



**Shire of Derby /
West Kimberley**

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Special Council Meeting

Thursday, 22 February 2024

Date: Thursday, 22 February 2024

Time: 4:30 PM

**Location: Council Chambers
Clarendon Street
Derby**



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**MINUTES OF SHIRE OF DERBY / WEST KIMBERLEY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CLARENDON STREET, DERBY
ON THURSDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 4:30 PM**

PRESENT:

(In Person) Mr Peter McCumstie (President), Cr Andrew Twaddle, Cr Brett Angwin, Cr Paul Bickerton, Cr Brian Ellison, Cr Wayne Foley and Cr Kerrissa O'Meara.

PRESENT:

(MS Teams) Cr Geoff Haerewa (Deputy President) and Cr Geoff Davis.

IN ATTENDANCE:

(In Person) Amanda Dexter (Chief Executive Officer), Tamara Clarkson (Deputy Chief Executive Officer), Wayne Neate (Director, Technical and Development Services), Neil Hartley (Director, Strategic Business), Mark Davis (Executive Services Project Director), Sarah Smith (Executive Services Coordinator) and Noelene Bain (Executive Services Project Officer), Mark Chadwick (Manager of Built Environments – entered at 4:43pm).

IN ATTENDANCE:

(MS Teams) Jess Karlsson (Executive Director of Operations and Strategic Development)

VISITORS: Ryan Carvell, Neil Fox and Shannon Lockyer – Department of Planning Lands and Heritage – entered the meeting at 4:43pm.

GALLERY: Tony Gavranich, Thomas King, Eli Watkin, Petra Tomanova.

APOLOGIES: Nil

APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Nil

ABSENT: Nil

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS

The meeting was opened at 4:32pm by Mr Peter McCumstie – President.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout the Shire and their connection to land, sea and community.

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley would also like to pay respect to the past, present and future traditional custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

3 ATTENDANCE VIA TELEPHONE/INSTANTANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

A Councillor may attend council or committee meetings by electronic means if the member is authorised to do so by the President or the Council. Electronic means attendance can only be authorised for up to half of the Shire's in-person meetings they have attended in total, in any rolling 12 months prior period. Authorisation can only be provided if the location and the equipment to be used by the Councillor are suitable to enable effective, and where necessary confidential, engagement in the meeting's deliberations and communications.

- Cr Geoff Haerewa; and
- Cr Geoff Davis.

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Council Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting (Part 5 Division 6 of the *Local Government Act 1995*). Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting (Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the *Local Government Act 1995*).

4.1 Declaration of Financial Interests

- Nil.

4.2 Declaration of Proximity Interests

- Nil.

4.3 Declaration of Impartiality Interests

- Nil.

5 PUBLIC TIME**5.1 Public Question Time**

- Nil.

5.2 Public Statements**Thomas King – Garl Garl Walbu – Manager of Sobering Up Shelter**

Thomas King made a statement to the Council regarding issues around alcohol in particular the availability and excessiveness, in which they see the first-hand the impacts it is having locally on our community.

Garl Garl Walbu has strong views and a position on the impacts its having on our community including family dysfunction and criminal offense – Garl Garl Walbu would like to ensure the Shire is aware of these views so that they are engaged in discussions regarding Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley.

Thomas King presented Council with the Sober Up Shelter Statistics for the period July-December 2023 (Tabled Document 2).

Peter McCumstie – President

Peter McCumstie thanked Thomas for providing statistics and making statement on behalf of Garl Garl Walbu. At this meeting the Shire will consider to adopt a Council Position on Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley going forward, to ensure under their responsibility to the community and how we can deal with those going forward.

Please note that last week the CEO, President and Deputy President attended multiple Ministerial meetings delivering these message to government and will continue to lobby and consider the impacts within the community on these issues.

The President made a commitment to continue to work closely with Garl Garl Walbu on this matter.

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Presiding Member – Mr Peter McCumstie requested to move a motion to table two documents relating to Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley.

MOTION**RESOLUTION 01/24**

Moved: Cr Brian Ellison

Seconded: Cr Paul Bickerton

That the tabled documents – be received and referred to Council for consideration.

Tabled Documents:

1. Proposal to the Minister for Health; Mental Health and Mental Health Commissioner – Investment in alcohol and other drug service in the Kimberley Regions – Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS), Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS) and Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation (Milliya Rumurra) – 20 February 2024; and
2. Sober Up Shelter Statistics – Admissions – July-December 2023.

In Favour: Crs Peter McCumstie, Geoff Haerewa, Brett Angwin, Paul Bickerton, Geoff Davis, Brian Ellison, Wayne Foley, Kerrissa O'Meara and Andrew Twaddle

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

ATTACHMENTS**Tabled Documents:**

1. Proposal to the Minister for Health; Mental Health and Mental Health Commissioner – Investment in alcohol and other drug service in the Kimberley Regions – Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS), Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS) and Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation (Milliya Rumurra) – 20 February 2024; and
2. Sober Up Shelter Statistics – Admissions – July-December 2023



Proposal to the Minister for Health; Mental Health and Mental Health Commissioner

Investment in alcohol and other drug services in the Kimberley region

20 February 2024

from Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS), Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS), and Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation (Milliya Rumurra)

Situation

We call on the WA Government to provide simultaneous investment in alcohol and other drugs (AOD) services, planning and infrastructure alongside any proposal to increase liquor restrictions.

Every day, we see the harmful devastating impacts caused by AOD misuse on Kimberley people, families, and communities. We acknowledge a proposal for further restrictions in Broome and Derby, and changes already implemented through the *Liquor Control Amendment (Banned Drinkers Register (BDR)) Bill 2023*. But we believe that simply increasing restrictions is not the answer. **We do not oppose restrictions**, but we emphasise the need for a holistic approach, combining health, social, and diversionary strategies to support community-led responses to alcohol and other drug related harm within the region.

