

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

**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES  
ANNUAL REPORT 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 Local Government and Communities (DLGC) identified a number of key initiatives for 2013/14. Outcomes are summarised below in the respective key strategic areas of the Framework.

This is placed within the context that, as part of Machinery of Government changes, the Departments of Local Government, including the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI), and Communities combined to form the DLGC from 1 July 2013.

**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:

- On 5 March 2014, the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) in partnership with OMI hosted a half-day forum titled 'Helping young people, their families, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities respond to alcohol and other drug use issues'. OMI and DAO worked collaboratively with Women's Health and Family Services and the Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre to deliver the workshop.

The workshop targeted staff working with people from CaLD backgrounds with 33 people from 14 agencies attending. Presentations and discussions focused on drug and alcohol issues in CaLD communities and identifying strategies to address them. The majority (86 per cent) of participants rated the event as useful from ratings of 'a lot' to 'extremely' useful, and 71 per cent considered that their knowledge had increased 'a lot' to 'extremely'. Table discussions and networking opportunities were considered particularly useful.

- Following discussions between DAO and OMI, it was agreed that a follow-up forum would be held later in the year. The forum was held in collaboration with the City of Stirling's Family Services and North Metropolitan Health Service on 10 September 2014 and, in response to feedback from the March workshop, was held for a full day and included CaLD community leaders and service providers working in the area of alcohol and other drugs, including those working with CaLD communities.
- Continued as a member of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC). The KABC aims to reduce litter and littering behaviour across the State through policy, education and enforcement initiatives. There is a strong focus on prevention and programs such as Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities,

Clean Beaches and Clean Marine, Adopt a Spot and Clean Schools which involve many communities in activities to create sustainable social, economic and environmentally friendly towns. DLGC again provided sponsorship for a Tidy Towns special commendation award, won in previous years by Indigenous communities in the North West.

- Copies of 'Young People and Alcohol: helpful information for parents and carers', 'Fit Mind – Fit Body and Soul kit', 'Feeling Winyarn' and the 'Women's Information Service Pocket Directory' were available online. In addition:
  - over 500 hardcopies were distributed at community events such as the Generation Next conference and during National Youth Week to over 100 local community events
  - 180 hardcopies provided as part of the Youth Mentoring Reforming project
  - schools, community sector organisations and Local Governments were targeted with 3,885 hardcopies of 'Fit Mind - Fit Body and Soul' and 775 hardcopies of the 'Young People and Alcohol' resource
  - hardcopies of the 'Women's Information Service Pocket Directory' were also provided after phone calls to the Women's Information Service.
- The Hive, an online portal listing over 800 services and programs for young people, was promoted and hosted on DLGC's website and provided links to alcohol and drug services and advice.
- Funded 11 projects through \$73,250 in Youth Activities Grants to enable young people to participate in activities that improve their health and wellbeing. Applicants were required to demonstrate that their application addressed one or more of the following priorities: improving wellbeing; increasing drug and alcohol awareness; and changing community perceptions of young people.
- Provided the 'Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder – Information for people working with children and families' on DLGC's website as a parenting resource.
- The 'Feeling Winyarn' resource for young Aboriginal people was updated with versions tailored for the metropolitan, South West and Great Southern regions. Following a limited print run all three versions were made available on DLGC's website.
- Funding of \$170,000 was provided to 14 Local Governments under the Youth Friendly Community Grants Program to support Local Governments research the views of young people and engage them in creative ways to inform the planning and development of local communities. The focus of the consultations will include community support and health services; leisure, recreation and social life; public spaces and natural environments; and communication and information.
- National Youth Week 2014 involved young people in positive activities in their communities. Over 88 events were held in Western Australia, including the KickstART Markets and Youth Hub, which were supported by funding from DLGC's National Youth Week Grants (26 metropolitan and 62 regional), with total funding of \$80,003. Approximately 20,000 young people participated in

National Youth Week. National Youth Week events promote positive mental health and well-being in young people.

- Provided a Social Innovation Grant to Hello Sunday Morning to support an online program for people seeking to change the manner in which they drink alcohol and influence the drinking culture around them. Progress to date indicates significant reductions in drinking levels for the over 2,000 registered participants in Hello Sunday Morning.

