
NATIONAL DRUG RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Preventing Harmful Drug Use in Australia

Formerly National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse

WHO Collaborating Centre for Prevention and Control of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (Joint Centres)

ANNUAL REPORT

1999

National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University of Technology
Level 4, 679 Murray Street
WEST PERTH
Western Australia 6005

National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University of Technology
GPO Box U1987
PERTH
Western Australia 6845

You can now get information about the Institute on the World Wide Web
and email your enquiries.

<http://www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/>

email: enquiries@ndri.curtin.edu.au

CONTENTS

Foreword	1
The Year in Review	2
Mission	4
Key Result Areas	4
Achievements and Awards	5
Events	5
Research Programs and Projects	6
• Indigenous Australian Research Program	7
• Alcohol Policy Research	11
• Community Interventions Research	17
• Illicit Drugs Research	22
• International Collaborative Projects	31
External Links and Collaborations	32
• External Contributions	32
• Reviews of Manuscripts and Grant Applications	34
• Visitors to the Institute	34
• Collaborative Links	35
• Graduate Students	36
Organisational Structure	38
• Board of Management	39
• Staff	39
• Facilities	43
• Funding	44
Dissemination	46
• Publications	46
• Journal Articles	46
• Unrefereed Articles	47
• Monographs, Books and Chapters	48
• Technical and Other Reports	49
• Conference, Seminar and Workshop Presentations	50
• Media Liaison	54

FOREWORD

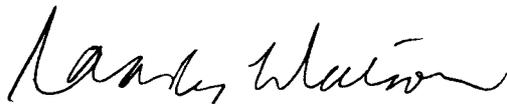
I am very pleased to introduce the 1999 annual report of the National Drug Research Institute. The past year has been a very exciting and successful one for the Institute, with a number of significant events taking place.

The Institute was rewarded for the high standard of its past performance by the renewal of funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care for a further five years. This has put the Institute in very good shape from a financial point of view, and in a position to significantly expand its research activities.

In recognition of the success of the unit, Curtin University of Technology elevated the former National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse to institute status. The new name, "The National Drug Research Institute", reflects more accurately the work that it conducts. At about the same time, the new Institute was moved to new premises in West Perth which are better suited to accommodate a growing staff and workload.

This report outlines the scope and quality of the research that is now being carried out by the National Drug Research Institute. I believe that the coming year will be a busy one, but hope that it will be as successful and rewarding as 1999 has been. I offer my congratulations to the Director, Professor Tim Stockwell, his Deputy Director, Associate Professor Wendy Loxley, and all the academic and support staff at the Institute, for their excellent work, which continues to make an excellent contribution to the prevention of drug related harm in Australia.

Page
1



Professor Charles Watson
Executive Dean, Division of Health Sciences

YEAR IN REVIEW

Looking back over 1999, it is clear that the past year has been a particularly momentous one in our short history.

Towards the end of 1998, we were delighted to learn that the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, through the National Drug Strategy, had committed to funding us for a further five years, covering the period July 1998 to June 2003. This commitment included a generous increase in our core funding, to the level of \$6.5 million over the five-year period.

Our new contract and funding provided us with the impetus to apply for the enhanced status of a Research Institute within Curtin University of Technology. We were very pleased when, in September 1999, the University chose to grant our request, thus recognising the many achievements of the NCRPDA since its establishment in 1986. This change in status presented an opportunity for the selection of a new name that would reflect the nature of our work more clearly and concisely.

As a result, on 23 September 1999 we were re-launched as the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI). Curtin University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lance Twomey, launched the new Institute at a ceremony which was well attended by representatives from many of Australia's drug research and policy agencies, from both the government and non-government sectors.

Page
2

Our change of name and academic status also coincided with a move to new, more spacious premises in West Perth to accommodate additional staff. The move required a colossal amount of effort from everyone within the organisation, and also many of our Curtin colleagues, all of whom deserve to be recognised for their contribution. The transition from South to West Perth would not have progressed so smoothly without the dedicated and excellent service of our Business Manager, Fran Davis, who deserves a special mention.

At this point, I would also like to acknowledge the continued support throughout 1999 of Professor Charles Watson in his capacity as Executive Dean of Curtin's Division of Health Sciences and Chair of the NDRI Board of Management. Charles was instrumental in our achievement of Institute status as well as the securing of new premises, and he has continued to ensure that the University looks after us well.

The Institute's new contract with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care has allowed us to plan for the future in order to develop and improve our contribution to the National Drug Strategy. Our increased funding related specifically to several areas and activities, many of which were progressed during 1999:

- We commenced and made significant headway with our goal of establishing a national minimum data set on alcohol-related problems and consumption, for monitoring alcohol related harm across all States and Territories. Tanya Chikritzhs, who is coordinating the National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP), deserves to be recognised for her excellent work to date on this study, which is continuing in 2000.
- A new database focusing on the reduction of harm caused by alcohol and other drugs among Indigenous Australians was launched and released onto the Internet. The database, which will continue to be regularly updated, demonstrates the Institute's commitment to serve as a clearinghouse for information on drug and alcohol issues for Aboriginal people. The Indigenous Australian research team must be congratulated for their diligence in pulling together such a unique and valuable resource for all Aboriginal community organisations, government agencies, researchers and other parties working in this field.

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- Research in the area of the prevention of blood borne viruses was enhanced with the commencement of three new studies, which are being conducted by the Illicit Drugs Research Team.
 - NDRI was commissioned to examine options for Cannabis Law Reform by the Victorian Parliamentary Committee on Drugs and Crime Prevention.
 - Two new PhD scholarships were established and will be filled during 2000.
 - A new position of Media Liaison Officer was created in March 1999. This role will continue to be vital in achieving our goals of contributing to the debate on the prevention of drug related harm, and helping to ensure that information used by the media is balanced and based on research evidence. First Sandra Jones and now Rachael Lobo have filled this post with distinction.

Several other exciting new projects were embarked upon during the year. In addition to projects backed by the new funding, the Institute was also successful in obtaining funds for specifically commissioned projects and from competitive funding sources. Key projects commenced during 1999 include:

- Database on alcohol related harm for Western Australia.
- Evaluation of a School Leavers intervention.
- Evaluation of the feasibility of making the opiate antagonist naloxone available to injecting drug users to reduce risk of death from heroin overdose.
- Evaluation of the Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN) project.
- Drug use monitoring in Australia (DUMA).
- The WA arm of the illicit drug reporting system (IDRS).

Other significant achievements include Wendy Loxley's promotion from Senior Research Fellow to Associate Professor, and her appointment as NDRI Deputy Director on a two year term from 1 January 1999. Wendy 'held the fort' during my four months of long service leave towards the end of the year, and I would like to formally thank her for the exceptional job that she did during this time.

I am delighted that School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) researchers, Richard Midford and Nyanda McBride, were recognised by an award from the Australian Drug Foundation. Richard and Nyanda were recipients of the inaugural 'Excellence in alcohol and drug research initiatives' award which is presented in recognition of outstanding work in the alcohol and drug field.

The year ahead may not be as eventful as 1999, but it will certainly be as productive, if not more so. NDRI has embarked on a range of exciting new projects in 1999 and several more are due to commence throughout 2000. I feel safe in the knowledge that the hard and high level work done by both the academic staff and our superb team of support staff, who make our research possible, will continue in the coming year, and help to move us closer to our organisational goals.



Professor Tim Stockwell
Director



MISSION

The National Drug Research Institute, formerly the National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse, was established in March 1986 as one of two Centres of Excellence in Drug Research funded by the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (now the National Drug Strategy). The Centre was formally designated an Institute at Curtin University of Technology in September 1999 by Professor Lance Twomey. The Institute's core funding is received from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care and in addition further funds are sought from a variety of Commonwealth and State granting bodies.

The mission of the Institute, stated simply, is to contribute to the overall aim of the National Drug Strategy, which is to minimise the harm associated with drug use. It does so by undertaking research designed to establish the preventive potential of a number of interventions: legislative, fiscal, regulatory and educational. It therefore complements the role of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre whose primary focus is on treatment.

Page

4

MISSION

“To conduct and disseminate high quality research that contributes to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug related harm”

KEY RESULT AREAS

- The conduct and dissemination of high quality research in order to contribute to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug related harm.
- Further building of the national capacity and expertise required to undertake research in the area of primary prevention of drug related harms and dissemination of knowledge and information
- Increasing the awareness of drug related harms and effective preventative measures among policy makers, the public and those who might benefit from prevention strategies.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

The main achievement of 1999 was the awarding, by Curtin University of Technology, of Research Institute status to the National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse. This change of status, which is reflected in the new name, served as recognition of the expertise and achievements of the organisation since its establishment 13 years ago.

The NDRI has maintained its competitive place in the University's ranking of research productivity and grants received, obtaining \$92,257 in Research Performance Index funds during the 12 months ending December 1999 and \$526,257 in additional grants.

1999 was also a year for awards. School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) researchers, Nyanda McBride and Richard Midford, were recipients of the inaugural 'Excellence in Alcohol and Drug Research Initiatives' award from the Australian Drug Foundation. The award was presented in recognition of outstanding work in the alcohol and drug field.

Several support staff - Susan Wilson, Secretary; Paul Jones, Computer Systems Office; John Somerville, Resource Officer and Derani Sullivan, Administrative Assistant - were joint recipients of an award to recognise their excellent efforts on behalf of the Institute. The award was given by the Health Sciences Divisional Office at Curtin University of Technology.

EVENTS

Seminar: The School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project, 5 May 1999

This seminar, which took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Perth, was held to present the results of the first stage of the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP). SHAHRP is a four-year intervention and research study, funded by Healthway, which aims to reduce alcohol-related harms in young people. The seminar, which was followed by a media launch, was attended by more than 50 representatives from the drug and alcohol community, relevant government departments, the education sector and the media.

Seminar: The Social Impact of Cannabis Laws in WA and SA, 2 August 1999

Once again held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Perth, this seminar launched the findings of a study of the social impact of cannabis laws in Western Australian and South Australia. The study compared the social impact of a cannabis conviction in WA with a cannabis infringement notice in SA. It was part of an evaluation of the Social Impacts of the Cannabis Expiation Notice System in South Australia, which was funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The seminar, which was preceded by a media launch, was attended by around 20 participants from the drug and alcohol sector.

RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The choices exercised at NDRI to address particular research questions and the ways in which we both negotiate our projects and disseminate their results are informed by some key strategic priorities:

1. The research must have national relevance. We seek to achieve this variously by ensuring research questions are of wide interest, concern serious drug-related harms, involve national data sets or, if local initiatives, can be considered to be demonstration projects.
2. Results must be communicated to practitioners and policy makers. We do not believe that it is sufficient just to publish our research in academic journals. We also communicate research findings through submissions to relevant public inquiries, in brief statistical bulletins, through a research newsletter with wide circulation, in personal briefings to policy advisers and politicians, and to the public at large through the print and electronic media.
3. Research must be conducted with sensitivity. We recognise that the design of some research projects may risk disempowering the host community, particularly where the community is already disadvantaged. We thus endeavour to approach our research in a way that is respectful and maximises community involvement in decision making.
4. Collaboration with other research agencies should be encouraged. We value effective working relationships with other State and national research centres and policy units addressing alcohol and drug use. In conducting our research, we collaborate with a number of organisations that complement our specific mission to investigate the prevention of drug related harm.
5. Co-operation with other sectors should be pursued. We recognise the importance of a balanced approach to the prevention of drug-related harm, involving co-operation between law enforcement, health service providers and community groups. We strive to create and maintain partnerships across these important sectors in the conduct of our research.
6. An international outlook should be taken. We participate in and contribute to international debate about drug-related harm and share research knowledge with other countries. This is achieved through attendance at and participation in international conferences and publication of our work in international journals.

