



SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
IN THE COMMUNITY

SUBMISSION NUMBER 0003

*DATE: 26 April 2002*

*RECEIVED FROM: Green Gates Association Inc.  
PO Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871*

Note: The following submission has been electronically scanned. All documents, including attachments were signed and bear the logo of the company or organisation supporting this submission. Original documents are available for viewing in the Committee Secretariat.

*PO Box 4358,  
Alice Springs NI'08 71  
ABN 99 @ "76 535 706*

*(08)9527533  
(08)89527656  
041773458',7  
alison @Octa4.com*

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April 26, 2002

The Committee Secretariat  
GPO Box 3721  
Darwin NT **0821**

Attention Liz McFarlane

Dear Ms McFarlane,

Please find enclosed herewith Submission to the Select Committee on  
Substance Abuse in the Community.

Attached to our submission are letters from community organizations and other interested people and groups.  
We ask that the views of these attachments be taken into consideration by the Committee

Could you please notify us that our submission has been received.

Yours sincerely

Alison Lillis (Mrs)

Public Officer

Green Gates Inc Association

PO Box 4358  
Alice Springs NT 0871

(08)89527533  
(08)89527656  
0417734587  
alison@Octa4.com

.....

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*There is unquestionably a pressing need to address the human, societal and financial issues arising from the use of illicit drugs in this community. Green Gates believes it has a role to play in this process as a provider of medium to long-term residential care.*

*We came into existence because there is a gap in the range of government-funded services between initial treatment detoxification and supported living. We further believe that most addicts receiving initial treatment then fall through that gap and an organisation with our characteristics can assist in addressing this problem.*

*Green Gates, once fully operational, plans to be financed by a mix of government and private funding. Assuming this financial support is forthcoming, shared funding structure will place a substantially lesser burden on the public purse, now and in the future, than if there were an attempt to re-creat our operation using a pure government funding model.*

*We cannot over-emphasise the urgency required in this situation as the human toll (approximately 500 illicit users - not counting marijuana users), and the associated crime, continue to escalate on a daily basis.*

John Stirk

President



Submission From GREEN GATES ASSOCIATION INC PO BOX 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS N.T. 0871

Submission To COMMITTEE MEMBERS  
SELECT COMMITTEE

Subj ect SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE COMMUNITY

Date of Submission

24TH April 2002

Contact Person Alison Lillis 89527533 or 0417734587

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## SECTION 1 NATURE OF PROBLEM

What is known to Green Gates about the nature of the illicit drug use problem is that people are dying, committing suicide, living in hopeless despair, becoming involved in crime at a high cost to government in terms of the cost of services. We would estimate the cost to the Alice Springs community and therefore government services at at least \$5 million per year.

In other words:

1. Illicit drug use has direct and indirect effects on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.
  - Direct effects can be summarised as the devastating impacts upon the physical, mental and social health of people using illicit drugs at harmful and hazardous levels. This is evidenced by problems with the law, stress and breakdown of support networks, unemployment and homelessness.
  - Indirect effects are widespread ranging from impacts upon family, including children of drug dependent parents, loss of productivity, criminal activity and the drain on existing services not equipped to deal with illicit drug using issues.
2. It is estimated that at any one time there is a population of 500 people in Alice Springs who regularly inject illicit drugs. This number does not account for those people who engage in poly-drug (more than one type of drug) use. Nor does it account for non-injecting illicit drug users, including those using prescription medication.
3. Use is predominantly in the 13 to 30 year old population group. There does not appear to be a distinction in terms of race, sex or economic background.
4. While a wide range of illicit drugs is used in Alice Springs, in Green Gates experience drug prevalence is in the following order: cannabis; amphetamines; heroin. It is increasingly common for illicit use to be part of a poly-using pattern.

### **A case in point:**

Peter was an 18-year-old young man when he started using cannabis socially. One night he went looking for a supply and was introduced to heroin; he has since used heroin for 7 years. Peter is in a defacto relationship and has a young child. His habit is such that he is totally controlled by his need for heroin and for money to continue his habit.

This dependence has downstream effects on his employment, his relationship with his partner and daughter and also on his parents and family - who are left powerless as their son continues down the path of self destruction.

There have been many times when Peter has been prepared to do something about his habit. This has meant travelling interstate where invariably the treatment has not been successful. This is because by the time he arrives he has moved on from a state of preparedness to change or after completing the program he has returned to Alice Springs - where there are no appropriate support services to continue the program he has been following.

His only friends are those connected with drugs and is easily drawn back into the habit. His family relationship is pushed to the limit and thus the cycle starts again. After several years of addiction, inability to gain employment, lack of finance to support his habit he is led to crime. A term in gaol without treatment can see him back on the streets looking for the substance to block out all his worries. The risk of intentional or accidental overdose and death is a daily reality for Peter and his family.

## **SECTION 2 WHAT IS CURRENTLY BEING DONE AND BY WHOM**

There are limited rehabilitation options within the Northern Territory for all drugs.

In Alice Springs there is no residential, or even non-residential, long or medium term treatment option for people suffering either the direct or indirect effects of illicit drug use.

Where treatment options do exist in Alice Springs they are either restricted to:

- Persons with alcohol abuse problems, with philosophical and cultural orientations that exclude large portions of the population or
- they are short term and non-residential.

It has been Green Gates' experience that in the absence of a targeted and co-ordinated range of interventions individuals and families seeking help and support are faced with only two options:

1. Travel interstate (this is not a real option as it requires separation from family and loved ones, a substantial personal financial outlay. Also, the protracted time taken in accessing treatment often acts as a disincentive to either undertake or complete the program)
2. Try to manage the problem with limited assistance, or alone.

