



**livesofsubstance.org**

***Please join us to launch this ground breaking new website  
5pm Friday October 7***

What is 'addiction'? How do people experience it? What challenges do they face and how do they cope and thrive? These are some of the questions behind Australia's first dedicated website presenting carefully researched personal experiences of alcohol or other drug addiction, dependence or habit. *Lives of Substance* aims to support people who take drugs, inform the public about their many different life experiences, and act as an information and training resource for professionals. In doing so it offers new perspectives on people often stigmatised and discriminated against.

**Launched by Kate Holden (author of *In My Skin*) and Jenny Kelsall (Executive Officer, Harm Reduction Victoria), with Professor Suzanne Fraser and Dr Kiran Pienaar.**

#### **KATE HOLDEN**

Australian writer Kate Holden is the author of two books: *In My Skin* (2005), an acclaimed drug use memoir which describes a life affected by heroin addiction, and a follow-up book titled *The Romantic: Italian Nights and Days* (2010). Kate wrote a long-running fortnightly column for *The Age* newspaper in Melbourne, and does a variety of freelance writing including short stories, essays and reviews. Her short stories have appeared in several anthologies such as *Readings and Writings* (Readings), *Thanks for the Mammaries* (Penguin) and *The Big Issue*, and her reviews and essays have been published in a range of newspapers and magazines including *Australian Book Review*, *Australian Author* and *New Woman*. Kate is regularly invited to speak at writers' festivals, libraries and events, and really enjoys the opportunity to discuss her writing and meet readers.

#### **JENNY KELSALL**

Jenny Kelsall is the Executive Officer at Harm Reduction Victoria (HRV), Victoria's peer-based drug user organisation. A passionate advocate for harm reduction approaches to drug use and to drug law reform, Jenny has worked on a wide range of peer-based research and education initiatives across Australia and Asia in the areas of HIV, viral hepatitis and injecting drug use. She has contributed to many innovative programs aimed at preventing the transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis, and promoting safer drug use. Before joining HRV, Jenny was based at the Burnet Institute in the Epidemiology and Social Research Unit, and the Centre for Harm Reduction, where her work focussed on blood-borne viruses and injecting drug use.

#### **PROFESSOR SUZANNE FRASER**

Program Head  
Social Studies of Addiction Concepts (SSAC), National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University

#### **DR KIRAN PIENAAR**

Research Associate  
Social Studies of Addiction Concepts (SSAC), National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University