Page
6

There follows an overview of all research programs and projects undertaken by the NDRI during 1999, organised under the Institute's four main research areas:

- Indigenous Australian Research Program
- Alcohol Policy Research
- Community Interventions Research
- Illicit Drugs Research

Indigenous Australian Research Program

The Institute's Indigenous Australian Research Program was established in late 1992. The aims of the program are to identify factors which can prevent alcohol and other drug related harm among Indigenous populations, develop culturally appropriate means for measuring the extent and consequences of drug misuse among Indigenous people, and to disseminate information and provide advice on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug issues.

Program research is based on recognition of the heterogeneity among Indigenous people, and the fact that in the past much research in this area has provided little direct benefit to them. With this in mind an attempt has been made to develop research projects which, while contributing to a broad national understanding of alcohol and other drug related problems, meet the practical needs of particular Indigenous communities. This practical focus includes the transfer of information, skills and resources to members of Indigenous community organisations.

The highlight of this year's work was the launch on the Internet of both our updated database on alcohol and other drug intervention projects and our bibliographic database on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug issues. These databases complement each other and provide a valuable resource for those working in the area. Another important project was a study of alcohol consumption in the Northern Territory. This work—some of which was conducted in conjunction with the Institute's Alcohol Policy Research Team—has important implications for both Territory alcohol misuse prevention programs and national alcohol taxation policy. As in previous years, the team's work has had a practical focus on identifying strategies that can reduce the prevalence of alcohol and other drug misuse in Indigenous communities. As well as being involved in the evaluation of a petrol sniffing project in South Australia and an alcohol intervention project in Western Australia, team members have completed a national comparative review of evaluated alcohol intervention projects for Indigenous people.

As in previous years, a significant proportion of program staff workload has involved community service, advocacy, and the dissemination of information on Aboriginal alcohol and other drug issues to the wider community. Program staff see themselves as a resource to be utilised by Aboriginal community organisations, and provide advice and support to them in the development of intervention and research projects. Information dissemination activities have included submissions to government agencies, conference and other professional presentations, and participation in various committees.



From left: Sherry Sagers, Leah Councillor, Dennis Gray, Brooke Sputore and Fiona Nichols

Database on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drug projects

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Associate Professor D Gray and Ms B Sputore
Co-investigator: Mr C Richardson and Associate Professor S Siggers

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

The aim of this project was to develop a comprehensive database to be disseminated to Aboriginal community organisations, government agencies, researchers and other parties interested in the reduction of the harm caused by alcohol and other drugs among Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. The database includes details of project objectives and strategies and contact details for each of the organisations conducting the projects. During 1999 the database was updated and released on the Internet.

Annotated bibliography of alcohol and other drug use among Aboriginal peoples

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Associate Professor D Gray and Associate
Professor S Siggers
Project staff: Ms L Councillor, Ms D Bourbon, Mr C Richardson and
Ms M Exon

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

This project complements the database on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drug projects. It aims to provide a comprehensive annotated bibliography on indigenous alcohol and other drug and related issues among Indigenous Australians. The database currently contains approximately 650 items, of which about 500 have been annotated and key-worded. An Internet version of the database was released in September 1999.

Identification of the essential elements of a contemporary, culturally appropriate, indigenous model of alcohol and other drug harm prevention and rehabilitation

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Associate Professor D Gray and
Associate Professor S Siggers
Project staff: Ms F Nichols

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

This project is being conducted in response to an expressed request from Aboriginal people in the region for an alcohol healing centre program which will focus on contemporary Aboriginal cultural realities and the harm prevention which may come about as a consequence of cultural and socio-economic 'reconnection'. The project aims to identify, via a process of representative and qualitative community consultation with West Kimberley Aboriginal people, the essential elements of a contemporary, culturally appropriate model of alcohol (and other drug) harm prevention and rehabilitation. Work commenced on the project in 1997 and is continuing through 2000.

Alcohol consumption, related harm, and intervention measures in Kununurra, Western Australia

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Associate Professor D Gray

Project Status: Completed in 1999

This project was undertaken on contract from the Health Department of Western Australia to assist with an objection lodged by the Commissioner of Health to the granting of an additional liquor licence in Kununurra. The project included review of the literature and analysis of data, alcohol consumption, related harm, and intervention measures both internationally and locally. A technical report was published in August 1999.

Alcohol-related problems in Katherine, Northern Territory

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Dr P d'Abbs and Associate Professor D Gray

Project Status: Completed in 1999

This project was conducted in conjunction with the Menzies School of Health Research on contract from Morgan Buckley, lawyers for the Northern Territory Liquor Commission, in relation to objections lodged against a Liquor Commission decision to impose restrictions on take-away sales of alcohol in Katherine. The project report documented levels of alcohol consumption and related harm and reviewed the background to the imposition of restrictions, and made general recommendations to address alcohol-related problems in Katherine.

Page
9

Indigenous Australians and liquor licensing legislation

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Associate Professor S Siggers and
Associate Professor D Gray

Project staff: Ms D Bourbon

Project Status: Completed in 1999

This project built upon earlier work conducted in Western Australia. It was designed to review liquor licensing related legislation throughout Australia, and to develop recommendations aimed at ensuring such legislation: furthers the objective of minimising the harm caused by alcohol among Indigenous Australians; promotes indigenous community involvement in decision making regarding the availability of alcohol; and is culturally appropriate.

Jungarni-Jutiya Alcohol Action Council and community needs assessment of Halls Creek

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Ms B Sputore and Associate Professor D Gray
Project staff: Mr C Sampi

Project Status: Completed in 1999

The Indigenous Australian Research team was contracted by Jungarni-Jutiya Alcohol Action Council to undertake an evaluation of its existing services, and carry out a needs assessment to identify what other alcohol intervention services, if any, are needed in Halls Creek. The research involved both qualitative and quantitative methods, and included:

- a community survey;
- statistical analysis of hospital, police, and project data; and,
- a review of documentary project data.

It found the existing services were generally effective and that there was broad community support for an expansion of preventative programs.

Page
10

Alcohol consumption in the Northern Territory

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Associate Professor D Gray, Ms T Chikritzhs and
Professor T Stockwell

Project Status: Completed in 1999

This project examined:

- the effect of the Northern Territory Government's cask wine levy on per capita consumption of alcohol; and,
- regional variation in patterns of alcohol consumption.

It was undertaken using alcohol purchase data provided by the Northern Territory Liquor Commission.

Alcohol Policy Research

The main focus of effort this year has been on the continued development and application of alcohol harm indicators at the local, regional, state and national levels. Central to this effort has been the National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP) conducted in association with Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Services Inc, Melbourne. The massive task of gathering relevant health, crime and sales data from all jurisdictions since 1990 has well and truly begun and the first statistical bulletin was published at the end of 1999. This report focused on perhaps the most significant measure of harm: deaths caused by alcohol. National trends were presented along with comparisons between different states and territories by geographic region, gender and ethnicity. A new method was developed for adjusting estimates of the proportions of key conditions caused by alcohol on the basis of changes in national per capita consumption. Finally, this method was applied to 1997 to provide the most recent estimate then possible of the total numbers of alcohol-caused conditions, life years lost and hospital admissions for men and women.

The underlying methodology of NAIP has continued to be informed by the team's involvement in coordinating an international effort to devise guidelines for other countries to monitor alcohol consumption and harm under the auspices of WHO, Geneva. During 1999 this project progressed by involving researchers from Nigeria, Estonia, Germany, Thailand, India, Scotland, USA, South Africa and Mexico to examine the applicability of the draft guidelines to their own countries.

The purpose of NAIP is not merely to report on evidence of the extent of harm from excessive alcohol consumption but also to apply validated harm indicators to the analysis of the impact of state-level and national policy initiatives. We were fortunate indeed to win a tender in 1999 to evaluate the health and economic impacts of the Living With Alcohol program, a unique initiative of the NT Government involving a comprehensive program of enhanced treatment, public education and control of alcohol problems funded by a new levy on drinks with an alcohol content greater than 3%. The results showed a strikingly positive impact, a significant component of which was attributed to the levy itself as the reduction in alcohol-caused hospital episodes, road crashes and deaths began as soon as the levy was introduced. The total economic saving achieved over 4 years was estimated to be \$124 million.

At the local area level, the WA Liquor Licensing Demonstration Project has collected harm indicator data at the level of statistical local areas. In so doing an innovative method was developed to calculate the 'service population' of particular areas where this varied from ABS census-derived estimates of residential populations as a consequence of both tourism and residents being absent for some part of the year. As a consequence, more precise estimates of rates of local alcohol consumption and levels of harm could be calculated taking better account of the movement of people into and out of different parts of the state. A companion project is about to begin in New South Wales as part of a collaboration between the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, the NSW Police Service and the NSW Health Department with a special focus on alcohol-related violence.

Other achievements in 1999 include the completion of a major case-control study on the role of alcohol in injury, with its first publication appearing in the November issue of the international journal *Addiction*. In addition, a new reference text has been completed entitled "The International Handbook of Alcohol Problems and Dependence" under the co-editorship of Professors Nick Heather, Tim Peters and Tim Stockwell to be published by John Wiley and Sons in January 2001.



From left: Tim Stockwell, Roberta McLeod, Tanya Chikritzhs and Sally Brinkman

Database on alcohol related harm for Western Australia

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor T Stockwell
Co-investigators: Ms S Brinkman and Ms T Chikritzhs

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

The Health Department of WA invited NDRI to prepare a report on a range of indicators of alcohol related harm by Health Service Area to inform policy and planning. The indicators included rates of alcohol related road crashes, of drink driving offences, liquor sales, alcohol related hospital admissions and deaths. The project involved the active participation of a researcher with the Health Department's Alcohol and Drugs Policy Planning Section.

Liquor licensing demonstration project - WA

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor T Stockwell
Co-investigators: Ms T Chikritzhs and Ms S Brinkman

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

A joint project with the Alcohol Advisory Council of WA funded by the Health Department of WA as a Commonwealth Demonstration project.

In common with Liquor Acts in other States, the WA Liquor Act now has an explicit focus on harm minimisation as one of its primary objects. The purpose of this project is to develop and apply a model for the dissemination of local information about levels of alcohol related harm and high risk drinking, serving and promotional practices. The database established for the Measurement of Alcohol Problems for Policy (MAPP) project will be updated and interviews with stakeholders and decision-makers in the area of liquor licensing will take place to investigate the optimal form of local information on harm and risk. Issues of confidentiality will be examined in detail and also the issue of the legal admissability of the data as evidence in court cases.

National alcohol indicators project (NAIP)

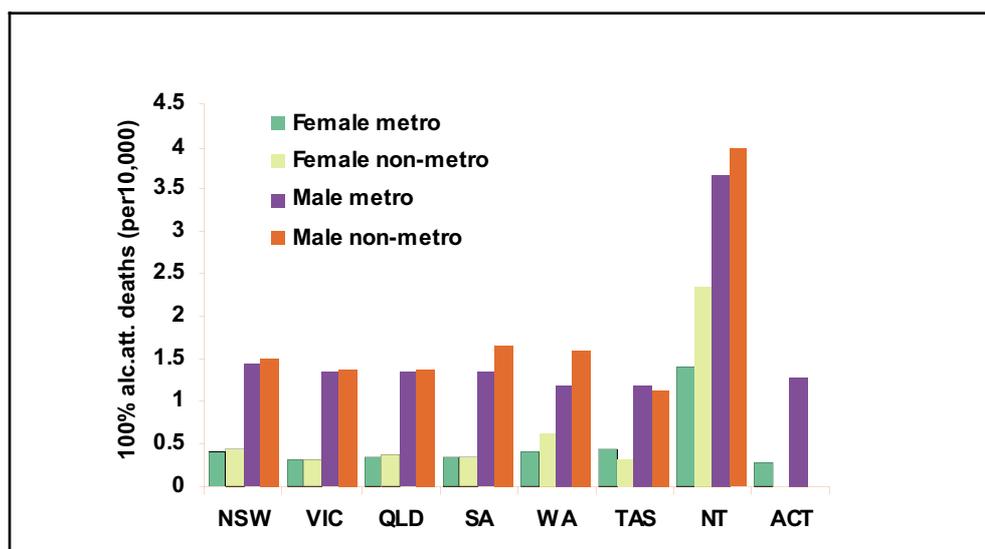
Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor T Stockwell
Co-investigators: Ms T Chikritzhs and Ms J Cronin

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

There are currently a number of ways in which alcohol consumption and related harms are monitored in Australia: national surveys, alcohol beverage industry sales data, the application of aetiological fractions to health statistics regarding the incidence of conditions known to be alcohol-related and a variety of other harm indicators. The majority of the statistics are recorded in all jurisdictions from the 1980's until the present time. The NDRI has been funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, over a period of three years in the first instance, to access a number of these data sets with the intention of tracking trends of alcohol consumption and related harms from 1992.