Current alcohol and other drug service options are:

### **Central Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Services (Dept. Health & Community Services)**

Dominant focus is upon education, training and development in remote communities.

Has a clinical team comprising one GP and one Nurse. Contracts limited sessional psychology time from a private psychologist. The team has a broad focus across the entire population and all drugs and

drug using patterns. There is no specialist expertise with young people or illicit use.

### **Alice Springs Hospital (NT & Commonwealth Government funded)**

- There are no beds available for medical detoxification.

### **Division of Primary Health Care (Division of GP's)**

- Management of people with direct or indirect illicit drug use issues is at best ad hoc and solely dependent upon the attitudes and interests of individual practitioners

### **Alcohol and Other Drugs Unit (Correctional Services)**

- Conducts assessments at the request of Corrections or the Courts.
- Assessment and counselling for sentenced adult and juvenile offenders
- Assessment-for-remand adult and juvenile detainees.

### **Drug and Alcohol Services Association (NT Government funded)**

- Short stay detoxification (maximum of 10 days) for any drug type for ages greater than 17 years
- Non-medical and therefore not equipped to manage medically complicated or high risk withdrawal

### **Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programs Unit (NT & Commonwealth Government funding)**

- Residential treatment, day care and aftercare service.
- Caters predominantly for Aboriginal people with alcohol related issues.

### **Holyoake Alice Springs (NT Government funded)**

- Education to school children.
- Day programs with weekly group and individual sessions for people experiencing direct or indirect effects of alcohol or other drug use.

### **Injartnama Village (NT & Commonwealth Government funded)**

- Residential outstation program predominantly for Aboriginal people with alcohol and other substance issues.
- No formal exclusion policy but admission may be based on Aboriginal family connections.

### **Bush Mob (Commonwealth Government funded)**

- Experiential based program.
- 2 and 4 day experimental journeys for up to 8 young people 15-25 years with any drug using problem.
- Outreach to young people with families.

### **SECTION 3 WHAT IS NOT BEING DONE**

As with any drug use, illicit use ranges from low risk, through to hazardous. Also like any drug use there are a range of interventions that have a particular impact, depending upon where the individual is on the spectrum of harm.

While Green Gates acknowledges a need for early intervention through education and other health promotion strategies, the nature of the problem in Alice Springs is such that these strategies have no real effect on the level or extent of harm currently suffered. In addition, there is empirical evidence that suggests drug education alone has little effect on patterns of use and sustainable, long term, behavioural changes only come when education is supported by a full range of alcohol and other drug supporting services and structures. Of particular concern to Green Gates is:

1. There are no pharmacotherapeutic programs e.g. Methadone maintenance; Naltraxone treatment; Bupromorphine treatment.
2. There are no **long to** medium term residential treatment options.
3. Tertiary services are not co-ordinated or well developed.

These are reasonable minimum intervention strategies for harmful and hazardous use that are available in all other Australian states. The lack of service has acted to mask the nature and extent of the illicit drug using harm on individuals, families and the community. Lack of acknowledgement that there is a problem leaves those in the community who are affected, isolated and ostracised. Of equal concern is that illicit drug use is stigmatised as criminal or deviant, rather than as a result of ill-health that requires specialised treatment and care.

## **SECTION 4 WHAT GREEN GATES WANT TO DO ABOUT IT**

### **BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- (a) Provide residential rehabilitation and support for victims of addiction;
- (b) Provide support for family and co-dependants;
- (c) Provide support for Youth

### **GOALS**

- To provide short or long term accommodation in an extended family style, so that addicted people live in a safe environment when they make the decision to change their lifestyle
- To promote collaboration in the youth and community sector and with current available treatment agencies in this domain. There is an opportunity for other agencies to become involved in the Green Gates Residential Program by way of consultation, referral and a working involvement in the Program. .
- To involve other families in the programme. This will provide opportunities for respite for users' direct families and co-dependants. Involvement in the programme will enable them to experience" first hand, the addicted person's struggle and the sharing of experiences of other co-dependants and families.

## **SECTION 5 INTRODUCTION TO GREEN GATES ASSOCIATION .INC.**

Green Gates is an association of people from the Alice Springs community with an interest in short and long term solutions to the problems associated with illicit drug use

Green Gates came into being in May 2000 out of the frustration of parents and friends of illicit drug users with the inadequacies of existing services.

This groundswell led to a 6 month trial of a residential treatment program. The trial was conducted in a privately owned residential house staffed by volunteer family members, business people and other community members with support from registered volunteers such as psychologists, a doctor, registered nurses and qualified counsellors.

It attracted admissions through 'word of mouth' and supported 10 people on a residential basis and others as non-residential clients. This program ceased when Green Gates was unsuccessful in gaining Local Government planning approval to continue operating from the site

Since that time, Green Gates has continued to advocate for Territory Government support to recommence its work.

The membership of Green Gates is 34 people who represent the views and, experiences of the general community, businesses and health professionals.

### **WHAT WE HAVE**

An Incorporated Association

Bank Account

Australian Business Number

Endorsement with A.T.O. as a deductible gift recipient

Endorsement with the A.T.O. as an income tax exempt charity

Contract with Centrelink to enable rent deductions from pensions

Draft Documented Residential Rehabilitation Program

## **SECTION 6 GREEN GATES SUGGESTION**

- Services assess their own clients and refer to Detox Services (DASA) depending on condition of client or refer direct to Green Gates
- Assessment following detox, to determine referral to Green Gates and establish length of residency
- Following completion of rehabilitation treatment at Green Gates further assessment and referral to supported accommodation at, say, Bill Braitling or Salvation Army.
- Eventual progress to Independent living in own home, private accommodation or public housing.