On 12 February 2024, representatives of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA) met with the Minister for Health; Mental Health and the Mental Health Commissioner. At the meeting, the AHCWA Chair raised concerns, on behalf of the Kimberley Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) sector, that liquor restrictions are being implemented without appropriate consultation, a regional plan, or adequate services and infrastructure. In response, the Minister invited a proposal to outline how the capacity of the ACCHS sector could be enhanced to complement liquor restrictions.

A preliminary list of initiatives that could be funded has been prepared for consideration. **This list is not exhaustive** – it does comprehensively represent the needs of Kimberley Aboriginal people and communities, or the current and future potential of the Kimberley ACCHS and ACCO sectors to respond to these. The list focuses on existing known needs, and it includes a necessary initiative to develop a dedicated regional Aboriginal-led AOD plan that will facilitate regional and place-based implementation of strategies that address needs of communities, as well as WA and national policies (including *the WA Mental Health, AOD Services Plan 2015-2025* and *the National Drug Strategy 2017–2026*).

There is a need for improved access to data, including alcohol sales data and data relating to alcohol related harm. Meaningful change will draw on more reliable and accessible data over time. The findings of the Mental Health Commission's 2018 planning exercise will be considered. Other data, such as Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) will also be used to demonstrate need and successful harm reduction strategies.

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For example, in relation to NSP data, we understand that in the Kimberley there was a significant increase from 20,909 in 2011 to 143,306 in 2023 – per capita distribution increased from 0.8 to 5.9'. While the Department of Health advise that the numbers and rates of needle and syringe distribution do not necessarily reflect changes in drug use trends in any area or region, our sector posits that it does indicate evidence of a growing illicit drug problem.

Optimal service mix

Reform requires collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, governments, and communities. Instead of more restrictions, we ask that the WA Government invest in the ACCHS sector, specialist Aboriginal AOD services like Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation, and other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to enhance AOD services and develop an optimal service mix of comprehensive, effective approaches including alternatives to criminalisation.

Without adequate support, increased restrictions could unintentionally harm individuals and communities, potentially leading to punitive outcomes rather than health improvements. The lack of a regional AOD plan, combined with insufficient resources for tackling related issues like family and domestic violence⁴, demands urgent government action.

Furthermore, the sensationalist portrayal of alcohol use in the region by the media contributes to a negative and harmful stereotype of this being "an Aboriginal issue", underlining the need for an informed and respectful public discourse.

This proposal provides an opportunity for the WA Government to demonstrate support for a balanced, community-led approach to AOD misuse. We urge the WA Government to listen to the voices of Kimberley people, who have been crying out for years for increased investment in health, social and diversionary approaches that will support Kimberley people and communities to respond to the harm caused by AOD.

The value of community-control

For tens of thousands of years, Kimberley Aboriginal people have cared for and provided healing to Kimberley Aboriginal people. We are building on the work of those that came before us:

- **Milliya Rumurra** has been providing support to individuals, families and communities affected by AOD since 1978. Milliya Rumurra means 'First Day' or 'Brand New Day' in Yawuru language and was established by community leaders who wanted to provide a place that people could come to for help, so that they could help them to achieve their full potential.
- **KAMS** was established in 1986, when the vision for a unified voice to provide centralised resources and collective advocacy for the sector achieved reality. KAMS is a member based, regional service providing support and representing the interests of eight independent organisations from across the region; as well as offering a range of services.
- **DAHS** was established in 1998 following a compelling community-led campaign. The community advocated for the establishment of an ACCHS knowing that the health needs of Aboriginal people in the region greatly exceed the capacity of mainstream service providers.

Collectively, the Kimberley ACCHS sector has evolved immensely – the strength of our people, our partners and the communities we serve gives us confidence about our future as a sector. We have adopted the holistic ACCHS Model of Care which integrates community, family, Culture, spirituality, language, Country, emotions, and the physical as essential elements for health.

The Kimberley ACCHS sector contributes to improving Aboriginal health and wellbeing through the provision of comprehensive primary health care, and by integrating and coordinating care and

services. Along with our ACCO partners, our sector has expanded to provide aged and disability services. Collectively, we build ongoing relationships to provide continuity of care to Kimberley Aboriginal people. Key factors of our success are local engagement, a proven service delivery model, and cultural safety.

For further information contact:

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Proposal to the Minister for Health; Mental Health and the Mental Health Commissioner

Investment in alcohol and other drug planning, services, infrastructure and workforce in the Kimberley region

20 February 2024

From Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, Derby Aboriginal Health Service, and Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation

This document provides a preliminary list of initiatives which could be funded from 1 July 2024 to enhance the service capacity to complement increased liquor restrictions in the region. As a preliminary list, and noting that finite resourcing is available, the list includes a proposal to develop a dedicated regional AOD plan that will facilitate regional and place-based planning and implementation of strategies that address needs as identified by communities.

Initiative	Rationale	Lead	Funding Requested
Funding is requested to provide for development of a regional Aboriginal-led alcohol and other drug (AOD) plan .	<p>The Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (KAHPF) is the peak regional health forum for improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people in the region. The KAHPF is Co-chaired by the CEO of KAMS and the Regional Executive Director, WACHS Kimberley. KAMS provides executive support to the KAHPF.</p> <p>Members of the KAHPF, the KAHPF Drug, Alcohol and Mental Health Sub-committee (DAMH-SC), and the ACCHS Sector Leads Clinicians' Forum are concerned about the increasing misuse of alcohol and other drugs across the region.</p> <p>Previously, the KAHPF have advocated for resources to develop a regional AOD planⁱⁱ. Several other stakeholders have made a similar call, for example, Binarni-binyja yarrowooⁱⁱⁱ (Empowered Communities East Kimberley), the Kimberley Regional Roundtable^{iv}, the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group^v, and the Kimberley Regional Group of Local Governments^{vi}.</p> <p>Improved planning and investment into prevention services, which enhances demand and harm reduction</p>	Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (as convener of the KAHPF)	<p>2024/25 to 2025/26</p> <p>\$300,000</p> <p>Over 18 to 24 months</p>

