

Newsletter

April 2008

In this Issue:

- Have Fun with *SO: Spaced Out*
- 2008 IP Conference Details
- When Should I be Filing My Patent Application

Have Fun with SO: Spaced Out An Educational New Board Game

Congratulations to the staff from the Population Health Team of SWAHS Drug and Alcohol Network on the imminent launch of their innovative and unique new Board Game called *SO: Spaced Out*. Aimed primarily at the Youth at Risk market, *SO: Spaced Out* uses an interactive, fun approach to raise awareness of the link between substance abuse and the potential for developing and experiencing mental health problems. It aims to impart knowledge and generate discussion about dual diagnosis issues.

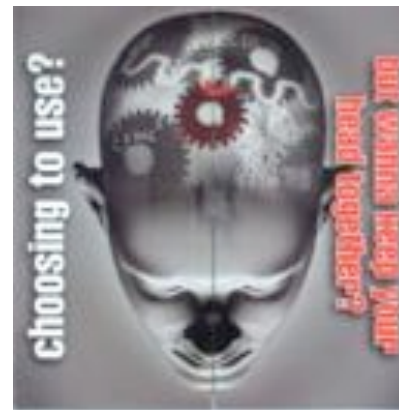
Based on adolescent character storylines, players gather clues about characters' family, social and mental health factors. By piecing together the clues, the winner is the first person to suggest what's happened to the character in any one of four individual stories. A facilitator-led discussion about dual diagnosis



SO: Spaced Out game board with its multi-layered images and eye catching star shaped playing area.

issues follows the completion of the game. *SO: Spaced Out* engages with its audience in a lively and entertaining way to highlight the risks between substance use and mental health. Discussion Sheets are included in the game, as well as a Facilitator's Handbook covering key mental health and substance use issues.

The *SO: Spaced Out* board game is part of the 'keep your head together'



keep your head together print resource - front panel



keep your head together print resource. Internal panel rotates to reveal drug use affects on mental health.

your head together' project which is a multifaceted prevention project targeting families and young people. The highly successful project has generated print resources, and the educational board game, in addition to professional development for the youth welfare and health sector, and media campaigns. Evaluation to date indicates that for those who engage with the print resources approximately 35% seek additional advice or request a referral to a health service.

SO: Spaced Out has undergone an

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE AN INVENTION? OR DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION - CONTACT THE OFFICE OF COMMERCIALISATION

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extensive developmental process including content appraisal with SWAHS D&A and youth mental health services, non-government mental health and D&A providers, youth accommodation service personnel, Department of Education and Training (DET) and generic youth services.

Working with the SWAHS Office of Commercialisation, an Intellectual Property and Commercial Review was undertaken which included general market research and an assessment of Prior Art. Prior to formally engaging external supporters and contractors, Confidentiality Disclosure Agreements were negotiated with the Australian Drug Foundation to explore support and sponsorship of the game's commercialisation as well as the MLC Powerhouse Design group for assistance in design. Copyright is owned by SWAHS.

Sponsorship was negotiated with Panthers on the Prowl, which funded a special print edition of the leaflet and lesson plan for use in Western Sydney DET secondary schools, as part of the Year 9 PDHPE syllabus.

The game is currently in production. **SO: Spaced Out** is also going to be included in a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) with the National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre. They have a project, CLIMATE Schools, which aims to prevent substance use by young people. The game provides an additional activity for teachers to use within NDARC's Cannabis and Psychostimulant CLIMATE Schools module.

2008 IP CONFERENCE - 11th SEPT 2008



The 2nd Annual IP Management and Commercialisation for Hospitals Conference, will be held in the Loewenthal Auditorium at Westmead Hospital, Darcy Road, Westmead, Sydney, NSW on Thursday 11th September 2008.

Following the success of the Inaugural IP Management and Commercialisation for Hospitals Conference

in May 2007, the 2008 IP Conference will include presentations on the importance of Intellectual Property, insights into the process of establishing an Office of Commercialisation and other vital elements of commercialisation. The Conference is the collaboration of three peak groups - BioMed North Limited, the Sydney West Area Health Service Office of Commercialisation and the Northern Sydney Central Coast Health Office of Commercialisation.

Those who should attend include hospital-based executives, medical researchers from both health and

university sectors, clinicians, support staff and policy makers. And from Industry: IP investors and advisers, lawyers, patent attorneys, and health commercialisation professionals.

Major sponsors include Spruson&Ferguson, The Australian Institute For Commercialisation, the Medical Industry Association of Australia and the National Health Sciences Centre.

Further details will be available shortly.

When should I be filing my patent application?

In a recent newsletter we highlighted the importance of early consultation to reduce the likelihood of IP leakage without first having secured potential patent protection. That begs the next question, "When should I be filing my patent application?" The immediate answer is of course that the patent application should be filed before any publication or use of the invention takes place. Generally, once a decision to pursue patent protection (or at least to keep that option open) has been made, a patent application should be filed as soon as the invention can be sufficiently described and the inventors can soundly predict its scope.

The initial patent application can be a provisional application or it can be a complete application. A provisional remains pending for only 12 months, within which time a complete application must be filed. The provisional provides a cost-effective way to establish a priority date for your invention, which is the date against which novelty and inventive step of the invention will be assessed. The 12 month "life" of the provisional can often be useful to decide whether to continue with the patenting process, to do further research and development on the invention, and for the Office of Commercialisation to explore commercialisation opportunities of the invention by seeking potential commercialisation partners. The SWAHS Office of Commercialisation, with the assistance of their IP attorneys Spruson&Ferguson Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys, is able to guide you in exploring all of these patenting and commercialisation issues.



[Contributions to the Office of Commercialisation SWAHS Newsletter - We are happy to publish your contributions, articles, press releases or calls for collaboration. Email the Publisher Ms Lindy Ferris \[lferris@officeofcommercialisation.com\]\(mailto:lferris@officeofcommercialisation.com\) or call 0401 056 555.](#)