With close co-operation between and all services we feel the client would have access to the appropriate treatment required and the opportunity to access the best support available.

Although Green Gates, as a residential rehabilitation facility does not exist, we feel that, along with the professional expertise already in existence, the totality of services could be better used for the benefit of clients seeking treatment.

## **SECTION 7 ATTACHMENTS**

### **Letters Supporting Submission**

Apex Club of Central Australia  
Alice Springs Turf Club  
The Hon. Loraine Braham MLA  
Hon Jodeen Camey MLA  
Central Australian Services Network  
Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap  
Kiwanis Club of Alice Springs Inc.  
Lasseters Hotel Casino  
Mayor's Office Alice Springs  
Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
The Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
Kirstenne Maree Pearce  
Probus Club of Stuart Alice Springs Inc  
Quota International of Alice Springs  
Rotary Club of Alice Springs  
Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia

### **Established Facilities**

Minutes of interagency meeting held 15<sup>h</sup>February 2002  
Lighthouse Foundation

### **Green Gates Members**

Alison Lillis  
Precy Taylor  
Anna Costello

Green Gates Inc Brochure  
Letter to Dept. of Infrastructure, Planning & Environment  
Letter from Dept of Infrastructure, Planning & Environment

# Apex Club of Central Australia

P O Box 1240, Alice Springs, 0871

9 March 2002

Alison Lillis  
Green Gates Inc  
P O Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS  
0871

Dear Madam

Thank you for your letter dated 28 January 2002 seeking our clubs support for your submission, regarding addiction treatment, to the minister.

We apologise for the delay in our response.

Our club is supportive of appropriate treatment and prevention strategies, including family support and education campaigns.

Until we have had an opportunity to read the submission, the club is not able to provide unqualified support to any submission You may make.

Yours faithfully

W R McAinsh  
Club Secretary

1 February 2002

ALICE SPRINGS  
TURF CLUB

Mrs Alison Lillis  
PO Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Alison,

The Committee of the Alice Springs Turf Club fully support your submission on behalf of the Green Gates Association Inc when it is presented to the Illicit Drug Task Force in Alice Springs later this month.

Kind regards,

ANDREW T MALONEY  
Chairman

Phone (08) 8952 4977 Fax: (08) 8953 0426 Email:[redcentreracing@octa4.net.au](mailto:redcentreracing@octa4.net.au)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY  
MEMBER FOR BRAITLING

**LORAIN BRAHAM**

Telephone: (08)8952a177  
(08) 8952 3884 AH  
Facsimile: (08) 8952 5373  
(08) 8952 4767 AH

SHOP 6,  
HEENAN HOUSE  
GREGORY TERRACE  
P.O. BOX 1770  
ALICE SPRINGS, NT 0870

THE CHAIRPERSON  
Ministerial Task force on Illicit Drugs

Dear Chair

**Re: GREEN GATES ASSOCIATION INC.**

I write in support of the submission by the Green Gates Association to the Task Force on Illicit Drugs.

As you are aware this association has for some time endeavoured to provide a service to people dependent on drugs.

It is a sad reflection on our community that the organisation has had to struggle to gain community and government support and has had to rely on private individuals to take on this task.

As a long term resident and one who has contact with young people, it is of concern to me that there is an increasing use and availability of drugs in our town. It is a known fact to young people that drugs can be obtained freely but once dependent there is little support to break the habit.

The consequences of consistent use is well researched and causes not just family problems but for the user, social, emotional, physical and economic disaster.

I support wholeheartedly the need for a rehabilitation centre and trust you can give this organisation the recognition they deserve and support their request for funding, to continue their work.

Yours sincerely

**LORAIN BRAHAM**

4 Feb 2002

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY\1

MEMBER FOR ARALUEN

Jodeen Carney, MLA  
PO BOX 2654  
ALICE SPRINGS. NT 0871  
Telephone:08 8951 5588  
Facsimile:08 8951 5820  
Email: electorate.carnev@nt.gov.au

Friday, 1 February 2002

Green Gates Association  
P.O. Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your letter of 28 January.

As you know I am supportive of a live in treatment service for people suffering during addiction in Alice Springs.

Obviously, I would need to be receptive to the wishes of my constituents in terms of the location of such a facility in Araluen, however please be assured of my support for Green Gates and its objectives.

I trust that you will receive a good hearing from the Illicit Drug Task force.

Your faithfully,

JODEEN CARNEY

Northern  
Territory  
Government  
Department of Health  
and Community Services

## Central Australian Service Network

Section: Executive  
Phone: 89515294

Email: [sue.korner@nt.gov.au](mailto:sue.korner@nt.gov.au)

PO Box 721  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

ABN: 84 085 734 992

[www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au)

Reference:

Facsimile: 89515265

Mobile:

Ms Alison Lillis  
Green Gates Association Inc  
PO Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Alison

Thank you for your letter dated 28 January 2002, in which you seek a letter of support to form part of your submission in relation to a medium to long term treatment service for young adults with Drug and Alcohol problems.

I understand that you are currently liaising with the staff from Central Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Services, (CAAODS). I have been informed that CAAODS is organising an interagency meeting, which will include Green Gates. This meeting will look at gaps/duplications in current services in order to present a consolidated approach to the submissions to the Taskforce.

Adopting such a process should result in a clear and demonstrative statement of community support and the need for a community based organisation such as Green Gates. Acknowledged community support for a residential treatment service will certainly assist and strengthen any submission being developed for consideration by the Illicit Drug Taskforce.

