

# WA DRUG STRATEGY

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*Statistical Bulletin Number 11, April 2001*

## UTILISATION OF SOBERING UP CENTRES AND THEIR IMPACT ON DETENTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1990-2000

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### INTRODUCTION

On 27 April 1990 the Detention of Drunken Persons Act 1989 was enacted to decriminalise public drunkenness in WA. The impetus for the decriminalisation of public drunkenness and the establishment of sobering up centres (SUCs) resulted from a number of recommendations in the Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).

The management, development and funding of SUCs in Western Australia rests with the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office (WADASO). Initially responsibility for establishing SUCs was undertaken by the Alcohol and Drug Authority (now known as Next Step Specialist Alcohol & Drug Services) and then briefly transferred to the Health Department of WA until WADASO was established in July 1997. In addition to the contribution by the State Government to sobering up services in this State, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission has contributed some of the capital costs.

Sobering up centres emphasise providing a practical focus on assisting alcohol intoxicated adults found in public places by providing them with overnight care. As SUCs are only resourced to manage clients over a short period of time, they will be discharged the next morning, with the exception of the Perth SUC, which is co located with a detoxification unit.

The service involves the provision of a substantial meal, clean bedding and sleepwear and laundering of clothes. The short stay aims to break the negative cycle of alcohol induced harm by providing care to intoxicated persons most at risk to themselves, their families and their community.

Experience has shown the opening of a SUC usually also encourages the community over a period of time to develop additional services to address alcohol related problems. These have included outreach programs, community patrols, a safe house for women and children, alcohol and other drug education programs and community support for initiatives to restrict alcohol availability.

The first SUC was opened in Perth in May 1990 and is managed by the Salvation Army. This is based in the inner city area and primarily provides a service to the East Perth police lock up.

Sobering up centres have been opened progressively in identified high priority localities in regional areas of the State, as follows:

- Port Hedland in April 1991;
- Halls Creek in September 1992;
- Roebourne in February 1993;
- Fitzroy Crossing in March 1994;
- Kalgoorlie in June 1994;
- Wiluna in April 1996;
- Kununurra in September 1996;
- Derby in May 1998; and
- Broome in February 1999.

Further SUCs are planned to be developed in Midland (to service the Eastern metropolitan region) and in Wyndham and Geraldton. These SUCs will also accommodate young people who are intoxicated due to using drugs other than alcohol. The *Protective Custody Act 2000* will also have an impact on the establishment of facilities to provide care for intoxicated young people who have been apprehended by the police.

This publication provides an update of data on the utilisation of sobering up centres for the period 1990 to 1997, published in June 1999 in Statistical Bulletin No. 5. The earlier report should be consulted for information in relation to Aboriginality and frequency of admission as these issues have not been re analysed from 1998 to 2000.

### STATE OVERVIEW

#### Cost of sobering up services

The annual operating cost of sobering up services has gradually increased as the number of SUCs has expanded from \$300,000 in 1990/1991 to \$2.5 million in 2000/2001 (Table 1, page 2). SUCs are a very cost effective service. For example in the year 2000/2001 there were 10 opera-

**Table 1: Annual expenditure on sobering up services, 1990/1991 - 2000/2001**

Fiscal year	Expenditure (\$)
1990/1991	318,733
1991/1992	501,413
1992/1993	763,165
1993/1994	1,086,982
1994/1995	1,863,665
1995/1996	1,722,200
1996/1997	1,863,007
1997/1998	2,016,871
1998/1999	2,968,400
1999/2000	2,493,225
2000/2001	2,503,070

**Table 2: Annual admissions to sobering up centres by gender, 1990 - 2000**

	Males	Females	Total
1990	349	57	406
1991	1,408	259	1,667
1992	2,688	925	3,613
1993	4,833	1,635	6,468
1994	6,776	2,653	9,429
1995	5,859	2,213	8,072
1996	6,764	3,120	9,884
1997	10,206	4,823	15,029
1998	9,557	4,351	13,908
1999	11,083	5,708	16,791
2000	11,393	6,075	17,468
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,916</b>	<b>31,819</b>	<b>102,735</b>

tional SUCs, which cost on average \$250,000 per centre. In the year 2000/2001 there was a total of 17,468 admissions to all SUCs, at an average of \$143 per admission

### Admissions to sobering up centres

In the 10 year period 1990 to 2000 there was a total of 102,735 admissions to SUCs in this State, of which 70,916 (69%) were males and 31,819 (31%) were females (Table 2). The number of admissions per year to SUCs in this State has increased more than ten fold, from 1,667 persons in 1991 (first full year) to 17,468 persons in 2000.

A breakdown in the number of quarterly admissions to all SUCs in this State is contained in Table 3 (page 3). Within the overall upward trend in admissions there have also been a number of short term peaks in the number of persons admitted to SUCs (Figure 1, page 3). For instance, throughout 1993 and up to mid 1994 there were between about 1,600 and 1,850 admissions per quarter. There was then a jump of 67%, from 1,868 admissions in the June 1994 quarter to 3,134 admissions in the September 1994 quarter, followed by a decrease to about 1,800 admissions in the September and December quarters of 1995.

Throughout 1996 there was a constant level of admissions, of about 2,500 admissions per quarter. This was followed by a period of growth in admissions, increasing up to between about 3,200 and 3,800 admissions per quarter by the end of 1998. From the March quarter 1999 to the June quarter 2000 the number of admissions increased, to a peak of just over 5,200 admissions in the March quarter 2000.

The decrease in the number of admissions per quarter that has occurred for the last three quarters of 2000 is believed to be due problems following changes in the management of structures of some of the SUCs. These short

term variations illustrate the difficulties that can arise in providing most forms of services in remote locations in a State the size of Western Australia.

An overall picture of trends in annual admissions of each individual SUC is provided in Table 4 (page 4). In the year 2000 the greatest number of admissions were recorded for the Broome SUC, with just over 2,500 admissions for the Perth SUC.

This table also shows decreases that have occurred in a number of the SUCs in different regions, due to the impact of external factors. These include Wiluna SUC (dropping from 2,507 admissions in 1997 (first full year of operation) to 905 admissions in 2000.

### Detentions in police lock ups

Over the period from 1990 to 2000 there was a total of 63,429 detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in the various catchment areas served by operating SUCs, of which 47,665 (75%) were males and 15,556 (25%) were females (Table 5, page 4).

The data shows a clear decline in the number of people detained in police lock ups up to the year 2000. Over the period 1992 (first year of complete police data) to 2000 the number of detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in SUC catchment areas declined by 77%, from 11,316 in 1992 to 2,541 in 2000.

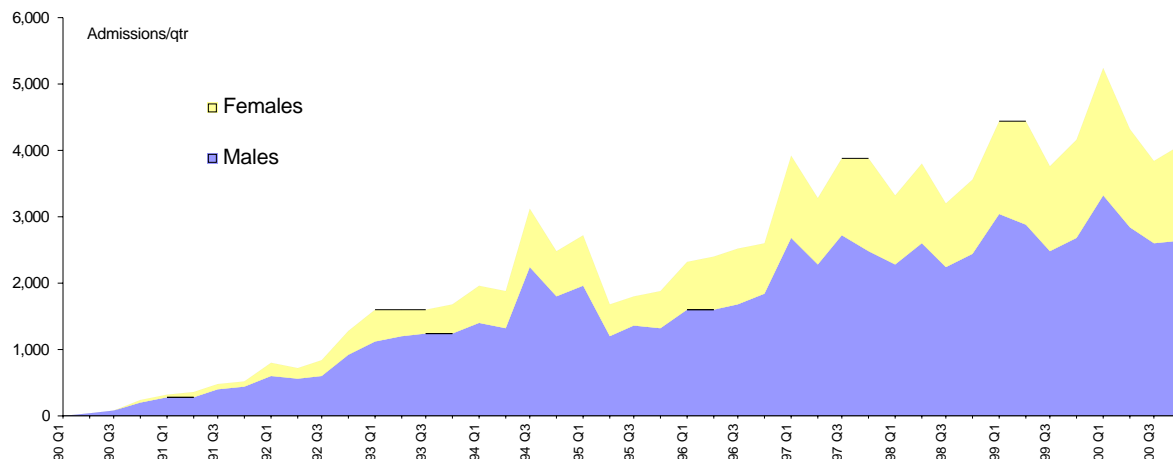
The impact of the expansion of SUCs has provided police with an option to manage intoxicated persons, and as services have progressively expanded, the number apprehensions has decreased. The relationship between the increase availability of SUCs and decreasing apprehensions for drunkenness is illustrated in Figure 2 (page 5).