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Initiative	Rationale	Lead	Funding Requested
	<p>initiatives is required. Alcohol is a health and social issue that impacts the whole community. It is crucial that the implementation of supply reduction measures be supported with parallel demand and harm reduction interventions, as well as early intervention with general practitioners and other primary care settings. This would require an increased level of funding to support targeted community driven initiatives, research and data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions across the region. There is a requirement for improved access to data, including alcohol sales data and data relating to alcohol related harm. Meaningful change will draw on more reliable and accessible data over time.^{vii}</p> <p>Subject to endorsement, KAMS would lead development of the Plan, in partnership with the KAHPF, and the DAMH-SC.</p> <p>The Plan will provide a roadmap for service development, transformation and expansion of AOD services into the future. Development and prioritisation of key focus areas will require partnerships between all key stakeholders, Aboriginal people and communities (including consumers, families and carers), the Kimberley ACCHS and ACCO sectors, all three-tiers of government, private and non-government, health and non-health sectors, clinicians. The findings of the Mental Health Commission's 2018 planning exercise will be considered.</p>		
Funding is requested to build clinical AOD capacity across the Kimberley ACCHS/ACCO sector	<p>Every day, staff working in ACCHSs and ACCOs across the Kimberley see the harmful devastating impacts caused by AOD misuse on Kimberley people, families, and communities. Already, ACCHS clinicians and clerical staff report feeling overwhelmed by an increase in patients presenting with AOD issues. Staff need to be trained to respond to patients to ensure the best health and wellbeing outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>This initiative will engage specialist AOD services, most preferably a General Practitioner trained in Addiction Medicine, to upskill multidisciplinary ACCHS primary health care teams, which are comprised of Aboriginal Health Workers/Practitioners (AHW/P), doctors and nurses. The Specialist may also build capacity of other ACCOs that wish to provide AOD interventions as appropriate. For sustainability, the Specialist would be required to commit to skills transfer, particularly with our AHW/Ps, who are the bedrock of our workforce and less likely to "turnover".</p>	Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services	<p>Commencing 2024/25</p> <p>\$800,000 recurrent</p>
Funding is requested to provide for construction of the Derby Wellness Centre .	<p>The Derby Wellness Centre will deliver on a promise made by the founders of DAHS, to empower Aboriginal people in the prevention and management of ill-health, and in the promotion of wellbeing for individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>It is of significant concern that AOD services in Derby and surrounds communities are significantly lacking. Supply reduction initiatives alone are not enough and will not succeed unless they are accompanied by appropriately resourced demand and harm reduction initiatives^{viii}. Efforts to mitigate AOD related harm must</p>	Derby Aboriginal Health Service	<p>2024/25</p> <p>\$3,000,000</p> <p>Potential to span over two years. Operational</p>

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Initiative	Rationale	Lead	Funding Requested
	<p>address the social determinants of health and they should include a range of evidence-based strategies for reducing demand, controlling supply, and minimising harm. Aboriginal communities need to be resourced and empowered to develop and manage their own intervention services. Critical to these efforts are community capacity building, cross-sector collaboration, and locally led engagement.</p> <p>Building the capacity of the ACCHS and ACCO sector is essential to responding to this. But the physical infrastructure of DAHS has reached capacity – there is simply no space to accommodate additional services and staffing.</p> <p>The Derby Wellness Centre is designed to provide holistic health services, in accordance with the ACCHS Model of Care. Services will include AOD, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing, family and domestic violence (FDV), aged care and traditional healing. The service will be co-located with Kimberley Renal Services, meaning that land has already been secured. Services will also provide outreach to the West Kimberley Regional Prison, and seven remote Aboriginal communities. DAHS is getting ready for this and is a participant of the AOD Certification Readiness project, by WANADA and AHCWA.</p> <p>It is noted that in Derby, there is great need for expansion of AOD services to support women and children who are experiencing or escaping FDV. Marnin Bowa Dumbara Aboriginal Corporation (Derby Family Healing Centre) advise that on average, three out of four women report methamphetamine use as factor associated with their experience of FDV, and one in four report alcohol as a factor. The service has a 28-bed capacity but is currently only funded to provide 13¹. DAHS is well placed to partner with the service to provide in-reach and follow up AOD support to women and their families.</p>		<i>funding to be determined through regional planning</i>
Funding is requested to provide for expansion of residential services plus a new low to medium detox facility	<p>Funding is requested to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential beds: capital infrastructure to expand for an additional 12 beds plus operational costs. Expansion to improve support to Pregnant women, single parents and families. AOD detox facility: new capital infrastructure with 6 beds plus operational costs. This 2 to 4 week low to medium detox facility will provide an additional option for community members who cannot commit to a 13-week residential program. Community follow-up and support to be offered to clients and families post detox. <p>Milliya Rumurra is an Aboriginal community-controlled AOD service located on the outskirts of Broome which services the whole region. They currently provide:</p>	Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation	<p><u>Residential beds</u> 2024/25 Capital \$5,625,000 Operational \$800,000 recurrent <u>Detox</u> 2024/25</p>

¹ Marnin Bowa Dumbara are concerned that increased restrictions will lead to a greater need for FDV support services. Representations have been made to the WA Department of Communities to seek additional resourcing and are ongoing. This is on top of the well-known "cost of living crisis" which is leading to homelessness.