The data on alcohol-related harm and alcohol consumption patterns will be used to determine the magnitude (prevalence and incidence) of specific alcohol-related problems and to track changes and determine trends in these problems over time. In addition, time series data about specific sets of alcohol patterns can be used to evaluate the effects of policy or prevention interventions within Australia. These applications are the central focus of this project.

The six priority indicators to be monitored include: hospital admissions attributed to alcohol, alcohol-related mortality, per capita consumption of alcohol by persons over fifteen years of age, estimated percentage of total alcohol consumption which is high risk, percentage of adults and adolescents drinking harmful or hazardous quantities of alcohol, and other problem indicators (rates of night time assaults, serious crashes with blood alcohol levels above .05 and single vehicle night crashes). It should be acknowledged that although the list of indicators is far from exhaustive, it is indicative of the principal measures of concern in the analysis of alcohol issues in Australia.



Australian state-wide death rates (per 10,000) due to wholly alcohol attributable conditions, by sex, metro/non-metro, 1990-1997.

NT Living With Alcohol program evaluation project

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor T Stockwell
Co-investigators: Ms T Chikritzhs and Ms J Cronin

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

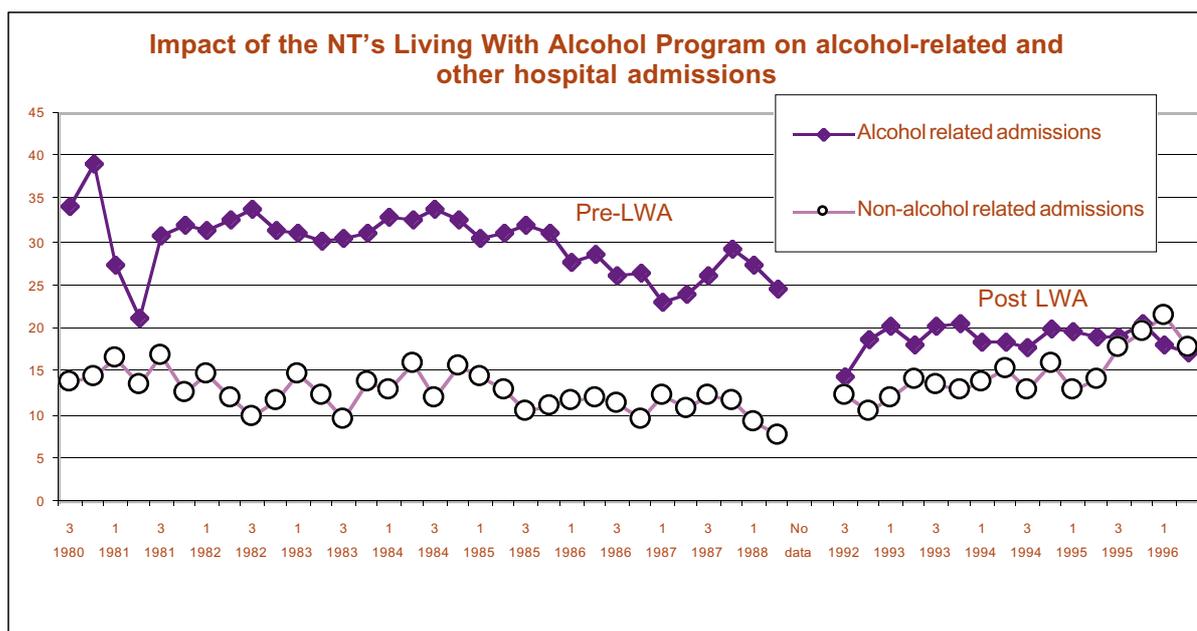
A joint project with the Lewin-Fordham Group

National indicators of alcohol consumption and alcohol related harms show that the Northern Territory (NT) levels are consistently higher than in the rest of Australia. In November 1991 the 'Living With Alcohol program' (LWA) was designed to reduce alcohol-related harm to a level equivalent to, or lower than the national level by the year 2000. The LWA is an important prevention initiative with many unique features worthy of careful investigation. It was funded by a levy on all alcoholic drinks with a strength greater than 2.9% alcohol by volume. The levy raised significant funds for treatment and prevention activities in the Territory and was also in itself an economic disincentive for drinking high strength alcohol. The LWA program has commissioned NDRI and a group of consulting health economists from the Lewin-Fordham Group to estimate the economic benefits of the program.

Page
14

The first phase of the project involves estimating the impact on levels of alcohol-related harm in the domains of road safety, morbidity and mortality. Time series analyses will be conducted on relevant indices that are available for a long enough period prior to the start of LWA. An innovation will be the calculation of new aetiological fractions specifically for the Northern Territory which recognise the higher levels of hazardous and harmful drinking compared with the rest of Australia. These will also be adjusted year by year for estimated changes in drinking levels.

The Lewin-Fordham Group will provide the health economic expertise to this project to estimate the economic costs associated with alcohol use in NT during the period of the study. This information will then be combined with the estimates of the impact of LWA on key harm indicators to estimate the overall economic impact of this unique prevention program.



Evaluation of public health and safety impact of extended trading permits for Perth hotels and nightclubs

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Ms T Chikritzhs and Professor T Stockwell

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

Doctoral student, Tanya Chikritzhs, has chosen this topic for her thesis under the supervision of Tim Stockwell. Time series of data regarding numbers of drink driving offenders identified as having drunk last at particular premises have been examined for trends before and after the granting of Extended Trading Permits (ETPs) to hotels and nightclubs in the Perth metropolitan area. Analysis has also been made of numbers of assaults identified as occurring on or in the vicinity of particular licensed premises before and after the granting of extended trading permits. The ETP system permitted by liquor laws in Perth has some interesting and unique features. ETPs have been granted to some but not all applicants by the director of Liquor Licensing over the last five years. Typically, they permit an additional hour of trading at peak trading times such as the early hours of Saturday and Sunday. Premises with a known poor record for compliance with liquor laws are unlikely to receive an ETP. Given the low levels of monitoring of licensed premises during this period, the net result is a natural experiment allowing for comparisons of problems before and after the granting of ETPs in both assault and drink-driving offences and with control establishments that either did not apply for or did not receive an ETP. Liquor licensing sales data have been examined to determine whether the granting of an ETP appears to increase profitability of the premise. A technical report released in May 1997 provided strong evidence that extended trading hours are associated with increased levels of assault and alcohol-related road crashes. Subsequent analyses have found evidence that extended trading hours are associated with increased patron blood alcohol levels.

Alcohol dependence and alcohol-related problems (Handbook)

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Professor N Heather, Dr T Peters and Professor T Stockwell

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

This project involves the production of a comprehensive text on alcohol problems with 45 chapters on topics covering the full range of issues around prevention, treatment and biological processes. The book will be published by John Wiley in mid-2000 and the international contributors include over 35 well-known researchers.

The relationship between alcohol consumption patterns and injury

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Dr M Stevens, Mr M Phillips and Professor T Stockwell
Project Officer: Ms R McLeod

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

This case control study will investigate the relationship between injuries and alcohol consumption, particularly the quantity of alcohol taken and the sites in which it was consumed. Changes in this relationship according to season and location will be examined as well as the use of other licit and illicit drugs. Data collection from over 1000 injured people and 800 community controls has been completed. A paper has been presented at an international conference and also submitted for publication.

Monitoring of alcohol-related violence and crime in NSW

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor T Stockwell

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

This collaborative venture represents a commitment to a 3 year program of research to establish policy relevant, monitoring and evaluation procedures with particular reference to alcohol violence and other crime.

The expertise developed by working on the Measurement of Alcohol Problems for Policy project, the WA Liquor Licensing Demonstration project and the National Alcohol Indicators project will be made available to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, with a focus on local and regional areas of NSW. A preliminary stage will involve the identification and collection of appropriate data sets following the model used in Western Australia and Victoria which provides local data on serious alcohol-related violence and crime. Reports will be prepared on these but the underlying objective will be to develop and define indicators to be applied in the NSW context for the evaluation of policy initiatives such as the enforcement of licensing laws, changes in trading hours, the introduction of Accords and so on. It is anticipated that the successful applicant to the position of Research Fellow will obtain an adjunct appointment with Curtin University through the National Drug Research Institute and also that all publications will carry the names of the NSW Bureau and NDRI.

Community Interventions Research

The community team continued to be involved in a diverse range of research projects during 1999, although the consistent unifying theme was development of practical preventative interventions. The School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) continues to be a major component of the team's work. The project is designed to teach junior high school students how to prevent harm arising from their own and other people's drinking. Data is being collected from approximately 2300 students in 14 Perth government high schools, with repeated measures of individual students on a range of knowledge, attitude and behaviour indices. The project is now in its third and final year of data collection, subsequent to implementation of the main education component in 1997, followed by booster sessions in 1998. Findings from these first two years of the intervention are very encouraging, with clear changes in knowledge, attitude, consumption and harm-related behaviour.

The community team will continue to undertake alcohol education research with the SHAHRP student cohort, during their final two years of high school, through the follow on SHAHRP 2000 project. This research project received funding from Healthway in 1999 and is specifically designed to consolidate the knowledge attitude and behaviour changes achieved by the SHARHP intervention.

The Partysafe community mobilisation project commenced in Carnarvon in September with the employment of part-time project and evaluation officers. Office accommodation was provided by Carnarvon Public Health, which has been extremely helpful in getting the project started and supporting the project officer on a number of alcohol harm prevention initiatives. Given the small scale and remote nature of this project, such local support has been invaluable. Project staff have spent most of their time this year conducting and analysing a local survey, which will establish a number of baselines against which to measure the impact of the project. It will also provide better information on local prevention needs, which will help shape the nature of the project interventions.

Community team members were involved in three other major projects during 1999. The community team contributed to the evaluation of the National Community Based Approach to Drug Law Enforcement (NCBADLE) multi-site, pilot, harm reduction policing project. The team was also involved in the production of an evaluation handbook to guide future research and evaluation in the area of community policing approaches to reduce drug related harm. The community team was contracted by the School Drug Education Project (SDEP) to conduct an evaluation of a project designed to reduce harmful behaviour associated with school completion celebrations. At this stage, this has involved formative data gathering from 1999 school leavers for the purposes of informing interventions planned for the end of the year 2000. Finally, the community team was invited to co-ordinate technical aspects of the evaluation of the establishment and operation of the Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN). This innovative, multi-million dollar, drug information project is still embryonic, but is designed to develop a number of readily accessible, national drug information resources over the next three years. NDRI will be involved in assessing how it achieves its aims.

The community team has produced a creditable number of journal articles and book chapters this year and it is particularly worth noting that the initial findings from the SHAHRP research are starting to be published in refereed journals. The findings from this study are an important contribution to the drug education literature because of the emphasis given to harm reduction rather than abstinence goals. Richard Midford also presented findings from the first year of the study at the 10th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm in Geneva. Richard Midford and Nyanda McBride each presented papers on their research at the 11th National Health Promotion Conference in Perth.