*Continued on page 4*

**Table 3: Quarterly admissions to all sobering up centres, 1990 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total	Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1990	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	1996	Jan-Mar	1,589	724	2,313
	Apr-Jun	43	5	48		Apr-Jun	1,611	803	2,414
	Jul-Sep	89	9	98		Jul-Sep	1,694	833	2,527
	Oct-Dec	217	43	260		Oct-Dec	1,852	747	2,599
	<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>406</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>6,746</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>9,853</b>
1991	Jan-Mar	280	37	317	1997	Jan-Mar	2,673	1,251	3,924
	Apr-Jun	290	64	354		Apr-Jun	2,283	1,014	3,297
	Jul-Sep	393	74	467		Jul-Sep	2,719	1,150	3,869
	Oct-Dec	445	84	529		Oct-Dec	2,481	1,383	3,864
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>1,667</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>10,156</b>	<b>4,798</b>	<b>14,954</b>
1992	Jan-Mar	617	190	807	1998	Jan-Mar	2,266	1,067	3,333
	Apr-Jun	543	169	712		Apr-Jun	2,615	1,204	3,819
	Jul-Sep	604	226	830		Jul-Sep	2,252	942	3,194
	Oct-Dec	924	340	1,264		Oct-Dec	2,424	1,138	3,562
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>3,613</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>9,557</b>	<b>4,351</b>	<b>13,908</b>
1993	Jan-Mar	1,131	459	1,590	1999	Jan-Mar	3,026	1,414	4,440
	Apr-Jun	1,218	400	1,618		Apr-Jun	2,896	1,525	4,421
	Jul-Sep	1,250	347	1,597		Jul-Sep	2,473	1,287	3,760
	Oct-Dec	1,234	429	1,663		Oct-Dec	2,688	1,482	4,170
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,833</b>	<b>1,635</b>	<b>6,468</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>11,083</b>	<b>5,708</b>	<b>16,791</b>
1994	Jan-Mar	1,398	550	1,948	2000	Jan-Mar	3,308	1,918	5,226
	Apr-Jun	1,333	535	1,868		Apr-Jun	2,855	1,469	4,324
	Jul-Sep	2,254	880	3,134		Jul-Sep	2,601	1,254	3,855
	Oct-Dec	1,790	688	2,478		Oct-Dec	2,629	1,434	4,063
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,775</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>9,428</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>11,393</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>17,468</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	1,941	770	2,711	2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun	1,188	489	1,677		Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep	1,377	409	1,786		Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec	1,332	530	1,862		Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,838</b>	<b>2,198</b>	<b>8,036</b>		<b>Total</b>			

**Figure 1: Quarterly admissions to sobering up centres by gender, 1990 - 2000**



**Table 4: Annual admissions to sobering up centres by centre, 1990 - 2000**

Region	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>Metro</b>											
Perth	406	1,238	1,500	1,550	1,812	1,669	1,725	2,800	2,901	2,776	2,548
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>1,669</b>	<b>1,725</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>2,548</b>
<b>Pilbara</b>											
Hedland	-	429	1,339	2,289	2,086	1,415	1,265	1,203	1,574	1,468	1,902
Roebourne	-	-	-	474	801	878	1,403	1,550	1,479	1,717	2,042
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>2,887</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>3,185</b>	<b>3,944</b>
<b>Kimberley</b>											
Halls Creek	-	-	774	2,155	2,297	1,985	1,881	2,450	1,932	1,619	1,536
Fitzroy Crossing	-	-	-	-	1,384	664	444	848	738	975	581
Kununurra	-	-	-	-	-	-	520	2,440	1,426	1,569	1,669
Broome	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,484	3,094
Derby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,007	1,921	1,785
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>3,681</b>	<b>2,649</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>5,738</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>8,568</b>	<b>8,665</b>
<b>Goldfields</b>											
Kalgoorlie	-	-	-	-	1,048	1,425	1,140	1,156	1,649	1,567	1,406
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>1,425</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,406</b>
<b>Central</b>											
Wiluna	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,475	2,507	1,202	695	905
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>905</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>3,613</b>	<b>6,468</b>	<b>9,428</b>	<b>8,036</b>	<b>9,853</b>	<b>14,954</b>	<b>13,908</b>	<b>16,791</b>	<b>17,468</b>

**Table 5: Annual detentions for drunkenness in police lock ups by gender, 1990 - 2000**

	Males	Females	Missing	Total
1990	6	3	-	9
1991	15	-	-	15
1992	8,306	3,010	-	11,316
1993	7,031	2,088	-	9,119
1994	6,717	2,442	-	9,159
1995	6,001	2,179	-	8,180
1996	6,344	2,008	-	8,352
1997	4,963	1,575	-	6,538
1998	3,534	962	108	4,604
1999	2,765	768	63	3,596
2000	1,983	521	37	2,541
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,665</b>	<b>15,556</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>63,429</b>

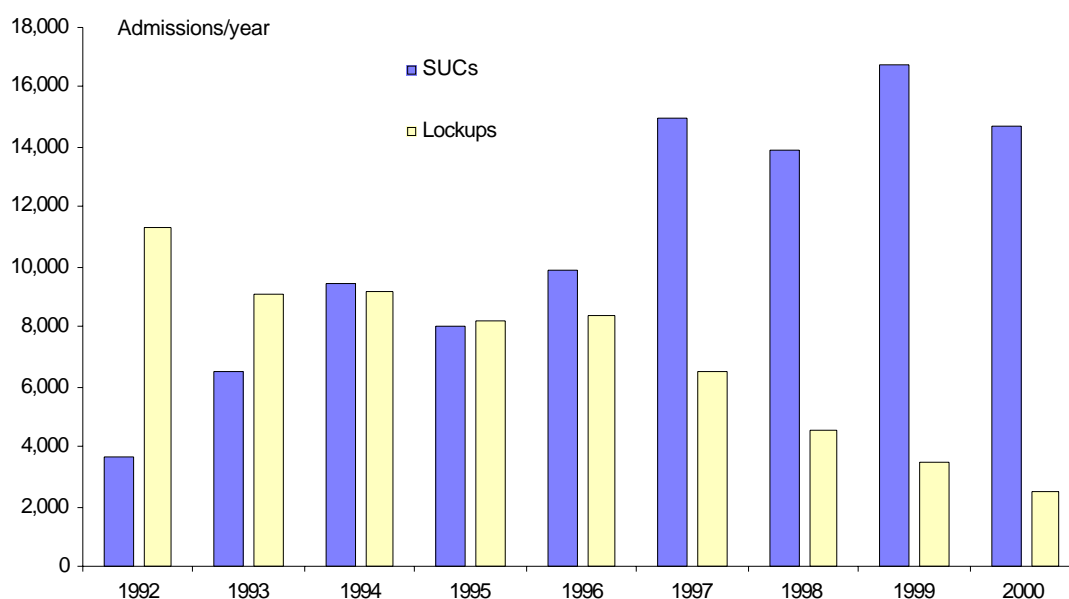
The positive impact of SUCs on the management of intoxicated persons in the safety of a SUC rather than being detained in a police lock up can be seen in the profiles of trends in admissions and apprehensions following the opening of a SUC. An example of this effect is clearly illustrated in the Kimberley region.

It is believed that there have been no deaths of any intoxicated person detained in SUCs or police lock ups in any of the regions in which SUCs have been established over the period 1990 to 2000.

While it is difficult to quantify readily, the expansion of sobering up services has had a number of identifiable financial and social benefits for communities in which SUCs have been established. These gains include:

- reductions in police time and resources previously involved in detaining and monitoring intoxicated people in police lock ups;
- reduced use of court time and resources;
- reduced levels of domestic violence and other problems associated with alcohol abuse; and
- reduced burden on the health system as a result of less people being hospitalised for alcohol related illnesses and accidents.

**Figure 2: Annual admissions to sobering up centres and annual detentions for drunkenness in police lockups, 1992 - 2000**



## PERTH METROPOLITAN REGION

### Introduction

The Perth SUC was opened in May 1990, is based in Highgate, an inner city suburb. It is the only metropolitan SUC. The principal catchment police lock up for the Perth SUC is the East Perth lock up. The Perth SUC has 10 beds, is open seven days a week 24 hours per day and is funded for 5 FTEs (one manager and 4 carers).

A unique feature of the Perth SUC is that it is operated as part of the Salvation Army Bridge Program and is linked to a longer term detoxification facility which is an entry point to other rehabilitation programs.

### Admissions to SUC

Over the period from 1992 to 2000 there was a total of 20,925 admissions to the Perth SUC, of which 17,249 (82%) were males and 3,676 (18%) were females (Table 6, page 6). Since early 1997 there has been a relatively constant number of admissions of between about 650 and 800 admissions each quarter, compared to the period from 1992 to 1996 when there were about 300 to 400 admissions per quarter.

A breakdown of age related data is presented in Figure 3 (page 7). The greatest number of male admissions occurred in the 40 to 44 age group, whereas for females the

most admissions involved the 35 to 39 age group. There is a steady increase in the number of male admissions in each age group from the 15-19 age group to the 40 to 44 age group. From the peak that occurs in the 40 to 44 age group, male admissions decline, with very few males aged 60 years and older being admitted to the SUC. It can be seen there are very few admissions of females aged 50 and older.

