



Continuing the National Illicit Drug Strategy – Indigenous Community Initiative

PORTFOLIO: HEALTH AND AGEING

Why is this important?

- The National Illicit Drug Strategy – Indigenous Community Initiative assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop local solutions to substance abuse issues, such as drug and alcohol abuse, that often contribute to violence.
- Although Indigenous Australians are less likely to drink alcohol than non-Indigenous people, those who do drink are more likely to do so at high levels.
- This initiative will fund a variety of projects to provide evidence-based Indigenous-specific treatment guidelines, together with alcohol awareness products and other resources to better enable Indigenous communities to tackle the misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Who will benefit?

- This measure is specifically targeted at Indigenous Australians and will reduce the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs, including the harm caused to victims of crime and family violence.
- Indigenous Australians will benefit through the development of projects and resources that underpin service delivery, such as treatment guidelines and workforce development as well as comprehensive implementation of the Alcohol Treatment Guidelines for Indigenous Australians.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Government will provide \$14.6 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- In 2006–07 the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Use Programme provided \$19.1 million to support 70 substance use treatment and rehabilitation services across Australia.
- In July 2006 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced a comprehensive funding package over four years to address issues of violence and abuse in Indigenous communities. Funding of up to \$49.6 million over four years will be provided for additional drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services in regional and remote Indigenous communities. Implementation of this measure is scheduled to commence in June 2007.

When will the initiative conclude?

- This is an ongoing initiative.