



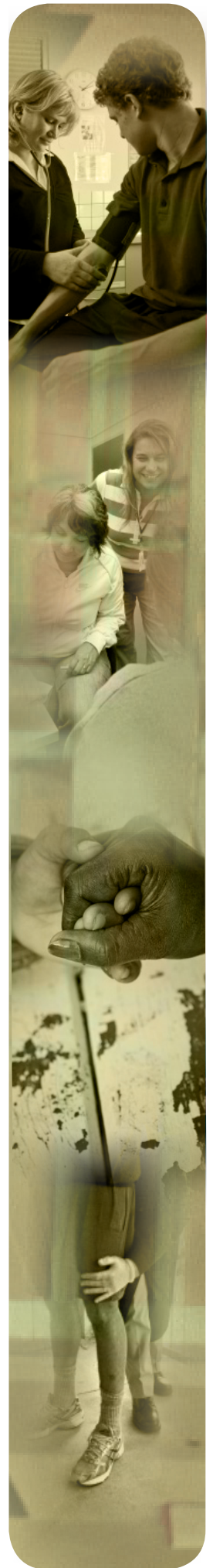
# Drug and Alcohol Agency Action Plan 2010 – 2014

*Making a positive difference.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010-15 is led by the Drug and Alcohol Office with support from the drug and alcohol sector and key government agencies that participate in the WA Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers Group (DASSOG), involving human service agencies across government.

The framework, titled *Safeguarding Our Community*, outlines the Government's key drug and alcohol policy direction for the coming years. The framework is underpinned by two core elements: first and foremost, a focus on prevention and secondly on providing support for those who require it.

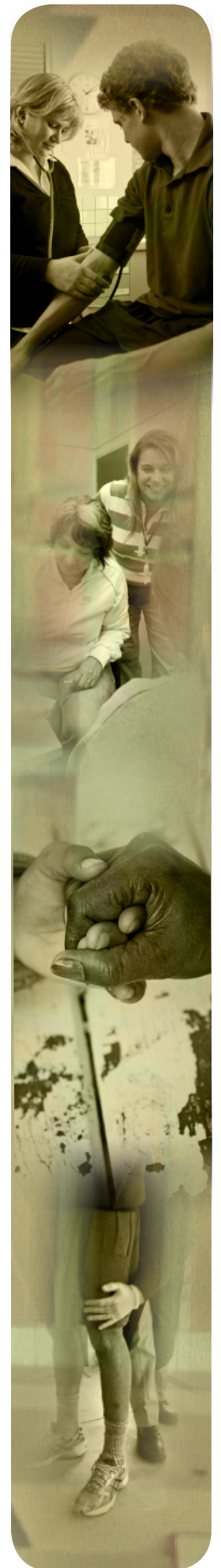
It operates under the national framework of supply, demand and harm reduction. The framework has five strategic areas: focusing on prevention; intervening before problems become entrenched; strong law enforcement approaches; effective treatment and support services; and strategic coordination and capacity building.

In addition, the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers' Group develops agency action plans that more specifically outline the key activities that will be implemented to support the framework. The action plans are updated on an annual basis.

These agency action plans focus on key developments specifically addressing the impact of drugs and alcohol, rather than relevant but broader social issues.

There are several complementary schemes that support this framework's implementation, such as the:

- WA Volatile Substance Use Plan 2005-09
- WA Alcohol Plan 2004-07
- WA Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2005-09
- agency drug and alcohol action plans. These include the Department of Corrective Services' Drug and Alcohol Agency Action Plan 2010-2014.



## OBJECTIVES

The Department of Corrective Services' (the Department) action plan outlines strategies to reduce offenders' drug use, improve their health and wellbeing, and reduce the burden of disease and disability on the community as a whole.

It also details the Department's aim to strengthen collaborative partnerships with other government and non-government agencies and community organisations.