### Detentions in police lock up

It is believed that the Perth SUC has had a major impact on the improved management of the public order, other social problems and health consequences associated with the abuse of alcohol, as very few persons detained by the police for drunkenness are taken to the East Perth lock up. There has been a marked impact of the Perth SUC on policing in the Perth metropolitan region in relation to intoxicated persons from 1992 up to the present (Table 7, page 6; Figure 4, page 7). There were in:

- 1992 a total of 66 detentions, 4.4% of all detentions for drunkenness, were not taken to the Perth SUC;
- 1997 a total of 218 detentions, 7.8% of all detentions for drunkenness, were not taken to the Perth SUC; and
- 2000 a total of 363 detentions, 14.2% of all detentions for drunkenness, were not taken to the Perth SUC.

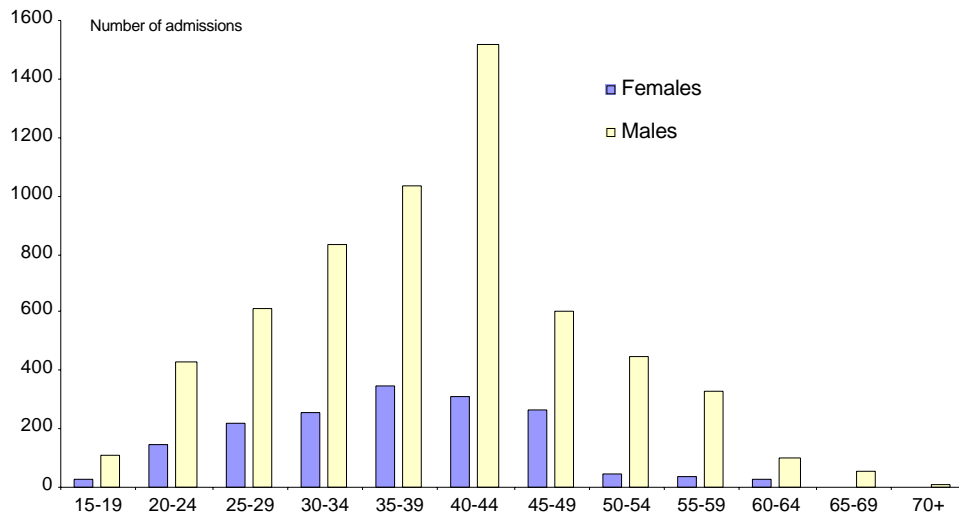
**Table 6: Quarterly admissions to Perth sobering up centre, 1990 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total	Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1990	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	1996	Jan-Mar	306	48	354
	Apr-Jun	43	5	48		Apr-Jun	342	91	433
	Jul-Sep	89	9	98		Jul-Sep	391	70	461
	Oct-Dec	217	43	260		Oct-Dec	418	59	477
	<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>406</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,725</b>
1991	Jan-Mar	280	37	317	1997	Jan-Mar	464	93	557
	Apr-Jun	244	39	283		Apr-Jun	597	183	780
	Jul-Sep	268	27	295		Jul-Sep	592	141	733
	Oct-Dec	306	37	343		Oct-Dec	607	123	730
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1,238</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>2,800</b>
1992	Jan-Mar	357	59	416	1998	Jan-Mar	608	155	763
	Apr-Jun	340	56	396		Apr-Jun	634	222	856
	Jul-Sep	265	57	322		Jul-Sep	507	137	644
	Oct-Dec	316	50	366		Oct-Dec	520	118	638
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>1,500</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>2,901</b>
1993	Jan-Mar	301	56	357	1999	Jan-Mar	647	175	822
	Apr-Jun	323	45	368		Apr-Jun	540	143	683
	Jul-Sep	365	52	417		Jul-Sep	453	138	591
	Oct-Dec	355	53	408		Oct-Dec	519	161	680
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>1,550</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>2,776</b>
1994	Jan-Mar	323	62	385	2000	Jan-Mar	587	131	718
	Apr-Jun	365	55	420		Apr-Jun	503	135	638
	Jul-Sep	519	80	599		Jul-Sep	431	141	572
	Oct-Dec	358	50	408		Oct-Dec	476	144	620
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1,812</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,997</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>2,548</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	470	60	530	2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun	307	52	359		Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep	386	47	433		Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec	310	37	347		Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1,669</b>		<b>Total</b>			

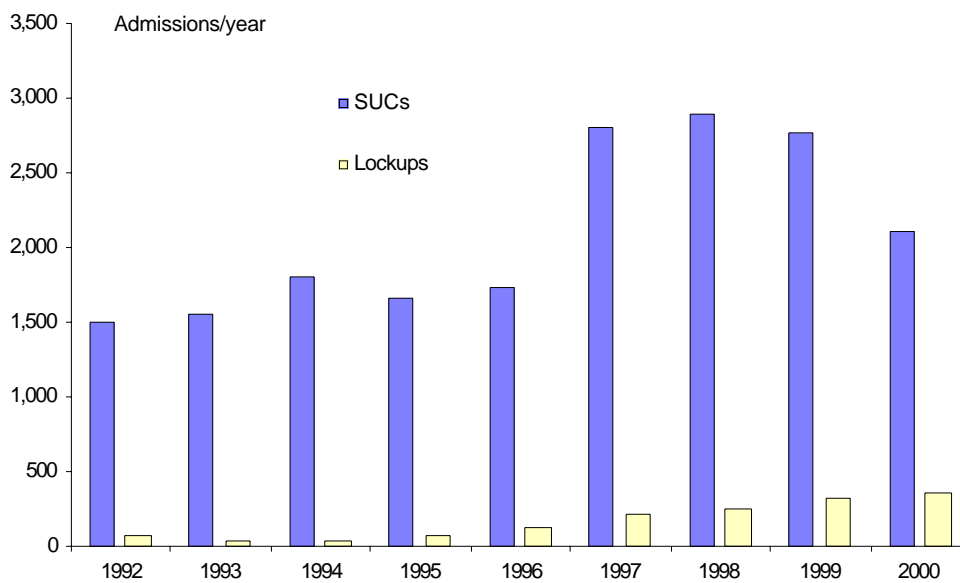
**Table 7: Annual admissions to Perth sobering up centre and detentions for drunkenness in Perth metro region, 1990 - 2000**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Police detentions	na	na	66	34	37	71	117	218	251	323	363
Admissions to SUCs	406	1,238	1,500	1,546	1,807	1,670	1,725	2,800	2,901	2,776	2,548

**Figure 3: Admissions to Perth sobering up centre by age group, 1990 - 2000**



**Figure 4: Annual admissions to Perth sobering up centre and detentions for drunkenness in Perth metro region, 1992 - 2000**



# PILBARA REGION

## Introduction

In the Pilbara region there are two SUCs, the Hedland SUC which was established in April 1991 and the Roebourne SUC which was established in February 1993. The catchment police lock ups for these two SUCs are the Hedland and the Roebourne lock ups respectively.

The Hedland SUC has 16 beds and is open seven days per week from Monday to Friday 1 pm to 7 am and Saturday and Sunday 7 pm to 7 am. It is funded for 7 FTEs (one manager, 5 carers and one outreach worker). An important additional component of this program is the outreach program which is conducted Monday to Friday 8 am to 7 pm.

The Roebourne SUC has 12 beds and is open five days per week, being open Monday 8 am to 5 pm and open 24 hours per day Tuesday to Friday. It is funded for 6 FTEs (one manager and 5 carers).

## Admissions to SUCs

Over the period from 1992 to 2000 there was a total of 25,314 admissions to SUCs in the Pilbara region, of which 16,195 (64%) were males and 9,199 (36%) were females. Of the 25,314 admissions, 14,970 (59%) were from the Hedland SUC and 10,344 (41%) were from the Roebourne SUC.

