



ADDults with ADHD NSW Inc

Support and ADDvocacy

Registered Charity ABN 87 819 863 019

Postal Address:
 PO Box 22 Epping NSW 1710
 Website: www.add.org.au

Office Tel: 02 9889 5977
 Mobile: 0416 111 036
 Email: info@add.org.au

NEWSLETTER

Christmas EDITION 2009

Member Page	p 2
fMRI Study effects of psychostimulants	p 3
Recent Studies	p 4
Cade Clinic – Research Participants	p 5
Teens Mental Health & Changes in TAFE	p 6
Position of Equity	p 7
Advocacy in Education	p 8
Internet Addictions	p 9
Media Watch	p10
Letter from the Inbox	p11
What's Happening	p12
What's On	p13
Molecular Genetics Study	p14

DRAFT ADHD GUIDELINES FINALLY RELEASED

We all knew when the ADHD Guidelines were due for release the ‘flatearthers’ would do their best to discredit them - but we were not expecting the relentless campaign which has raged in the media over the last couple of weeks.

Then finally the news came through -

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 30th November 2009

The Hon. Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, today made available updated draft Australian Guidelines on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and other useful information to assist parents and medical professionals to recognise and appropriately treat ADHD.

More than 350,000 Australian children and adolescents are estimated to have ADHD. The Rudd Government, medical professionals and parents have been concerned for some time about the lack of clear, evidence based information to assist the many people affected by this condition.

“I am pleased that we can finally provide this more up to date information on ways to identify and care for those in our community who may be suffering from ADHD,” said the Minister for Health, Nicola Roxon.

The NHMRC and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) have agreed to make available the draft Australian Guidelines prior to formal consideration by the Council of the NHMRC

Professor David Forbes, Chair, RACP's Guidelines Working Group, said a multimodal approach is recommended for treatment of ADHD. “These draft Guidelines will help improve the assessment, treatment and care of people with ADHD in Australia,” he said. “Treatment may include education, psychosocial strategies, behavioural management and changes in nutrition and medication.”

The draft guidelines and supplementary information can be found at:
www.nhmrc.gov.au

Comment: At last the new Australian guidelines are now on the NHMRC website and accessible for all to read the 'body of evidence'. They are considered modern and comprehensive. Their 'draft' status pending the Biederman 'conflict of interest' issue in the US, does not devalue their thoroughness and credibility - the qualifying statements emphasise that the Australian guidelines were drawn up by an independent panel of experts.

Media quotes attributed to Professor David Forbes, such as “Medication should only be used when symptoms are pervasive and severe” are at difference to the Australian document, but seem similar to the Scottish document - also released in November. www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/112/

No doubt those with extremist views will continue their crusade – fortunately we have science and success on our side.

Joy Toll, Secretary/Editor

**WISHING YOU
 A SAFE AND
 HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

