

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

DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFICE 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 Drug and Alcohol Office has identified a number of key initiatives for 2013/14. Outcomes are summarised below in the respective key strategic areas of the Framework.

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:

- Expanded and consolidated the Strong Spirit Strong Future program including the delivery of 17 *Strong Spirit Strong Future: Promoting Healthy Women and Pregnancies* fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) prevention one-day workshop to over 340 human services providers throughout WA; conducted two repeat phases of the *Strong Spirit Strong Future Project Mary G* campaign state-wide; provided 12 Community Grants for projects in Broome, Kununurra, Halls Creek, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Katanning, Bunbury, Manjimup and Gosnells.
- Continued work with four regional volatile substance use working groups located in the Goldfields, Port Hedland, East Pilbara and East Kimberley to implement local volatile substance use strategies.
- Supported the ongoing development and implementation of alcohol and other drug (AOD) management plans in 30 communities across Western Australia.
- Developed the AOD prevention workforce through a suite of training for regional stakeholders; introduced two AOD Regional Prevention Coordinator positions in the Kimberley and Pilbara to implement local AOD prevention programs; and piloted a prevention key stakeholder network.
- In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, funded 13 prevention initiatives identified in the AOD management plans for the four Breaking the Cycle sites, to a value of \$1,087,044.
- Coordinated the completion of a review of current best practice in school based AOD education initiatives by an expert panel and used the panel recommendations to complete a tender process for school AOD education services in Western Australia.
- Finalised and released the *Introduction to Alcohol and other Drug Prevention: Guidelines 2014* via the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) website.
The Guidelines are being used as a quality framework for services working in the AOD prevention area.

- In partnership with the contracted non-government organisation (NGO) partner, continued implementation of the *Alcohol.Think Again* Campaign, including the development and scheduling of two phases of the 'Parents, Young People and Alcohol' Campaign and the development of the new 'Alcohol and Health' Campaign for delivery over the next few years.
- In partnership with the contracted NGO partner, continued implementation of the *Drug Aware* campaign, including the development and scheduling of two phases of the 'Amphetamines Prevention' campaign, and a repeat phase of the 'Cannabis Prevention' campaign.
- Coordinated and supported the Emerging Psychoactive Substances Review Group comprised of the following agencies: DAO, WA Police, Department of Health Pharmaceutical Services, ChemCentre, Department of Commerce, Department of the Attorney General and Western Australian representatives from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. The Group is responsible for monitoring emerging psychoactive substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, assessing substances' potential for harm and recommending appropriate action as required.
- Conducted an expert review of the Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project (NVEEP). Key recommendations were integrated into the NVEEP including an annual workshop with industry representatives to address relevant issues, and bulletin style reporting was replaced by a more comprehensive annual report format.
- The NVEEP developed a more collaborative approach in its implementation in key regional areas. This was achieved by incorporating the NVEEP as a support strategy into local Alcohol and Other Drug Management Plans which enabled more engagement from local services to address issues around intoxication by alcohol and other drugs.
- Monitored liquor licence applications and provided assistance to the Executive Director, Public Health (EDPH) in matters regarding alcohol-related harm and ill-health. Between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014:
 - Of 333 liquor licence applications received, 198 (59.5%) were considered to possibly pose a risk of harm and warranted investigation. During this period, 42 interventions were lodged by the EDPH. Of the 42 interventions: seven had outright concerns; seven had outright concerns and suggested harm minimisation conditions if granted; two were interventions in part and suggested conditions; two made representations about alcohol-related harm or ill-health; and 24 made representations and suggested conditions.
 - There were 34¹ decisions by the Director of Liquor Licensing related to EDPH interventions. Of the decisions received: 18 were consistent with the EDPH objectives; 14 were partially consistent with the EDPH objectives; and two determined that on the balance, other factors outweighed harm or ill-health considerations. In addition, there were two applications that the EDPH intervened on that were subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.
 - There were five decisions received from the Liquor Commission that related to EDPH interventions. Of the decisions received: three were consistent with the EDPH objectives, one was partially consistent with the EDPH objectives and

¹ Decisions received do not always relate to intervention activity in the current financial year.

one was determined that on the balance, other factors outweighed harm or ill-health considerations. In addition, an appeal before the Liquor Commission was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant where the EDPH was a party to proceedings.

- An appeal of a Supreme Court decision to the Court of Appeal led to the matter being referred back to the Liquor Commission and the licence being granted. The EDPH was a party to the Liquor Commission proceedings.

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:

- Funded and supported the implementation of the Peer Naloxone Education Project that provides education about overdose prevention and health-related information as well as basic life support and the use of naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose.
- Further contributed to national and state-based action addressing emerging psychoactive substances. Delivered two Training@DAO calendar events focussing on emerging psychoactive substances with 133 participants.
- Continued to provide a range of telephone services including the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) and Parent Drug Information Service (PDIS) (including the Volunteer Parent Support Network), and the Quitline tobacco cessation service. In 2013/14 a total of 13,891 ADIS and 1845 PDIS occasions of service were provided and 7,275 Quitline occasions were provided.
- In partnership with Curtin University undertook a pilot to implement and evaluate a modified version of the Tertiary Health Research Intervention via Email online alcohol intervention amongst Polytechnic students in WA. Over 12,000 students had the opportunity to take part in this pilot. The evaluation of this pilot was commenced and will conclude in early in 2014/15.
- In collaboration with the Chronic Disease Prevention Directorate and the Heart Foundation, developed a web based interactive Healthy Workers Alcohol Program including a downloadable resource kit for developing alcohol related policy in the workplace; information and resources to engage employers and employees around reducing alcohol-related risks and harms in the workplace; and an online self-assessment tool.