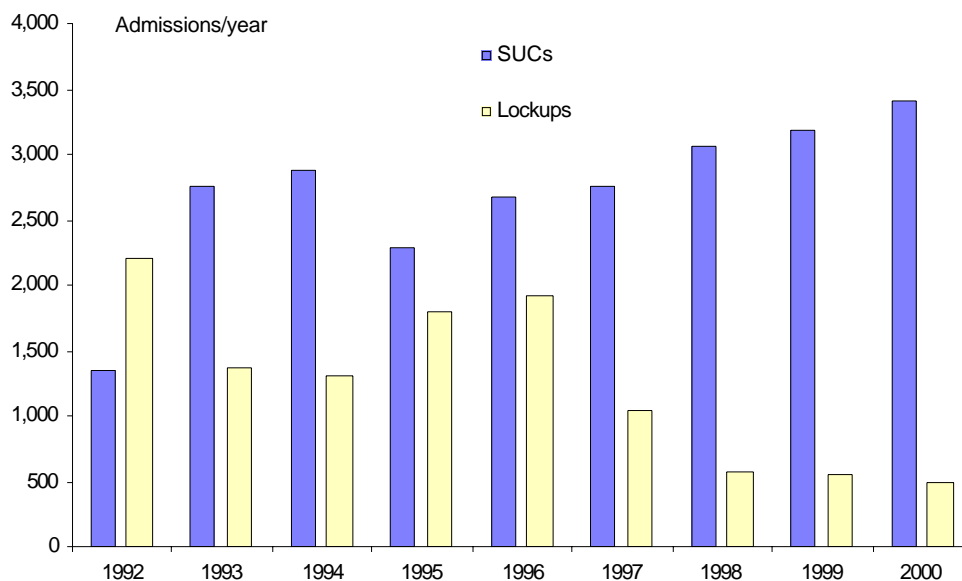
At the Hedland SUC a total of 9,525 (63.6%) admissions were males and 5,445 (36.4%) were females (Table 9, page 9). There was different pattern in the frequency of age related admissions between males and females (Figure 6, page 9). The peak in female admissions occurred in the 25 to 29 age group, whereas male admissions peaked in the 40 to 44 age group.

It is unclear whether the unusual spike in the number of male admissions in the 60 to 64 age group is due to an anomaly in data or reflects unusual local factors.

**Table 8: Annual admissions to SUCs and detentions for drunkenness in Pilbara region, 1991 - 2000**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Police detentions	na	2,198	1,362	1,308	1,799	1,921	1,034	562	548	481
Admissions to SUCs	429	1,339	2,763	2,887	2,293	2,668	2,753	3,053	3,185	3,944

**Figure 5: Annual admissions to SUCs and detentions for drunkenness in Pilbara region, 1992 - 2000**





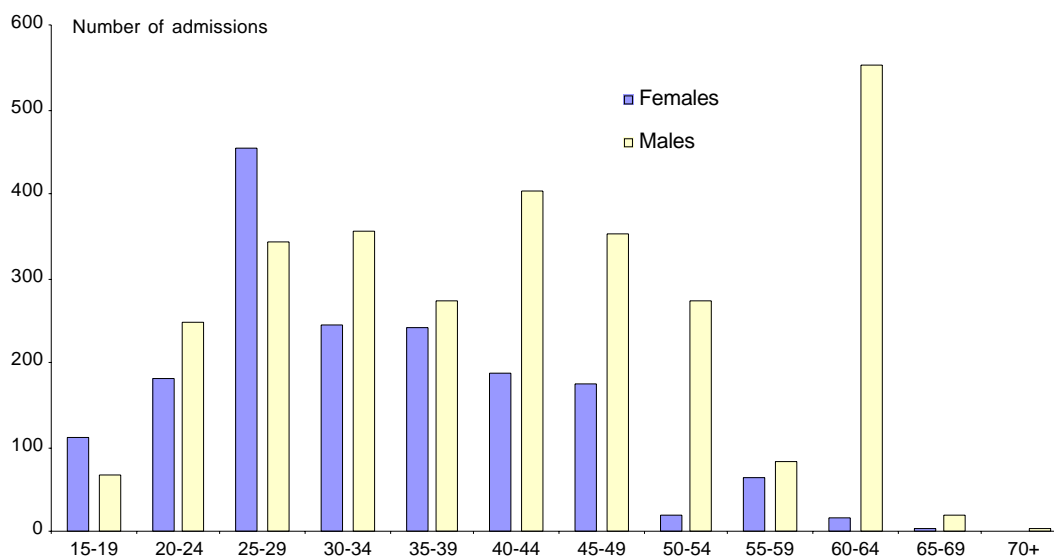
At the Roebourne SUC a total of 6,670 (64.5%) admissions were males and 3,674 (35.5%) were females (Table 10, page 10). Overall at this SUC males were

younger than females, peaking in the 35 to 39 age group whereas female admissions were clustered in the 45 to 59 age group (Figure 7, page 10).

**Table 9: Quarterly admissions to Hedland sobering up centre, 1991 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total	Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1991	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	1996	Jan-Mar	366	241	607
	Apr-Jun	46	25	71		Apr-Jun	177	91	268
	Jul-Sep	125	47	172		Jul-Sep	131	89	220
	Oct-Dec	139	47	186		Oct-Dec	101	69	170
	<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>429</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>1,265</b>
1992	Jan-Mar	260	131	391	1997	Jan-Mar	226	156	382
	Apr-Jun	203	113	316		Apr-Jun	191	159	350
	Jul-Sep	208	122	330		Jul-Sep	99	70	169
	Oct-Dec	201	101	302		Oct-Dec	184	118	302
	<b>Total</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1,339</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>1,203</b>
1993	Jan-Mar	451	216	667	1998	Jan-Mar	299	209	508
	Apr-Jun	351	163	514		Apr-Jun	382	151	533
	Jul-Sep	325	124	449		Jul-Sep	191	69	260
	Oct-Dec	455	204	659		Oct-Dec	186	87	273
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>2,289</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>1,574</b>
1994	Jan-Mar	449	295	744	1999	Jan-Mar	283	138	421
	Apr-Jun	260	172	432		Apr-Jun	283	161	444
	Jul-Sep	313	163	476		Jul-Sep	182	106	288
	Oct-Dec	259	175	434		Oct-Dec	240	75	315
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>2,086</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>1,468</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	465	267	732	2000	Jan-Mar	364	295	659
	Apr-Jun	168	121	289		Apr-Jun	250	192	442
	Jul-Sep	88	47	135		Jul-Sep	233	144	377
	Oct-Dec	137	122	259		Oct-Dec	254	170	424
	<b>Total</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>1,415</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>1,902</b>

**Figure 6: Admissions to Hedland sobering up centre by age group, 1991 - 2000**



## Detentions in police lock ups

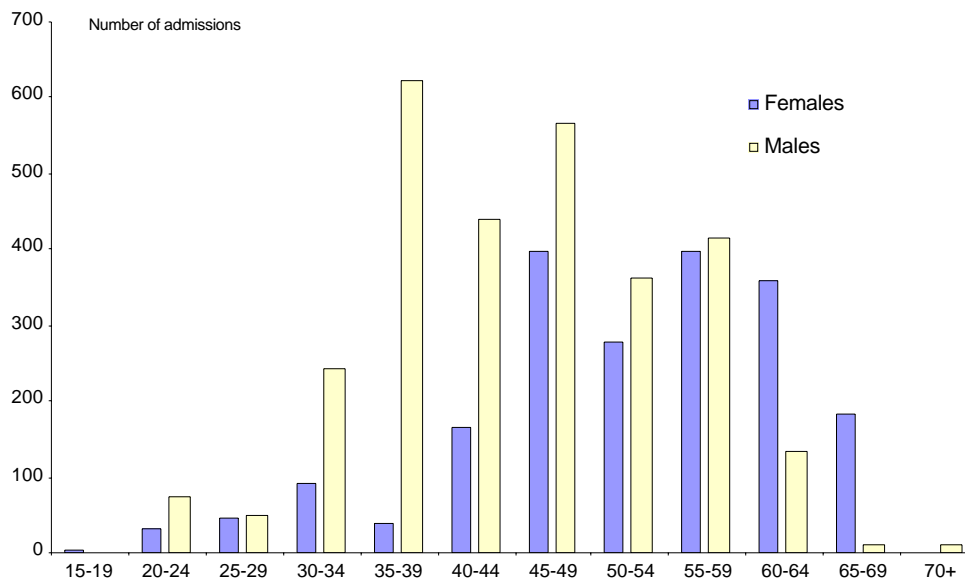
There was an initial impact on detentions after the opening of the Hedland SUC. From 1992 (the first full year) to 1993 there was a drop of 38% in detentions. But in the following years up to 1996 detentions did not decline (Table 8, page 8).

However, since 1996 detentions in this region have steadily decreased, with about 500 detentions per year in 1998, 1999 and 2000 (Figure 5, page 8). Overall, the number of admissions to SUCs nearly trebled, from 1,339 in 1992 (first full year of operation) to 3,944 in 2000. Over the same period the number of detentions for drunkenness decreased by 78%, from 2,198 in 1992 to 481 in 2000.