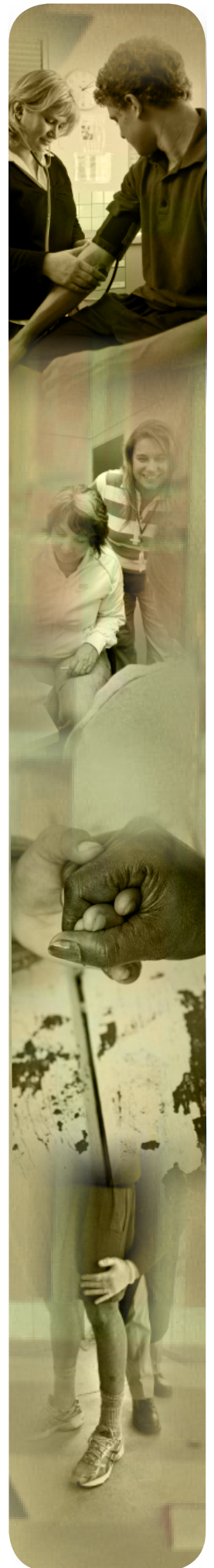
In order to measure the effectiveness of the action plan's strategies, the Department will use data provided by the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) and the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) on treatment outcomes at community treatment centres. Any gaps in service delivery will therefore be identified and filled.

The action plan focuses on the continued implementation of successful supply-demand and harm-reduction strategies. It also pinpoints priority areas in the Department's Drug Strategy 2010-2014 namely:

- injecting drug use
- tobacco use
- alcohol misuse.

The plan details how the Department will achieve each strategy, including those required as part of the government action plan developed at the 2007 WA Illicit Amphetamine Summit (see Appendix A).

The Department will also provide an annual summary of its role in implementing the action plan's strategies as well as those in the Interagency Strategy Framework for WA 2010-2015.



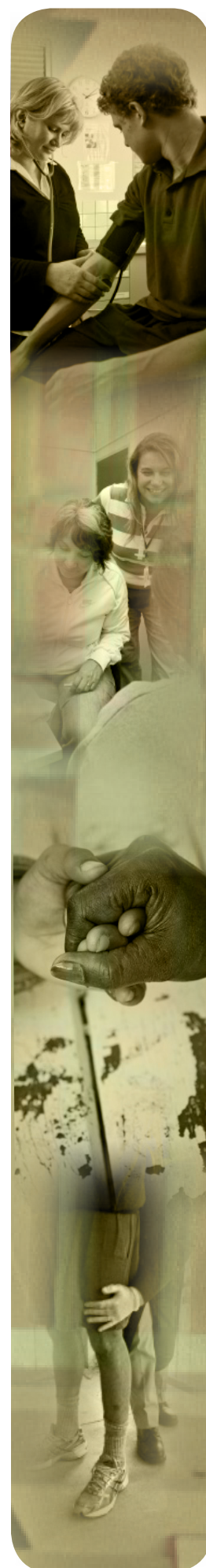
## STRATEGY 1: FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

Several prevention strategies are needed to reduce the demand for illicit drugs and risky alcohol consumption. Individuals, families and communities should be actively encouraged to develop healthy lifestyles so the onset of drug or heavy alcohol use is avoided or delayed.

Prevention strategies for offenders should address health, education, treatment and transition needs so these people learn about drug harm and use.

In line with this prevention strategy, the Department will continue to deliver:

