

Dear Colleagues,

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

Media

[\\$3.2m boost for Aboriginal health](#) - \$3.2m boost for Aboriginal health New initiatives at Orbost, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale will be funded under a \$3.2 million State Government Aboriginal health project in Gippsland.

Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system in South Australia (attached)- The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will travel to Adelaide this week for public hearings in relation to its inquiry into the high level of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system.

[One step closer to closing the health gap](#) - Aboriginal families living in Lakes Entrance, Lake Tyers and Nowa Nowa will have better access to vital health services.

[First Nations must find ways to curb alcohol use: MD](#) (Canada) Alcohol-related deaths among First Nations in B.C. are a staggering five times higher than for other British Columbians, says a prominent First Nations doctor, who argues aboriginal leaders need to start working on an alcohol strategy to save lives.

[Government seeks feedback on reviews of indigenous programs](#) - The Bligh Government is seeking feedback from key stakeholders on reviews of two important indigenous justice programs.

[WA State Budget 2010-11: First ever budget for new approach to mental health](#) - The Liberal-National Government has delivered an historical budget for mental health in Western Australia. Mental Health Minister Graham Jacobs said \$506.561million was allocated for mental health services in 2010-11 through the new Mental Health Commission and \$28.9million over four years for 10 new acute mental health beds at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital through the Department of Health.

[WA State Budget 2010-11: \\$7.9million commitment to fulfil coronial recommendations](#) - The WA Government has committed a total of \$7.9million over five years to implement the remaining recommendations from the coronial inquiry into the tragic death of Mr Ward. Attorney General and Corrective Services Minister Christian Porter said four agencies, including the Department of the Attorney General (DotAG), Department of Corrective Services (DCS), Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services (OICS) and the WA Police (WAPOL) would be provided with the additional funding.

What's coming up?

Register now for NIDAC's Inaugural National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2010) "*Listening, Learning and Leading*" 16-18th June 2010 Adelaide Convention Centre, SA

The conference is specifically aimed at celebrating the efforts and achievements of those who are working to address harmful Indigenous alcohol and drug use. Here's your chance to

“listen , learn and lead”, meet with others and hear about Indigenous, designed, developed and operated projects, resources and tools, the latest research, and what others are doing across Australia. For more information www.nidaconference.com.au or contact nidac@eventcorp.com.au or NIDAC 2010 Organiser (07) 333 444 60.

Useful Links for AOD and Indigenous information

[ANCD](#) The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) site with numerous links to AOD information across Australia

[National Drug Sector Information Service](#) Supporting those who work to prevent or reduce the harm to individuals, families, communities and the nation caused by alcohol and other drugs

[Of Substance](#) Independent AOD magazine with the latest up to date information (free subscription)

Australian Alcohol and other Drug Networks

[ADCA](#) Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) is the national peak body for the alcohol and other drugs sector, providing policy and advocacy services.

[QNADA](#) Qld Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (QNADA) is the peak organisation for non-government alcohol and drug agencies.

[NADA](#) Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (NADA) is the peak organization for approx 120 alcohol and drug organizations in NSW.

[ADAN](#) NSW Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Network (ADAN)

[ATDC](#) ATDC is the peak body for the non-government, not-for-profit Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) sector in Tasmania.

[VAADA](#) The Victorian Drug and Alcohol Association is the peak organisation for non-govt alcohol and drug agencies in Victoria.

[WANADA](#) WA Network of Alcohol and Drugs Association is the peak body for the alcohol and other drug sector in Western Australia.

[SANDAS](#) SA Network of Drug and Alcohol Services is the peak body for non-govt alcohol and drug organizations.

Resources and Tools

Australian Government alcohol and drug resources can be ordered through National Mail and Marketing hotline on (02) 6269 1000 or email: health@nationalmailing.com.au.

Click here for [Alcohol related publications](#)

Click here for [Tobacco related publications](#)

Click here for [OATSIH Publications](#)

[An Indigenous Services Database and Other Resources:](#)

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) has compiled a comprehensive database on Australia wide Indigenous Services, training and resources. To access the database visit <http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/>. To order your free copy of the CD Rom, please contact NCETA reception by email nceta@flinders.edu.au or phone 08 8201 7535.

Employment

Of Substance Jobs Board Visit the Of Substance jobs website for AOD employment <http://www.jobsofsubstance.com.au/> . Of Substance has an estimated readership of 35,000 people which includes frontline workers in the AOD field, as well as health professionals, social workers, educators, researchers, law enforcers, and policy makers.



“the leading voice in Indigenous drug and alcohol policy advice”

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Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system in South Australia

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs will travel to Adelaide this week for public hearings in relation to its inquiry into the high level of involvement of Indigenous juveniles and young adults in the criminal justice system.

On Thursday, the Committee will hear from representatives of South Australian Government departments, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, and the Youth Justice Aboriginal Advisory Committee. A roundtable will be held in the afternoon with various community and social organisations, including Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Inc, Police Drug Diversion Initiative, Kumangka Aboriginal Youth Service, Young Nungas Yarning Together, Kura Yerlo, Grannies Group, Wiltanendi Program, and the National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Related Disorders Inc.

The Committee is concerned about the relationship between alcohol and substance use and high contact with the criminal justice system and will discuss health issues that affect Nunga youth, such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

The Committee is also investigating best practice examples of programs that support the diversion of Indigenous juveniles and young adults from crime and juvenile detention.

The Hon Bob Debus MP, Committee Chair, said “One in five Indigenous people in South Australia aged 15-24 are expected to come into adverse contact with the criminal justice system this year. We also know that in every year since 2000, the rate of imprisonment for Indigenous people in South Australia has increased. It is crucial that we find ways of better coordinating and targeting service provision across the Government and community sectors if we are to begin to reverse this trend.”

Public hearing program:

Date: Thursday 20 May

Time: 11.30am - 4.45pm

**Venue: David Spence Room, Adelaide Town Hall
128 King William Street, Adelaide**

For background information, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4559 or atsia.reps@aph.gov.au, or see the Committee’s website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/atsia>

For more details of the Committee’s **interstate public hearing program**, check the website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/atsia/sentencing/hearings.htm>