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:

- Continued to operate the Booking Service for the Cannabis Intervention Requirement Scheme, and to contract external serviced providers for the delivery of Cannabis Intervention Sessions. In the first 10 months of 2013/14 a total of 1,488 bookings were made for Cannabis Intervention Sessions.
- Implemented a pilot of court diversion for people with alcohol problems at the Perth Magistrates Court and the other metropolitan Magistrates Courts. This involved changing the eligibility for the existing Pre-sentence Opportunity Program to include alcohol increasing the capacity of court-based assessment and referral, and purchasing additional treatment services for the expected additional client referrals.

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:

- Partnered with the Western Australian Substance Users Association (WASUA) to implement a peer-based program to prevent drug-related harms, with a particular focus on amphetamine and opioid use. In partnership with the WASUA, developed and delivered a peer education program to prevent and respond to opioid overdose.
- Finalised Next Step strategic planning process including consultation with staff and key stakeholder groups. Next Step Strategic Plan 2014 to 2019 completed.
- Completed structural modifications to the inpatient withdrawal unit (IPWU) to allow for more functional use of the available space and improve observation of inpatients
- Third edition WA Community Program for Opioid Pharmacotherapy clinical policies and procedures for the use of methadone and buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid dependence finalised and disseminated to all stakeholders.
- Integrated service expansion at Midland site commenced in March 2013 and medical and nursing staff made available 5 days per week.
- Admissions into the IPWU continue to be high with 549 admissions in 2013/2014, of which 81% of clients completed treatment planned.
- Substantial progress was made in the establishment of the Carnarvon Dual Purpose Centre. Construction commenced in July 2013 and this phase will be completed in August 2014. During 2013/14 the Carnarvon Family Support Service was selected as

the sobering-up service provider for the Centre ready for expected commencement of services from the facility early in September 2014.

- Established the remaining service hubs in Tom Price and Karratha under the Royalties for Regions, Northwest Alcohol and Other Drug Support Program.
- Completed the procurement of specialist alcohol and other drug services, via a preferred provider request process. New 5 year contracts for these services commenced in late 2013.
- Undertook an open request process for Community Alcohol and Drug Services across the state, and the Drug and Alcohol Youth Service. The open request for eight of these services was advertised in 2013/14, and all contracts are expected to be in place by December 2014. This process also involves a change of name, from Community Drug Services to Community Alcohol and Drug Services.
- Continued a program of individualised funding to provide access to culturally secure treatment for young people on a case-by-case basis at the Bush Mob service in the Northern Territory. An evaluation of this initiative also commenced in the 2013/14 year.
- Continued to effectively manage the contractual relationship with the Australian Medical Research Procedures Foundation for the operation of the Fresh Start Recovery Program. This included allocation of Component 2 funding and other support continued work to improve the sustainability and quality of the services provided, and support for the work required to achieve registration of the naltrexone implant.
- Continued to work with the alcohol and other drug sector to implement procurement reform consistent with the Delivering Community Services in Partnership policy. During 2013/14 DAO allocated the \$6.4 million recurrent Component 2 funding increases across the majority of purchased services to resolve remaining sustainability issues in the sector. Other activity included:
 - Continued to work with the alcohol and other drug sector to implement procurement reform consistent with the Delivering Community Services in Partnership policy (DCSP). During 2013/14 DAO;
 - Allocated \$6.4 million in recurrent Component 2 funding increases across the majority of purchased services to resolve remaining sustainability issues in the sector. Implemented Component 2 funding under the DCSP Policy across the AOD sector;
 - Continued to work collaboratively with Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) to implement a Fostering Partnerships Grant initiative to provide support to service providers preparing for procurement processes for existing or new services;
 - Continued to progress the development of systems and processes that support efficient and high quality procurement and contract management functions;
 - Continued to actively participate in the governance and policy development activities associated with the policy, including membership of Community Services Procurement Review Committee, the Funding and Contracting Working Group, and Government Procurement Leaders Council.