- gender-specific health promotion and education services to women prisoners. Boronia Pre-Release Centre for Women holds education sessions on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder and has introduced a National Cannabis Prevention Information Service helpline
- a mandatory education program (Health In Prison, Health Outta Prison) that covers topics such as blood-borne viruses, sexually transmitted infections and harm minimisation practices in all adult prisons. These programs are delivered to all new prisoners within two weeks of their arrival and repeated to all prisoners within three months of their earliest release date
- training to young people in detention centres on how to reduce the transmission of blood-borne viruses
- overdose prevention programs offering practical help and peer support advice to young people who have witnessed accidental overdose incidents. External agencies deliver these programs
- ongoing alcohol and drug training to all new, entry-level staff. As part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the DAO Workforce Development branch, new staff take part in a training program on drug classification, drug harms and managing offenders' drug-use behaviour. There are plans to deliver refresher training on a three-year basis to existing operational staff
- condoms and dental dams at all WA prisons to reduce sexually transmitted infections
- the Alcohol and Drug Information Service helpline to prisoners with alcohol and drug issues. This service is offered at two prisons and the Department and DAO are discussing expanding this service to all prisons
- public relations activities at schools and community group events as part of the Department's drug awareness education policy. The Drug Detection Unit (DDU), which has specialist drug detection dog/handler teams that provide comprehensive drug deterrence and detection services at WA metropolitan and regional correctional facilities, will take part in these activities.



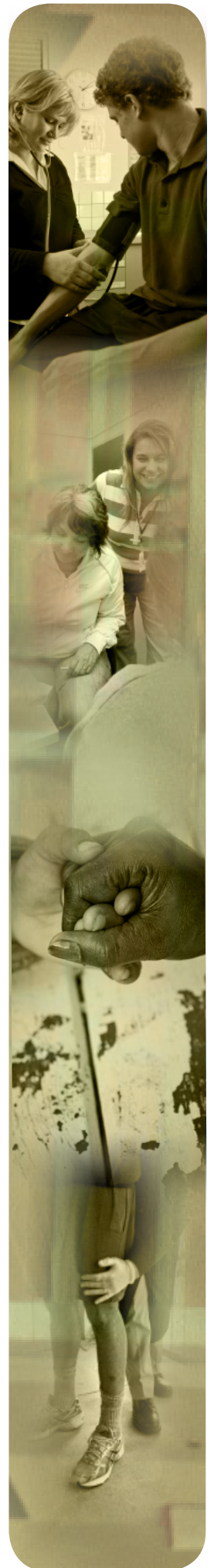
## STRATEGY 2: INTERVENING BEFORE PROBLEMS BECOME ENTRENCHED

Early intervention initiatives that identify individuals, families and communities at risk of drug harm and use are required to avoid such problems becoming entrenched. These initiatives include early detection of people with potential drug and alcohol problems and referring them to specialist treatment services.

The Department is committed to intervening as soon as offenders enter the criminal justice system. This is to delay the onset of alcohol and drug problems, particularly among young people.

In line with this intervention strategy, the Department will deliver:

- the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Service helpline at Boronia to support women prisoners and prepare them for their move from prison to the community. Discussions are in progress to expand this service to other facilities
- assessments of offenders' alcohol and drug problems using the Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Indicator Screening Tool, with support from the Health Services directorate
- age- and culturally-appropriate education, health promotion and treatment and support services to young people in detention to address alcohol and other drug problems. Specialist agencies such as Mission Australia, WA Family Planning and Sexual Health Services and the Red Cross will deliver these services under a contractual arrangement with the Department
- brief intervention services at Hakea and Bandyup prisons for remand and short-sentence prisoners with alcohol and drug problems. These services will be delivered by external specialist agencies
- a new Pathways program that provides support to prisoners until their release into the community.



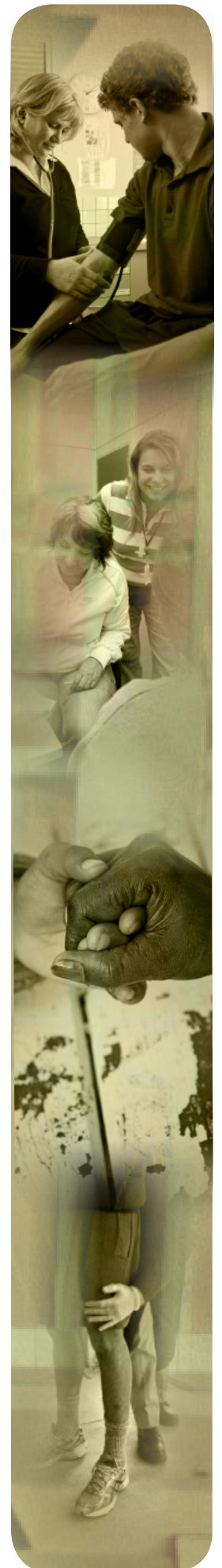
## STRATEGY 3: STRONG LAW ENFORCEMENT APPROACHES

Strong law enforcement approaches are required to control, reduce and eliminate as much as possible, the availability of drugs and alcohol.