In summary the research work of the community team continues to reflect a commitment to better understand how Australian communities can prevent and control alcohol and other drug problems. One aspect of this work is to contribute to the development of a robust and mature body of knowledge as to what strategies bring about effective prevention in different Australian community contexts. The other is to disseminate this information to key community stakeholders in way that informs prevention practice at the local level. To a certain extent the record of publication by the community team attests to the former, but a glimpse as to the impact on practise is provided by the following recommendation of the Western Australian Parliament's Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 in relation to a community alcohol harm prevention project (COMPARI) implemented by NDRI in the early 1990s. This committee recommended that:

Given the success of the COMPARI model, it is the view of the Select Committee that a similar approach should be considered in the first instance in the Goldfields. In the future, further pilot projects should be considered for a number of other regions which have high levels of alcohol and illicit drug related problems. The strength of the COMPARI model is that it's a time limited project which sets out to achieve certain outcomes within a particular time frame, achieved by maximising community participation.



From left: Richard Midford, Nyanda McBride, Fiona Farrington, Martin Cooper and Troy Bogaards.

Evaluation of a school leavers intervention

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Mr R Midford and Ms F Farrington
Project staff: Mr T Bogaards

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

The School Drug Education Project (SDEP) has received funding from the Commonwealth Government to develop and implement activities associated with end of year school leaver celebrations that will reduce alcohol related harm for the young people involved in the celebrations and the host communities. The community team will be involved in evaluation from formative development of the initiative through to assessing impact.

Evaluation of the Australian Drug Information Network (ADIN) project

Project Team: Co-investigator: Mr R Midford

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

Richard Midford was recently invited to join the ADIN evaluation committee with a view to co-ordinating the technical aspects of the project's evaluation. This \$2.4 million project has been funded by the Commonwealth Government to develop a comprehensive national information network comprising a national drug information telephone link line and a website with the capability of instantaneously delivering relevant, reliable and authoritative drug information to the general community and to a range of professional groups. Primary Consortium Partners: Australian Drug Foundation (ADF), NSW Medicines Information Centre, Prometheus Information

Carnarvon partysafe project

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Mr R Midford and Mr K Boots
Project staff: Mr M Cooper and Ms J Jaeger

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

The level of alcohol consumption is disproportionately high in many rural regions of Western Australia, as are the associated social and financial costs of alcohol misuse. Previous research suggests that in rural communities alcohol is most commonly consumed in private dwellings rather than in hotels, restaurants or night-clubs. Any prevention effort aiming to reduce the incidence of alcohol related harm in a rural area must employ strategies relevant to the context of drinking, that is, appropriate for functions held in private homes. Prevention strategies designed at a state or national level cannot always be successfully implemented at a local level as the social and environmental factors operating may be unique in an isolated rural community. Furthermore, local community members may be quite resistant to programs introduced by outsiders. The objective of the Carnarvon Partysafe Project is to utilise a community mobilization framework in addressing the harms arising from alcohol consumption at private parties. By actively seeking community involvement in identifying specific local concerns regarding alcohol misuse and in developing and implementing prevention strategies, the project aims to produce a prevention package that is both locally relevant and acceptable to the target population. A variety of qualitative and quantitative measures will be employed to evaluate the project. A control site

will also be assessed and pre and post measures compared both within and between locations. Previous community mobilisation projects have been successful in raising awareness of alcohol related harm and in empowering local communities to address such harms. Both the COMPARI project and the Halls Creek sobering up centre projects gained sufficient momentum to continue once the formal involvement of investigators ceased. The ultimate goal of the Carnarvon Partysafe Project is for Carnarvon residents to become sufficiently involved in the scheme and confident in their ability to address alcohol related harms in the community for the programme to become independent.



School health and alcohol harm reduction project (SHAHRP)

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Ms N McBride and Mr R Midford
 Co-investigator: Mr G Munro
 Project Staff: Ms F Farrington

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

SHAHRP is a four year, quasi-experimental, intervention research study designed to explore the effects of a student focused, secondary school, alcohol education intervention, and a broad based primary school health promotion intervention, in reducing alcohol-related harm experienced by secondary school students. The SHAHRP intervention aims to reduce harm by enhancing students' abilities to identify and deal with high risk drinking situations particularly likely to be encountered by young people. The SHAHRP research will follow individual students exposed to both the alcohol and health promotion interventions, over three successive years. A total of six intervention and eight control schools were recruited for the study involving 1101 intervention students and 1221 control students.

SHAHRP 2000: An alcohol education program for senior secondary students

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Ms N McBride, Ms F Farrington and Mr R Midford

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

Research evidence suggests that regular exposure to educational programs that expand upon previous programs and that are provided at critical times in a student's behaviour development assists in maintaining previously adopted behavioural change in the exposed group. Local data indicates that the prevalence of alcohol use increases in young people as they come into their senior years of secondary school. Accordingly, the SHAHRP 2000 study will follow the SHAHRP student cohort during their two senior years of high school and investigating the effect of additional evidence-based booster education program during these senior years. A further intervention will be implemented during the year 2000 when SHAHRP students are in year eleven. The students will then be surveyed on knowledge attitudes, context of use, consumption and harms associated with alcohol use situations in years eleven and twelve.

Critical analysis of research relating to alcohol and other drugs in the workplace

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Dr S Allsop, Dr R Bush, Mr G Fowler, Mr R Midford, Mr M Phillips, Mr M Woden, Mr M Bailey, Mr A Sirenko and Mr N Vincent

Project Status: Completed in 1999

In late 1993 the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) called for expressions of interest to undertake a critical analysis of research relating to alcohol and other drugs in the workplace. The contract to conduct this project was awarded to a consortium of agencies involved in alcohol and other drug research. The participating agencies are the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA), the Drug and Alcohol Services Council of South Australia (DASC), the National Institute of Labour Studies, the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Curtin University and the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI). The project aims are: to provide an overview of current Australian research on alcohol and other drugs in the workplace; identify gaps in research; critically review the research methods; assess the utility of the research; identify costs and benefits of current workplace research and intervention strategies, and on that basis, identify the most effective workplace strategies.

Illicit Drugs Research

During the previous 12 months, we have continued our research into the prevention of blood borne viruses among injecting drug users, investigations of the effects of the legal status of cannabis, the drug use of those under suspicion of and arrested for criminal offences, the prevention of opiate overdose and the policing of illicit drug use.

Our collaboration in a national evaluation of a community based drug law enforcement model for intersectoral harm reduction is nearing completion. This is an evaluation of a new approach to policing illicit drugs, being trialed by the police in two communities: Mirrabooka and Geraldton. We are collaborating with a research team from the University of Melbourne who are evaluating two similar projects in Victoria and New South Wales. Each project has been completed and site reports submitted. The final evaluation report should be completed by the end of April, 2000.

A first study on testing injecting drug users for blood borne viruses has been completed and a second study has commenced. The objective of this is to investigate how the testing process can be used more effectively for harm minimisation by exploring these issues in detail with drug users and test service providers. We are also concerned with recommending ways in which low levels of injecting drug user vaccination against hepatitis B can be improved.

Page
22

As a result of an investigation of injecting practices and transmission of hepatitis C, a study in the final reporting stages, an educational video demonstrating the ease with which blood to blood contact can occur during injecting has been produced. The video, which includes practical suggestions on how to reduce the risk of BBV exposure during injection is about to be piloted in WA among IDUs and educators.

The Illicit Team has also been involved in a national study, the Australian Blood Borne Virus and Injecting Drug Use Study, co-ordinated from Turning Point in Melbourne and involving study groups from Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. The study involved the administration of the BBV-TRAQ (Blood Borne Virus Transmission Risk Assessment Questionnaire) followed by a qualitative investigation of the contexts in which identified risks occurred. One hundred and fifty IDUs in Perth have been interviewed over a three month period and data collection is about to commence. A national report will be available by mid-June and a state report by September.

At the beginning of 1999 we were invited by the Australian Institute of Criminology to collaborate in a national study of drug use among arrestees - Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA). This is a pilot project that seeks to measure drug use amongst those people who have been charged with a criminal offence. On a quarterly basis, voluntary interviews and urinalysis are conducted among people who have been arrested and brought to a central booking facility. These data are analysed to provide estimates of recent drug use in this high-risk subgroup. For the first time in Australia DUMA will provide regular and timely data on illicit drug use amongst this group. The methodology outlined below adheres to the international protocols being developed for the International Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (I-ADAM) program which in turn is based on the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program run domestically in the United States. There are four sites, of which the East Perth Lockup is one. The WA study is being run in collaboration with the WA Police Service. Five surveys have been undertaken and the study will run until the end of 2001.

The WA data from the analysis of the social impacts of the cannabis expiation system of South Australia was launched in August 1999. This received extensive media coverage nationally and attracted international media interest. NDRI staff authored two National Drug Strategy monographs, two DASC monographs and three NDRI technical reports on this project. NDRI staff are authoring four papers for submission to refereed journals.

Another major project completed during 1999 was the Regulation of Cannabis Possession, Use and Supply for the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee of the Victorian Parliament. The draft discussion document which was the outcome of this project was submitted in May 1999. Approval has been granted for release of the full discussion document as an NDRI monograph and this will be published in the first half of 2000.

The feasibility study into the provision of naloxone hydrochloride (or 'Narcan') to heroin users for peer administration as a way to prevent fatal heroin-related overdoses has been completed and the report was submitted to the Health Department of Western Australia on 30 June 1999. It is currently under review by the Department and has not yet been approved for release. A paper based on the project was presented at the APSAD conference in Canberra in November. Four papers are in preparation for submission to refereed journals.

For the first time, WA data was included in the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) as part of the national expansion of the project. NDRI coordinated the WA arm of the project in 1999. The IDRS is intended to act as an early warning system for the availability and use of four main drug categories: heroin, amphetamines, cocaine and cannabis. The report on the WA arm was published as an NDARC report in January 2000.

NDRI in conjunction with Turning Point Inc. and others were successful in an application for the 2000 round of NHMRC – NIDS funding to conduct an 18 month study of situational factors in heroin overdose in Perth.

Simon Lenton is planning to submit his PhD thesis 'Criminal penalties for minor cannabis offences' by the end of 2000.



From left: Simon Lenton, Wendy Loxley, Kim Hargreaves, Susan Carruthers, John Acres and Amanda Bolleter.

The analysis of the social impacts of the cannabis expiation system of South Australia

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor D Hawks and Mr S Lenton
Project staff: Ms P Heale and Mr M Bennett

Project Status: Completed in 1999

A collaborative study between researchers at the Drug and Alcohol Services Council (South Australia), the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NSW) and NDRI which aims to inform policy development in relation to minor cannabis offences through the detailed analysis of the Cannabis Expiation Notice (CEN) scheme in South Australia. The components undertaken by the NDRI team include: (1) a telephone survey of the public in SA regarding their awareness, knowledge and attitudes regarding the CEN scheme (2) an interview study of minor cannabis offenders convicted in WA as part of a comparison of the impact of civil penalties for minor cannabis offences (SA) with the impact of a criminal conviction in a total prohibition jurisdiction (WA).

NDRI staff authored two National Drug Strategy monographs, two DASC monographs and three technical reports on this study. Reports were submitted to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) in May 1999. Presentations on this work were made to the Drug Trials and Tribulations Symposium in Perth in February 1998 and the 9th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, in Brazil, in March 1998. Four papers are being prepared for submission to journals.