Initiative	Rationale	Lead	Funding Requested
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 20-bed residential rehabilitation facility involving a 13-week, high-intensity, short-term, treatment program (non-Aboriginal patients may also be accepted) Community AOD Program: relapse prevention and harm minimisation Kimberley wide Continuing Care Program: case management, counselling, and support service to clients' post-rehabilitation for 39-weeks. Outreach, in partnership with Cyrenian House: community-based interventions focused on improving access, prevention and early intervention and community capacity building. Sobering Up Shelter: 12-bed interim facility. Assertive Outreach: case management, counselling, advocacy and support to community-based clients. 		<p>Capital (to be costed) Operational \$2,200,000 recurrent</p>

¹ WA Department of Health provided this data to the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum, for planning purposes. Data to 2020 is published via the report on *NISP distribution data and trends from 2011 to 2020*.
² The Kimberley Region has recorded the highest rates of family violence in WA, according to 31 December 2023 figures released by WA Police: *Monthly Crime Statistics*.
³ Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (October 2020), *Submission to Alcohol restrictions in The Kimberley*.
⁴ Binarti-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation (2023), *Regional Development Agenda: East Kimberley Regional Plan*.
⁵ In Binarti-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation (2020) *Submission to Alcohol Inquiry*.
⁶ The Aboriginal Regional Governance Group have requested that a regional Alcohol Action Plan be developed, as part of the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee Partnership Agreement Implementation Plan.
⁷ Kimberley Regional Group of Local Governments (November 2023) *Media Release BDR*.
⁸ Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (October 2020), *Submission to Alcohol restrictions in The Kimberley*.
⁹ Commonwealth of Australia (2017) *National Drug Strategy 2017-2026*.

Sober Up Shelter Statistics—Admissions

July—December 2023

MONTH	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Total Admissions	71	93	97	134	159	119	673
Total Males	55	55	64	89	101	63	427
Total Females	16	38	33	45	58	56	246
Number of nights Centre closed			1				1
Number of referrals by other Services	7	17	11 (1)	14	3 (4)	17 (2)	69 (7)
Number of self referrals	64	76	85	120	152	100	597
Number of referrals by Centre staff							

Community of Origin	Males	Females	T
Derby	13, 17, 12, 37, 26, 26, (131)	3, 12, 10, 22, 13, 22, (82)	213
Mowanjum	6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 4, (38)	1, 1, 1, 9, 9, (21)	59
Pandanus Park	1, 1, 1, (3)	1, 5, (6)	9
Looma	22, 10, 15, 16, 17, 8, (88)	5, 2, 5, 5, 11, 6, (34)	122
Jarlmahdanga	1 (1)	4, 1, 4, 7, (16)	17
Gibb River Communities			
Broome		3, (3)	3
Bidyadanga	1, 1, 1, (3)	3, 1, 2, 1, (7)	10
Noonkanbah	4, 5, 13, 4, 13, 12, (51)	1, 1, (2)	53
Fitzroy Crossing	4, 15, 14, 22, 35, 10, (100)	1, 12, 3, 9, 13, 2, (40)	140
Wangkajunka	1, 1, (2)	3, (3)	5
Yiyili			
Halls Creek	2, 2, (4)	1, 1, (2)	6
Balgo/Mulan		6, 8, 6, 2, 3, 1, (26)	26
Warmun	1, (1)		1
Kununurra			
Wyndham		1, 1, (2)	2
Kalbaruru	3, 1, 1, (5)	2, (2)	7
WA (other)Pilbara			
Interstate			
Total			673

Clients' Community of Origin**July 2023**

Derby	152
Mowanjum	52
Pandanus Park	
Looma	30
Jarlmahdanga	
Gibb River Communities	
Broome	
Bidyadanga	
Noonkanbah	
Fitzroy Crossing	10
Wangkajunka	
Yiyili	
Halls Creek	4
Balgo/Mulan	
Warmun	
Kununurra	
Wyndham	
Kalbaruru	
WA (other)	
Interstate	

Derby Night Patrol Statistics**July 2023**

Total Pick Ups	248
Intoxicated Females	86
Intoxicated Males	95
Non Intoxicated pick ups	67
Children: 0--5	3
6--11	1
12--17	
Pick Ups : SUS	45
Hospital	34
Woolies	8
Short Stay	2
Colac Park	18
Lions' Park	14
Warimba Dell	8
Clarendon Street	46
Street (Other)	67
Spinifex Hotel	
Boababinn	
Jila Cafe	
Civic Centre	5
Other	1
Drop Offs: Home	162
Short Stay Hostel	1
Hospital	3
Police	
SUS	16
Mowanjum	51
Womens' Refuge	1
Renal Hostel	2
Other	10

Clients' Community of Origin**August 2023**

Derby	192
Mowanjum	98
Pandanus Park	
Looma	16
Jarlmahdanga	
Gibb River Communities	
Broome	
Bidyadanga	
Noonkanbah	3
Fitzroy Crossing	12
Wangkajunka	
Yiyili	
Halls Creek	2
Baigo/Mulan	2
Warmun	1
Kununurra	
Wyndham	1
Kalumbaru	
WA (other)	1
Interstate	

Derby Night Patrol Statistics**August 2023**

Total Pick Ups	328
Intoxicated Females	111
Intoxicated Males	111
Non Intoxicated pick ups	106
Children : 0-5	
6-11	
12-17	7
Pick Ups: SUS	40
Hospital	32
Woolies	4
Short Stay	
Colac Park	40
Lions' Park	33
Warimba Deli	
Clarendon Street	68
Street (Other)	94
Spinifex Hotel	
Boabab Inn	
Jila Cafe	
Civic Centre	2
Other	15
Drop Offs: Home	188
Short Stay Hostel	2
Hospital	6
Police	2
SUS	19
Mowanjum	102
Womens' Refuge	
Renai Hostel	1
Other	7

Clients' Community of Origin**September 2023**

Derby	181
Mowanjum	108
Pandanus Park	
Looma	20
Jarlmahdanga	
Gibb River Communities	
Broome	2
Bidyadanga	1
Noonkanbah	11
Fitzroy Crossing	14
Wangkajunka	5
Yiyili	
Halls Creek	1
Balgo/Mulan	16
Warmun	2
Kununurra	
Wyndham	
Kalumbaru	1
WA (other)	7
Interstate	1

Derby Night Patrol Statistics**September 2023**

Total Pick Ups	370
Intoxicated Females	117
Intoxicated Males	84
Non Intoxicated pick ups	169
Children : 0--5	
6--11	
12--17	4
Pick Ups: SUS	32
Hospital	41
Woolies	9
Short Stay	
Colac Park	12
Lions' Park	
Warimba Dell	2
Clarendon Street	115
Street (Other)	100
Spinifex Hotel	
Boabablnn	1
Jila Cafe	4
Civic Centre	32
Other	22
Drop Offs: Home	214
Short Stay Hostel	1
Hospital	7
Police	
SUS	22
Mowanjum	103
Womens' Refuge	2
Renal Hostel	
Other	21

