



# ADDults with ADHD NSW Inc

## Support and ADDvocacy

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### NEWSLETTER

### AUTUMN EDITION 2008

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#### NOTICE:

**Next Awareness Afternoon  
"ADHD & Medication Issues"  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2008  
Parramatta.**

#### NOTICE:

**Annual Conference;  
'ADHD - A Life of Opportunities'  
1<sup>st</sup> November, 2008  
Sydney Institute TAFE,  
Harris Street, Ultimo.**

#### Office Hours:

**10.30AM – M RYPM  
TUES, WED & THURS**

### WHEN IS ADHD LIFELONG, AND WHEN IS IT NOT?

**Q:** When is ADHD a 'life long condition' and yet *not* a 'life long condition'?  
**A:** When you were diagnosed ADHD after the age of 18yrs and requiring the medication 'Strattera'.....according to the PBS that is.

You may recall in the last newsletter issue, we outlined the government authority requirements for treatment with Strattera (atomoxetine). Whilst those adults who were not diagnosed under the age of 18yrs are still able to access Strattera - they are *not* eligible for PBS, a huge cost difference.

**HOWEVER – one of our most eminent psychiatrists has made a break- through. By writing to the authorities and pointing out that “in his opinion his patient would have been diagnosed with ADHD as a child had such an opportunity been open to him” – his patient was granted PBS status.**

It seems that where the patient was diagnosed after the age of 18 years, and Ritalin or Dexamphetamine is not appropriate, if the prescribing psychiatrist feels strongly that *Strattera is the most appropriate medication for the patient* – then that psychiatrist is able to appeal to the authorities for PBS approval.

Strattera is a safe, well tolerated and effective alternative, for those where the more widely used stimulant ADHD treatments cause adverse reactions, or the patient has a history of substance abuse/misuse, or the patient has severe co-existing conditions. Strattera is a non-stimulant (norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor), and works differently to other medications when used according to instructions.

ADHD is a very real and complex neurobiological condition which has a significant impact on quality of life. Medical interventions are an appropriate course of action in the majority of cases and Strattera is therefore an important treatment option for many adults diagnosed with ADHD.  
**Joy Toll, Secretary/Editor**

### **NEW PBS LISTING – Ritalin Long Acting**

From 1st April 2008 children between the ages of 6 and 18yrs with ADHD will have PBS access to another slow-release version of the drug *methylphenidate hydrochloride* (Ritalin LA). This means children and adolescents with ADHD will not need to take medication throughout the day - this has been difficult for some and embarrassing for others. Listing for adults usually follows six to nine months after the children.