The need for a medium to long term rehabilitation centre for clients from a range of age groups with alcohol and other drug problems in Alice Springs has been an issue for some time.

In supporting your submission therefore, I would encourage you to continue to consult with CAAODS, who will assist in harnessing support from all agencies involved in the alcohol and other drug field.

Yours sincerely

SUE KORNER

Regional Director Central Australian Service Network

15 February 2002

-Regional Office

Alice Springs District

Tel 08 8951 5294 Fax 08 8951 5265

Tel 08 8951 5233 . Fax 08 8951 5265

**JOINT DEFENCE FACILITY PINE GAP**

POST OFFICE BOX 2477

ALICE SPRINGS, NORTHERN TERRITORY 0871

1 February 2002

Alison Lillis  
Green Gates Association Inc.  
PO Box 4358  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Dear Ms. Lillis,

I am please to offer the support of the Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap (JDFPG) in your Submission to the Illicit Drug Task Force.

We at JDFPG understand the tremendous negative social, emotional, and personal consequences of drug and alcohol addiction, and we sympathize with those who have personally experienced the devastating effects of substance abuse. We also understand the need for ongoing care not only for the individuals suffering from addiction, but also for friends and family members who feel the pain and confusion associated with caring for, and trying to help these individuals.

We agree with Ms. Asgaard's three-point plan (as described in your cover letter) and we feel your program could provide valuable services to Centralians who have thus far been unable to obtain such services locally. It is our hope that the services you offer would reduce the relapse rate for addicted individuals. This, in turn, should positively impact the community.

Yours sincerely,

A. McCarthy  
Deputy Chief of Facility

# Kiwanis Club of Alice Springs Inc.

President:	Henry Buba	PO Box 3307
Secretary:	Peter Aebersold	Alice Springs NT 0871
Pb: 08 89525424	Fax: 08 89534354	

20 March 2002

Dr Valerie ASCHE  
Chairperson  
Drug Task Force

The Kiwanis Club of Alice Springs Inc. wishes to support the submission of Green Gates Inc. to the Drug Task Force.

We are concerned that drug users who want help, and wish to remain in Alice Springs to take advantage of the extra support of their families and friends, will lack long term progress with their efforts to detoxify themselves, while there is no medium to long term residential rehabilitation programmes available.

We believe Green Gates Inc. to be a very necessary adjunct to the other drug services available in Alice Springs, which will complement other services that are unable to provide long term residential rehabilitation and support for victims of addiction.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Peter Aebersold*  
Secretary

Lassiters  
HOTEL CASINO

3 April 2002

Green Gates Association Inc  
PO Box 4358  
**ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871**

**ATTENTION:** Alison Lillis

Dear Alison,

In response to your letter dated 10 March 2002 seeking Lassiters Hotel Casino's support for Green Gates Association's submission to the Illicit Drug Task Force public forum to be held in Alice Springs, I am pleased to offer this letter of encouragement and support.

As a prominent establishment within the Alice Springs community, Lassiters strongly supports this very worthwhile project which was brought to fruition by a handful of dedicated and caring people whose firsthand experience in dealing with the problems relating to addiction has prompted them to boldly step forward in an effort to prevent others from enduring similar frustrations, pain and heartache. Lassiters has, and will continue to do so in the future, provide assistance to Green Gates by way of sponsorship and donations, in an effort to promote and encourage this much needed initiative. 1

Lassiters Hotel Casino is proud to be associated with Green Gates and commend the efforts of all involved. We will continue our support and assistance when needed, and strongly encourage the wider community to do likewise.

Alison, I wish you every success with your submission, and if there is anything that I or Lassiters Hotel Casino can do for you in the future, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Coffey  
GENERAL MANAGER

*Mayor's Office*

Ref: GE73417

12 February 2002

Ms Alison Lillis  
Green Gates Association Inc  
PO Box 4358  
**ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871**

Dear Ms Lillis

**RE: SUPPORT FOR LIVE IN, MEDIUM TO LONG TERM TREATMENT SERVICE**

I write to support you in your endeavour to establish a live-in treatment service for those suffering from addiction to either Drugs or Alcohol.

As you say, it would be a sad day when addicts have to commit a crime to access a residential treatment service to receive help for their illness. I would fully support the facility being placed in the community following a consultation process to ensure support from the nearby local community.

I wish Green Gates well in its endeavour to establish this facility.

Yours sincerely

Fran Kilgariff  
**MAYOR**

Cnr Todd Street and Gregory Terrace PO Box 1071 Alice Springs NT 0871

Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
*'The Voice of Territory Business'*

14 March 2002

To Whom it May Concern

The Central Australian Executive Committee of the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry considered your letter at a recent meeting, and resolved as follows:

"That the Committee supports in principle the concept of establishing a live-in, medium to long term treatment service in Alice Springs for young adults with drug and alcohol problems, on the proviso that appropriate planning approval is obtained".

Yours sincerely,

Beth Mildred  
Regional Manager, Central Australia

*The Parish of  
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart*

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P.O. Box 9, Alice Springs, N.T. 0871. Tel. 08 89 521049 Fax. 08 89529823  
Conducted by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

Public Officer,  
Green Gates Inc.,  
PO Box 4358,  
ALICE SPRINGS N.T. 0871

Dear Allison,

I write to offer you the support of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in your attempts to present a Submission to the Illicit Drug Task Force, when it holds its public forum in Alice Springs.

It would be wonderful to get Ms Aagaard, Minister for Health and Community Services to add an extra point to the Government's plan. Your Program / Project Summary sounds extremely good and is not too grandiose to be unrealistic in Alice Springs.