**Table 10: Quarterly admissions to Roebourne sobering up centre, 1993 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total	Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1993	Jan-Mar	103	39	142	1997	Jan-Mar	289	119	408
	Apr-Jun	93	40	133		Apr-Jun	220	100	320
	Jul-Sep	57	23	80		Jul-Sep	276	147	423
	Oct-Dec	86	33	119		Oct-Dec	233	166	399
	<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>474</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>1,550</b>
1994	Jan-Mar	160	58	218	1998	Jan-Mar	195	141	336
	Apr-Jun	95	41	136		Apr-Jun	232	160	392
	Jul-Sep	142	61	203		Jul-Sep	264	125	389
	Oct-Dec	177	67	244		Oct-Dec	208	154	362
	<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>801</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>1,479</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	169	38	207	1999	Jan-Mar	267	152	419
	Apr-Jun	132	43	175		Apr-Jun	284	204	488
	Jul-Sep	195	61	256		Jul-Sep	173	128	301
	Oct-Dec	179	61	240		Oct-Dec	279	230	509
	<b>Total</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>878</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>1,717</b>
1996	Jan-Mar	257	119	376	2000	Jan-Mar	328	261	589
	Apr-Jun	214	91	305		Apr-Jun	358	232	590
	Jul-Sep	244	93	337		Jul-Sep	266	154	420
	Oct-Dec	245	140	385		Oct-Dec	250	193	443
	<b>Total</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>1,403</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>2,042</b>

**Figure 7: Admissions to Roebourne sobering up centre by age group, 1993 - 2000**



# KIMBERLEY REGION

## Introduction

In the Kimberley region there are five SUCs as follows. The Halls Creek SUC which was established in September 1992, the Fitzroy Crossing SUC which was established in March 1994, the Kununurra SUC which was established in September 1996, the Derby SUC which was established in May 1998 and the Broome SUC which was established in February 1999. The catchment police lock ups for each of these SUCs are the major towns in which each SUC is based.

The Halls Creek SUC has 24 beds and is open six days per week from Monday to Saturday 3 pm to 7 am. It is funded for 6 FTEs (one manager and 5 carers).

The Fitzroy Crossing SUC has 20 beds and is open five days per week from Tuesday to Saturday 4 pm to 8 am. It is funded for 6 FTEs (one manager and 5 carers).

The Kununurra SUC has 20 beds and is open five days per week from Monday to Friday 7 pm to 9 am. It is funded for 6 FTEs (one manager and 5 carers).

The Derby SUC has 19 beds and is open five days per week from Tuesday to Saturday 4 pm to 8 am. It is funded for 6 FTEs (one manager and 5 carers).

The Broome SUC has 27 beds and is open five days per week from Monday to Friday 4 pm to 8 am. It is funded for 6 FTEs (one manager and 5 carers).

## Admissions to SUCs

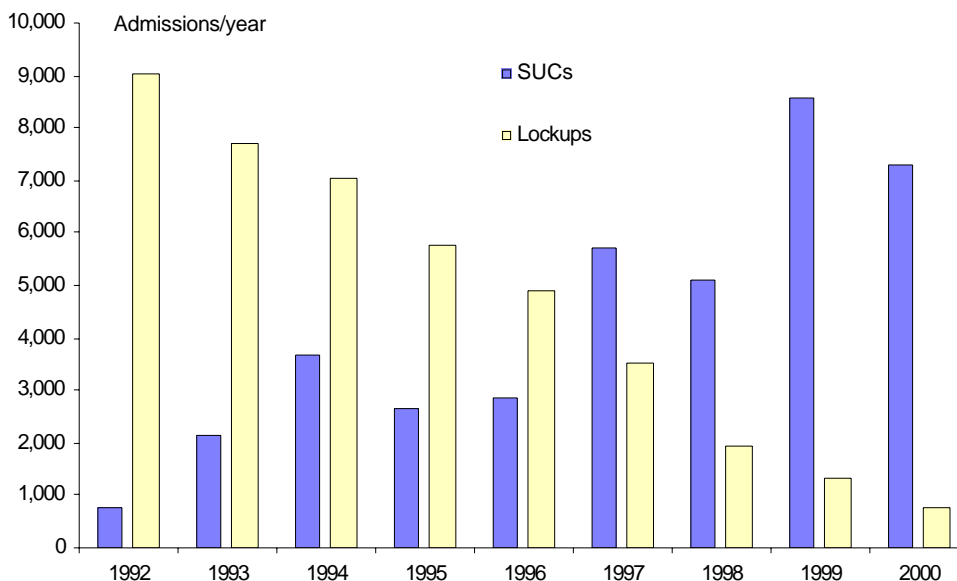
Over the period from 1992 to 2000 there was a total of 40,178 admissions to SUCs in the Kimberley region, of which 27,915 (69%) were males and 12,263 (31%) were females. Of the 40,178 admissions, 16,629 (41%) were

*Continued on page 13*

**Table 11: Annual admissions to SUCs and detentions for drunkenness in Kimberley region, 1992 - 2000**

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Police detentions	9,052	7,723	7,034	5,762	4,920	3,511	1,914	1,334	770
Admissions to SUCs	774	2,155	3,681	2,649	2,845	5,738	5,103	8,568	8,665

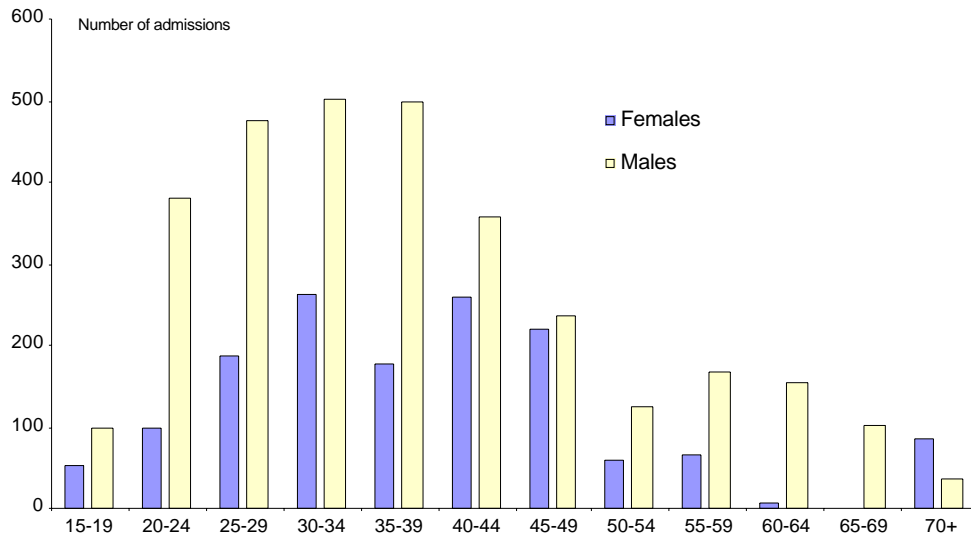
**Figure 8: Annual admissions to SUCs and detentions for drunkenness in Kimberley region, 1992 - 2000**



**Table 12: Quarterly admissions to Halls Creek sobering up centre, 1992 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1992	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	-	-	-
	Jul-Sep	131	47	178
	Oct-Dec	407	189	596
	<b>Total</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>774</b>
1993	Jan-Mar	276	148	424
	Apr-Jun	451	152	603
	Jul-Sep	503	148	651
	Oct-Dec	338	139	477
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>2,155</b>
1994	Jan-Mar	427	120	547
	Apr-Jun	306	107	413
	Jul-Sep	588	174	762
	Oct-Dec	439	136	575
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>2,297</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	447	148	595
	Apr-Jun	385	93	478
	Jul-Sep	434	105	539
	Oct-Dec	290	83	373
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>1,985</b>
1996	Jan-Mar	423	156	579
	Apr-Jun	343	122	465
	Jul-Sep	302	100	402
	Oct-Dec	315	120	435
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1,881</b>
1997	Jan-Mar	465	222	687
	Apr-Jun	357	151	508
	Jul-Sep	432	193	625
	Oct-Dec	389	241	630
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,643</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>2,450</b>
1998	Jan-Mar	287	143	430
	Apr-Jun	281	133	414
	Jul-Sep	291	143	434
	Oct-Dec	451	203	654
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>1,932</b>
1999	Jan-Mar	331	184	515
	Apr-Jun	239	103	342
	Jul-Sep	276	99	375
	Oct-Dec	272	115	387
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>1,619</b>
2000	Jan-Mar	321	183	504
	Apr-Jun	283	107	390
	Jul-Sep	196	92	288
	Oct-Dec	227	127	354
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>1,536</b>
2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>			

**Figure 9: Admissions to Halls Creek sobering up centre by age group, 1992 - 2000**



from the Halls Creek SUC, 5,634 (14%) were from the Fitzroy Crossing SUC, 7,624 (19%) were from the Kununurra SUC, 4,713 (12%) were from the Derby SUC and 5,578 (14%) were from the Broome SUC.

