

Elimination of Measles and Rubella

The elimination of endemic measles and rubella transmission in Western Australia was sustained throughout 2001/2002. While there were several cases of measles and rubella in overseas visitors and returning Australian travellers who had acquired infection overseas, these were either not associated with any local transmission, or resulted in only small outbreaks that were rapidly controlled.

Sexual Health Education

Collaboration with the Department of Education enabled the completion of an up-to-date sexual health education resource for schools. The innovative Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships Curriculum Support Materials will be implemented from 2002/2003.

The HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections Education and Prevention Plan 2002 was developed to provide a framework for the development and implementation of education and prevention strategies against these diseases.

Population Health Drug and Alcohol Office

Key Operations and Achievements

- Department of Health action in response to alcohol and other drug issues has been dramatically improved through the implementation of recommendations of the WA Community Drug Summit.
- A single cohesive coordination body, the Drug and Alcohol Office, was established.
- The new WA Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002–2005 was released in August 2002.
- The area planning process will allow local stakeholders to have input into decisions about the mix of programs and services.
- The Community Advisory Council has been established to ensure continuing community input.
- Values and principles which will guide and underpin the operations of the Drug and Alcohol Strategy were established.

Recommendations of the WA Community Drug Summit

Department of Health action in response to alcohol and other drug issues has been dramatically improved through the recommendations of the WA Community Drug Summit. More than 100 community representatives participated in the August 2001 Community Drug Summit event. Key recommendations centred around a shift in focus from drugs as a legal issue to one which is focused on people and health. There were four main areas of identified priority: compassion for drug users and their families, drug law reform, appropriate legal responsibility, and prevention and early intervention. The summit made a total of 45 recommendations, which serve to shape the policy directions and resource allocations of government. The government adopted all but one of the recommendations and responded by committing an additional \$5 million to priority programs, such as youth detoxification, Indigenous matters and targeting the needs of families.

Establishment of the Drug and Alcohol Office

The recommendation for the establishment of a single cohesive coordination body, which would combine the previously disparate functions provided through a number of offices, has been progressed through the establishment of the Drug and Alcohol Office within the Health portfolio. The office takes over from many of the alcohol and drug programs within the Mental Health and Public Health Divisions of the Department of Health, together with the WA Drug Alcohol Strategy Office and Next Step.

Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002-2005

The new WA Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002–2005 was released in August 2002, on the anniversary of the Summit. DAO has also developed new models for the sector guiding action in treatment and prevention, and is currently developing new strategies for whole-of-government integrated action. These strategies centre around the development of key agency action plans and area planning processes, enabling a localised and better integrated approach to future drug response.

Area Planning Process

The area planning process will allow local stakeholders to have input into decisions about the mix of programs and services needed in their local area, and to identify strategies to improve the effectiveness of programs and services.

Community Advisory Council

The Community Advisory Council has been established to ensure continuing community input into drug strategy and will meet quarterly to monitor and advice on action across Government and within the specialist drug and alcohol sector.

Values and Principles

The values which will guide the implementation of the new Drug and Alcohol Strategy are:

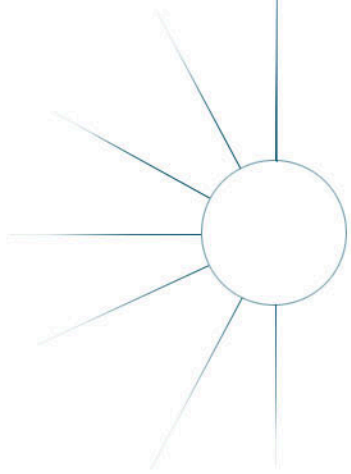
- **Inclusiveness:** Forming partnerships to engage and involve the whole community in drug policy and strategy.
- **Compassion and Understanding:** Each person has a right to compassionate care and to be treated with dignity, free from harassment and discrimination.
- **Equity:** Each person has equal worth and basic rights regardless of differences in race, gender, age, ability, religious belief, political affiliation, cultural outlook, national origin, sexual orientation, citizenship or geographical location.
- **Cultural Security:** Cultural security is a commitment to the legitimate cultural rights, values and expectations of Indigenous people. It requires programs and services to provide equal quality and outcomes irrespective of cultural background.

The Drug and Alcohol Strategy is underpinned by the following principles:

- Access and equity.
- Integration and coordination of services.
- Responsiveness to individual, family and community needs.
- Evidence-based practice.
- Cost effectiveness.
- A flexible and pragmatic approach.



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