



# ADDults with ADHD NSW Inc

Supporting Adults & Families with ADHD  
Registered Charity

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## NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER EDITION 2012

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### NOTICE:

NEXT AWARENESS  
AFTERNOON:

SAT MARCH 17, 2012  
2.00PM – 4.30PM  
AT "THE MEWS"  
SYDNEY INST. TAFE

OFFICE HOURS:  
10.30AM – 2.30PM  
TUES, WED & THURS

OFFICE IS RE-OPENING ON  
WED, 1ST FEBRUARY, 2012

### EDITORS:

JOY TOLL, PRESIDENT & RAY  
STEELE, SECRETARY



## WHO HIGHJACKED THE AUSTRALIAN ADHD GUIDELINES?

**It's official - our ADHD Guidelines have been abandoned.**

Quote from letter received on **Christmas eve**: *"The Council of the NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) is unable to assess the impact of these findings (re Professor Biederman) on the ADHD literature and is not in a position to recommend the Guidelines be approved by NHMRC. Professor Anderson agreed with Council's concerns and has requested the Guidelines be removed from the NHMRC website which will occur in the New Year".*

**This is despite the constant assurance by the NHMRC and government ministers that the new document to be known as the CPPs (Clinical Practice Points) "is not an attempt to replace or act as a substitute for the draft ADHD Guidelines" - yet this is exactly what appears to have happened!** This is disgraceful. It is also cowardly, to announce this decision during a time of the year when most Australians are on holiday, and therefore many medical professionals and families are still unaware of the decision.

The reticence of the NHMRC to approve these Draft Guidelines *"due to conflict of interest allegations against a key researcher (Professor Biederman) who is heavily cited throughout"*, **is unprecedented internationally.** Interestingly, the American Academy of Pediatrics in their recently updated Guidelines, also the new Canadian Guidelines, have included references authored by this same researcher, yet were not influenced by the debate. Our draft Guidelines were once held up as an example to the rest of the world – now the rest of the world is watching and awaiting the outcome with bemusement.

And where does this leave adults with ADHD – way out in the cold! We now have no ADHD Guidelines in Australia. The new CPP document does not cover adults at all – probably because the anti ADHD lobby does not believe ADHD even exists in adults. In practical terms, this means there is no direction for clinicians and there will be serious repercussions for future research. And the pressure will continue - as the man leading the charge has stated publicly that he wants "the guidelines rescinded" and "stimulant medication banned in Australia". Further, he is resigning from his position in the WA state parliament, stating that **"he plans to devote more time to his anti ADHD medication campaign."**

So where does this leave the complex condition of ADHD in Australia? Well it's a bit like *"pass the parcel"* – or should we say *"hot potato"* – first to Health Minister Nicola Roxon, then to Mental Health & Ageing Minister Mark Butler, and now we are advised it's the responsibility of the new Health Minister, Tanya Plibersek.

**Meanwhile, the draft guidelines will remain on our website as a reference document.**

*Wishing everyone a safe and happy New Year*

**Joy Toll, President/Editor**