At the Halls Creek SUC a total of 11,903 (71.6%) admissions were males and 4,726 (28.4%) were females (Ta-

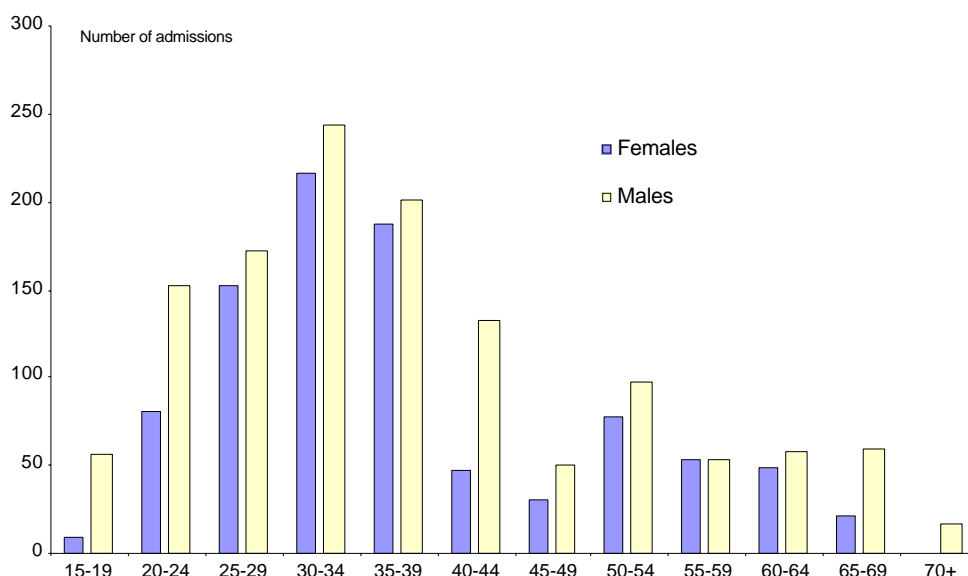
ble 12, page page 12). Male admissions tended to be somewhat younger and were clustered in the 20 to 44 age range, whereas females came from a slighter older age group and were clustered in 30 to 44 age range (Figure 9, page 12).

At the Fitzroy Crossing SUC a total of 3,759 admissions (66.7%) were males and 1,875 (33.3%) were females

**Table 13: Quarterly admissions to Fitzroy Crossing sobering up centre, 1994 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1994	Jan-Mar	39	15	54
	Apr-Jun	232	104	336
	Jul-Sep	356	126	482
	Oct-Dec	398	114	512
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>1,384</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	217	103	320
	Apr-Jun	67	47	114
	Jul-Sep	0	0	0
	Oct-Dec	174	56	230
	<b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>664</b>
1996	Jan-Mar	59	3	62
	Apr-Jun	155	41	196
	Jul-Sep	79	21	100
	Oct-Dec	72	14	86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>444</b>
1997	Jan-Mar	60	19	79
	Apr-Jun	139	27	166
	Jul-Sep	215	93	308
	Oct-Dec	160	135	295
	<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>848</b>
1998	Jan-Mar	107	68	175
	Apr-Jun	114	70	184
	Jul-Sep	140	73	213
	Oct-Dec	100	66	166
	<b>Total</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>738</b>
1999	Jan-Mar	123	85	208
	Apr-Jun	205	126	331
	Jul-Sep	135	84	219
	Oct-Dec	112	105	217
	<b>Total</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>975</b>
2000	Jan-Mar	81	91	172
	Apr-Jun	97	106	203
	Jul-Sep	87	59	146
	Oct-Dec	36	24	60
	<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>581</b>
2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>			

**Figure 10: Admissions to Fitzroy Crossing sobering up centre by age group, 1994 - 2000**



(Table 13, page 13). At this SUC there was a similar age distribution of both males and females, with greatest number of admissions involving the 30-34 age group (Figure 10, page 13). Overall admissions tended to be clustered in the 20 to 39 age range for both males and females.

At the Kununurra SUC a total of 5,704 (74.8%) admissions were males and 1,920 (25.2%) were females (Table 14, page 14). At this SUC female admissions peaked in the 35 to 44 age group compared to males, which were

mostly clustered over the 25 to 59 age range (Figure 11, page 14).

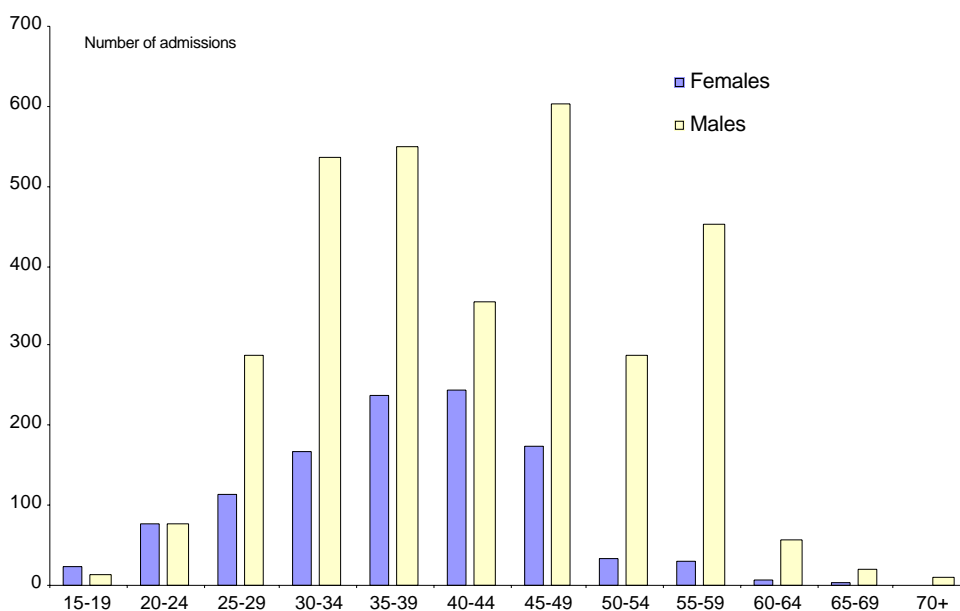
It can be seen that there were relatively few admissions of females aged 50 years and older, whereas male admissions sharply declined for the 60 years and older age group.

At the Derby SUC a total of 3,356 (71.2%) admissions were males and 1,357 (28.8%) were females (Table 15, page 15).

**Table 14: Quarterly admissions to Kununurra sobering up centre, 1996 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1996	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	-	-	-
	Jul-Sep	28	13	41
	Oct-Dec	374	105	479
	<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>520</b>
1997	Jan-Mar	556	235	791
	Apr-Jun	414	117	531
	Jul-Sep	445	88	533
	Oct-Dec	412	173	585
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>2,440</b>
1998	Jan-Mar	334	120	454
	Apr-Jun	347	80	427
	Jul-Sep	174	49	223
	Oct-Dec	258	64	322
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>1,426</b>
1999	Jan-Mar	337	109	446
	Apr-Jun	270	76	346
	Jul-Sep	164	81	245
	Oct-Dec	353	179	532
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>1,569</b>
2000	Jan-Mar	333	104	437
	Apr-Jun	273	99	372
	Jul-Sep	301	98	399
	Oct-Dec	331	130	461
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>1,669</b>
2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>			

**Figure 11: Admissions to Kununurra sobering up centre by age group, 1996 - 2000**



At this SUC female admissions were mostly clustered in the 25 to 39 age group, with smaller numbers of women admitted from the 40 to 59 age group. The 25 to 29 male age was most frequent, with most admissions involving males from the 20 to 49 age group (Figure 12, page 15).

At the Broome SUC a total of 3,193 (57.2%) admissions were males and 2,385 (42.8%) were females (Table 16, page 16).

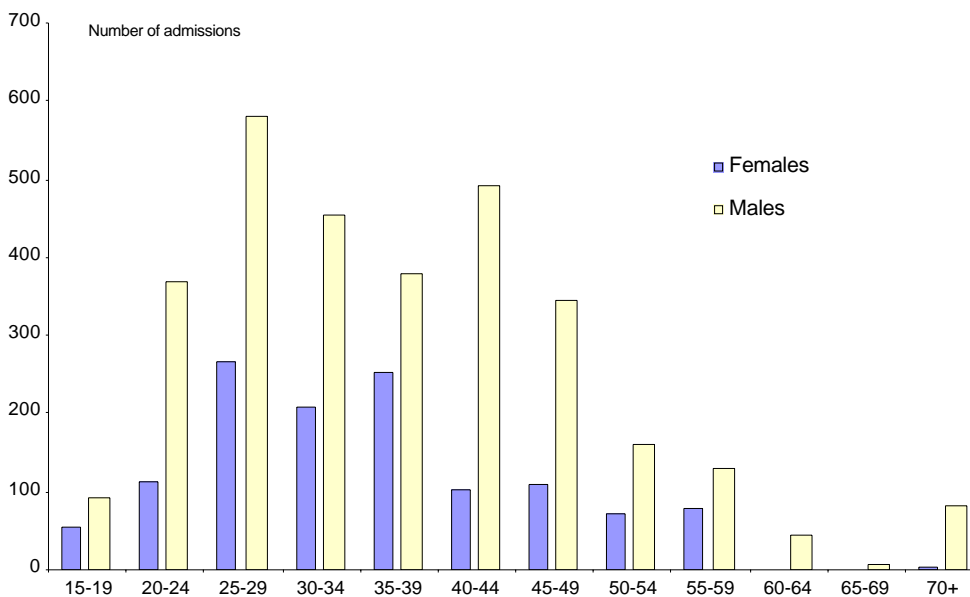
Overall males were slightly older than females, with male admissions peaking in the 35 to 39 age group. There was a pronounced clustering of male admissions in the 25 to 39 age group (Figure 13, page 16).

