

# Key developments for 1999-2001

## Education to prevent drug abuse

- Expansion of the School Drug Education Project through the establishment of regional networks and a school grants program.
- A new program of education for parents involving a partnership between the Health Department, Community Drug Service Teams and Local Drug Action Groups.
- Drug Aware illicit drug public education campaign expansion to include amphetamines and other psychostimulants and a youth strategy to integrate drug specific campaigns and expand community activities.
- Drugs and driving prevention campaign.

## Health services

- Building further capacity in the general health sector to provide pharmacotherapy, detoxification and brief intervention services.
- Clinical trials of buprenorphine and naltrexone treatments.
- Development of mental health system practice and partnerships to enhance the treatment of psychiatric patients.

## Community support services

- A comprehensive diversion strategy for adults and juveniles, and corresponding expansion of treatment services, to engage more offenders into treatment including police diversion into compulsory intervention and a drug court regime for more serious offenders.
- Opportunities to engage more young people who are at risk into treatment through intensive support, family initiated assistance and compulsory intervention progressed through broad community consultation and a feasibility study.
- A range of initiatives to promote Working in Partnership with Parents including telephone support for parents by parents, and local support networks.
- New sobering up services in Wyndham, Geraldton and Midland and the progressive development of existing centres to accommodate youth and intoxication due to drugs other than alcohol.
- A new Community Drug Service Team for the inner city area of Perth.
- A school drug counselling project to ensure that young people receive appropriate intervention, pastoral care and treatment.

## Law enforcement

- A substantial legislative program covering penalties (providing for a compulsory treatment order and progressing the recommendations of the Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act), dealing with intoxication, and enabling more effective confiscation of the proceeds of crime.
- Expansion of the Cannabis Cautioning and Mandatory Education System statewide subject to evaluation.

## Community action

- Local Drug Action Groups will expand to 80 groups around the State.
- Sports partnerships and role model programs will expand.
- Partnerships with local government will be extended.
- Partnerships with businesses to promote drug free workplaces and support services will be extended.
- Partnerships with TAFE and university campuses will be established.

- The Pharmacy Foundation of Australia will be established to support innovative initiatives to tackle drug abuse.

## **Specific population and drug initiatives**

- Initiatives with Aboriginal people including specific school drug education strategies, closer linkage of community patrols and sobering up centres, expansion of Local Drug Action Groups in remote communities, and continuing education and training for Aboriginal services and communities.
- Expanded materials and education and training for services for culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- The heroin overdose prevention strategy will continue to be developed, expanded and renewed and include a feasibility study into the provision of Narcan for drug users and their families.
- A comprehensive State Solvent Abuse Plan.
- The Alcohol Abuse Reduction Forum will continue to foster the partnership between government, the community and industry through further development of the Host Responsibility Program, and local participation in the licensing process.
- Coordinated education and law enforcement programs to target steroids.
- Commitment to the reduction of tobacco use maintained through education programs, expanded smoking cessation programs and an emphasis on community action.

## **Information and research**

- A WA Strategy Against Drug Abuse research agenda which will initially focus on how to support families and communities' capacity to prevent drug abuse, the role of cannabis and other drugs in suicide, and the management of offenders

## **Coordination**

- Regional alcohol and other drug action plans will be developed with support from the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office through Safer WA Committees and Community Drug Service Teams