

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

WA POLICE 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, WA Police 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:

The Community Engagement Division continues to promote healthy and law abiding lifestyles particularly for at-risk youth in relation to alcohol and drug misuse, primarily by diverting them to positive life-skill programs and recreational activities. Programs and activities that facilitate the promotion of education about healthy lifestyles include:

- Grant funding is provided to Local Government Authorities, non-government agencies and community groups for projects aimed at the target groups to increase awareness of healthy lifestyles and to divert young people and adults from drug and alcohol misuse.
- Leavers WA is provided funding to distribute to stakeholders enabling them to provide vital infrastructure, services and support to the school leavers celebrating at Dunsborough and Rottneest. Providing school leavers with a safe and enjoyable environment that minimises the harms from alcohol and drug misuse is a priority for WA Police. Leavers WA commenced planning to respond to the 2015 cohort of leavers who will have turned 18 before completing Western Australian Certificate of Education exams.
- Midnight Basketball (which requires participants attend six workshops over the eight weekly sessions). This program first established in the Eastern metropolitan region has now expanded into a number of different sporting programs which contributes to community and individual capacity building and engages a diverse social mix of young people. A range of sporting programs will be implemented in various metropolitan locations based on the Midnight Basketball model¹.
- Ignite Basketball (based on the Midnight Basketball model) continues to be supported in the Armadale district in collaboration with Police and Community Youth Centres and the City of Armadale. This program diverts youth aged 12-17 years from attending Northbridge or congregating around the Armadale-Perth train line.

¹ Funded by the Police Drug and Alcohol Projects Coordination Committee (PDAPCC)

- Community Engagement Division provides resources and support to the One Life youth leadership program in the Eastern Metropolitan region with at-risk teens in partnership with the Swan District Football Development Council. This program engages youth to prevent drug and alcohol misuse and suicide.
- Support is provided to the Activity Bus at skate parks that brings youth workers to hotspots where disengaged youth congregate. Services are provided to youth in the community about healthy lifestyles and options.
- The Students Advising Youth (SAY) Project now has approximately 30 schools participating state-wide to develop 90-105 second movies and vodcasts promoting drug free and drug aware communities. The SAY project offers a prize and trip to Canberra.
- Perth Violence-Free Summer campaign was run over the 2013 summer in conjunction with the Injury Control Council of WA. This targeted social media campaign promoted safe activities to reduce violence, including violence as a result of intoxication.
- Community Engagement Division through its Crime Prevention and Diversity Officers (CPDOs) identify at risk youth through domestic violence incidents or other offending incidents and engage youth. CPDOs provided education and divert at-risk youth to activities and programs such as Beat Ball in the Mirrabooka region as a positive diversion from potential harm from alcohol and drug misuse.
- Safeplace – what began as Operation Safeplace has been expanded to a permanent practice and continues to provide a safe facility where youth can be taken by police if found on the streets on a Friday and Saturday night. The youth are cared for by staff from Mission Australia who conduct a risk assessment and offer information, counselling and resources, including prevention of drug and alcohol misuse.
- Local planning to prevent crime in partnerships with Local Government Authorities continues to see over 90% of local plans highlighting the misuse of alcohol and drugs as a priority issue contributing to crime.

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:

- Liquor Restricted Premises are declared with the agreement of the homeowners. Community Engagement Division provide the metal signage which are fixed to fences and front doors promoting the alcohol ban in residences in this successful, statewide program.
- Youth Crime Intervention Officers (YCIOs) refer youth at risk and Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs) to relevant community drug and alcohol programs to address their misuse. Youth Liaison Officers are now referred to as Youth Crime Intervention

Officers to better reflect their role. The 20 YCIOs are now fully embedded in metro and regional WA. The work of YCIOs has seen a significant decrease in offending by those PPOs engaged in diversion programs

- YCIOs refer youths to external programs to address a range of issues that contribute to their offending lifestyle, with alcohol and drugs being one of the factors. Youths' participation in these programs are voluntary.
- Juvenile Justice Officers refer youth to programs to address their drug and alcohol misuse as part of the Action Plans formulated by Juvenile Justices Teams.

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 specialist liquor enforcement operations targeting problematic licensed premises resulted in 8 Section 95 complaints being taken against licensees by the WA Police. This has resulted in 1 nightclub licence being cancelled and the director of the company found not fit and proper to remain working in the liquor industry.
- WA Police assessed a total of 1,462 liquor licence applications and intervened in 226 cases to seek conditions on the licence such as reduced hours, drink-limits and increased security. These conditions are sought to minimize alcohol-related harms. They also lodged objections to 20 liquor licence applications deemed as high risk.
- WA Police again provided full support to Operation Unite in December 2013. This national action demonstrates the resolve of police commissioners to reduce alcohol-related violence and crime.
- The Director, Liquor Licensing (DLL), issued 9 Prohibition Orders in response to applications by WA Police. These Orders are issued against persons who represent a risk to patrons frequenting licensed premises and the person may be prohibited from entering and/or working in licensed premises for up to 5 years.
- The *Liquor Control Act (WA)* enables the Commissioner of Police to issue Barring Notices that prohibit a person from entering licensed premises for up to 12 months. Barring Notices can be issued where a person has been violent, disorderly, engaged in indecent behaviour or contravened any written law within licensed premises. In 2012-14, WA Police has issued 514 Barring Notices.
- The percentage of the WA community who thought drunken and disorderly behaviour was 'somewhat of a problem' or 'a major problem' in their neighbourhood was 35.6% in 2013-14 (down from 42.6% 5 years ago)².
- WA Police issued 2,150 Cannabis Intervention Requirements (CIRs) in the 3rd year of the CIR scheme to the end of July 2014. This represents a 51% increase on 1,423 CIRs issued in the 1st year. Expiation has also increased with 70% of offenders

² National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing 2013-14 – 2,800 people surveyed in WA.

completing the Cannabis Intervention Session (CIS) in the 3rd year compared to 63% in the first year.