Female admissions peaked in the 30 to 34 age group. However, a striking feature of this SUC was that the number of female admissions exceeded male admissions in the 40 to 54 age range. There were also greater number of female than male admissions in the 20 to 24 age group.

**Table 15: Quarterly admissions to Derby sobering up centre, 1998 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1998	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	43	27	70
	Jul-Sep	246	97	343
	Oct-Dec	392	202	594
	<b>Total</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>1,007</b>
1999	Jan-Mar	440	166	606
	Apr-Jun	308	106	414
	Jul-Sep	346	144	490
	Oct-Dec	303	108	411
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>1,921</b>
2000	Jan-Mar	424	212	636
	Apr-Jun	384	129	513
	Jul-Sep	262	70	332
	Oct-Dec	208	96	304
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1,785</b>
2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>			

**Figure 12: Admissions to Derby sobering up centre by age group, 1998 - 2000**

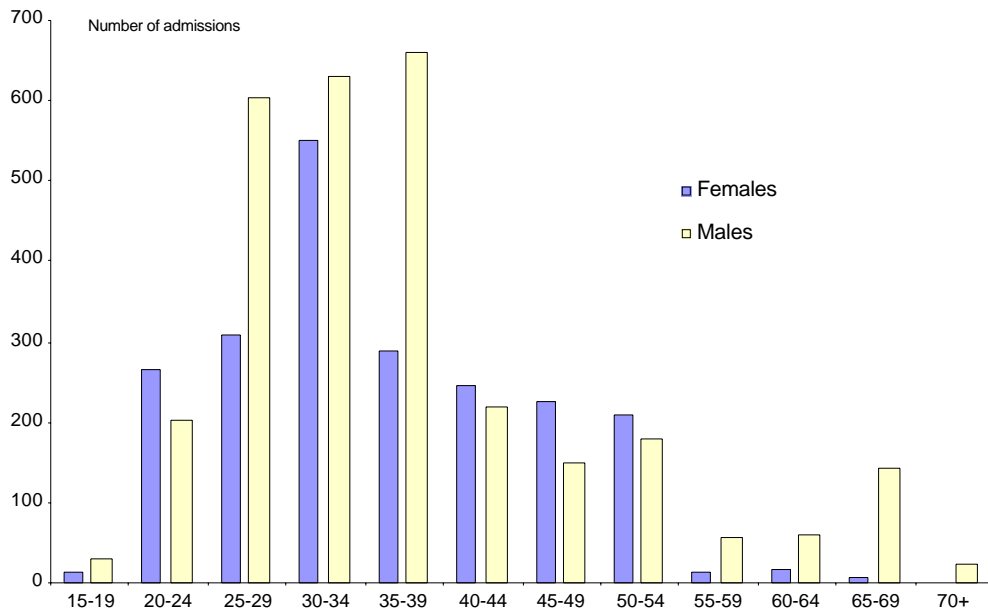


**Table 16: Quarterly admissions to Broome sobering up centre, 1999 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1999	Jan-Mar	277	181	458
	Apr-Jun	425	357	782
	Jul-Sep	394	289	683
	Oct-Dec	250	311	561
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>2,484</b>

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
2000	Jan-Mar	606	430	1,036
	Apr-Jun	410	271	681
	Jul-Sep	414	225	639
	Oct-Dec	417	321	738
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>3,094</b>

**Figure 13: Admissions to Broome sobering up centre by age group, 1999 - 2000**





# GOLDFIELDS REGION

## Introduction

In the Goldfields region there is one sobering up facility, the Kalgoorlie SUC, which was established in June 1994. The catchment police lock up for this SUC is in the town of Kalgoorlie.

The Kalgoorlie SUC has 12 beds and is open five days per week from Monday to Friday 9 pm to 7 am. It is funded for 5 FTEs (one manager and 4 carers).

## Admission to SUC

Over the period 1994 to 2000 there was a total of 9,391 admissions to the Kalgoorlie SUC, of which 5,323 (56.7%) were males and 4,068 (43.3%) were females (Table 17, page 17). The greatest number of quarterly admissions occurred in the September quarter 1994 (607 admissions) and then declined until mid 1995.

From the September quarter 1995 admissions have fluctuated between about 350 to 400 admissions per quarter. There was a decline to about 300 admissions in the first two quarters of 2000, followed an increase to between about 400 and 450 admissions in the latter part of 2000.

It is not known whether the marked variations that occurred in the last quarter 1996 (only 63 admissions) and

in the second quarter 1997 (89 admissions) may be attributable to seasonal factors or other changes in the availability of other services in the region.

Male admissions have mostly involved those from the 25 to 44 age range, with the greatest number of admissions occurring in the 35 to 39 age group. Compared to males, female admissions increased with age and peaked in the 45 to 49 age group, where females exceeded males (Figure 14, page 18).

## Detentions in police lock up

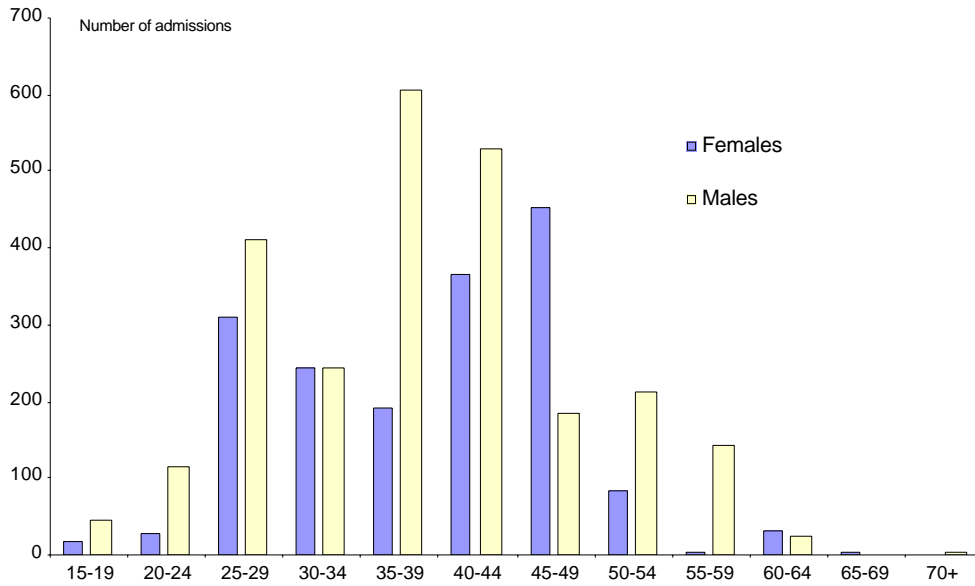
There was an apparent initial positive impact on the number of detentions for drunkenness in the Kalgoorlie SUC catchment area, as detentions dropped from 780 in 1994 to 548 in 1995 (Table 18, page 18). The number of detentions then more than doubled from 1995 to 1,122 detentions in 1998. Since 1998 detentions have again fallen (Figure 15, page 18).

As there has not been a pattern of consistent growth in the annual number of admissions to this SUC, it is difficult to determine the impact of the SUC on the management of intoxicated persons by police. Limited availability of places for homeless people in Kalgoorlie has meant at times there has been a community expectation that the SUC should accept some of these people.

