Review of Alcohol Management Plans

Background
The State Government has committed to work with Indigenous communities to commence a review of Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) by December 2012. AMPs currently operate in 19 discrete Indigenous communities covering 15 Local Government Areas. They were introduced to reduce alcohol-related violence, particularly violence against women and children.

AMPs vary from community to community but all comprise strategies to reduce:
- the supply of alcohol (alcohol restrictions, licence conditions, enforcement activities, bans on homebrew, dry place declarations and Liquor Accords); and
- the demand for alcohol through service delivery including those provided under the Alcohol Management Reform (AMR) Program (rehabilitation services, detoxification services, and sport and recreation services).

Objective
The Review’s objective is to examine current AMPs and for communities as a whole to identify their preferred way of reducing alcohol misuse and related harm. This may include changing, retaining, strengthening or moving away from an AMP.

Mayors, their Councils, Community Justice Groups and other local stakeholders, will have the opportunity to take a leadership role to engage with their whole community to identify what it wants to have in place regarding community management of alcohol misuse, while continuing to reduce alcohol-related harm.

Some communities may choose to retain alcohol restrictions or even strengthen them to support measures that result in a reduction of alcohol related harm.

Terms of Reference
The Review’s paramount considerations are the safety of community residents, particularly women and children, noting the high levels of violence and harm, as well as to further improve school attendance and reduce child protection issues in the communities.

The Review will consider five issues:
1. Previous reviews and the evidence base regarding alcohol misuse and the causes of high levels of violence:
   - examine strategies adopted in Queensland and other jurisdictions; and consider key findings and outcomes from other relevant reviews and evidence that can inform the issues to be examined by this review.
2. The strength of community leadership and capacity to manage alcohol misuse and reduce alcohol-related harm:

- examine the role of government, non-government organisations and Indigenous communities in contributing to and achieving real outcomes for Indigenous peoples;
- examine the role of Indigenous Local Governments, CJGs and other leadership groups in relation to reducing alcohol-related harm and the AMPs;
- identify the current capacity within communities, including community values and the extent to which individuals and groups operate to deal with alcohol misuse and alcohol-related harm; and
- identify strategies to support future capacity and leadership within communities including support for Indigenous Local Councils and economic development opportunities for each community.

3. The effectiveness and impacts of current AMP supply and demand strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm:

- examine and identify key factors affecting the effectiveness of current supply and demand strategies to reduce alcohol-related violence (reported offences against the person and hospital admissions for assault-related conditions);
- examine changes over time in other direct and indirect indicators of alcohol-related harm and examine factors that may attribute these changes to supply and demand strategies, including: child protection orders and substantiations, good order offences; and school attendance; and
- examine the direct and indirect social consequences of the current supply and demand strategies including: other health or education consequences.

4. The impact of AMPs on community members and regional centres:

- examine how problem drinkers move to other regional/urban centres;
- examine the levels of breaches of alcohol restrictions and possible “criminalisation”; and
- identify and examine other indirect impacts of AMPs.

5. Future strategies to manage alcohol misuse and reduce alcohol-related harm, in each community, with a view to transitioning from AMPs if a community wishes to:

- identify future strategies to manage alcohol misuse and reduce alcohol-related violence in each community within existing budget constraints and processes;
- examine the implications of the removal of alcohol restrictions on harm levels and service delivery;
- identify other causes of high levels of violence and opportunities to address these including opportunities for economic development in each community;
- develop draft transition plans with each community, who wish to, adopt a holistic and community owned and driven approach to address alcohol misuse to reduce harm, including benefits, risks, mitigating strategies and timing for each option;
- identify opportunities to improve government and non-government service delivery, configuration, coordination and efficiency across early intervention and prevention services, such as health, education and employment and justice services;
- examine data robustness for ongoing monitoring of alcohol-related violence to improve accuracy, including the assessment of both quantitative and qualitative harms data in each community; and
- identify opportunities for state and national government programs and services to work together to support and strengthen individuals to address alcohol misuse and the causes of violence in each community.

**Scope**

The Review will consider the previous evaluations and reviews including:
- the 2005 Meeting Challenges, Making Choices evaluation;
- the 2008 Alcohol Management Reform Review;
- the evaluation of CJGs;
- published independent reviews and examinations of the AMPs;
- the review of local ‘law and order’ laws;
- reviews undertaken of Alcohol Management Reform Program services; and
- Annual Highlights Reports.

The Review will examine the following legislation and regulatory services:
- regulated alcohol restrictions in the community under the Liquor Act and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and other Matters) Act 1984;
- licence conditions and liquor accords under the Liquor Act relating to licensed premises in the restricted areas and in surrounding catchment areas;
- police powers under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000;
- role of CJGs in recommending restrictions; and
- role of the local authority in implementing local harm reduction initiatives—for example, addressing ongoing noisy parties.

The Review will consider the effectiveness of alcohol supply and demand reduction strategies.

**Supply reduction strategies to be examined include:**
- the alcohol restrictions;
- home brew bans;
- dry place declarations;
- Liquor Accords; and
- liquor Licensing conditions in the communities and in neighbouring areas.

**Alcohol demand reduction services include:**
- diversionary services;
- Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Services;
- rehabilitation services including those provided by Community Corrections; and
- detoxification and health services.
The Review will consider all matters related to the five issues outlined in the Terms of Reference, including a detailed analysis of whether problem drinkers move to other regional/urban centres and a report on the levels of breaches of alcohol restrictions. However, where matters are raised that indirectly relate to alcohol management, these matters will be noted and will be referred to the relevant agency for progression under a more appropriate forum.

Other matters are likely to be raised in consultation with respect to the review and may have some indirect relationship to alcohol-related harm and violence in the communities. These may include: unemployment levels; other drug and substance misuse; and community dispute resolution.

Their impacts within the community will require consideration and will be referred to other agencies for further work as appropriate.

Further Information

Further information about the Review can be obtained at www.datsima.qld.gov.au