Clients' Community of Origin**October 2023**

Derby	247	(172)
Mowanjum	118	(44)
Pandanus Park	4	(4)
Looma	30	(21)
Jarlmahdanga		
Gibb River Communities		
Broome	6	(4)
Bidyadanga		
Noonkanbah	11	(6)
Fitzroy Crossing	21	(13)
Wangkajunka	7	(5)
Yiyili	1	(1)
Halls Creek	1	
Balgo/Mulan	12	(12)
Warmun	1	(1)
Kununurra		
Wyndham	2	(2)
Kalumbaru	1	
WA (other)	3	(2)
Interstate		

Derby Night Patrol Statistics**October 2023**

Total Pick Ups	465	
Intoxicated Females	142	
Intoxicated Males	152	
Non Intoxicated pick ups	171	
Children: 0-5		
6--11		
12--17	5	
Pick Ups : SUS	43	
Hospital	67	(intox.-38)
Woolies	8	(intox.-7)
Short Stay		
Colac Park	21	(intox.-15)
Lions' Park		
Warimba Deli	13	(1)
Clarendon Street	119	(intox.-79)
Street (Other)	138	(intox.-81)
Spinifex Hotel	2	
Boabab Inn		
Jlia Cafe	2	
Civic Centre	18	(intox.-16)
IGA	13	(intox.-10)
Other	19	
Drop Offs: Home	300	(intox.-241)
Short Stay Hostel		
Hospital	8	(intox.-7)
Police		
SUS	33	
Mowanjum	98	(intox.-32)
Womens' Refuge	6	
Renal Hostel	2	
Other	18	

Clients' Community of Origin**November 2022**

Derby	163
Mowanjum	94
Pandanus Park	
Looma	13
Jarlmahdanga	
Gibb River Communities	1
Broome	
Bidyadanga	
Noonkanbah	4
Fitzroy Crossing	9
Wangkajunka	2
Yiyili	
Halls Creek	
Balgo/Mulan	2
Warmun	
Kununurra	
Wyndham	
Kalbarbaru	2
WA (other) Perth	1
Interstate	

Derby Night Patrol Statistics**November 2022**

Total Pick Ups	291
Intoxicated Females	102
Intoxicated Males	114
Non Intoxicated pick ups	75
Children: 0--5	2
6--11	
12--17	13
Pick Ups: SUS	65
Hospital	22
Woolies	30
Short Stay	3
Colac Park	3
Lions' Park	10
Warimba Deli	6
Clarendon Street	46
Street (Other)	95
Spinifex Hotel	
Boabablnn	
Jila Cafe	2
Civic Centre	5
Other	4
Drop Offs: Home	159
Short Stay Hostel	10
Hospital	6
Police	1
SUS	14
Mowanjum	85
Womens' Refuge	2
Renal Hostel	1
Other	13

Clients' Community of Origin**December 2023**

Derby	208
Mowanjum	59
Pandanus Park	1
Looma	12
Jarlmahdanga	1
Gibb River Communities	
Broome	
Bidyadanga	
Noonkanbah	4
Fitzroy Crossing	4
Wangkajunka	4
Yiyili	
Halls Creek	2
Balgo/Mulan	8
Warmun	2
Kununurra	
Wyndham	
Kalbarbaru	7
WA (other)	
Interstate	

Derby Night Patrol Statistics**December 2023**

Total Pick Ups	312
Intoxicated Females	73
Intoxicated Males	62
Non Intoxicated pick ups	177
Children : 0-5	
6-11	
12-17	1
Pick Ups : SUS	36 (22)
Hospital	45 (16)
Woolies	
Short Stay	
Colac Park	6 (6)
Lions' Park	13 (11)
Warimba Deli	6 (6)
Clarendon Street	94 (26)
Street (Other)	90 (36)
Spinifex Hotel	
Boabablnn	
Youth centre	2 (2)
Civic Centre	
Other: IGA	20 (12)
Drop Offs: Home	200
Short Stay Hostel	2
Hospital	1
Police	
SUS	21
Mowanjum	48
Womens' Refuge	5
Renal Hostel	1
Other	12

7 COMMUNITY AND RECREATION SERVICES

7.1 SHIRE OF DERBY/WEST KIMBERLEY POSITION STATEMENT ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG HARM MINIMISATION

File Number: CR/095/2

Author: Jess Karlsson, Executive Director of Operations and Strategic Development

Responsible Officer: Amanda Dexter, Chief Executive Officer

Authority/Discretion: Advocacy

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to present a draft Shire of Derby/West Kimberley Position Statement on Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation, in a clear, concise, and considered format, for Council consideration and feedback.

This position statement would be used as a guide for any media statements, and responses to forums, regarding the Shire's position on Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Harm Minimisation, and related topics.

DISCLOSURE OF ANY INTEREST

Nil by Author; Nil by Responsible Officer.

BACKGROUND

As per Council Briefing held Thursday, 15th February 2024, the Elected Members requested the development of a Position Statement on Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Harm Minimisation. The Position Statement (**see Attachment 1**) has been summarised and updated based on feedback at from Elected Members, and Executive Team, for Council endorsement.

Due to a series of events, including media and political attention relating to AOD issues in Derby/West Kimberley, the Shire has been requested to develop a position in relation to AOD harm minimisation; including Shire commitments and roles.

For further background, please refer to the previously distributed briefing paper 'Alcohol Related Harm Minimisation' 15 February 2024.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The sale, supply and consumption of liquor in Western Australia is regulated under the *Liquor Control Act 1988* (**the Act**). The Act seeks to minimise harm caused to community members due to the use of liquor.