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:

- Conducted 233 workforce development training events with 4398 participants. This included partnerships with key mainstream organisations including the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (4 events with 54 participants), Department of Corrective Services (12 events with 220 participants), Mental Health Services (22 events with 291 participants) and WA Police (13 events with 320 participants) to enhance their capacity to respond to alcohol and other drug use issues.
- Improved workforce development key performance indicators with 84% of participants indicating that the training they attended was 'a lot' to 'extremely' useful in relation to their work or study (compared to 86% in 2012-2013) and 77% of participants indicated that the training had increased their knowledge 'a lot' to 'extremely' (compared to 79% in 2012-2013).
- Conducted the annual Volunteer Alcohol and Drug Counsellors' Training Program in collaboration with the National Drug Research Institute, the Central Institute of Technology and the AOD sector. This included developing a partnership with Cyrenian House to conduct a parallel Volunteer Alcohol and Drug Counsellors' Training Program.
- Organised and conducted the 2014 Alcohol and Drugs Symposium in collaboration with WANADA, Edith Cowan University, Curtin University, National Drug Research Institute, University of Western Australia, Notre Dame University, Healthway and WA Police.
- Organised and conducted the 2014 Western Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Excellence Awards, including an Honour Roll.
- Launched the E-learning@DAO website featuring three online learning packages to the alcohol and other drug sector, and other sectors.
- Developed and conducted annual regional and remote training, including a video conference calendar to complement the Training@DAO calendar events.
- Contracted a research partner Clear Horizon WA to undertake research with AOD stakeholders and consumers to evaluate and make recommendations for improving consumer involvement in the AOD sector.
- DAO has been providing ongoing support to the People with Exceptionally Complex Needs Project (PECN) and also Youth PECN, resulting in significantly improved health outcomes for clients. DAO provides a responsive flexible approach to addressing AOD issues impacting on a client's lives.
- Undertook services planning to provide a strategic framework for the provision and development of AOD prevention, treatment and support activities and services in WA over the next 10 years.

- Coordinated the Western Australian Collaboration for Substance Use and Mental Health in conjunction with the Mental Health Commission. This group continued to implement recommendations from the Stokes report and develop and implement initiatives that support a collaborative care framework to improve coordinated care for clients accessing alcohol and other drug and mental health services.
- Coordinated the Social Inclusion Action Research Group in partnership with the WANADA to plan, implement and evaluate strategies to address the stigma impacting people affected by alcohol and other drug issues, including family members.
- Provided funding to WANADA to conduct research to gain an understanding of the reasons and complexities behind the stigma associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs in Western Australia. The research included both quantitative and qualitative components. The results will be used to develop and implement a WA specific strategy to reduce stigma.
- Chaired the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) consisting of law enforcement and health officials from across Australia to progress the implementation of the National Drug Strategy 2010-2015.
- Chaired the IGCD Sub Committee on Alcohol whose membership is comprised of law enforcement, health officials and key experts from across Australia, to progress alcohol issues of national concern as part of the National Drug Strategy 2010-2015.
- Coordinated and supported the across government Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers' Group (DASSOG). DASSOG agencies continued to develop, implement and report on annual action plans, with key activities supporting the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework 2011-2015.
- Worked towards the finalisation of the DAO Reconciliation Action Plan 2014-2016. DAO has had a Reconciliation Action Plan since 2008 and has sought to further commit and implement our partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the development of a three year plan. This longer term commitment will offer a better opportunity to incorporate and achieve our identified actions within DAO.
- Published the Western Australian 2011 Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey Illicit Drug report.
- Completed data collection for the inaugural Young Adult Drug and Alcohol Survey (YADAS 2013) in collaboration with Edith Cowan University. Results were presented at the Western Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Symposium 2014 and a manuscript has been submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Presented preliminary data for the Inpatient Withdrawal Unit evaluation at the Western Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Symposium 2014 and data collection is ongoing.
- Published a series of Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Indicators reports, using data from a wide variety of sources. Topics covered include the proportion of the population drinking at risky levels, alcohol and other drug related hospitalisations and deaths, alcohol-related assaults, driving offenses and road accidents.
- Provided useful and timely information on alcohol and other drug trends and activities relevant to Western Australia, for use in areas including service planning, the evaluation of treatment outcomes and emerging psychoactive substances.

- Continued to participate in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set working group to maintain and enhance national data collection.
- Completed the 2013 intake of the Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Worker Training Program, CHC30112, Certificate III in Community Services Work, 17 participants completed the 5 blocks of training and 15 of these participants received their nationally recognised qualification.
- Commenced the 2014 intake of the CHC40412 Certificate IV in Alcohol and other Drug, 13 participants commenced block 1 from across Western Australia including the Kimberley, Midwest, Southwest, Perth Metro and Wheatbelt.
- The Australian Skills Quality Authority issued a renewal of registration as a Registered Training Organisation for a further five years.
- Delivered the Strong Spirit Strong Mind Ways of Working with Aboriginal People Part 1 and Part training events to 122 participants across the AOD and other human services sector.
- Conducted Blood-Borne yarning programs and Key Worker training for 90 participants, as part of the Aboriginal Blood-borne Virus Workforce Development Project funded by the WA Department of Health Communicable Diseases Control Branch, which delivers training to Aboriginal Health workers and other health professionals across the state that work with Aboriginal people who inject drugs.
- The Strong Spirit Strong Mind Metro project workforce development component met with the Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service to develop a training needs analysis and coordinated three training events.
- Supported and resourced WANADA to complete the Standard for Culturally Secure Practice Alcohol and Other Drug Sector pilot program at a number of DAO purchased alcohol and other drug services across the State. Commence the broader implementation of accreditation with remaining service providers.