Review of Alcohol Management Plans

REVIEW PROCESS

The Review of Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) will be community led and driven and will adopt a community by community approach taking into account the unique histories, needs and aspirations of the each community.

The Review will assess both supply and demand reduction strategies.

Supply reduction strategies include the alcohol restrictions, home brew bans, liquor licensing conditions and dry place declarations.

Demand reduction strategies include services to reduce alcohol misuse and addiction.

The Review will be conducted over three broad phases:
- communities developing their proposals and government assistance;
- developing transition plans or alternative strategies, for those communities who wish to, and follow up consultation; and
- finalising transition plans and alternative strategies, implementation and monitoring.

Due to community differences these phases may be adapted to suit the circumstances of each community. To allow communities to work at their own pace, no timeframes have been set for the Review.

PHASE ONE: Community proposals and government assistance

The State Government will formally seek community proposals from each community.

The communities are encouraged to develop a joint community proposal which is supported by a wide variety of stakeholders including: Local Councils; Community Justice Groups (CJGs); Men’s and Women’s Groups; other non-government service providers, such as Wellbeing Centres; women’s shelters; and youth groups. Government service providers, such as local police, health staff, probation and parole officers, ambulance officers and school principals should also be involved in developing the community proposals.

Once a proposal is received, the State Government will consider the strategies in it and will assess whether to commence developing a transition plan, if the community indicates it wishes to. If a community does not wish to develop a transition plan, the State Government will work with the community to develop strategies to further reduce alcohol-related harm.

What should a community proposal include?

The State Government will consider the community proposal taking into account whether it includes:
- strategies to achieve a sustained reduction in alcohol-related violence;
- strategies for reducing alcohol misuse;
- recommendations about the future of the current AMP; and
- strategies to improve school attendance and decrease child protection notifications.

The community proposal should also indicate whether the community wishes to develop a transition plan.

Community proposals should include a list of community and service provider stakeholders who have been consulted and should be signed by those stakeholders.

Strategies and services proposed in the community proposal should be within current funding and resources.

How will the Government assist?

State Government representatives, from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, are available to conduct consultations in each community, if requested.

The aim of the consultations is to assist each community to develop their community proposal. Face-to-face consultations will occur over three to five days in each community. Additionally, communities can contact the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs at any time.

Consultations will seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders including Local Government, CJGs, community groups and non-government service providers. Individual community members will also be encouraged to provide feedback during consultations.

The consultations will focus on developing a community proposal, and will discuss the effectiveness of current programs, roles of stakeholders and future options for the community.

The State Government will be assessing data to further examine the impact of AMPs including examining breaches of alcohol restrictions. The State Government will provide this information to the communities. It is acknowledged that the data alone can not identify solutions and community consultations and feedback will provide further information to assess the AMPs.

Seeking feedback regarding AMPs generally

As well as developing a community proposal, communities will be asked for their feedback regarding the effectiveness of AMPs, how to improve data and reporting and the impact on communities. The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs will be writing to each community seeking this feedback.

The State Government will also seek feedback from a wide range of stakeholders regarding the AMPs and about how to reduce violence. Stakeholders include the: Local Government Association of Queensland; Office of the Chief Magistrate; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (Queensland); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Human Services Coalition; Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Service; Family Responsibilities Commission; Apunipima Cape York Health Council; Cape York Institute; and Regional Organisation of Councils of Cape York.

Views will also be sought from State and Australian Government agencies such as the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Community Safety and the Department of Education, Training and Employment. Version: 1 25 September 2012 Page | 3

The Review will assess breaches of alcohol restrictions and will also seek feedback from neighbouring regional centres about any impacts of AMPs.
PHASE TWO: Developing transition plans and alternative strategies

If a transition plan is to be developed, a government representative will visit each community to discuss the community proposal and undertake consultations to develop a draft transition plan.

Where a community does not wish to transition away from AMPs, strategies to further reduce alcohol-related harm will be developed in consultation with that community.

What will be in the transition plans?

A transition plan would be expected to include:

- strategies to achieve a sustained reduction in alcohol-related violence;
- strategies for reducing alcohol-related misuse;
- improvements to the AMPs including the restrictions and services such as diversionary services; and
- strategies to improve school attendance and decrease child protection notifications.

Transition plans will be developed within existing budgets.

To ensure that the draft transition plans accurately reflect the community’s feedback, government representatives will verify the draft with the community.

Because the State Government provides funding for services and sets the restrictions and homebrew bans under legislation, the transition plans will be considered by State Government for approval.

PHASE THREE: Implementation and monitoring

Once the transition plans or alternative strategies are approved, implementation will commence.

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs will monitor the implementation of transition plans and alternative strategies to ensure levels of harm and alcohol-related violence continue to reduce.

Communication

The State Government is committed to ensuring the Review is open and transparent. The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs will establish and maintain a web-site to provide updates on the Review and information about its processes at www.datsima.qld.gov.au.

The website will provide regular updates on the Review. Local Councils, CJGs and other stakeholders will be able to provide information to the Review by emailing AMPreview@datsima.qld.gov.au or by contacting the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).