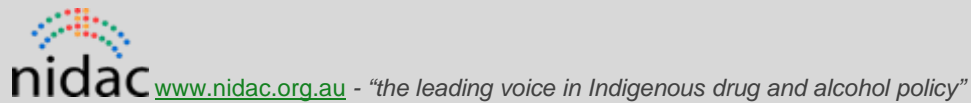


Dear Colleagues,
The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) Weekly News for your info and distribution amongst your networks...



An important paper by NIDAC on Indigenous incarceration and health was launched yesterday by The Honorable Warren Snowdon, Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery and The Honorable Mr Brendan O' Connor, Minister for Home Affairs.

Despite the investment by governments to reduce incarceration, Indigenous Australians have continued to fill our correction systems at alarmingly disproportionate rates, making up almost one quarter of Australian's prison population and over half of Indigenous juveniles in corrective institutions. The paper calls for action to address this 'disturbing problem' revealing Indigenous adults are 13 times more likely to be in prison than other Australians. *Media Release: [Indigenous prisoners: solutions for a broken system](#) NIDAC paper : [Bridges and Barriers: Indigenous incarceration and health](#)*

“If inroads are to be made into closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians it is plain that reducing the rates of incarceration and recidivism must be addressed by all levels of Government,” Mr O'Connor said. (Media release attached)

Useful Links for AOD and Indigenous information

- [ANCD](#) The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) site with numerous links to AOD information across Australia
- [Update Of Substance](#) an interactive site to receive and post up to date information on alcohol and other drugs independent AOD magazine with the latest up to date information (free subscription)
- [AOD Services](#) a new website of AOD services in Australia
- [AIHW](#) Aust. Govt site with AIHW publications & information on the Indigenous health and welfare
- [AIC](#) Aust Institute of Criminology includes information on Indigenous alcohol and other drugs and alcohol and other drugs related crime.
- [Drug Info](#) Australian Drug Clearing House
- [Inhalants Info](#) The National Inhalants Information Service (NIIS) provides information about inhalant abuse.
- [Hep C](#) For information on Hep C and free subscription to the Hep C Review
- [NDR](#) National Drug Research Institute Indigenous alcohol and other drugs database
- [www.indigenousjustice.gov.au](#) Indigenous justice information to government policy makers and those working in the Indigenous justice field.
- [Australian Human Rights Commission](#) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice
- [www.comorbidity.org.au](#) For information on comorbidity
- [Grant Funding](#) Funding available through Australian Government

Volunteer entities for Indigenous communities....

- [Engineers without Borders](#)
- [Indigenous Community Volunteers](#)
- [Aust Govt Volunteers](#)
- [Aboriginal Army Community Assistance Program](#)

Information

The Hep C Council of NSW are very happy to announce their new website. The new site provides a wide range of hep C information and referral, aimed for people living with hep C and those working with it. Please click on the following link and then re-bookmark the new homepage in your browser.

[The Hepatitis C Council of NSW new website!](#)

Media

THE IMPACT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ON OUR COMMUNITIES (attached) The harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and other drugs in our communities cannot be underestimated..

84% of women who were sexually assaulted were attacked by a person who had been consuming alcohol or drugs, while about 80% of men aged 18-24 who were physically assaulted by another male said the perpetrator had been drinking or taking drugs. (ABS Australian Social Trends, 2007 & 2008)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/17/2600347.htm> (June) There are good reasons to take a close and critical look at why imprisonment rates are going through the roof, write Chris Cunneen and Melanie Schwartz from the Australian Prisons Project.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/18/2601856.htm> (June) The Prison Officers Union says severe overcrowding in Western Australia's prisons is placing undue pressure on its members.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/05/21/2577059.htm> (May) Increased policing under the federal intervention in the Northern Territory has led to a dramatic rise in the number of people being sent to jail, a Senate inquiry into remote Indigenous communities has heard.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/25/2607792.htm> Drugs linked to dramatic Indigenous prisoner numbers

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,27574,25687111-421,00.html> One in four prisoners in Australia is Indigenous

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,,25684843-28737,00.html> Poverty, booze and jail

[Girl, 14, dies after sniffing aerosol can](#) The West.com.au Dr Abby Harwood, senior medical officer at the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service, said inhaling aerosols caused a lack of oxygen to the...

[NT-Qld alcohol migration slows](#) ABC Online The north-west Queensland Indigenous Catholic social services' leader, Terry Lees, says last year the number of Territorians he served meals to in Mount Isa ...

[Rally highlights drug, alcohol concern](#) ABC Online ↑ A march along King William Street in Adelaide has tried to boost awareness about the need to tackle alcohol and drug problems in Aboriginal communities.