Investigation of the issues in the regulation of cannabis possession, use and supply

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Mr S Lenton, Professor P Erickson, Professor E Single,
Mr E Lang and Professor D Hawks
Project staff: Ms P Heale

Project Status: Completed in 1999

The task of this 6 month project was to produce a high quality discussion paper for broad public distribution in Victoria to stimulate public debate regarding the options for cannabis control in that state. Issues addressed included: an overview of data on cannabis use and related harms in Victoria and elsewhere; a discussion of the harm reduction approach; a consideration of the various legislative and regulatory models of cannabis control; a review of the international and Australian experience of applying such models; a consideration of possible impacts on youth and the 'gateway theory'; and a comparative assessment of the various regulatory options and specification of the most defensible and effective option for the Victorian context.

The draft report was submitted to the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee of the Victorian Parliament in May 1999. Papers have been presented at national and international conferences. NDRI will release the report as a monograph in 2000.

Novice injecting drug users and hepatitis C: assessing the risks and designing harm reduction messages

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Ms S Carruthers (PhD Project)

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

The aim of this study (termed the HIT Study: Hepatitis C, Injecting and Transmission) was to identify injecting behaviours other than sharing which continue to put injecting drug users (IDUs) at risk of exposure to hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses.

The innovative methodology used for this study included the filming of IDUs during the process of injecting. The resulting film data was then analysed using two “gold standards”, aseptic injection technique and safe injecting technique. An in-depth qualitative interview also took place, designed to elicit detailed information about variations in injecting practices, changes in injection practices over time and perceptions of risk of exposure to hepatitis C.

The data collection and analysis for this project is complete. The analysis of injecting practices revealed a number of hidden practices or “accidents” where direct blood to blood contact was observed. The most frequently observed risk factor involved the contamination of injecting equipment and the immediate injecting surroundings following the touching of injection sites. While IDUs appear to be knowledgeable about avoiding exposure they continue to make errors during the injection process which can greatly increase the risk of exposure to hepatitis C.

The final stage of this project will be the making of recommendations about how the findings can be incorporated into future hepatitis C prevention initiatives.

Testing for blood borne viral infections in injecting drug users

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Project staff: Ms P Sullivan

Project Status: Completed in 1999

The high rate of transmission of blood borne viral infections (BBVI) (such as hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS) among injecting drug users (IDUs), and the seriousness of the resulting diseases, means that IDUs are commonly tested for BBVI, particularly if they attend drug treatment clinics. The assumption appears to be that if IDUs know their serostatus they are in a better position to protect both themselves and their communities by behaviour change and improved health care. Yet the HIV testing literature suggests that this assumption is oversimplified, and there is little or no contemporary literature that examines the human factors involved in being tested for hepatitis C or B, or being vaccinated against hepatitis B. Australian IDU research has indicated that IDUs being tested for all three viruses experience difficulties with all aspects of being tested. These difficulties include motivations for being tested that do not include willingness to change behaviour; the intimidatory nature of the testing process that deters some (particularly young) IDUs from presenting for testing, or from collecting test results; failure to understand the meaning of a test result which may result from inadequate pre-and post-test counselling; over-testing; and uncertainty about serostatus and hepatitis B vaccination process or status. This study has been funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council to investigate the human factors involved in testing IDUs for hepatitis C,

hepatitis B and/or HIV and vaccination against hepatitis B. IDUs recruited from drug treatment, youth, sexual health and needle exchange agencies, will be interviewed about the behavioural, cognitive and affective aspects of the decision to be tested, the test process and test outcomes, and similar issues relating to vaccination against hepatitis B. Service providers across the country will also be interviewed. The study should elucidate areas of confusion, anxiety or difficulties in testing that can arise, so that testing and referral agencies and health professionals can improve test practices, including, but not exclusively, pre- and post-testing counselling.

Investigation of hepatitis C risk practices among injecting drug users: identifying specific risk behaviours and their context (ABRIDUS)

Project Team: Co-investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Project staff: Ms S Carruthers and Ms A Bolleter

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

The National Health and Medical Research Council, through the Hepatitis C Social and Behavioural Research Grants Award, are funding this study which is a national survey of hepatitis C risk practices among injecting drug users.

Page
26

The purpose of this project is to measure the extent to which injecting drug users in Australia engage in practices that carry the risk of transmitting the hepatitis C virus (HCV). A survey of injecting drug users will be conducted in a number of jurisdictions across Australia (Vic, NSW, WA). This survey will utilise a newly developed research instrument (the BBV TRAQ) in order to quantify the extent to which these individuals are engaging in practices which carry the risk of the transmission of the hepatitis C virus. The project will also identify key contextual determinants of these practices.

Prevention of the transmission of hepatitis C

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Ms S Carruthers
Co-investigator: Mr P Davidson

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

The HIT study (see above) identified a range of actions, frequently observed during injection events, which resulted in direct blood to blood contact between those taking part in injection events. As a result of these findings the current project involved the production of an hepatitis C prevention resource comprising a video and two instruction manuals, one for educators and one for those currently injecting. The aim of the project was firstly to demonstrate the various actions involved in injecting which can result in the blood to blood contact between injectors and thus result in the transmission of hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses. The secondary aim was to provide injectors with a number of strategies by which risk of exposure to blood borne viruses could be minimised in various injecting contexts. The production of the video has been completed and piloting about to be undertaken. The piloting will involve demonstrating the video in a focus group setting with current injectors and key informants from the drug education sector.

Feasibility into the provision of naloxone to heroin users for peer administration as a prevention of fatal heroin-related overdose

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Mr S Lenton
Project staff: Ms K Hargreaves

Project Status: Completed in 1999

Heroin overdose is a major cause of death among heroin users and non-fatal heroin overdoses are common. Most deaths attributed to heroin overdose occur in the company of others, mostly other users, and witnesses to fatal overdose rarely call an ambulance or seek help, often because of concern about police being involved. Research suggests that instant death following injecting is rare yet in more cases users have died more than 3 hours after injection. In most cases of heroin overdose either or both of the CNS depressants benzodiazepines or alcohol were present in the blood. Naloxone hydrochloride is an injectable narcotic antagonist which reverses the respiratory, sedation and hypotension effects of acute narcosis. Some experts have suggested that naloxone hydrochloride be provided to heroin users for administration by their peers in an overdose situation. The current project, funded by the Health Department of WA aims to determine the feasibility of conducting a trial of the provision of naloxone to heroin users for peer administration and to design such a trial. The project will include a literature review, establishment of an expert key informant group, data collection with heroin users, addressing medico-legal and supply issues, developing and piloting a protocol for administration, and trial design.

Page
27

A draft report was submitted to the Health Department of WA in June 1999. Papers based on the work have been presented at national conferences. Three papers for submission to refereed journals are in preparation.

National database on opiate overdose prevention strategies

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Project staff: Mr J Fetherston

Project Status: Completed in 1999

This project established a national database of overdose prevention projects. This involved:

- identifying and making personal contact with groups and individuals known to be working in the area of overdose prevention;
- broadening the initial list through snowball methodology;
- documenting the relevant information and establishing the database.

Psychostimulant use and reckless or violent behaviour (Rev-up study)

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor D Hawks and Associate Professor W Loxley
Project staff: Ms J Bevan

Project Status: Completed in 1999

This pilot project developed a methodology for interviewing police suspects, to investigate whether they had experienced reckless and/or violent (including criminal) behaviour which appeared to be associated with use of psychostimulants and/or other licit or illicit drugs, and whether they attributed such behaviour to their use of psychostimulants and/or other licit or illicit drugs. The project contributed to an understanding of some of the possible consequences of psychostimulant use - reckless and violent behaviour - and offered some evidence relating patterns of criminal behaviour to patterns of drug use, so that changes in criminal behaviour which might occur as a result of changes in drug use could be better predicted.

Drug use monitoring in Australia (DUMA)

Page
28

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Project staff: Ms R McLeod

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

This project is the Western Australian arm of a national study which is being managed by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The study is funded by the Federal Ministry of Justice for three years to investigate the prevalence of illicit drug use among people who have recently been charged with a criminal offence. The gathering of such information is necessary for the development of a plan of action to combat the problem of illicit drug use and crime in the community generally.

DUMA is a pilot project that seeks to measure drug use among those people who have been charged with a criminal offence and detailed in a lockup facility in the previous 48 hours, thereby focusing specifically on the drug/crime connection. Voluntary interviews and analysis will be conducted with this section of the alleged offender population on a quarterly basis over a two-three week period. 250 arrestees will be interviewed in each survey.

In Perth the survey will take place in the East Perth lockup with the cooperation and support of the WA Police Service.

Exploring testing injecting drug users for hepatitis and HIV/AIDS

Project Team: Chief Investigators: Associate Professor W Loxley and Ms S Carruthers
Project staff: Ms A Bolleter

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

This project aims to extend knowledge about the process of testing injecting drug users for hepatitis C and other blood borne viral infections through a qualitative in-depth examination of clinical and practical difficulties with current pre-and post-test counselling guidelines. Testing provides an ideal

opportunity in which IDUs can be assisted to prevent hepatitis C and other BBVIs or to minimise the risk of reinfection and/or other complications associated with hepatitis C infection. The study will throw some light on how the value of the testing process can be maximised to achieve these objectives.

Illicit drug reporting system (IDRS)

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Mr S Lenton
Co-investigator: Ms K Hargreaves

Project Status: Commenced in 1999

This study comprises the Perth arm of a research project to monitor illicit drug use trends in major cities across Australia which is being co-ordinated by NDARC. The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) provides a co-ordinated approach to the monitoring of data associated with illicit drug use in Australia. The information collected is intended to act as an early warning system of the availability and use of four main drug categories: heroin, amphetamines, cocaine and cannabis. It has been piloted for two years in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide. The project has been funded in all states and territories in Australia during 1999 and 2000 by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The methods employed in the Perth arm for 1999 included a qualitative study of key informants who work in the drug field (eg. health, law enforcement, outreach, and research professionals) and an examination of existing indicators (eg. survey data, health and police data).

Evaluation of a community based drug law enforcement model for intersectoral harm reduction

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Co-Investigators: Mr R Midford and Mr S Lenton
Project staff: Mr K Boots and Mr J Acres

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

This project, which is funded by a grant from the National Community Based Approaches to Drug Law Enforcement Secretariat, will evaluate new models of illicit drug law enforcement. In each of Mirrabooka (Perth) and Geraldton a project co-ordinator employed by the WA Police Service will establish a community based structure comprising a Drug Action Team (DAT) and Drug Reference Group (DRG) with the general aim of reorienting local level illicit drug law enforcement activities towards attaining drug harm reductive outcomes. The evaluation will monitor processes in the development of intersectoral partnerships between the police and local community stakeholders, and develop and implement relevant data sets for outcome evaluations. The key outcome within the project period will be the successful forging of partnership and the development of reciprocal trust and understanding between law enforcement and the community. The evaluation in Western Australia is being run in collaboration with researchers from the University of Melbourne who will be evaluating similar projects in New South Wales and Victoria. The comparison across projects and the documentation relating to the development of understanding of processes will explain why different projects reached different stages, or experienced different successes. The final product should be a guidebook to evaluation of projects such as these, which will provide examples of what seemed to work best under specific circumstances.

Cannabis project

Project Team: Co-investigator: Mr S Lenton

Project Status: Continuing in 2000

A comparison of intervention formats for adult cannabis users seeking treatment. A project conducted by Next Step (formerly Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Authority (WAADA) for which Simon Lenton acts as a research consultant.