**Table 17: Quarterly admissions to Kalgoorlie sobering up centre, 1994 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total	Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1994	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	1998	Jan-Mar	265	132	397
	Apr-Jun	75	56	131		Apr-Jun	305	176	481
	Jul-Sep	336	276	612		Jul-Sep	294	131	425
	Oct-Dec	159	146	305		Oct-Dec	181	165	346
	<b>Total</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>1,048</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>1,649</b>
1995	Jan-Mar	173	154	327	1999	Jan-Mar	261	152	413
	Apr-Jun	129	133	262		Apr-Jun	246	187	433
	Jul-Sep	274	149	423		Jul-Sep	226	139	365
	Oct-Dec	242	171	413		Oct-Dec	214	142	356
	<b>Total</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>1,425</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>1,567</b>
1996	Jan-Mar	177	157	334	2000	Jan-Mar	131	135	266
	Apr-Jun	198	198	396		Apr-Jun	165	137	302
	Jul-Sep	166	181	347		Jul-Sep	228	221	449
	Oct-Dec	30	33	63		Oct-Dec	228	161	389
	<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>1,140</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>1,406</b>
1997	Jan-Mar	162	197	359	2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun	43	46	89		Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep	263	198	461		Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec	152	95	247		Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>1,156</b>		<b>Total</b>			

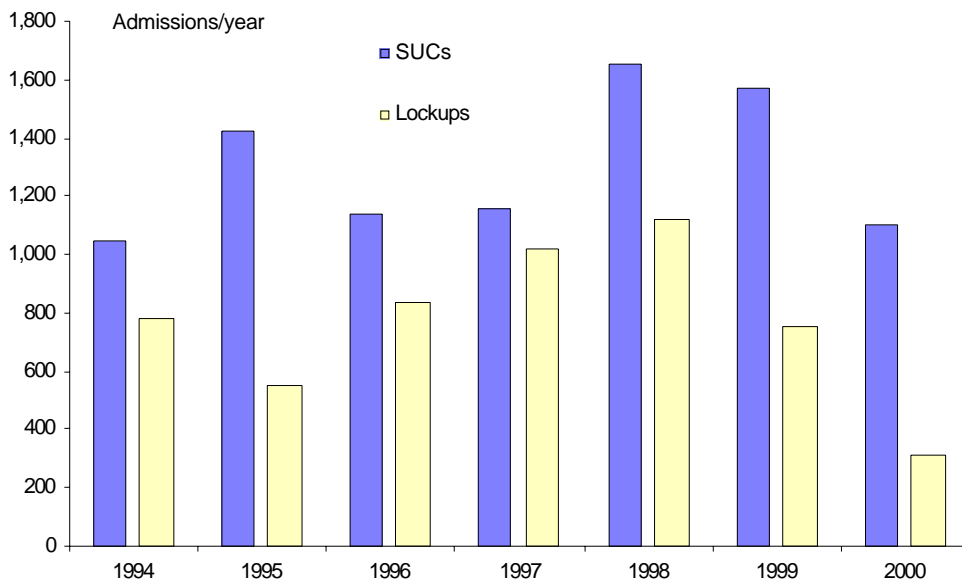
**Figure 14: Admissions to Kalgoorlie sobering up centre by age group, 1994 - 2000**



**Table 18: Annual admissions to SUC and detentions for drunkenness in Goldfields region, 1994 - 2000**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Police detentions	780	548	832	1,016	1,122	757	312
Admissions to SUCs	1,048	1,425	1,140	1,156	1,649	1,567	1,406

**Figure 15: Annual admissions to SUC and detentions for drunkenness in Goldfields region, 1994 - 2000**



# CENTRAL REGION

## Introduction

In the Central region there is one sobering up facility, the Wiluna SUC which was established in April 1996. The catchment police lock up for this SUC is in the town of Wiluna.

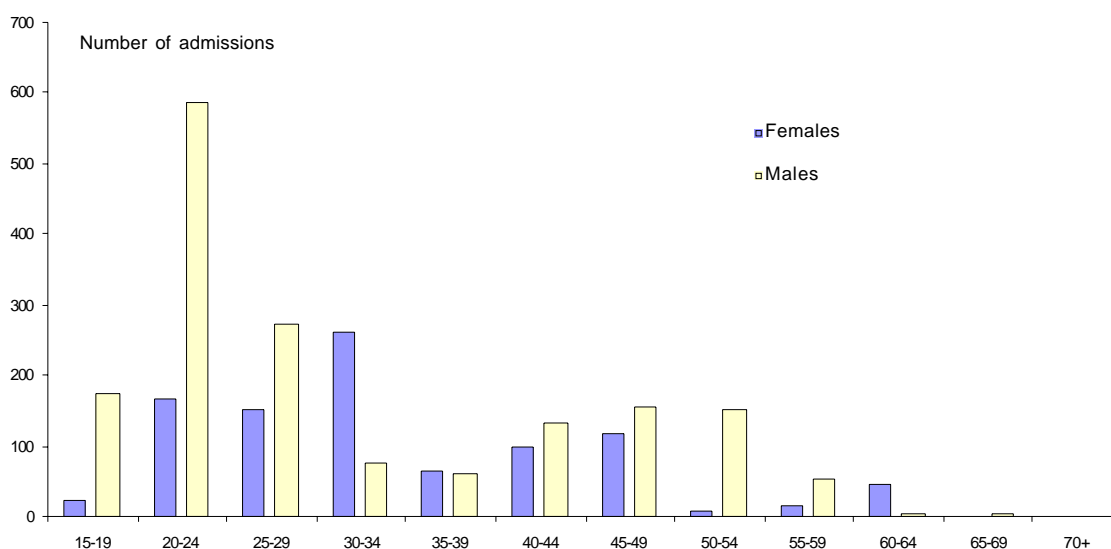
The Wiluna SUC has 18 beds and is open five days per week from Tuesday to Saturday 4 pm to 8 pm. It is funded for 5 FTEs (one manager and 4 carers).

## Admission to SUC

Over the period 1996 to 2000 there was a total of 6,784 admissions to the Wiluna SUC, of which 4,144 (61.1%) were males and 2,640 (38.9%) were females (Table 19, page 19).

From the September quarter 1996 to the December quarter 1997 admissions fluctuated between about 500 and 650 per quarter.

**Figure 16: Admissions to Wiluna sobering up centre by age group, 1996 - 2000**



**Table 19: Quarterly admissions to Wiluna sobering up centre, 1996 - 2000**

Year	Quarter	Males	Females	Total
1996	Jan-Mar	1	-	1
	Apr-Jun	182	169	351
	Jul-Sep	353	266	619
	Oct-Dec	297	207	504
	<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>1,475</b>
1997	Jan-Mar	451	210	661
	Apr-Jun	322	231	553
	Jul-Sep	397	220	617
	Oct-Dec	344	332	676
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>2,507</b>
1998	Jan-Mar	171	99	270
	Apr-Jun	277	185	462
	Jul-Sep	145	118	263
	Oct-Dec	128	79	207
	<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>1,202</b>
1999	Jan-Mar	60	72	132
	Apr-Jun	96	62	158
	Jul-Sep	124	79	203
	Oct-Dec	146	56	202
	<b>Total</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>695</b>
2000	Jan-Mar	133	76	209
	Apr-Jun	132	61	193
	Jul-Sep	183	50	233
	Oct-Dec	202	68	270
	<b>Total</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>905</b>
2001	Jan-Mar			
	Apr-Jun			
	Jul-Sep			
	Oct-Dec			
	<b>Total</b>			

Quarterly admissions have declined since 1997 and for the past 3 years there have been between about 150 and 250 admissions per quarter.

From its inception a predominantly young population have utilised the Wiluna SUC. Males have most come from the 15 to 29 age range, with most male admissions involving the 20 to 24 age group (Figure 16, page 19).

The most frequent female admissions involves the 30 to 34 age group, with most female admissions coming from the 20 to 34 age range,

### Detentions in police lock up

The number of detentions by police has remained relatively constant over the period from 1996 to 2000, with between about 550 and 750 detentions per year (Table 20, page 20; Figure 17, page 20).

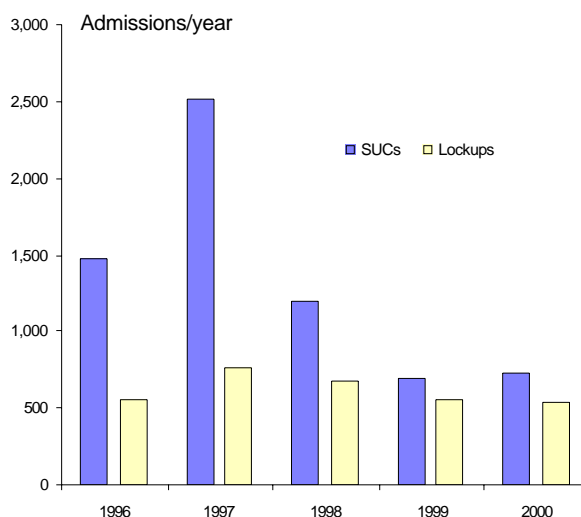
While the number of admissions to the Wiluna SUC per year has dropped by 64%, from 2,507 in 1997 to 905 in 2000, this does not accurately reflect the improved management of intoxicated persons in the town. The improved management of intoxicated people is a result of strengthened interagency relationships and community support for other measures.

This has included restrictions on the opening hours and type of alcohol sold by the only liquor outlet in the town. The marked decrease in public intoxication has resulted in underlying mental health problems becoming more apparent. There is consideration of the feasibility of the co-use of the SUC to provide accommodation and support to those with mental health problems.

**Table 20: Annual admissions to SUC and detentions for drunkenness in Central region, 1996 - 2000**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Police detentions	562	759	668	555	532
Admissions to SUCs	1,475	2,507	1,202	695	905

**Figure 17: Annual admissions to SUC and detentions for drunkenness in Central region, 1996 - 2000**



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<http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus/>

This publication was edited by Greg Swensen with assistance of Susan Jones at the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office. Comments by Deacon Emmanuel Stamatou, Coordinator of ProviCare (formerly Manager, Services Funding and Development at WADASO) are gratefully acknowledged.