[Drinkers go for essence](#) Centralian Advocate ↑ ALCOHOLIC itinerants living in Alice Springs are turning to cooking essences to get their fix. Empty bottles of aniseed essence, among other flavours, ...

[Call for Roebourne booze ban](#) The West Australian Alcohol was totally banned in the remote Aboriginal community of Jigalong at the beginning of May. Liquor was also made illegal in the Aboriginal community ...

[Holistic community approach needed to tackle alcohol in Alice Springs](#) Charles Darwin University ↑ Such initiatives needed to highlight that alcohol misuse was a problem of both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Alice Springs and focused on ...

[Intervention has stolen our rights: elder](#) ABC Online (User submitted: Juliette Spurrett) Aboriginal community leaders have gathered in Darwin today to tell the Northern Territory and Federal Governments to ...

[Labor looks for consensus on intervention](#) ABC Online The Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin says that much has been achieved in that time. But she is considering changes in the areas of compulsory ...

[Police need to "better engage" with remote communities: NT cop](#) NIT ...man that officers need to "better engage" with remote Aboriginal communities. Assistant Commissioner Mark McAdie offered his condolences to the...

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/06/23/2605698.htm> A Queensland-based social service agency says fewer Northern Territorians are accessing its services compared to this time last year.

Sue-Anne Morley
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National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee



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Alcohol is a drug – TOO!

The impact of alcohol and other drugs on our communities

22 June 2009

The harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and other drugs in our communities cannot be underestimated, according to the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia. (ADCA)

“Research has shown that alcohol abuse causes 1 in 4 hospitalisations of young people aged 15-24,” said ADCA CEO David Templeman, “The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that 84% of women who were sexually assaulted were attacked by a person who had been consuming alcohol or drugs, while about 80% of men aged 18-24 who were physically assaulted by another male said the perpetrator had been drinking or taking drugs. (ABS Australian Social Trends, 2007 & 2008)

Drug Action Week 2009 (June 21-27), coordinated by ADCA, aims to highlight issues related to the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and other drug issues, and to recognise those who work in frontline support services in the alcohol and other drugs sector.

“We need to take stock of what is actually happening in our communities with the misuse of alcohol and other drugs, rather than just excusing it as ‘normal’ behaviour,” said Mr Templeman.

“We have a government who has pledged through its National Preventative Health Taskforce to reduce the prevalence of harmful drinking for all Australians by 30%, but to achieve that so much more needs to be done,” he added.

Today’s focus of **Alcohol and Other Drugs in the Community** – forms part of a full week of activities, which are all underpinned by theme that **Alcohol is a drug – TOO!**

Information about all the registered activities can be found on the Drug Action Week website at www.drugactionweek.org.au

DAW 2009 concludes on Saturday, 27 June – and incorporates the National Drug and Alcohol Awards (NDAA) at Parliament House in Canberra on Friday 26 June.

www.drugactionweek.org.au

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Phone 02 6281 0686 or 0400 860 058



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing





THE HON WARREN SNOWDON MP

Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and
Regional Services Delivery

THE HON BRENDAN O'CONNOR MP

Minister for Home Affairs

Thursday, 25 June 2009

INDIGENOUS DRUG AND ALCOHOL COMMITTEE PAPER WELCOMED

A report calling for new efforts to improve Indigenous health, and thereby reduce Indigenous incarceration was launched today by the Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon and the Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O'Connor.

The paper, *Bridges and Barriers: Addressing Indigenous Incarceration and Health* was prepared by the expert National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC), which is a sub-committee of the Australian National Council on Drugs.

Mr Snowdon said the report reinforced the link between poor health and substance abuse, and incarceration.

"This Government has taken historic steps to address Indigenous disadvantage and the social and environmental factors effecting health," Mr Snowdon said.

"The commitment to *Closing the Gap* aims to address many of the socio-economic risk factors highlighted by the report and which lead too often to incarceration.

"Through COAG we have joined with the States and Territories, and committed \$4.6 billion to closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage in life expectancy, health, early childhood, education and employment.

"The recommendations of the 'Bridges and Barriers' paper are broad-ranging, whole of Government, and across all levels of government and I welcome the informative and useful paper as a guide to future policymaking."

Mr O'Connor said this report is very valuable in drawing attention to the significant rates of Indigenous incarceration in Australia.

"If inroads are to be made into closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians it is plain that reducing the rates of incarceration and recidivism must be addressed by all levels of Government," Mr O'Connor said.

"I will refer the report to State and Territory Corrections Ministers, as well as Ministers on the Standing Committee for Attorneys-General and the Ministerial Council for Drug Strategy."

Minister Snowdon: Kate Sieper 0488 484 689.
Minister O'Connor: Christian Taubenschlag 0438 595 567