

Together Against Drugs Action Plan 1999-2001

What's in place now

Education to prevent drug abuse

- School Drug Education Project for effective drug education in all schools through professional development, new curriculum for kindergarten to year 12, policies and protocols, strategies to involve parents and the local community.
- Courses for parents.
- Public campaigns - Drug Aware for illicit drugs; 100% Control, Respect Yourself and Host Responsibility for alcohol; QUIT and other programs for tobacco.
- Education to prevent harms such as the spread of blood borne viruses and drug overdose among those continuing to use drugs through carefully targeted materials and outreach.
- Drug Aware pharmacies providing information to the community.

Health services

- Next Step - Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services providing detoxification and outpatient interventions that involve medical and psychiatric treatment and 24 hour information and advice, has been redeveloped and expanded to provide naltrexone treatment, develop new clinical approaches and support the general health sector.
- Building capacity through the Health Department's Next Step and the Alcohol and Drug Policy Branch in the general health sector, particularly through general practitioners and the community based methadone program.

Community support services

- Statewide network of Community Drug Service Teams providing services for young people and families with an emphasis on early intervention and supporting the community to prevent drug abuse.
- Comprehensive network of specialist alcohol and drug agencies providing day treatment, residential rehabilitation and specialist programs such as for young people and women.
- Sobering up services in key areas of the State.
- Specialist Aboriginal alcohol and drug services in key areas of the State.
- Treatment and diversion programs for offenders.
- Harm reduction services.

Law enforcement

- Joint State and Commonwealth initiatives to tackle high level supply.
- A continuing focus on street level drug dealing.
- Tackling alcohol abuse through local partnerships and Alcohol Accords.
- The Alcohol and Drug Coordination Unit and Alcohol and Drug Advisers in each region supporting law enforcement and community policing initiatives throughout the State.

Community action

- Statewide network of Local Drug Action Groups in suburbs, regional towns and remote communities supporting public education campaigns, developing activities for youth, providing support networks for parents and working with police and schools to prevent drug abuse.
- Sports partnerships with surfing, basketball, soccer, football, netball, swimming and baseball.
- Leaders Against Drug Abuse and community role models supporting prevention of drug abuse.
- Partnerships with local governments.

Specific population and drug initiatives

- Comprehensive heroin overdose prevention strategy involving effective emergency procedures, continuing education and outreach.
- Cannabis strategy involving the trial of the Cannabis Cautioning and Mandatory Education System and public education.
- Specific initiatives with Aboriginal people.
- Development of materials for culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- Specific initiatives on tobacco, alcohol abuse, heroin, solvents, steroids and pharmaceuticals.

Information and research

- Regular prevalence surveys.
- Analysis of key issues through statistical bulletins and commissioned research.
- A range of publications to keep the community informed.

Coordination

- Statewide strategy development and coordination across government through the Minister Responsible for WA Drug Abuse Strategy and the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office working with the Ministerial Council, Senior Officers Group and specific issue groups, involving health, police, education, Aboriginal affairs, family and children, justice, youth, liquor licensing and road safety portfolios and agencies.
- Regional coordination through Community Drug Service Teams working with Safer WA Committees.