Supply-reduction strategies that use deterrent and detection methods will continue to strengthen measures aimed at keeping drugs out of correctional facilities. Such strategies will incorporate new workplace practices, appropriate resources and improved technology.

In line with this strategy, the Department will deliver:

- the services of the Drug Detection Unit
- sanctions on visitors who attempt to, or are suspected of, trafficking drugs into correctional facilities. Such sanctions include bans on all visits (facility and statewide), non-contact visits and prosecution by WA Police
- extensive routine and intelligence-based searches of vehicles, buildings, visitors, Departmental staff and offenders throughout the State.



## STRATEGY 4: EFFECTIVE TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES

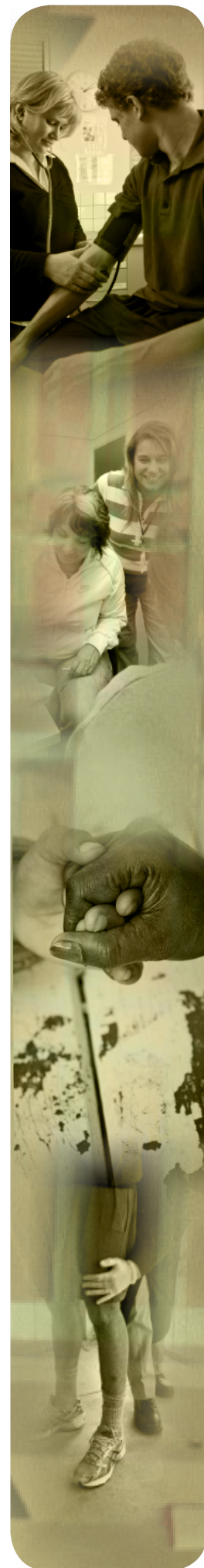
The Department seeks to ensure all offenders get equal access to drug and alcohol treatment services. These include integrated services for prisoners with problematic drug and alcohol use and those whose lives have been indirectly affected by substance users.

Drug treatments are most effective when directed towards medium- to high-risk offenders. The Department uses this principle when providing addiction offending programs to prisoners and community-based offenders.

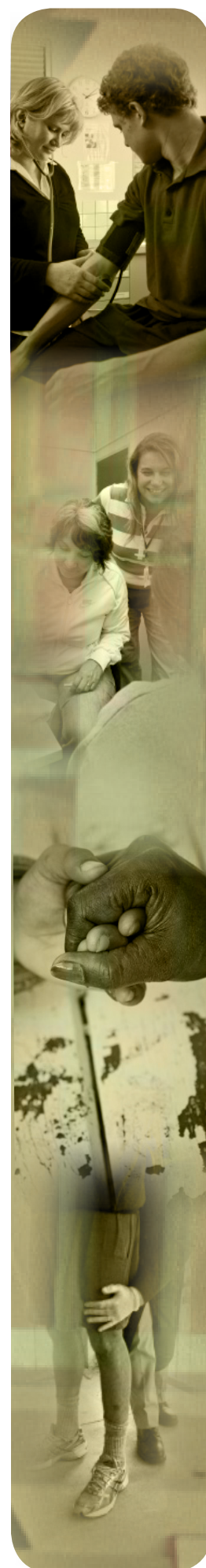
Brief intervention, education and health promotion services are available to low- to medium-risk offenders.