I could not agree more that a live-in facility is needed for addicts who are willing to seek support of their own free will, or on the advice of their doctor, counsellor or family.

You seem to have an excellent group of volunteers and good results for the first six months. I hope the Task Force will listen to your Submission and see the necessity of such a residence in Alice Springs.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr B. Healy MSC OAM  
Parish Priest  
27th February 2002

**This attachment is typed as hand written.**

To Ms Lillis

I do agree that a sensible approach to the current drug & Alcohol problem is a compassionate approach to the underlying problems within most addictions. It is unfortunate though that a perfect model for the issue which is a constant or habitual use of drugs & alcohol is impossible.

A more accurate way of dealing with the problems of an addiction is to allow the structures of a therapeutic model, which is most commonly referred to as rehabilitation, to take place in the addicts own time. That is not to state that a person who is a constant immediate threat to themselves or another person should be ignored or be left to suffer "until time permits".

The issue that therefore would need to be addressed would be that the entire infrastructure of a "Rehabilitation Model" requires individual models, eg "a cell" in order to achieve success among the different cultures that exist within most communities today. Thus, I do add, that model would definitely have to include the approval & opinion of the anti-discrimination board which rules out most of the "idiocy" that does exist within most drug cultures. This may all sound too comprehensive but it is quite a simplistic way of dealing with the most simple problems associated with addiction. The quote "Running to stand still", which has been used in an Irish/Gaelic song I remember listening to over ten years ago, has also been used as a factor that most addicts I witness "using" have no problem identifying with. I had already begun using drugs & alcohol and I was coping with a lot of stress that was associated with my childhood.

I am now 28 yrs old & I came to Alice Springs for Rehabilitation & found nothing available except a very naive self help group/program offered, to me, at the Rehabilitation centre I was referred to , being CAAAPU – Central Australian Aboriginal Alcohol Programmes Unit.

I was actually assaulted by an older man who was caucasian ("white Australian"). I, myself, was identifying as Aboriginal & had begun, for the first time, trying to addressing the issues surrounding my childhood which I mentioned earlier.

I have only now just begun again to try to get help for this habit that I have which is scientifically quoted as being, in it's form, "self medicating".

The assault, which was a left punch to my right cheek bone caused a lot of greif for me because I was at, I believe, a "Turning Point in my life.

Ironically " this leads me to conclude the topic approached by stating that a realistic opinion on the "Addicts current symptomatic problems would enable the problems to be assumed & therefore recognised by the addict at the stage in their development whilst undergoing whilst undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. This would then enable the client to form a opinion themselves and relate to others and then form conclusions. Thus providing the "Therapeutic Model" an opportunity to advance in regard to the persons immediate health.

If this were to continue the client would no longer bear the burdens which where problems & led to addictions & would be "free", so to speak, of the guilt associated with the habits formed from addiction.

This has been my opinion as an addict who is currently actively seeking rehabilitation due to the formed opinion of “developmental delay” syndrome that reaccure for most victims of abuse and after continued drug abuse some people say it is “getting older’ or “maturing” and that it is “normal” because you need to “let go” or stop being a kid, child, baby etc.

We know and recognise that it’s not. And that wee have actually lost something of ourselves, such as our childhood.

I would support & encourage any venture that looked after the addict, instead of the “peers” that where associated with the habitual addiction (also called “self harm” for example “Public Suicide”).

Yours faithfully

Kirstenne Maree Pearce

PROBUS CLUB OF STUART ALICE SPRINGS INC

PO BOX 3294 ALICE SPRI@NGS NT 0871

13th February, 2002

Mrs Alison Lillis,  
Green Gates Association Inc.  
Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS N.T. 0870

Dear Alison,

Enclosed is a letter addressed to Ms Aagaard, Minister for Health and Community Services, supporting your submission to be presented to the Illicit Drug Task Force forum in Alice Springs.

We fully support your project and hope this letter will be of some help.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Michel  
SECRETARY

**PROBUS CLUB OF STUART ALICE SPRINGS INC**  
PO BOX 3294 ALICE **SPRINGS** NT 0871

**13th February, 2002**

The Hon. Ms Aagaard,  
Minister for Health and Community Services,  
Parliament House,  
DARWIN. N.T.

Dear Madam,

Re Illicit Drug Task Force Forum

At a general meeting on 13th February, 2002, the Probus Club of Stuart Alice Springs unanimously voted to support Green Gates Association Inc .in their submission seeking the provision of a residential facility for Drug and Alcohol addicts in Alice Springs. This same facility to be for all addicts even though they may not have been convicted of an offence.

We whole heartedly support their project.

Yours faithfully,

**Barbara Michel**  
SECRETARY

Quota International  
of Alice Springs Inc  
PO Box 346, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

"WE SHARE"

Thursday, March 07, 2002

Green Gates Association Inc.  
PO BOX 4358  
Alice Springs  
NT 0871

Ph: (08) 8952 7533

Attention.. Alison Lillis

In reply to your Letter dated 28th January 2002

Dear Alison,

Please find enclosed our letter of support to include in your submission to the Illicit Drug Task Force forum. We wish you every success in your endeavours.

Sincerely-

Cheryl North  
Vice President

**VIETNAM VETERANS' ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA**  
**ALICE SPRINGS SUB-BRANCH INC.**

President: Peter Aebersold

Secretary: DJ Schorfield

Tel: (08) 8952 5424

Fax: (08) 8953 4354

**Postal address:**

31 Mulara Street

Alice Springs

NT 0870

e-mail

[pj\\_cj\\_aebersold@bigpond.com](mailto:pj_cj_aebersold@bigpond.com)

*Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living*

20 March 202

Dr Valerie ASCHE

Chairperson

Drug Task Force

The Vietnam Veterans of Australia - Alice Springs Sub-Branch Inc. wishes to support the submission of Green Gates Inc. to the Drug Task Force.