The legislation is administered by the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries (the Department). WA Police manages the compliance and the enforcement of the Act.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Shire currently does not have a stated policy in relation to liquor. This paper will be used to inform public statements made by the President and Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the

Council as allowed for under Policy C8 – Public Statements by Councillors and Chief Executive Officer.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol related harm have minimal financial impact for the Shire. Any expenses occurring are met within the operational budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

GOAL	OUR PRIORITIES	WE WILL
1. Leadership and Governance	1.2 Capable, inclusive and effective organisation	1.2.1 Provide strong civic leadership
2. Community	2.2 Healthy Communities	2.2.4 Conduct and/or promote healthy lifestyle initiatives and living standards

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

RISK	LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE	RISK ANALYSIS	MITIGATION
Business Interruption: Changes to regulatory and government policy which directly impact the community and local businesses.	Almost Certain	Moderate	High	Advocate on behalf of the community with relevant government departments. Keep community informed of the Shire's stated position and work being undertaken to advocate for the community.
Community: Risk of community/ stakeholders not supporting councils stated position	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Consultation with relevant stakeholders to ensure position is reflective of the community has occurred over the past three weeks. Keep community informed of the position and work being undertaken to advocate for the community. Aligning our statement with the KRG Position Statement, March 2023.

CONSULTATION

This position statement has been drafted following consultation over the past month with the following;

- Members of the Derby Liquor Accord;
- Kimberley Regional Group,
- Kimberley District Leadership Group,
- Derby Interagency Group,
- SDWK Elected Members,
- Ad hoc community feedback,
- Minister for Police and the Minister of Liquor Licensing (noting these portfolios have changed responsibilities several times in recent years),
- Evaluation documentation collated by UWA on the BDR trial,
- Documentation provided by the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
- Shire of Derby/West Kimberley Executive
- Other relevant documentation identified during desktop research.

Briefing held with Elected Members 15th February 2024.

COMMENT

Although, the term 'consistent restrictions' was raised several times by Council. The Executive team have used the word considered in below position statements, to avoid the risk of this being seen as advocacy for stricter restrictions in line with other dry communities i.e. Fitzroy Crossing / Halls Creek.

Since this paper was shared with Elected Members on Friday, 16th February, for feedback. This feedback has been incorporated into the Statement and highlighted in dark orange font.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple majority

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Position Statement - Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley**
2. **KRG Position Paper - Management of Alcohol and Other Drugs - March 2023**
3. **Media Statement - Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) - 15 February 2024**

Jess Karlsson – Executive Director of Operations and Strategic Development gave a presentation on the proposed change to the Position Statement - Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley and the minor change to the recommendation to include accepting change to the position paper.

Added paragraph:

- *Additionally, the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley is part of the Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) and supports the KRG vision 'to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world'.*

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**RESOLUTION 02/24****Moved: Cr Andrew Twaddle****Seconded: Cr Wayne Foley**

A motion was moved that Council suspend standing orders at 4:43pm.

In Favour: Crs Peter McCumstie, Geoff Haerewa, Brett Angwin, Paul Bickerton, Geoff Davis, Brian Ellison, Wayne Foley, Kerrissa O'Meara and Andrew Twaddle

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0**RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS****RESOLUTION 03/24****Moved: Cr Brett Angwin****Seconded: Cr Paul Bickerton**

A motion was moved that Council resume standing orders at 4:46pm.

In Favour: Crs Peter McCumstie, Geoff Haerewa, Brett Angwin, Paul Bickerton, Geoff Davis, Brian Ellison, Wayne Foley, Kerrissa O'Meara and Andrew Twaddle

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION (FIRST)

That Council:

1. Endorses the Position Statement on Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley, as per Attachment 1;
2. Notes the Kimberley Regional Group Position Group Statement – March 2023 (Attachment 2); and
3. Notes the Media Statement from Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) – 15 February 2024 (Attachment 3).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION (SECOND)

That Council:

1. **Adopts** the Position Statement on Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley, as per Attachment 1, **and directs the CEO to distribute as appropriate;**
2. Notes the Kimberley Regional Group Position Group Statement (Attachment 2); and
3. Notes the Media Statement from Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) 15th February, 2024 (Attachment 3).

RESOLUTION 04/24

Moved: Cr Geoff Haerewa

Seconded: Cr Andrew Twaddle

That Council:

1. **Adopts** the Position Statement on Alcohol and Other Drug Harm Minimisation in Derby/West Kimberley, as per Attachment 1, **with the amendment as accepted at the meeting and directs the CEO to distribute as appropriate;**
2. **Notes the Kimberley Regional Group Position Group Statement (Attachment 2); and**
3. **Notes the Media Statement from Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) 15th February, 2024 (Attachment 3).**

In Favour: Crs Peter McCumstie, Geoff Haerewa, Brett Angwin, Paul Bickerton, Geoff Davis, Brian Ellison, Wayne Foley, Kerrissa O'Meara and Andrew Twaddle

Against: Nil

CARRIED 9/0



29 February 2024

POSITION STATEMENT: MINIMISING HARM FROM ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

About the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley:

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley as a local government, plays multiple roles within our region. Our roles include advocacy, influence, partnering, and facilitating positive community outcomes. Our vision is for Derby/West Kimberley to be 'a place where people want to live, invest, visit, and return to'.

This paper is designed to highlight the issues as known to Local Government at the time of writing and the potential pathways that are supported.

Context:

The abuse of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) is prevalent across the Kimberley, with an estimated consumption far higher than national average. This is well recognised as a major health problem, and one that has broader social and economic costs. Addressing the harms associated with AOD, requiring collaboration across all levels of government and a whole of community approach.

Alarming rates of AOD problems continue across the Kimberley, and within the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley, therefore a new, improved approach is required to create sustainable, effective, and localised supports.

Addressing both root causes and symptoms is critical and will require long-term investment into localised 'wrap around services', resourcing, and infrastructure.

Local governments, including the Shire must balance the part that alcohol plays in Australian society with the risks to health, safety, and wellbeing its misuse can pose for the community. Alcohol often accompanies socialising and celebrations, generates employment and revenue, activates streetscapes, and enhances local identity as an entertainment and tourism destination; however, alcohol misuse contributes significantly to health and social issues.

