

Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2011-2015

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES 2013/14

In support of the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2011-2015, and to address a range of existing and emerging alcohol and other drug issues, the Department of Corrective Services has identified a number of key initiatives for 2013-14. Outcomes are summarised below in the respective key strategic areas of the Framework.

Key Strategic Area 1: Focusing on prevention

Educating and encouraging individuals, families and communities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills to choose healthy lifestyles and promote healthy environments.

Highlights for 2013-14:

- DCS continued to provide all adult offenders in custody experiencing drug and/or alcohol problems with free access to the confidential Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) helpline.
- DCS continued to provide education sessions on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) at Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women, providing female offenders with increased awareness on alcohol consumption during pregnancy. In 2013-14, two sessions were provided by a community agency.
- DCS continued to provide education on preventing and reducing the transmission of Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) to young people in detention. In 2013-14, 199 young people completed this program, which is delivered by a specialist community agency.

Key Strategic Area 2: Intervening before problems become entrenched

Implementing a range of programs and services that identify individuals, families and communities at-risk and intervening before problems become entrenched.

Highlights for 2013-14

- DCS continued to provide young people subject to Court and Release Orders, with specialist drug and alcohol support and counselling. During 2013-14, 217 young people engaged in the Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Program (DRCP) delivered under contractual agreement by Holyoake Institute.
- DCS continued to provide young people in detention with specialist drug and alcohol services, focusing on interventions before drug and alcohol problems become entrenched. The Drug and Alcohol Youth Services (DAYS) provide this service.

- DCS continued to provide access to the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) helpline at Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women. This service offers advice, support and prevention information to women in custody about their own use, or a family member's use.
- DCS continued to support young people referred to treatment as part of the Perth Children's Court Drug Court. In 2013-14, 314 young people were either referred for assessment and/or as part of a program to address drug and alcohol problems. DCS case manages these young people as part of a Therapeutic Jurisprudence model.
- DCS continued to provide education sessions on preventing the transmission of BBV infections to adult offenders. The Health in Prison, Health Outta Prison (HIPHOP) program was delivered by external community agencies to 3843 adults, of which 1365 were Aboriginal.
- DCS continued to provide remand and short sentence prisoners at Hakea and Bandyup prisons Brief Intervention Services to address drug and/or alcohol problems. These services were provided by a women specific drug agency at Bandyup and a specialist drug agency at Hakea, both under contractual arrangements.

Key Strategic Area 3: Effective law enforcement approaches

Reducing and controlling the availability of alcohol and other drugs and implementing strategies that aim to prevent or break the cycle of offending.

Highlights for 2013-14:

- DCS continued to drug test offenders in custody in an effort to reduce drug use and harms. In 2013-14 the total of drug tests conducted on prisoners was 14,210 of which 1,468 tested positive to prohibited substances.
- DCS continued to provide drug detection and deterrence operations using the highly mobile Drug Detection Unit (DDU) across metropolitan custodial environments and drug detection dog/handler teams at 3 regional facilities. In 2013-14, the DDU recorded 3686 dog indications to contraband (including illicit drugs, non prescribed pharmaceuticals and drug using equipment) on prisoners, visitors and in within prison environments.
- DCS continued to provide extensive routine and intelligence-based searches throughout the State, including searches of vehicles, buildings, visitors, Departmental staff and offenders.
- DCS continued to impose sanctions on visitors who attempt to, or were suspected of trafficking drugs into correctional facilities (e.g. bans from all visits and non-contact visits).

Key Strategic Area 4: Effective treatment and support services

Providing integrated, evidence based treatment and support services that promote positive and healthy lifestyle changes by effectively responding to an individual's use and those affected by someone else's use.

Highlights for 2013-14:

- DCS continued to provide a range of addiction offending programs to offenders (community & custody) assessed as high-risk of reoffending. In 2013-14, 676 prisoners and 45 community offenders participated in an Addiction Offending program to address alcohol and other drug problems.
- DCS continued to provide the Opiate Pharmacotherapy Program to dependent adult prisoners only. In 2013-14, DCS Health Services Pharmacy supplied pharmacotherapy medication to 491 adult prisoners (483 Methadone, 8 Suboxone).
- DCS continued to provide adult prisoners with psychosocial groups addressing alcohol and drug use. In 2013-14 approximately 2343 were assessed and/or attended group sessions facilitated by DCS Health Services Co Morbidity workers.
- DCS continued to provide the Drug and Alcohol Throughcare Service (DATS), delivered by two specialist drug agencies across metropolitan prisons. This service continued to provide support and counselling, pre and post release to offenders experiencing alcohol and other drug problems. During 2013-14, 606 offenders were engaged in the DATS.

Key Strategic Area 5: Strategic coordination and capacity building

Providing improved and targeted responses to alcohol and other drug related problems through capacity building, workforce development, collaboration, evidence based practice, monitoring and information dissemination.

Highlights for 2013-14:

- DCS continued to an active member of the DASSOG that is a whole of government representation to reducing drug use and harms in WA. As a key stakeholder, DCS reports and contributes to strategies, plans and other relevant reports as required.
- DCS continued to support the strategies incorporated in local, state and national strategies and plans to reduce offender drug use by collaborative partnerships. This DCS Drug and Alcohol Agency Action Plan 2010-2014 can only be achieved by enhancing existing partnerships and developing new stakeholder relationships with non-government and community agencies.

- DCS continued to provide drug and alcohol training to staff a facilitated by the DAO Workforce Development branch. In 2013-14, twelve events provided by DAO saw 220 DCS staff trained, resulting in a broader understanding of drug classifications, short and long term effects of use, drug harms and managing offender drug using behaviour. The Memorandum of Understanding between DCS and DAO was also reviewed.
- DCS continued the collaborative partnership with PathWest Laboratory Medicine for the analysis of offender drug tests. A new Service Level Agreement was endorsed by both agencies in July 2013