In line with this strategy, the Department will provide:

- detoxification and withdrawal management programs to adult prisoners
- a range of addiction offending programs such as Making Choices, Women's Substance Abuse, Indigenous Men Managing Anger and Substance Use (IMMASU) and Breaking Out, for high-risk prisoners and community-based offenders. The Department and specialist community drug agencies will deliver these programs as well as other general addiction offending programs. There are plans to extend the IMMASU program to community-based offenders in some regional areas
- a pharmacotherapy program (where diseases are treated through the administration of drugs), supported by a range of clinically-managed health and support services, to adult prisoners assessed as suitable clients
- access to drug-free units that enable prisoners to reside in a safe and supportive environment. The units operate in three prisons and support prisoners to maintain drug-free lifestyles pre- and post-release from prison
- the Drug and Alcohol Throughcare Service which provides support and counselling to offenders with alcohol and drug problems pre- and post-release. External agencies will deliver this service at all metropolitan prisons. The Department is consulting with stakeholders to deliver a similar service in regional areas, which focuses on alcohol misuse among Aboriginal people
- a Smoking Reduction Program to prisoners. This program is being rolled out across all prisons and work camps. Current measures to help prisoners reduce and/or cease their tobacco use include a brief intervention service, the National QUIT helpline and designated external smoking shelters equipped with fixed safety lighters
- transitional support services to help offenders with re-entry into the community
- health promotion interventions in all prisons and detention centres



- a prison counselling service that offers individual therapy and support to prisoners with drug-related problems. These prisoners also receive support from peer support officers and peer support prisoners
- access to Perth Drug Courts for adult and young offenders, with support from the Court Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS). Perth Drug Courts offer offenders, through a Drug Court program, the chance to address their drug misuse and make positive changes to their lives before they are sentenced.



## STRATEGY 5: STRATEGIC COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

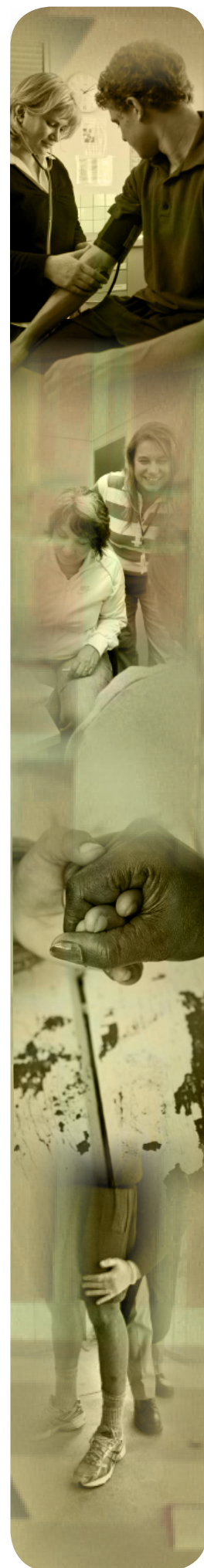
There are several supporting initiatives fundamental to the development of drug and alcohol-related policy, programs and services. Flexibility is a key component in such initiatives to ensure the changing needs of government and the community are met.

Key factors of strategic coordination and capacity building initiatives include workforce development, collaboration/partnerships and distributing information.

In line with this strategy, the Department will continue to:

- be an active member of the DAO Senior Officer Group, which represents a whole-of-government effort to reduce drug use and harm in WA. As a key stakeholder, the Department will contribute to strategies and plans and other relevant reports as needed
- support strategies in local, state and national efforts to reduce offender drug use by collaborating with drug and alcohol agencies. The Department aims to improve existing partnerships with WANADA, the National Drug Research Institute and DAO. It will also develop new affiliations with community agencies to support local actions that address drug misuse
- strengthen new partnerships with Community Health Services and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service to deliver education and support services on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
- strengthen partnerships between the Security Services directorate and external law enforcement agencies to deploy drug detection dogs to undertake searches. These alliances will be expanded to include training and monitoring as well as promote networking across Australia.

All the measures will be reviewed annually and may include new ones adopted in 2010-2014.