In line with the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley's Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031, the Shire has a role in helping minimise alcohol related harm through collaboration and partnerships, providing strong civic leadership, and encouraging community safety to be a whole-of-community responsibility.

As a Shire we are limited in what we alone can achieve, therefore, to successfully improve community safety, and minimise alcohol related harm we will collaborate with a wide range of partners, to implement effective strategies. We believe enforcement of strict purchasing restrictions, without the strengthening of localised, wrap-around supports and services, will not address the issues caused by AOD abuse, and could have further adverse effects on the Region.

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wrap-around supports and services, will not address the issues caused by AOD abuse, and could have further adverse effects on the Region.

Therefore, the Shire is calling for a sustainable, collaborative, and holistic approach to AOD harm minimisation.

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley is committed to:

- Working collaboratively with all relevant Local and Regional Health Service Providers, Indigenous Organisations, State and Federal Government Departments, Businesses and Community Organisations to minimise Alcohol and other Drugs harms within our Towns, Communities, and Region.
- Advocating for preventative, rehabilitation, recovery, and wellness services to be established and strengthened in our Region; and
- Acknowledging community led alcohol management initiatives and contributing when and where appropriate.

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley supports the following:

1. Improved localised preventative, rehabilitation and wellness services and infrastructure to build the regions' resilience, including increased housing; and
2. The implementation of considered measures (e.g. Purchasing Restrictions and the Banned Drinker Register) in conjunction with increased support services and infrastructure; and
3. Greater deterrents to address the issue of illegal supply of alcohol (also known as 'sly grogging') and other drugs, including greater resourcing to implement these initiatives.

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POSITION PAPER MANAGEMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

MARCH 2023

ABOUT THE KIMBERLEY REGIONAL GROUP

The Kimberley Regional Group (KRG) is an alliance of the four Shires of the Kimberley, being the Shire of Broome, the Shire of Derby West Kimberley, the Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. Our Vision is to maintain and enhance the rich diversity and liveability of the Kimberley for its people and the world. Collaboratively the group seeks to drive positive impact across the region through improved social, economic and cultural outcomes. This paper is designed to highlight the issues as known to Local Government at the time of writing and the potential pathways that are supported.

CONTEXT

- The abuse of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) is prevalent across the Kimberley, with an estimated per capita annual consumption of pure alcohol far higher than the national annual average².
- Whilst amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), including methamphetamine, use is low relative to alcohol and tobacco, it is growing³.
- Key areas in which alcohol has an impact across the region include poor health, mortality rates⁴, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and social impacts such as increased poverty, crime rates, rates of family and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect and reduced labour market participation.
- Intergenerational disadvantage has seen some of the most vulnerable people in the region unable to break the cycle of substance abuse and violence.
- Alcohol restrictions, of various forms have been in place since voluntary restrictions were introduced in Halls Creek in 1992. Inconsistent approaches have intensified alcohol misuse by people travelling to different locations to drink. Also, alcohol restrictions impact on tourists and residents' access to alcohol use and enjoyment.
- AOD services are unevenly spread across the Kimberley, which is a disadvantage to residents of smaller towns and remote communities.



- Increasing the price of alcohol by imposing taxation and minimum pricing has been found to be directly associated with a reduction in consumption, acute and chronic health concerns, traffic accidents, crime and violent incidents⁵.

SNAPSHOT OF ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT IN THE KIMBERLEY

Liquor Control (Section 64) Restrictions

Limit or prohibit the sale of alcohol from licensed premises by imposing conditions on liquor licences in relation to trading hours and the purchasing, consuming or possessing alcohol. This includes limiting the number of items that can be purchased in a day or limit sales to light alcohol products only. Restrictions vary between towns⁶.

Liquor Control (Section 175) Restrictions

Many Aboriginal communities are subject to these restrictions which apply to a declared area and may prohibit the bringing in, possession and consumption of liquor and may provide for penalties to people who contravene the restrictions.

'Dry areas'

Community members are able to declare certain areas, ranging from individual houses up to entire communities, as a 'dry' area where possession or consumption of alcohol completely is completely prohibited.

Liquor Control (Section 31) Notice Under Western Australia's State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic

This Notice restricted to selling packaged liquor in prescribed quantities. It expired in the Kimberley in November 2022 when Western Australia's State of Emergency for the COVID pandemic ended. The Director of Liquor Licensing has written to affected licensees in the Kimberley to notify them that it is the intent to impose conditions on their liquor licence consistent with those conditions prescribed in the Liquor Control (Section 31) (Kimberley) Notice 2021 and to afford them an opportunity to provide submissions. The Director of Liquor Licensing is expecting to make a final decision in late February 2023.

Banned Drinkers Register (BDR)

The Banned Drinkers Register identifies people who are banned from purchasing takeaway alcohol and stops their purchase. The Kimberley BDR is being evaluated with the evaluation report expected in early 2023.

Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS)

The TAMS system is used in conjunction with the Banned Drinkers Register and supports liquor restrictions, by reducing opportunities for people to purchase quantities above what is mandated within any applicable restriction. TAMS records the amount and type of liquor purchased by any individual within a 24-hour period and automatically alerts retail staff, when any daily purchase limit has been reached.





Voluntary Liquor Accords

Liquor accords are a co-operative arrangement formed under section 64(1b) of the Act aimed at developing safe and well managed environments in and around licensed premises in the local context.

OBJECTIVE

- » **Substance abuse and associated harm is reduced.**
- » **Health outcomes are improved.**
- » **Poverty and crime are reduced.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles should inform alcohol and drug management in the Kimberley.

