2019

*Please note that for NSW teachers this is a NESA-accredited session and attendance will contribute 1 hour of NESA-registered PD towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW. If Paul is coming to your school and you wish to have this session delivered, please let Booked Out know.

Abstracts for these sessions can be found on the [DARTA website](#).



Alcohol and other drugs: What's happening and how can teachers make a difference? Paul Dillon Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia

SCHOOL SURVEYS

DARTA has developed surveys examining alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues for a number of school communities across the country. Based on questions from the Australian Secondary School Students' Alcohol and Other Drug (ASSAD) survey, schools are not only able to use the results to access current prevalence rates of substance use amongst their students but also compare these with a national sample. Parents are also surveyed, asking questions regarding their attitudes and values as well as their behaviours around the provision of alcohol and teenage parties and gatherings.

The data collected can assist in the development and provision of more effective drug education, as well as being invaluable in the roll-out of pastoral care programs. Schools have also reported that the survey results have helped them in reviewing policies and practices.

If you are interested to have DARTA provide this service to your school community, or require further information, enquiries can be sent to k.haworth@darta.net.au.

