

KAKADU ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Gunbang Action Group represents community, government and commercial interests concerned with the minimisation of alcohol-related harms in the West Arnhem region. It has developed this plan from research and an understanding of local needs and priorities. The plan builds on more than a decade of initiatives already in place and delivering outcomes.

The Kakadu Alcohol Management Plan identifies an integrated package of strategies aimed at reducing harmful drinking patterns and the negative consequences of alcohol misuse and abuse. While the Plan will evolve over time to meet changing circumstances, the current strategies are those considered to be of immediate priority.

The Plan focuses on actions aimed at:

More responsible supply – restricting the availability and accessibility of alcohol among problem drinkers and in risky settings;

Enhanced treatment and care - providing interventions that prevent further harm, increase individual responsibility and maintain positive changes.

Better understanding – providing information and education to change individual attitudes, influence drinking choices and challenge community tolerance of harmful drinking patterns.

GOAL 1: MORE RESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL SUPPLY

Introduce an electronic identification system to better target problem drinkers.

Ensure takeaway services enforce the presentation of authorised photographic identification.

Review the exclusion policies and practices of licensed premises and ensure there is a broad understanding of unacceptable behaviours and the penalties that will be applied.

GOAL 2: ENHANCED TREATMENT AND CARE

Support health services to provide screening and brief interventions as routine procedures.

Investigate the provision of a local, culturally appropriate treatment and rehabilitation service for Aboriginal people experiencing alcohol problems.

Develop initiatives that are likely to engage problem drinkers and divert them from harmful drinking patterns. This can include a Men's Group.

Establish effective aftercare services to assist reintegration and avert relapse.

GOAL 3: BETTER UNDERSTANDING

Design and implement a program of community education.

Identify a suite of prevention and early intervention initiatives that will help protect young people from developing harmful drinking patterns.

Strategies will complement and support other activities in Kakadu, including initiatives aimed at improving employment, training and education opportunities, and better income management by families.

As these strategies are implemented and deliver results, further actions will be identified and incorporated into the Plan to reinforce and extend positive changes among drinkers and for the community. The impact of the Plan will be continually monitored and assessed to ensure it is effective and remains relevant.

MANAGEMENT

The Gunbang Action Group will oversight implementation of these strategies. It will do this with community participation and ongoing communication with stakeholders. The Gunbang Action Group is being reviewed to ensure it is adequately structured to undertake this role.

A Bininj Reference Group will be established in partnership with the Gunbang Action Group as a culturally appropriate forum for local Aboriginal people to participate in the implementation and further development of this Plan. It will be supported to lead direct action on

the homelands and to generate cultural protocols that set standards of acceptable behaviour.

The Plan will be continually monitored through data collection and stakeholder and community feedback. While the member organisations of the Gunbang Acton Group are committed to contributing all they can to the success of this Plan, the active support of the community is essential to the Plan being effective and remaining relevant.

This Plan relates specifically to the Kakadu region of West Arnhem, but there are clear links and implications with the neighbouring area of Gunbalanya. As much as possible, consistency and partnership will underpin actions taken on alcohol in both Kakadu and Gunbalanya.

For more information contact:

Phone: (08) 89792200

Email: admin@mirarr.net

ⁱ Commissioned work includes Crundall, I. Developing an Alcohol Action Plan: Strategies for Consideration. Strategic Dimensions, 2009; and, D'Abbs, P., Martin, D., Chenhall, R. Kakadu/West Arnhem Alcohol Management Plan Project: Revised Final Report. James Cook University, 2008.