- Proceeds of Crime Squad froze \$70M in assets; this comprised \$7.8M in cash/bank accounts, \$61M Real Estate (appreciating assets) and \$1.2M Vehicles (depreciating assets).
- The Organised Crime Squad conducted Operation Sephora in association with SA Police, resulting in the arrest of the syndicate members in all three states; \$20M worth of assets was seized along with 14kg of methyl amphetamine and 25kg of cannabis.
- The Organised Crime Squad District Drug Manufacturing Team have executed 95 search warrants, processed 90 offenders with 338 charges.
- WA Police seized the following quantities of illicit drugs: cannabis 214,427 grams, amphetamines 55,052 grams, cocaine 1,328 grams and opiates 2,910 grams. The reduction in social costs to the community, associated with the seizure of this quantity of illicit drugs, has been estimated at \$ 397.8 mill.³
- On 12 July 2014, ministerial approval was given for the use of the Drager DrugTest 5000 to conduct oral fluid drug testing in WA. Once the device was approved, the use of this drug testing equipment was expanded across regional WA enabling drug testing to occur across the State.
- The percentage of the WA community who thought the use of illegal drugs was 'somewhat of a problem' or 'a major problem' in their neighbourhood was 39.9% in 2013-14 (down from 48.8% 5 years ago)⁴.

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.

- Not applicable.

³ Estimates derived using "Working Estimates of the Social Costs per Gram and per User for Cannabis, Cocaine, Opiates and Amphetamines", Drug Policy Modelling Program, Monograph 14, UNSW, 2007. Please note: lower estimate \$106 mill, upper estimate \$429 mill.

⁴ National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing 2013-14 – 2,800 people surveyed in WA.

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:

- Evaluation of the pilot Frontline 2020 Operating Model in the South East Metropolitan District was completed. The positive results mean the reform will now be rolled out in other metropolitan districts in 2014-15.
- The Frontline 2020 Operating Model provides more focus on local policing to address those ongoing and complex issues that drive demand for police resources. AOD use and mental health are 2 of 6 priority issues in society identified as driving demand for policing services. Frontline 2020 has an elevated focus on reducing this demand.
- WA Police continued the Intervention Enhancement Project in regional districts of WA. This project involves the specialist Liquor Enforcement Unit providing training, auditing of licensed premises, specialist legal support on interventions and prosecutions as well as general advice on targeting problematic venues. The project audited the following number of licensed premises in 2013-14: Kimberley (14), Pilbara (21), Goldfields (13), Wheatbelt (11), South West (13) and Great Southern (20). This project will lead to a more coordinated, uniform approach to liquor operations and intelligence gathering across the State. In addition, the Liquor Enforcement Unit drug tested 42 crowd controllers in Kalgoorlie resulting in 2 positive tests and subsequent charges and revocation of licences.
- Support of the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) project by chairing the state advisory group, providing researchers with access to police detainees.
- Supported the trial of the Drug Use Monitoring Australia (DUMA) project in South Hedland custody unit.
- Contributed towards the following research projects funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF):
 - Investigating the relationship between volume of sales from liquor stores and assault offences reported to police in Queensland and W.A (by NDRI).
 - Developing best practice in managing intoxicated offenders (by the Australian Institute of Criminology).
 - Examination of Australia's poly-drug and poly-crime networks (by the Drug Policy Modelling Project, NDARC).
 - Analysis of the social supply of cannabis among young people (by NDRI).
 - A review and synthesis of supply and demand reduction measures for alcohol (by Deakin University).
 - Alcohol and Drug Involved Family Violence in Australia (ADIFVA) (by Deakin University).
- Support the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) Board of Management as a member of the Executive.

- Worked in collaboration with DAO to develop a Cabinet Submission seeking approval to draft new legislation to prohibit the sale, supply, manufacture, advertising and promotion of any psychoactive substance or a substance purporting to have a psychoactive effect (unless approved through existing legislation or regulation).
- Contributed towards the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs National Alcohol Sub Committee as deputy chair.
- Supported the WA Alcohol and Other Drug Symposium as a sponsor, through participation in the organising committee, and through showcasing police projects on reducing availability of alcohol (Newcastle) and unlawful sales to juveniles (Perth).
- The WA Police Commissioner won the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth Government in Action award for “being at the forefront of activity drawing attention to the need for action on alcohol, particularly in relation to alcohol advertising and through broader national and local leadership”. He also delivered keynote presentations to the WA AOD Symposium and to the National Public Health Association Annual Conference.