- A focus on community awareness, education, prevention, and early intervention.
- Harm minimisation and reduction
- A whole of family approach which addresses the underlying causes of AOD use including co-occurring mental health conditions and complex trauma.
- Community led, co-designed solutions which are coordinated, integrated and includes engagement with local government.
- A data and evidence-based response
- A response that is culturally lead and centred in cultural strength
- Place based responses with access to local services

POLICY PRIORITIES

1. **A Kimberley Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention Strategy is developed and resourced**
2. **A Kimberley Regional Alcohol Action Plan is developed and resourced**
3. **Expansion of location and community-based specialist drug and alcohol services with options for priority target groups, especially young people. This includes:**
 - 3.1 harm reduction and personal support
 - 3.2 safe places for intoxicated people
 - 3.3 residential rehabilitation post residential rehabilitation
 - 3.4 community day treatment programs
 - 3.5 low-medical withdrawal (home-based, outpatient and other)
 - 3.6 high/complex withdrawal (inpatient)
 - 3.7 consultation and liaison services
4. **Increased investment to build and retain a capable alcohol and other drug workforce in the region**
5. **A strengthened legislative framework to manage alcohol. This includes:**
 - 5.1 Strengthening of the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) including:
 - a. establishment of a legislative framework within which the BDR with flexibility to declare any area a designated BDR area and clarify the definition of and criteria for Prohibition Orders as a protection order across the community



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. permitting WA Police officers at or above Senior Sergeant rank to issue an immediate short-term Barring Notice for a period of 30 days c. enhancement of voluntary registration pathways, d. a formal, independent evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness e. creating an offence for knowingly supplying liquor to a person who is on the BDR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.2 Amendment of Section 119 of the Sentence Administration Act 2003 to enable data on current relevant Parole Orders to be uploaded to the BDR, to allow for approved operations to access information on individuals under barring notices. 5.3 Expansion of police search and seizure powers enacted under regulations pursuant to section 175(1a) of the Liquor Control Act 1988 (WA) 5.4 Retention of Section 31 Restrictions 5.5 Retention of Section 64 Restrictions 5.6 Retention of Section 175 Restrictions |
|---|---|

ENDNOTES

1. *Illicit drugs include cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, meth/amphetamines etc as outlined in the National Drug Strategy Survey 2019* <https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/77dbea6e-f071-495c-b71e-3a632237269d/aihw-phe-270.pdf.aspx?inline=true>.
2. *Smith, K (2017). The cashless debit card trial: A public health, rights-based approach to better health and social outcomes. Indigenous L. Bull., 8, 22*
3. *Consultation summary report Alcohol and other drug services in the Kimberley 2018, p 14*
4. *The rate of alcohol related deaths in the Kimberley is one of the highest of any region in Western Australia, and significantly higher than the rate for Western Australia as a whole*
5. *Shanks Research Paper, p 20.*
6. *Research conducted by the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) suggests that alcohol supply restrictions are effective in reducing alcohol consumption when paired with other forms of interventions, including changes in price and taxation, trading hours and minimum drinking and purchase age. National Drug Research Institute, Restrictions on the Sale and Supply of Alcohol: Evidence and Outcomes (Report, 2007).*



Media Statement

CALL TO ACTION

Liquor restrictions alone are not the answer. Governments must invest in regional health planning, services, capital infrastructure and workforce.

15 February 2024

from the Kimberley Aboriginal community-controlled health service sector comprising: Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS), Beagle Bay Futures Indigenous Community Aboriginal Organisation, Bidadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Services, Derby Aboriginal Health Service, Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation, Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services, Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service, and Yura Yungi Medical Service.

On behalf of the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) Board, representing Aboriginal community-controlled health services across the Kimberley region of Western Australia, we stand against the push for more liquor restrictions without simultaneous investment in comprehensive alcohol and other drugs (AOD) services, planning and infrastructure.

Every day, we see the harmful effects caused by alcohol misuse on Kimberley people, families, and communities and acknowledge proposals for further restrictions in Broome and Derby, and changes implemented through the *Liquor Control Amendment (Banned Drinkers Register (BDR)) Bill 2023*. We recognise the devastating impact of alcohol but believe that simply increasing restrictions is not the answer. **We do not oppose restrictions**, but emphasise the need for a holistic approach, combining health, social, and diversionary strategies to support community-led responses to alcohol related harm within the region.

Reform requires collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, governments, and communities. Instead of more restrictions, governments must invest in our sector, specialist Aboriginal AOD services like Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation, and other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to enhance AOD services and develop comprehensive, effective approaches to alcohol problems, including alternatives to criminalisation.

Without adequate support, increased restrictions could unintentionally harm individuals and communities, potentially leading to punitive outcomes rather than health improvements. The lack of a regional plan for alcohol and drug misuse, combined with insufficient resources for tackling related issues like family and domestic violence, demands urgent government action. Furthermore, the sensationalist portrayal of alcohol use in the region by the media contributes to a negative and harmful stereotype of this being “an Aboriginal issue”, underlining the need for an informed and respectful public discourse.

The introduction of the BDR Bill 2023, allowing medical officers and social workers to recommend individuals to the BDR, has proceeded without proper consultation with our sector, and particularly our medical staff. Our senior medical officers uphold the *Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights* – they respect patient autonomy and the integrity of our comprehensive primary health care clinics as safe spaces, and our clinics will not be referring patients to the BDR. They may however support patients who choose to self-refer.

This statement underscores the necessity for a balanced, community-supported approach to alcohol misuse, emphasising collaboration, comprehensive planning, and respect for the autonomy and dignity of Kimberley communities. We urge the WA Government to listen to the voices of Kimberley people, who have been crying out for years for increased investment in health, social and diversionary approaches that will support Kimberley people and communities to respond to the harm caused by alcohol.

For further media information contact:

Sarah Tobias, Senior Policy Officer

communications@kamsc.org.au

Phone: (08) 9194 3233

8 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

9 CLOSURE

9.1 Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held Thursday, 29 February 2024 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers, Clarendon Street, Derby.

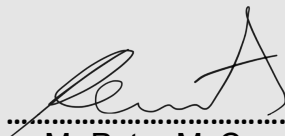
9.2 Closure of Meeting

The Presiding Member closed the meeting at 4:49pm.

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting on

29 February 2024
.....

Signed:



Mr Peter McCumstie

Presiding Person at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed.

Date: 29 February 2024
.....