We are concerned that Veterans who want help, and wish to remain in Alice Springs to take advantage of the extra support of their families and friends, will lack long term progress with their efforts to detoxify themselves, while there is no medium to long term residential rehabilitation programmes available. The Vietnam Veterans Health Study revealed approx 30% of Vietnam Veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other depressive illnesses, with a high percentage of these veterans suffering from alcohol or substance abuse or dependence.

Many of these veterans are virtually 'hiding' in Central Australia because of the remoteness and small population centres, and without suitable long term residential facilities for detoxification/treatment/rehabilitation, these Veterans will not seek treatment because they will not travel interstate to Adelaide or other major centres.

We believe Green Gates Inc. to be a very necessary adjunct to the other drug services available in Alice Springs, which will complement other services that are unable to provide long term residential rehabilitation and support for victims of addiction.

*Yours sincerely,*

*PeterAebersold*

**President**

Quota International  
of Alice Springs

"WE SHARE"

PO Box 346, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Thursday March 07, 2002

To The Illicit Drug Task Force,

We, the members of the Quota Club of Alice Springs wish to fully support the Green Gates Association Inc. in their endeavours.

We wholeheartedly agree that there is a great need for a live-in, long-term, treatment service for young adults with Drug and Alcohol problems.

We believe as do Green Gates that this treatment should be available to all persons suffering from addiction, to either Drugs or alcohol, and not restricted to persons arrested for Drug and Alcohol related offences.

We wish Green Gates every success in their submission to the Illicit Drug Task Force.

Signed

Chery North  
Vice President-

## Members of Illicit Drug Taskforce

An interagency meeting was held on 15 February 2002 and attended by members from the following agencies:

- Central Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Services (DHCS)
- Holyoake
- Salvation Army
- Centrelink
- Alice Springs Women's Shelter
- Bush Mob
- Green Gates
- Drugs and Alcohol Services Association (DASA)
- Employee Assistance Scheme (EAS)

Unable to attend: Life Choices, ASYASS, Gap Youth Centre, Police Diversionary Unit and Family and Children's Services (FACS).

As a group the following AOD specific service delivery/resource gaps were identified in Central Australia:

### 1. **Detoxification Services:**

Access to rapid detoxification facilities for 52 weeks per year  
Detoxification or rehabilitation facilities that cater for clients with families  
Inpatient detoxification/withdrawal access and facilities  
Resources to cope with the expected rise in home detoxification

### 2. **Residential Rehabilitation:**

- Medium to long term rehabilitation facilities, catering for all age groups
- AOD clinical/rehabilitation services for youth

### 3. **New Pharmacotherapies:**

- Open access to Methadone Treatment Program.
- Lower than anticipated acceptance of @OD clients by GP's which in turn correlates with a poor uptake of Pharmacotherapy options.
- Counselling resources to cope with expected rise and service usage due to implementation of new Pharmacotherapy legislation

**4. Remand/Diversions/Corrections:**

- Facilities for AOD clients under remand.

**5. AOD Support Co-ordination:**

- Aftercare support services/co-ordination for AOD clients (employment/social/transitional).
- Crisis accommodation access for AOD clients.
- Respite support for families of AOD clients
- Support groups for families experiencing AOD issues.

**6. Remote AOD Treatment Services:**

- Recognition of poly drug use levels within the indigenous community.

As a group of concerned community organisations, we would like to take this opportunity to recommend the implementation/evaluation of any submissions that address the above issues within the Central Australian Region.

**Community Service Director  
Rotary Club of Alice Springs  
PO Box 87  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871**

**Ph wk: (08) 8951 5792**

Your Ref:

**Attention:** Allson Lillis

Green Gates Association Inc  
PO Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Allison

**RE.. REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT**

I refer to your correspondence dated 28 January 2002.

At a meeting on 8 February 2002 I put your request to the full Board of the Club. The general feeling of the Board was that we would have to see any submission before agreeing to support it.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours in Service,

Rob Burgoyne  
Community Service Director  
Rotary Club of Alice Springs

11102102

CC. Secretary, Rotary Club of Alice Springs

13 February 2002

Mrs. Allison Lillis,  
Green Gates Inc,  
PO Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Mrs. Lillis,

This letter follows the several discussions you've had with my colleague Mr. Leo Maher over the past year. We very much admire the work you are doing and I'm pleased to have an opportunity to offer support to Green Gates in the context of the discussions you'll be having next month with the Government Task Force.

Lighthouse is a charity that operates four family styled homes for homeless young people. The coming twelve months will see the opening of at least three new houses and possibly four. The need for our outreach to young people is huge and increasing. I've attached an overview to outline our *modus operandi*.

Many of the young people who come to Lighthouse have current or past issues with soft and hard drugs. We are not a rehabilitation operation in the true sense but work closely with such organizations in support of our kids. It's unequivocally clear that the fact of living in a safe and caring environment is a critical factor in supporting them to overcome drug problems.

I can perhaps do no better than quote our Patron Brian Burdekin, formerly The Commissioner of Human Rights and now working as Special Advisor to the United Nations. At a Lighthouse Conference last November, Brian described the Lighthouse model of care as the best he'd observed in the world for young people at risk.

We would be most happy to provide any additional information the Task Force may require, and to link its members to other organizations and people with relevant experience in Melbourne.