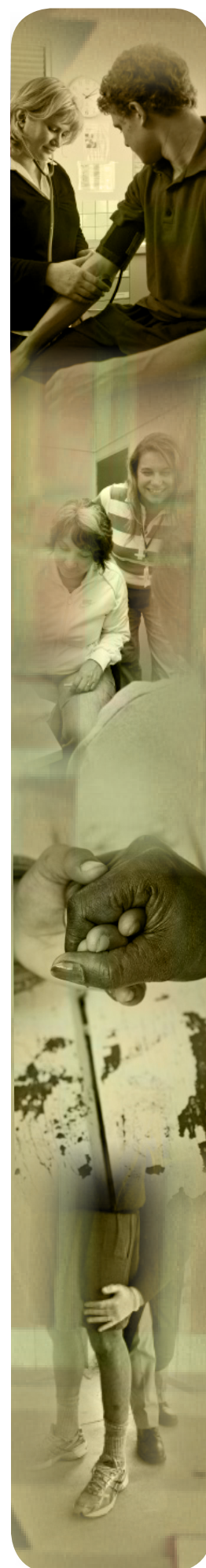
## REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The implementation, monitoring and review of the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010-15 is the responsibility of the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers Group (DASSOG) that consists of senior representatives from key human and social service State Government departments.

To measure progress on the implementation of the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010-15 and agency drug and alcohol action plans, DASSOG will be responsible for reporting against outcome-based key performance indicators and planned actions on an annual basis. Other relevant data will also be provided such as service activity data and prevalence rates.

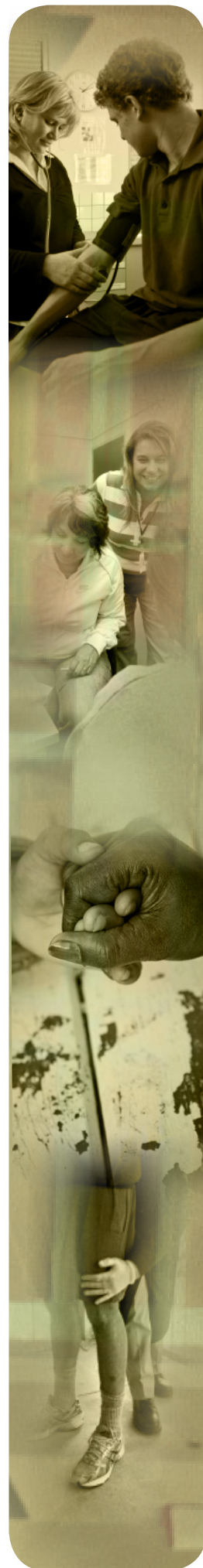
Performance will be monitored through:

- percentage of the population aged 12 to 15 years reporting use of illicit drugs and reporting use of alcohol, compared to the percentages reported nationally
- percentage of the population aged 14 years and over reporting use of illicit drugs and reporting use of alcohol at risky levels, compared to the percentages reported nationally
- average per capita alcohol consumption in Western Australia
- number and weight of illicit drug seizures by drug type
- number of eligible cannabis offenders diverted by police to a cannabis intervention session
- number of juvenile drug offenders with identified drug use diverted from the criminal justice system by either police or the court system
- number of adult drug offenders with identified drug use diverted into treatment through court diversion programs
- number of identified adult offenders with drug and alcohol issues attending programs in prison
- number of Liquor Licensing Act infringement notices issued
- number of drink driving offences recorded
- number of drug and alcohol treatment episodes and the percentage of treatment episodes that are completed as planned or the client is still in treatment
- rate of hospitalisations related to alcohol and illicit drugs.



**STRONG SPIRIT STRONG MIND – WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS FRAMEWORKS:**

The Strong Spirit Strong Mind (SSSM) – Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Framework for Western Australia 2010-2015 underpins the State framework. SSSM provides guidance to key stakeholders in delivering culturally-secure programs and Aboriginal ways of working, in order to strengthen their efforts to manage and reduce drug and alcohol-related harm for Aboriginal people and in Aboriginal communities.