The application of criminal penalties for minor cannabis offences - A review (PhD)

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Mr S Lenton

Project Status: Continuing

This project comprises a review of the sociological and criminological theories and relevant research pertaining to the extent to which laws deter law breaking in general and the use of cannabis in particular. Criminologists have argued that the application of criminal sanctions to behaviours which are primarily matters of personal health and morality overburdens the criminal justice system, creates disrespect for the law, and thus impedes the ability of the law to influence behaviour, in this case deter cannabis use. Sociologists from the 'labelling' perspective have argued that an official response to deviance may intensify the perceptions by self and others that the individual is deviant and result in an escalation of the disapproved conduct. Classical deterrence theory asserts that the probability of law-breaking varies inversely with the certainty, severity and swiftness of punishment. The success of such a legislative model will be determined by the behaviour (offending) not occurring. Two types of deterrence effects have been identified - general deterrence which is the prevention of criminal activity by others, and specific deterrence, the dissuasion of law breakers from further offending. Research which has compared surveys of self reported cannabis use before and after legal changes have occurred casts doubts on effectiveness of cannabis law as a deterrent to use for those who are not using. Classical deterrence theory has also been criticised for its over dependence on legal sanctions and a number of other social factors have been identified which may affect adherence to the law. In particular, deterrence effects are thought to be undermined where punishments are generally perceived as disproportionate to the crimes and there are low levels of social support for the specific law.

International Collaborative Projects

International monitoring of alcohol consumption and harm

Project Team: Chief Investigator: Professor T Stockwell
Project Status: Continuing in 2000

The WHO Program on Substance Abuse funded NDRI to contribute towards the development of a document on alcohol consistent with 'Guidelines for controlling and monitoring the tobacco epidemic' (WHO, 1996). The purpose of such a document is twofold:

1. To provide advice and guidance to all WHO Member States on assessment and epidemiological monitoring in order to inform and facilitate effective policy formation;
2. To improve the global and regional comparability of data on alcohol use and health consequences in order to improve monitoring and to facilitate research and risk assessment.

Page
31

There are a number of ways in which alcohol consumption and related harms are monitored: national surveys, industry sales data and the application of aetiological fractions to health statistics regarding the incidence of conditions known to be alcohol related. Each of these methods raise difficulties for direct comparisons between different countries which become more acute when developing countries are considered. A final document has been prepared with the assistance of an international expert working group coordinated by NDRI. This is intended to provide 'best advice' on how to monitor alcohol related consumption and harm across different countries in the light of these difficulties. The document is currently the confidential property of WHO, Geneva until cleared for publication.

EXTERNAL LINKS AND COLLABORATIONS

EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Susan Carruthers

Memberships:

- . Member of Hepatitis C Council of WA
- . Member West Australian Substance Users Association
- . Invited member Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases

Other:

- . Vice-President, Australian Hepatitis Council
- . Committee member, WA AIDS Council

Tanya Chikritzhs

Membership:

- . Member of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Dennis Gray

Consultancies:

- . Consultant to Kununurra-Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation Alcohol Project

Memberships:

- . Fellow of the Australian Anthropological Society
- . Member of the Public Health Association of Australia
- . Member of the Australasian Epidemiological Association
- . Member of the International Epidemiological Association

Simon Lenton

Consultancies:

- . Research consultant to Clinical Policy and Research Directorate, Next Step

Membership:

- . Member of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- . Member Hepatitis C Council of Western Australia
- . Member WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies
- . Member WA Substance Users Association
- . Member International Harm Reduction Association
- . Member WA Task Force on Drink, Drugs and Driving
- . Member of the Australian Psychological Society

Editorial

- . Member of the Editorial Board of Drug & Alcohol Review

Wendy Loxley

Consultancies:

- . Consultant to the WHO programme on Substance Abuse
- . Research consultant to Clinical Policy and Research Directorate, Next Step

Memberships:

- . Vice President Hepatitis C Council of WA
- . Member of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- . Member WA Substance Users Association
- . Member International Harm Reduction Association
- . Invited member of WADASO Heroin Overdose Strategies Group.
- . Invited member of WADASO Alcohol and Other Drug Research and Policy Forum
- . Invited member, National Hep C Resource Network, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

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- . Member of Scientific Advisory Committee, National Centres for HIV Social Research

Editorial:

- . Assistant Editor *Addiction*
- . Member of the International Editorial Board of *AIDS Care*

Nyanda McBride

Consultancies:

- . Consultant to the Health Department of WA South Health Authority in relation to school health promotion evaluation
- . Consultant to the Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University of Technology in relation to the formative development of SKIP (phase2) intervention materials
- . Consultant to the Western Australian School Drug Education project
- . Consultant to University of Newcastle, Hunter Centre for Health Advancement in school health promotion evaluation

Memberships:

- . Member of the Public Health Association of Australia
- . Member of the Australian Association of Health Promotion Professionals
- . Member of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education

Richard Midford

Consultancies:

- . Consultant to the Health Department of Western Australia
- . Consultant to the Armidale (NSW) Community Alcohol Strategy Committee
- . Consultant to ADIN Project on evaluation matters

Memberships:

- . Board Member, Injury Control Council of Western Australia
- . Council Member of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- . Member of the Western Australian Alcohol Advisory Council
- . Member of the NHMRC Health Advancement Standing Committee's Workplace Injury and Alcohol Working Party
- . Member of the School Drug Education Task Force
- . Member of the International Harm Reduction Association

Tim Stockwell

Consultancies:

- . Substance Abuse Department, WHO, Geneva
- . Swedish National Institute for Public Health

Memberships:

- . Member of the Assessors Panel Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria
- . Member of the Assessors Panel National Health and Medical Research Council
- . Member of the Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol
- . Member of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- . Member of the National Alcohol Strategy Committee
- . Member of WA Alcohol Abuse Reduction Committee

Editorial:

- . Assistant Editor *Addiction* (Australasia)
- . Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Mental Health*

Other:

- . Treasurer to the Alcohol Advisory Council of WA Inc.

REVIEWS OF MANUSCRIPTS AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Staff members in the Institute reviewed manuscripts for the following journals and organisations:

AIDS Care
Addiction
Addiction Research
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
Drug and Alcohol Review
Drugs Education Prevention Policy
Health Promotion International
International Journal of Drug Policy
Journal of School Health
Journal of Substance Misuse

Staff members in the Institute assessed grant proposals for the following organisations:

Queensland University of Technology – ARC Small Grants for 1999
National Health and Medical Research Committee
ABF Alcohol-related Medical Research Grant Scheme
Edith Cowan University
Victorian Health

VISITORS TO THE INSTITUTE

Professor Ernest Hunter	Tropical Health Unit, University of Queensland
Major Brian Watters	Chair, Australian National Council on Drugs, New South Wales
Ms Leanne Wells	Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, ACT
Professor Lance Twomey	Vice Chancellor, Curtin University of Technology
Ms Robyn Dwyer	Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Victoria
Mr John Starzewski	Lewin-Fordham Group, United Kingdom

COLLABORATIVE LINKS

Each year the Institute maintains and establishes collaborative links with a number of community bodies relevant to the activities of the Institute. In 1998 these links included:

Within Curtin University:

Centre for International Health
School of Psychology
School of Public Health
School of Social Science and Asian Languages

Local Bodies:

Alcohol Advisory Council of Western Australia (Incorporated)
Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation
Crime Research Centre, UWA
Cyrenian House
Guidance Branch, Education Department of Western Australia
Health Department of Western Australia
Hepatitis C Council of Western Australia (Incorporated)
IFAP Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention
Industrial Counselling and Co-ordinators Association
Jungarni-Jutiya Alcohol Action Council
Kununurra-Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation
Labour Market Research Centre, Murdoch University
Liquor Licensing Division, Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
Next Step (Formerly WA Alcohol and Drug Authority)
Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Commission
Palmerston Drug Research and Rehabilitation Association
Roadwatch, University of Western Australia
School of Community Services & Social Sciences, Edith Cowan University
Western Australian AIDS Council
Western Australian Drug Abuse Strategy Office
Western Australian Police Service
Western Australian Substance Users Association
Wookabunning Kiaka Aboriginal Corporation

National and Interstate Bodies:

Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council of South Australia
Alcohol and Drug Council of Australia
Australian Association of Health Promotion Professionals
Australian Council on Smoking and Health
Australian Drug Foundation
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
Australian Hepatitis C Council
Australian Institute of Criminology
Australian Intravenous League
Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases
Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
Australian Psychological Society
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
Centre for Disease Control, New South Wales

Drug and Alcohol Services Council, South Australia
Menzies School of Health Research
National Centre for Education and Training in the Addictions
National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health
National Centre for HIV Social Research
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Health Department
Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services
Northern Territory Drug and Alcohol Bureau
Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services, Department of Health and Family Services
Public Health Association of Australia
Turning Point, Alcohol and Drug Centre

International Bodies:

Addiction Research Foundation, Toronto
Alcohol and Public Health Research Unit (Runanga, Wananga, Hauora Me Te Paekaka), Auckland
Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, California
Alcohol Research Group, Edinburgh
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, Ottawa
Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour, London
Finnish Foundation for Alcohol Studies, Helsinki
National Addiction Centre, London
National Institute for Alcohol and Drug Research, Oslo
Prevention Research Centre, Berkeley, California
Society for the Study of Addiction, London
United Nations Drug Control Program
World Health Organisation, Geneva

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Hepatitis C and novice injecting drug users: Identifying the risks and recommending harm reduction messages.

Degree: PhD
Student: Susan CARRUTHERS
Supervisor: HAWKS, D. (Co-Supervisor), LOXLEY, W. (Co-Supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 1996

An investigation of the effect of legislative and policy initiatives upon alcohol-related violence and driving offences.

Degree: PhD
Student: Tanya CHIKRITZHS
Supervisor: STOCKWELL, T. (Supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 1996

Designing a culturally appropriate alcohol rehabilitation/healing centre with Aboriginal people from the West Kimberley.

Degree: PhD
Student: Fiona NICHOLS
Supervisor: GRAY, D. (Supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 1997

Do some drug users have less to live for? Examining the tole of life wealth in the extent to which young adult drug use is controlled or excessive.

Degree: PhD
Student: Alison DALE
Supervisor: LOXLEY, W. (Co-Supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Commenced: 1998

School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project: Reducing alcohol related harms in young people.

Degree: PhD
Student: Nyanda MCBRIDE
Supervisor: STOCKWELL, T. (Supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Commenced: 1998

Page
37

Criminal penalties for minor cannabis offences: public attitudes and social impacts.

Degree: PhD
Student: Simon LENTON
Supervisor: STOCKWELL, T. (Supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Commenced: 1998

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Board of Management

The role of the Board of Management is to assist the Director in the management of the Institute and to facilitate its access to relevant government and other institutions. The Director reports to the Board of Management on a regular basis; day to day reporting is effected through the Executive Dean, Health Sciences, who chairs the Board of Management.

The Institute signed a funding agreement with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care in late 1998 giving the Institute five years of funding. The Board of Management comprises nominated representatives of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services, the Drug and Alcohol Services Council in South Australia, the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, South Australia, the Health Department of Western Australia, the Western Australian Police Service, Curtin University of Technology, and representatives of community based organisations.

Membership of the Board of Management

Professor Charles Watson (Chairman)
Executive Dean
Division of Health Sciences
Curtin University of Technology

Mr Tim Atherton
Assistant Commissioner
Crime Support
Western Australian Police Service

Ms Sue Kerr
Assistant Secretary
Drug Strategy and Population Health
Social Marketing Branch
Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care

Professor Tim Stockwell
Director
National Drug Research Institute

Mr Graham Strathearn
Chief Executive Officer
Drug and Alcohol Services Council, South Australia

Professor Colin Binns
Head, School of Public Health
Curtin University of Technology

Mr Kevin Larkins
Director, Mental Health Unit
Alcohol and Drug Policy Planning Section
Health Department of Western Australia

Mr Scott Wilson
State Co-ordinator
Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council,
South Australia

Ms Pam McKenna
Director
Palmerston Association Inc., Western Australia

Mr John Griffiths (finance matters only)
Director, Financial Services
Curtin University of Technology

The Executive Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Management, comprises Professor Charles Watson, Professor Tim Stockwell and Mr John Griffith, and is responsible for assisting the Director in the day to day management of the Institute.