In conclusion, I wish you and Green Gates every success in continuing your invaluable work.

Yours sincerely,  
LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

Susan Barton  
Founder and CEO

## THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION

### A BRIEF OVERVIEW

#### WHAT DOES THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION DO?

The Foundation's mission is the provision of long-term family styled home accommodation to disenfranchised young people, typically between 15 and 22 years. We have about 25 young people in our four houses - Hawksburn, Cabrini in Richmond, Keysborough and St John of God in Geelong - and outreach to around 50 with meals, counseling etc. It's expected four new houses will be opened in the next twelve months - Cheltenham, Ballarat, Bendigo and Perth.

#### HOW DID IT COMMENCE?

About 25 years ago our Founder Susan Barton came back from working in a Sri Lankan orphanage with a profound commitment to providing family to homeless young people. She has built the Foundation from a caravan in her back yard to today's organisation. Susan has six children and two grandchildren. She was recognized last year with a Victoria Day Award for her Community Service.

#### HOW DO LIGHTHOUSE HOMES OPERATE?

Family model - typically six young people and two carers; the carers are effectively surrogate parents, living in the houses and focused on the nurturing of each of their charges. The young people come voluntarily and stay as long as needed - some have stayed four years. They're expected to be active - school, work, self-advancement.

#### WHERE DO THE YOUNG PEOPLE COME FROM?

Referrals from parents, friends, the courts, community workers etc. The essential element is their decision to attempt to create a viable life. Common background is separation from family of origin whether through abuse, drug usage, conflict, mental health issues or bereavement. We have long waiting lists, with up to 20 approaches each week.

#### HOW SUCCESSFUL IS THE WORK?

Highly successful in all respects - around 120 young people have lived or do live in our homes; not all have achieved viability or beaten addictions but many have. Some have progressed exceptionally well into jobs, relationships and adult living. Financially, the Lighthouse model is highly cost effective - we run at about \$14k per young person per year - Government would spend upwards of \$80k to \$100k per young person.

#### HOW IS LIGHTHOUSE'S WORK FUNDED?

Largely through the generosity of individuals and organizations - service clubs, charitable trusts, businesses etc. Part of our ethos is community involvement in support. We have a significant and growing contribution from our business activities. The State Government has provided a \$300k interest free loan as **first** mortgage of our property in Hawksburn. Three of the four houses are supported by partners/benefactors and provided rent free. That support is active - it extends to such things as staff participation, employment opportunities, first aid training etc. - again drawing on communal support. Volunteers are a key element in our work.

#### PLANS FOR GROWTH

Susan's vision is to build to 50 houses in Australia. In 2000, the board adopted a plan that was based on increasing the number of houses by up to four each year and provided for development of the related infrastructure in supporting that growth.

In 2001, a new resource and administration center was built, and organizational elements needed to support growth, principally staffing, were progressed. The coming twelve months will see certainly three and probably four new houses opened. Of these, one will be in Perth, the result of an existing partnership (St John of God); and three the results of Lighthouse actively encouraging community groups to establish steering committees to plan for the new houses. These are located in:

- Bendigo - to open in March in a house provided rent-free by Loddon Mallee Housing
- Ballarat - to open mid year in a house which Lighthouse will own, this following a major grant from The William Angliss Fund
- Cheltenham ~ this subject to availability of suitable land to build a house.

In addition, our Keysborough House will be relocated to a custom built property in Springvale.

Alison Lillis  
5 Olive Pink Grove  
Atice Springs NT 0870

**Phone(08)89527533**  
**Mobile 0417734587**  
[AlisonC-octa4.com](mailto:AlisonC-octa4.com)

### **PERSONAL PROFILE**

1 have been a resident of Alice Springs for 35 years, I am married with two children and one grandchild.

1 have worked as a Secretary and Bookkeeper, mainly in family business of Civil Contracting, Land Development and Internet Betting. 1 *am* a Director of Companies in the Northern Territory and South Australia. 1 am involved in the running of a private business with my husband.

1 became involved in the drug problem three years ago when 1 discovered my Son was a Heroin addict and have spent the past three years assisting him in seeking treatment in Alice Springs, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

1 am the Public Officer of a support group Green Gates Association Inc formed in 1999 by co-dependents of addicts. The group operated a residential rehabilitation house on a trial basis for a period of approximately 4 months. During that period 1 worked in the house with addicted residents, 1 assisted in organising volunteers, donations of equipment, furniture, food and day to day running of the house until it was closed.

1 have communicated with organisations running residential facilities in Adelaide, Melbourne and visited one in Perth WA.

1 support Green Gates in its endeavours to establish a residential facility for the benefit of members of our community.

**Alison Lillis**

## **PROFILE - PRECY TAYLOR**

My name is Precy Taylor, a member of Green Gates from its inception. Currently I am the treasurer of Green Gates responsible for applying the association's Australian Business Number and to be a Public Benevolent Institution which makes any donation to Green Gates as tax deductible.

I am married with three children ages -23, 21 and 13 years old. Before coming to Alice Springs I was in Rabaul Papua New Guinea working as accountant from 1978 to 1982.

I am a tax accountant (Client Manager) with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, Chartered Accountants and have been with the firm since 1982.

The various committees I am involved in are as follows:

Migrant Resource Centre - from 1990 to 2000 - Treasurer

Currently a committee member, helping refugees and other Migrants to settle in Alice Springs

YMCA - currently I am in the Board of Management as Treasurer

Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish Council ~ been involved with the parish council from 1999 to 2000 and currently active in preparing liturgy for the Sunday 11:00 AM Mass.