### **Key Strategic 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:

- OMI continued to liaise with the Kuku community of South Sudan which received funding in 2012 through OMI's Community Grants Program for a project to address issues of drugs and alcohol among young people in their community. This connection resulted in the group presenting at a forum on 10 September 2014 to raise awareness about how CaLD community leaders can address drug and alcohol issues in their communities, and how agencies can collaborate and support these groups.
- OMI provided funding to the African Australian Union to carry out a 'Justice Reinvestment Project' between August and December 2013. The project aimed to take a preventive approach to crime and justice issues targeting young people from African backgrounds. The project delivered a series of workshops and forums including issues relating to alcohol and other drug use.
- Continued to provide funding to Local Governments through the Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission. The WA Local Government Grants Commission recognised the Aboriginal populations of Local Governments and factored this into the calculation of their General Purpose Grants. It also provided funding to select Local Governments to assist them in maintaining the condition of access roads into Aboriginal communities which is critical to the provision of services.
- The Senior Practice Development Officer Aboriginal Early Years attended meetings of the Strong Families Monitoring Group. Aboriginal Early Years Best Start and Parenting WA Coordinators are involved in local Strong Families meetings as required. DLGC referred approximately 11 families into Strong Families as an interagency approach for families who are facing a number of challenges, which can include alcohol and other drug issues.
- The Women's Information Service operated as a referral service for a range of matters, including alcohol and other drug issues.
- The Parenting WA Courses Guide listed the details of 18 alcohol and other drug related courses. The Guide is available to the community on DLGC's website.

- Using its Community Services Database, Parenting WA was able to provide clients with information on some 81 programs and services related to drug/alcohol abuse and an additional 31 services and programs which cater for clients with drug and alcohol issues.
- The Parenting WA Line database indicates that there were 71 calls related to drug/alcohol concerns regarding a child, 38 associated with a parent and one related to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder.
- DLGC's website was used to promote alcohol and other drug related information of relevance to young people, parents and children, and DLGC's Facebook pages carried seven related posts.

### **Key Strategic 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:

- Not applicable

### **Key Strategic 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:

- Not applicable

### **Key Strategic 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:

- OMI is a member of a CaLD Think Tank which comprises representatives of agencies working in the co-occurring alcohol and other drugs and mental health areas under the Federal Department of Health's Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund. It aims to connect people and organisations and share information relevant to CaLD issues. Meetings were held on a quarterly basis at Cyrenian House in North Perth.
- OMI brokered a connection between DAO and the Federal Department of Human Services to facilitate networking and information between DAO and

organisations working with CaLD communities. This resulted in a presentation by DAO at the Multicultural Consultative Forum held on 17 June 2014. The presentation, titled 'An introduction to alcohol and other drug sector services', was delivered to an audience of 72 government and non-government agency representatives.

- Continued the implementation and further development of Integrated Planning and Reporting in the Local Government sector, including a strong focus on community needs (which may identify priorities such as healthy lifestyles) and the further development of asset management and workforce planning across the sector.
- Continued to identify potential municipal service delivery arrangements for Local Governments in Aboriginal communities as part of the State Government's policy objective to improve the quality of life for residents in remote areas of Western Australia.
- The 'Our Youth—Our Future Youth Strategic Framework', which reflects the priorities of the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Framework for Western Australia 2011–15, was promoted as a department document that supports a shared understanding around the needs of services for young people.
- The Women's Report Card 2012 was distributed at various events and forums to increase awareness of statistics relating to women and risky lifestyle behaviours, including alcohol and other drug use and the associated issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- DLGC's Great Southern and South West Youth Development Officers utilised their extensive regional networks to provide information and to engage relevant stakeholders to address alcohol and other drug related harm including:
  - Lower Great Southern Alcohol Management Planning Group, with priorities of changing the culture of excessive alcohol use (focus on sporting clubs as an initial setting to reach the target group) and reducing the secondary supply of alcohol to young people
  - Katanning Interagency Forum
  - Albany PCYC
  - Great Southern Youth Interagency Network to support State and Local Government and community sector organisations discuss issues affecting young people in the region and to foster collaboration among stakeholders
  - South West Youth Coordination Network to improve services, the voice, health and wellbeing of young people of the South West region through partnerships, advocacy, resource sharing, networking, planning and implementation strategies.
- Both Youth Development Officers used their networks to distribute key DLGC resources such as the 'Young People and Alcohol booklet', 'Fit Mind, Fit Body and Fit Soul' Kits, 'Leavers Fact Sheets' (for parents and young people) and 'Feeling Winyarn' (linking young Aboriginal people into relevant services and supports).