The Institute's staff have been organised into 'teams' with each team having responsibility for a particular area. Each team has a designated 'team leader' responsible for the day to day management of its activities and adherence to its timelines. The 'team leaders' meet once a fortnight to discuss research issues, progress on the Institute's strategic plan, and other issues that impact on the Institute's business. In 1999 the Team Leaders are Professor Tim Stockwell, Associate Professor Dennis Gray, Associate Professor Wendy Loxley, Mr Richard Midford, Mr Simon Lenton and Ms Fran Davis.

STAFF

The Institute is staffed by a variety of social and behavioural scientists, a business manager, media liaison officer, computer systems officer, resource officer, secretary and clerical personnel. The Institute also employs research assistants and contracts casual research staff as projects demand. Staff are involved in the supervision of masters and doctoral research students and there are several full-time PhD students at the Institute. There are several honorary and adjunct research staff. At December 1999, Institute staff numbered 34, including honorary and adjunct staff.

List of Current Staff at 31 December 1999

Research Staff

- Professor Timothy Stockwell MA (OXON) MSc PhD Director
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug prevention policies • Indices of drug-related harm
• Drinking locations and server responsibility • Liquor licensing • Drug overdose.
- Wendy Loxley CertTchg BA(Hons) MPsych PhD Associate Professor and Deputy Director
Research Interests: Illicit drug use with particular reference to young people • HIV/AIDS and other blood borne viruses and injecting drug use • Drug use and crime.
- Dennis Gray BA MA MPH PhD Associate Professor
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug use among Aboriginal people • Aboriginal health.
- Richard Midford BA BPsych MPsych CPsychol (enrolled PhD) Senior Research Fellow
Research Interests: Community based prevention of alcohol and other drug related harm
• Workplace alcohol and other drug related harm • School based alcohol and other drug education.
- Simon Lenton BPsych MPsych(Clin) (enrolled PhD) Research Fellow
Research Interests: Heroin overdose • Illicit drug use and harm reduction • HIV/AIDS and other blood borne viruses and injecting drug use • Impact of legislative options for cannabis.
- Nyanda McBride DipTeach BEd PGD MPH (enrolled PhD) Research Fellow
Research Interests: School health and drug programs • Adolescent drug use.
- Susan Carruthers BAppSci GradDipDiet MPH (enrolled PhD) Research Fellow
Research Interests: Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and other blood borne viruses and injecting drug use.
- Tanya Chikritzhs BA(Hons) GradDipEpidBioStats (enrolled PhD) Research Fellow
Research Interests: Alcohol policy and legislation • Alcohol related crime • Liquor licensing
• Licensed drinking environments.
- John Acres BPsych GradDipHealth Social Science Research Associate
Research Interests: Local level drug law enforcement
Funded by: NCBADLE.
- Amanda Bolleter BSW(Hons) BA(Hons) Research Associate
Research Interests: Hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses and injecting drug use.
Funded by: NHMRC.

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- Sally Brinkman BABiolSci MPH Research Associate
 Research Interests: Alcohol-related harm.
 Funded by: Health Department of WA.
- Brooke Sputore BHlthProm MPH Research Associate
 Research Interests: Aboriginal alcohol and other drug use, particularly among young people
 • Evaluation of Aboriginal alcohol and other drug intervention.
- Leah Councillor BAppSci Research Associate
 Research Interests: Indigenous alcohol and other drug related issues among Indigenous
 Australians.
- Peter Davidson BA(Hons) Research Associate
 Research Interests: Opioid overdose by young injecting drug users.
- Kim Hargreaves BA Research Associate
 Research Interests: Opioid overdose and overdose prevention strategies • Provision of
 naloxone to heroin users for peer administration as a prevention of fatal heroin-related
 overdose.
 Funded by: WA Health Department and Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care.
- Fiona Farrington BEd DipTeach (enrolled Masters) Project Officer (PT)
 Research Interests: School based alcohol and other drug education.
 Funded by: Health Promotion Foundation of WA.
- Julie-Anne Jaeger AssocDipHlth Sci Reg Nurse Project Officer (PT)
 Research Interests: Community based prevention of alcohol and other drug related harm.
 Funded by: Health Promotion Foundation of WA.
- Roberta McLeod BSc(Hons) MPsych(Clin) Research Associate (PT)
 Research Interests: Alcohol prevention policies • Drug use and injury.
- Martin Cooper BAppSci GradDipEd MR (enrolled PhD) Research Associate (PT)
 Research Interests: Community based prevention of alcohol and other drug related harm.
 Funded by: Health Promotion Foundation of WA.
- Troy Bogaards BPhysEd PostGradDipEd Research Associate (PT)
 Research Interests: School leaver celebrations.
 Funded by: School Drug Education Program.
- Payson Matthewson BA(Sociology) BA(English) Research Assistant (PT)
 Research Interests: Alcohol-related harm.

PhD Students

- Susan Carruthers BAppSci GradDipDiet MPH (enrolled PhD)
 Thesis: Hepatitis C and novice injecting drug users - identifying the risks and recommending
 harm reduction messages.
 Funded by a National Drug Strategy Scholarship

Tanya Chikritzhs BA(Hons) GradDipEpidBioStats (enrolled PhD)

Thesis: An investigation of the effect of legislative and policy initiatives upon alcohol-related violence and driving offences.

Alison Dale BA, BPsych (enrolled PhD)

Thesis: Do some drug users have less to live for? Examining the role of life wealth in the extent to which young adult drug use is controlled or excessive.

Funded by: DETYA.

Simon Lenton BPsych, MPsych(clin) (enrolled PhD)

Thesis: Criminal penalties for minor cannabis offences: public attitudes and social impacts.

Nyanda McBride DipTeach BEd PGD MPH (enrolled PhD)

Thesis: School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project: reducing alcohol related harms in young people.

Fiona Nichols BSW RN, RM (enrolled PhD)

Thesis: Designing a culturally appropriate alcohol rehabilitation/healing centre with Aboriginal people from the West Kimberley.

Funded by a Healthway Scholarship.

Administrative Staff

Fran Davis

Business Manager

Rachael Lobo BSc(Hons)

Media Liaison Officer

Paul Jones BSc

Computer Systems Officer

John Somerville BE DipEd GradDipLibSt

Resource Officer

Funded by: Research Performance Index, Curtin University of Technology.

Susan Wilson

Secretary

Linda Matthews

Administrative Assistant

Funded by: Research Performance Index, Curtin University of Technology.



From left: John Somerville, Rachael Lobo, Linda Matthews, Paul Jones, Fran Davis, Susan Wilson and Tim Stockwell.

Computing

The Institute maintains a range of computers running the Macintosh and Windows operating systems. Every staff member has a computer located in their office, giving them access to various Macintosh and Windows based applications, INFORM (the NDRI library database), email and the Internet. Several additional computers are available for use by casual staff. All are networked to a shared file server and several laser printers including a colour printer. Other computing equipment includes a scanner and a number of notebook computers.

The Institute has developed its own web site, which provides a range of information including staff details, past and current research projects, publications, information about relevant seminars, presentations and conferences and media releases. The web site is regularly updated and can be visited at www.curtin.edu.au/curtin/centre/ndri/.

During 1999, NDRI has been developing a new database, specifically designed to facilitate the easy collection and collation of all information needed to fulfil the reporting requirements of the Institute. Following its launch in 2000, every staff member will be trained on and have access to the database, allowing them to record information such as publications, presentations, projects, grant applications and media activity. The database will also provide a ready source of information for CentreLines, the Institute's newsletter and will eventually be linked to the NDRI web site to provide access over the Internet.

Library

The Institute houses a special library collection of drug and alcohol publications comprising more than 2000 monographs, mainly technical reports and major reference books, plus over 8000 indexed journal articles. Publications are recorded on INFORM, a bibliographic database, to which all staff have computer access.

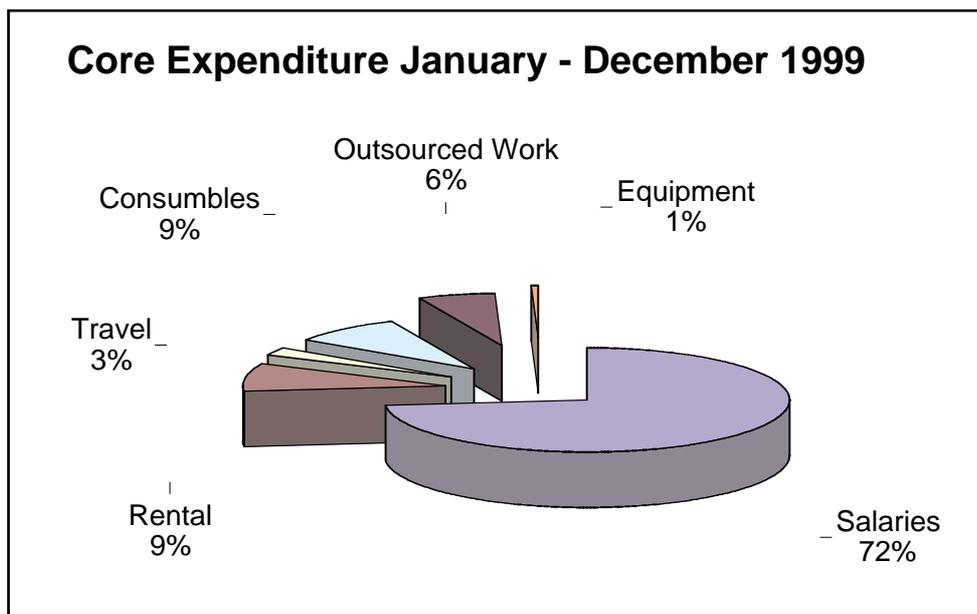
The NDRI library is staffed by a part-time resource officer who keeps abreast of, and alerts staff to, the many new opportunities for accessing information that have arisen as a result of developments in the information technology field. For example, staff are now able to download many full text journal articles directly from the Internet to their own computer.

The library is a member of the Australian network of libraries specialising in data on alcohol and other drugs (ADLIS).

FUNDING

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care provided \$1,293,647 to the Institute's core funding for the period January to December 1999. Details of the income and expenditure are as follows:

	1999 \$	Total \$
Income		
CDHAC Grant	1,293,647	
Sundry Income	71,073	
Curtin University Contribution	58,000	
Surplus B/F from December 1999	62,550	1,485,270
Expenditure		
Salaries	1,080,861	
Operating Cost	370,289	
Capital Costs	22,777	1,473,927
Surplus at 31 December 1999		11,343



Additional Funding Sources in 1999

Funding Source	Project Title	Total Grant Approved	Grant Received
NHMRC Grant RPI Grant	Exploring testing injecting drug users for hepatitis and HIV/AIDS	\$42,000 \$7,000	\$25,765 \$7,000
Medical Research Fund of Western Australia	Indigenous model of alcohol and other drug harm prevention and rehabilitation	\$30,618	\$23,944
Healthway Grant	Carnarvon Partysafe Project	\$115,382	\$40,962
Aust. Institute of Criminology	Drug Use Monitoring in Australia	\$71,534	\$71,534
Healthway Grant	SHAHRP 2000 - Starter Grant	\$19,000	\$19,000
Healthway Grant	SHAHRP 2000	\$192,552	\$32,023
Healthway Scholarship	PhD Scholarship Ms Fiona Nichols	\$48,010	\$24,000
World Health Organisation	World Health Monitoring Project	\$US23,500	\$3,098
Health Department of WA	Naloxone feasibility study	\$33,850	\$23,850
Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, Victoria	Investigation of issues in the regulation of cannabis possession, use and supply	\$50,545	\$26,045
WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office (WADASO)	Retrospective study of the circumstances of opioid overdose deaths	\$4,896	\$4,896
Northern Territory Health Svcs	Living With Alcohol program	\$27,850	\$27,850
Alcohol Advisory Council of WA (AACWA)	Liquor licensing demonstration project - WA	\$60,000	\$60,000
Jungarni-Jutiya Alcohol Action Council Aboriginal Corporation	Evaluation of Jungarni-Jutiya Alcohol Action Council	\$27,706	\$13,953
Edith Cowan University	Supply and promotion of alcohol in two Aboriginal communities	\$39,358	\$6,687
Health Department of WA	Application for Hotel Licence by Lily Creek Int International – Intervention	\$5,000	\$5,000
Menzies School of Health Res.	Alcohol-related problems in Katherine	\$10,162	\$8,500
Health Department of WA	The relationship between alcohol consumption patterns and injury project	\$153,102	\$15,317
NCBADLE	Evaluation of a community based drug law enforcement model for intersectoral harm reduction	\$131,389	\$78,833
Curtin University	Research Performance Index	\$92,257	\$92,257
Division of Health Sciences	PhD/Masters Students (DETYA)	\$8,000	\$8,000
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED			\$618,514