I have been involved with Green Gates as a volunteer responsible for the client's physical . and fitness and demonstrating how to prepare healthy meal. I use to walk, climb hills and jog with the clients' of Green Gates and listen to their stories on how they got involved with drugs. I have never involved with drugs but join the association to support a friend who's son is a drug user.

I support the association's objective in helping drug addicts because the community needs volunteers to make it work and hoping that government supports Green Gates.

**NAME:** Anna Perrie Costello

**ADDRESS:** Unit 2, 3 Gilmour Place  
Alice Springs NT 0870

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** apcostello@bigpond.com

**PHONE NO:** 08 89532361 (HOME)  
**0419 533099 (MOBILE)**

**DATE OF BIRTH:** 29th October 1953

**MARITAL STATUS:** Widow

**NATIONALITY:** Australian/ British

**INTERESTS/COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITIES:**

Chairman - Central Australian Paralympic Committee  
Committee Member - Olympic Fundraising Committee  
Committee Member - Alice Springs Olympic Torch Relay

Committee  
Executive **Officer** - Australia Day Council  
Chairman - Alice Springs Commonwealth Games

Committee  
State Co-ordinator - C.A.N.T.E.E.N. (The Australian  
Teenage Cancer Patients Society Ltd)  
Vice President Green Gates Inc

**COMMUNITY AWARDS:**

(for service to community  
and business)

1994 Lions International Meivin Jones Fellowship  
Winner

1995 Regional Territorian of the Year

1999 Chief Minister's Women's Achievement Award

Green Gates Association Inc

*PO Box 4358*

*Alice Springs NT 0871*

(08) 89527533

(08)89527656

alison@Octa4.com

.....

February 11, 2002

Ms Kathy Guymer,  
Dept of Infrastructure, Planning & Environment  
PO Box 1512  
Alice Springs NT 0871

Dear Kathy,

Green Gates would like to make application for a Community Grant of Crown Land.

Green Gates is an incorporated association in Alice Springs and I enclose our brochure for your information.

The Minister for Health Mrs Jane Aagaard has established a task force on illicit drugs to consult broadly with the community, front line workers and experts, and to provide her with evidence-based advice on strategies, issues and proposed directions. The taskforce has been asked to canvass withdrawal treatment, rehabilitation, education and prevention strategies relevant to the Northern Territory context.

Green Gates intends making a submission to the task force for a long term residential rehabilitation facility in the Alice Springs area.

Green Gates will be meeting with other agencies and seeking their support to the submission

### **WHAT GREEN GATES IS OFFERING**

Green Gates is an incorporated association:

Green Gates has a Bank Account operating:

Green Gates as a contract with Centrelink that enables deductions to be made from pensions allowing residents to contribute to their accommodation and day-to-day expenses:

Green Gates has satisfied the Australian Taxation Office that it is a nonprofit organization and has been granted the status of a public benevolent institution.

Green Gates committee and members is made up of health professionals, parents, partners, and family of substance abuse victims who have personally been involved and want to help with the ever growing drug addiction problem in our community.

### **GOALS**

To provide accommodation in a family environment where young people can free themselves of drug abuse from their lives, removing the enormous emotional burden from families and reducing drug related crime.

To enable affected people to realize their aspirations and potential, with the outcome being their eventual re-integration into mainstream society.

To facilitate the establishment of family accommodation for people at risk in communities as needed.

To promote collaboration in the youth and community sector and with current available treatment agencies in this domain.

To involve the families in the program, providing opportunities for education in functional family relationships

To provide respite for family members who are dealing with a drug dependent person in the family home.

To establish a secure financial base to pursue our objectives

3.

To participate in the development of a community and government strategy for the early rehabilitation of your people abusing drugs:

To raise enough money from the Community, including government, companies and individuals to enable us to carry out our goals.

### **WHAT GREEN GATE REQUIRES**

A Government Grant of Crown Land of approximately 10 acres, preferably with existing structures, within 10 to 20 kilometers of Alice Springs.

We are currently entering into discussions with other similar Organisations and Government Agencies for the purpose of combining needs and thus making the project accessible to all organizations who have drug addiction clients.

It would be appreciated if you could advise if there is available any land which would meet our needs. If you require any further information I will make myself available at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

**Ahson Lffis**

*Northern Territory Government*  
*Department of infrastructure, Planning and Environment*

*Gregory Terrace*  
*Alice Springs NT 0870*  
*Telephone: (08) 8951 5729*

*GPO Box 1512*  
*ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871*  
*Facsimile: (08) 8951 5372*

ABN:

84 085 734 992

*Your Ref.*

*Our Ref.* AS200110009

Ms Alison Lillis  
Green Gates Association Incorporated  
PO Box 4358  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871

Dear Ms Lillis

I thank you for your letter dated 3 February 2002 requesting application for a Community Land Grant of Crown land.

I note in your correspondence that you are seeking approximately 10 acres of Crown land within 10 to 20 kilometres of the Alice Springs Central Business District. Unfortunately we are unable to offer any Crown land within the area requested.

As discussed, land maybe made available on Owen Springs Station in the future. An assessment of the land and water capabilities of the property is currently being undertaken to determine appropriate land uses. When the assessment has been completed, it is anticipated that any land will be released by way of public competitive process.

Please find attached an application for a Community Land Grant of Crown land, together with an Information Brochure outlining what details need to be supplied when making an application for Crown land.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone (08) 8951 5729 or via email: [cathy.guymer@nt.gov.au](mailto:cathy.guymer@nt.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Cathy Guymer  
Manager Land Sales & Management

13 February 2002

*Northern Territory Government*