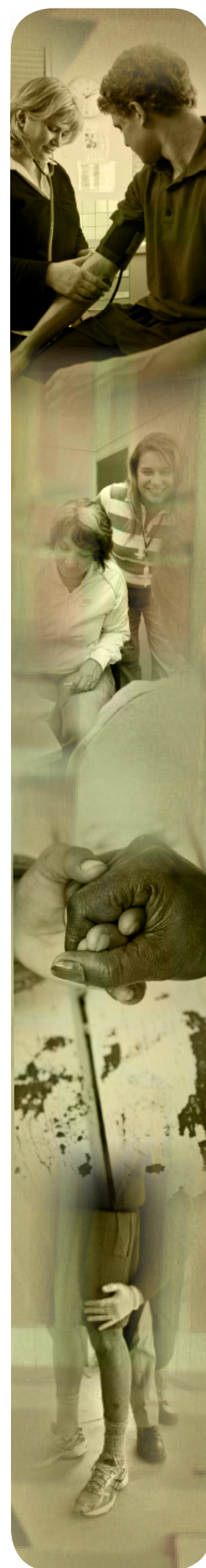
## APPENDIX A

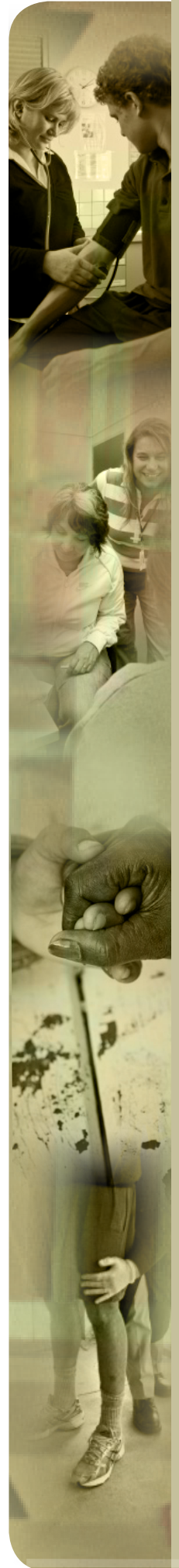
### WA Illicit Amphetamine Summit Government Action Plan – Strategies for the Department of Corrective Services

Six strategies for the Department under this plan are outlined below for consideration, implementation and monitoring.

- Consideration to be given to a proposal for resourcing non-government organisation treatment services to meet the needs of offenders sentenced to community orders, as recommended by the Inquiry into Management of Offenders in Custody and in the Community (2005), through the 2008-09 budget process.
- The Department and DAO will work together to develop a substantial and coherent program of workforce development for community justice and custodial officers to support the effective engagement of offenders in treatment.
- The Department will explore the opportunity to establish a single lead program that has the mandate to coordinate resources and responsibility for the management and treatment of offenders, and associated developments for the organisation, consistent with the recommendation of the report of the Enquiry into Management of Offenders in Custody and in the Community by Hon Dennis Mahoney, November 2005.
- The Department, in conjunction with the actions above, will continue to integrate the screening of drug and alcohol and mental health issues of offenders and provide integrated case management throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system.
- *The Young Offenders Act 1994* will be amended to provide police with the discretion to issue conditional cautions requiring children found to have committed an offence under the *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981* and the *Cannabis Control Act 2003* to attend an education and counselling session or a Juvenile Justice Team.
- Increased application of the Drug Court Regime (DCR) in the Children's Court Drug Court.

**Note:** To date, the extended capacity of the DCR has been finalised. The Children's Court Drug Court will continue to be convened on a fortnightly basis but with a full dedicated day for case reviews and court sittings. This initiative has led to the provision of an additional Senior Juvenile Justice CATS officer and enabled the court to double its case-processing capacity. The Department manages the CATS team, which supports the operation of the Perth drug courts. Additional CATS officers have been recruited and established to directly support the initiatives above.





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