DISSEMINATION

PUBLICATIONS, CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

January - December 1999

Journal Articles

- Boots, K. and Midford, R. (1999) 'Pick-a-Skipper': An evaluation of a designated driver program to prevent alcohol related injury in a regional Australian city. *Health Promotion International*, 14, (4), pp. 337-345. [RJ313]
- Edwards, G., Babor, T.F., Stockwell, T.R. and West, R. (1999) Mission, modes of working, and maximising the partnerships. Editorial. *Addiction*, 94, (1), pp. 5-12. [RJ294]
- Farrington, F., McBride, N. and Midford, R. (1999) School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project: Formative development of intervention materials and processes. *International Journal of Health Promotion and Education*, 37, (4), pp. 137-143. [RJ301]
- Gray, D., Chikritzhs, T. and Stockwell, T. (1999) The Northern Territory's cask wine levy: health and taxation policy implications. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 23, (6), pp. 87-89. [RJ298]
- Gruenewald, P., Stockwell, T., Beel, A. and Dyskin, E. (1999) Beverage sales and drinking and driving: The role of on-premise drinking places. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 60, 1, pp. 47-53. [RJ244]
- Hawks, D.V. (1999) Not much to ask for, really! The introduction of standard drink labelling in Australia. *Addiction*, 94, (6), pp. 801-811. [RJ310]
- Hawks, D.V. (1999) Old wine in new bottles: the Public Health Commission and the making of New Zealand alcohol policy. Book Review. *Addiction*, 94, (8), pp. 1243-1244. [RJ309]
- Lenton, S. (1999) Cannabis policy and the burden of proof: Is it now beyond reasonable doubt that cannabis prohibition is not working? *Drug and Alcohol Review*. [In Press]
- Lenton, S. and Davidson, P. (1999) Raves, drugs, dealing and driving: qualitative data from a Western Australian sample. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 18, (2), pp. 153-161. [RJ304]
- Lenton, S., Kerry, K., Loxley, W., Tan-Quigley, A. and Greig, R. (1999) Citizens who inject drugs: the 'Fitpack' study. *The International Journal of Drug Policy*. [In Press]
- Lenton, S., McDonald, D., Ali, R. and Moore, T. (1999) Laws applying to minor cannabis offences in Australia and their evaluation. *The International Journal of Drug Policy*, 10, (4), pp. 299-303. [RJ303]
- Loxley, W. and Davidson, P. (1999) How rational is needle sharing to young injecting drug users? *Addiction Research*, 6, (6), pp. 499-515. [RJ254]
- McBride, N. (1999) Health promotion evaluation and research in schools: Issues for consideration. *Australian Journal of Primary Health-Interchange*. [In Press]
- McBride, N., Midford, R. and Farrington, F. (1999) Alcohol harm reduction education in schools: An Australian efficacy study. *Drug and Alcohol Review*. [In Press]

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- McBride, N., Midford, R. and Cameron, I. (1999) An empirical model for school health promotion: The Western Australian school health project model. *Health Promotion International*, 14, (1), pp. 17-25. [RJ287]
- McBride, N. and Midford, R. (1999) Encouraging schools to promote health: Impact of the Western Australian School Health Project (1992-1995). *Journal of School Health*, 69, (6), pp. 220-227. [RJ259]
- McLeod, R., Stockwell, T., Stevens, M. and Philips, M. (1999) The relationship between alcohol consumption patterns and injury. *Addiction*, 94, (11), pp. 1719-1734. [RJ306]
- Midford R. and Boots, K. (1999) COMPARI: Insights from a three year community based alcohol harm reduction project. *Australian Journal of Primary Health Interchange*, 5, (4), pp. 46-58. [RJ333]
- Midford, R. and McBride, N. (1999) Evaluation of a national school drug education program in Australia. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 10, (3), pp. 177-193. [RJ302]
- Stockwell, T. (1999) A new agenda for harm minimisation? *Drugs: Prevention, Policy and Education*, 6, (2), pp. 205-208. [RJ305]
- Stockwell, T. (1999) Should a few hours of therapy change behaviour 3 years later? *Addiction*, 94, 1, pp. 50-52. [RJ296]
- Stockwell, T. (1999) Book review, Heather, N. and Robertson, I., Problem Drinking, 3rd Edition. *Addiction*, 94, 4, pp. 599-600. [RJ308]
- Swift, W., Copeland, J. and Lenton, S. (1999) Cannabis and harm reduction. *Drug and Alcohol Review*. [In Press] [RJ323]

Unrefereed Articles

- Carruthers, S.J. (1999) In the eye of the camera for prevention. *Australian Hepatitis Chronicle*, July. [UJ84]
- Chikritzhs, T., Jonas, H., Heale, P., Dietze, P., Hanlin, K. and Stockwell, T. (1999) Alcohol-caused deaths and hospitalisations in Australia, 1990-1997. *NAIP Bulletin No. 1*. National Drug Research Institute, Division of Health Sciences, Curtin University of Technology. [UJ85]
- Gray, D. (1999) Cask wine and the Wine Equalisation Tax (WET). *Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council Newsletter*. Winter 1999, Edition 3, pp. 14-15. [UJ82]
- Lenton, S. (1999) Cannabis law in Australia - drug policy under evaluation. *Fuoriluogo* (Italian magazine with national circulation). [In Press] [UJ83]
- Midford, R., McBride, N. and Farrington, F. (1999) Drug education: the need for an evidence based approach. *Centrelines*, 33, pp. 4-7. [UJ79]

Monographs, Books and Chapters

- Ali, R., Christie, P., Lenton, S., Hawks, D.V., Sutton, A., Hall, W. and Allsop, S. (1999) *The Social Impacts of the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme in South Australia - Summary Report*. Publications Productions Unit, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, National Drug Strategy, Canberra, ACT. [M16]
- Boots, K. and Midford, R. (1999) From Resentment to Enthusiasm: How a University Initiated Alcohol Harm Reduction Research Project Evolved into Western Australia's Largest Regional Community Drug Service Team. In Casswell, S., Holder, H., Holmila, M., Larsson, S., Midford, R., Barnes, H.M., Nygaard, P. and Stewart, L. (Eds) *Kettil Bruun Society Thematic Meeting Fourth Symposium on Community Action Research and the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drug Problems*. Alcohol and Public Health Research Unit, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. [CP272]
- Casswell, S., Holder, H., Holmila, M., Larsson, S., Midford, R., Barnes, H.M., Nygaard, P. and Stewart, L. (Eds) (1999) *Kettil Bruun Society Thematic Meeting Fourth Symposium on Community Action Research and the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drug Problems*. Alcohol and Public Health Research Unit, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand. [CP272]
- Chikritzhs, T., Stockwell, T.R., Hendrie, D., Ying, F., Fordham, R., Cronin, J., Olermann, K. and Phillips, M. (1999) *The public health, safety and economic benefits of the Northern Territory's Living With Alcohol Program 1992/2 to 1995/6*. National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. [M22]
- Gray, D. and Saggars, S. (1999) Indigenous health: the perpetuation of inequality. In Germov, J. (Ed) *Second Opinion: An Introduction to Health Sociology* (revised edn). Oxford University Press, Melbourne, Australia. [CH71]
- Humeniuk, R., Brooks, A., Christie, P., Ali, R. and Lenton, S. (1999) *Social impacts and characterisation of offenders, under the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme in South Australia*. (DASC monograph No.3). Drug and Alcohol Services Council, Adelaide, South Australia. [M21]
- Lenton, S., Christie, P., Humeniuk, R., Brooks, A., Bennett, M. and Heale, P. (1999) *Infringement versus conviction: the social impact of a minor cannabis offence under a civil penalties system and strict prohibition in two Australian states*. Publications Productions Unit, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, National Drug Strategy, Canberra, ACT. [M18]
- Lenton, S., Heale, P., Erickson, P., Single, E., Lang, E. and Hawks, D.V. (1999) *The regulation of cannabis possession, use and supply. A discussion document prepared for the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee of the Parliament of Victoria*. Monograph No. 3. National Drug Research Institute, Division of Health Sciences, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia. [In Press]
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MEDIA LIAISON

The National Drug Research Institute aims to project itself as a source of reliable scientific information on a range of issues concerning the prevention of drug related harm. It also aims to help ensure that information used by the media is balanced, based on research evidence and does not serve to further encourage harmful drug use. In order to help the organisation achieve these objectives, the new position of Media Liaison Officer was created in March 1999.

A number of media relations activities were successfully carried out during 1999. Media events were held to launch the findings of two significant studies, while the results of other NDRI projects were made public via media release distribution and telephone follow-up. Several media releases relating to current issues were proactively prepared and distributed, and a number of incoming media enquiries, on a range of relevant issues, were effectively dealt with. In addition, supporting activities, such as the development of protocols for dealing with the media, were undertaken.

1999 Media Launches:

3/5/99	School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (Early results from the SHAHRP study)
2/8/99	Study Questions Cannabis Prohibition (Social impacts of the cannabis expiation notice system in SA)

Page
54

Other 1999 Media Releases:

15/3/99	New Research into Drugs and Driving – Alcohol Still Number One (The relationship between alcohol consumption patterns and injury)
9/4/99	Heroin Policies May Backfire
21/4/99	Parliament Votes to Stay WET!
21/5/99	Drug Use, Aggression, Violence and Crime (Psychostimulant use and reckless or violent behaviour study)
4/6/99	Using Taxation to Save Lives (The NT's cask wine levy: health and taxation policy implications)
23/9/99	\$6.5 Million for Drugs Research
26/10/99	Drug Research Institute Calls for Teenage Alcohol and Cannabis Education
9/12/99	Action Needed Now to Tackle Hepatitis C Epidemic
15/12/99	School Alcohol Lessons get Top Marks for Keeping Kids SHAHRP (Interim results from the SHAHRP study)

During 1999 the Institute recorded around 150 contacts with the media, which resulted in a broad range of print, radio and television coverage at a national, regional and local level.

Breakdown of media coverage:

- 48 stories in the print media, including the Australian (2), Australian Financial Review (2), Sydney Morning Herald (3), Age (2), West Australian (20) and Sunday Times (5).
- 64 radio interviews, including ABC Radio National (7), ABC News Radio (3), many regional stations across Australia, and a number of Perth stations such as ABC 6WF (9).
- 20 television interviews, including ABC News (7), ABC Stateline (2), Channel 7 News (3), Channel 9 News (5), and Channel 10 News (2).

Main topics covered by the media were:

- Cannabis legislation
- Drugs and driving
- School drug education
- Liquor licensing
- Alcohol taxation
- Drug use and crime
- Drug courts
- Injecting drug use and overdose
- Blood borne viruses

A number of new activities are planned as part of the media relations strategy for 2000. These activities are aimed at raising the profile of the Institute and the scope of its expertise with target media; encouraging the development of an active relationship with target media; and enabling the exploitation of opportunities to contribute to debate on relevant drug and alcohol issues.