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I am very pleased to introduce you to the 2004 Annual Report of the National Drug Research Institute.

The last year was notable in many ways, but the most significant from a historical point of view was the resignation of the Director, Professor Tim Stockwell. Tim held the post of Director for almost a decade, a period that has seen the Institute mature and flourish. I worked closely with Tim for seven years and I have appreciated his commitment to NDRI and his keen intelligence and common sense. Curtin has been very lucky to have such an able leader in charge of one of its most important research groups.

The departure of a successful leader and manager is often a threat to the stability and productivity of an organization. However, in this case, the confidence and capability of the staff have ensured that NDRI has not missed a beat. Much of the credit must go to Dennis Gray, who has done an excellent job as Acting Director, but all staff have contributed to maintaining the momentum of NDRI. I must also acknowledge the excellent support provided by the new Deputy Director, Dr Simon Lenton, and the Business Manager, Ms Fran Davis.

The result has been another outstanding year of contribution from the staff of NDRI. The publication output has been matched by the number of grants won and the impact on State and National drug policy and practice. As you read through this report, you will be impressed by the very high level of activity and the quality of work done.

At the end of 2004, we advertised for a new Director. Most of you will now know that Professor Steve Allsop has been appointed to the position. I am delighted that he has chosen to join NDRI. I have a very high opinion of his talents as a manager and leader, and his government and clinical contacts will be of great importance to NDRI. I wish Steve well in his work with Curtin.

I want to thank all of the staff at NDRI for your commitment and dedication. I hope that your work in 2005 proves to be rewarding and enjoyable.

Professor Charles Watson
Chairman of the Board of Management
Executive Dean, Division of Health Sciences
Curtin University of Technology
At the end of June, Professor Tim Stockwell left the National Drug Research Institute to take a position as Professor and Director of the new Centre for Addictions Research at the University of Victoria in Canada. He had been with NDRI as Deputy Director since 1988 and as Director since 1996. Tim made a significant contribution to the Institute's work; bringing in over $4.5 million in research grants, authoring over 150 scholarly publications, and making numerous conference presentations. He was a member of various advisory bodies and committees, including the World Health Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Australia's National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol, and his work has had a major impact on Australian alcohol policy. In addition, Tim was a particularly effective Director and under his leadership there was a steady increase in the depth and breadth of NDRI's research activities. Despite the fact that his contribution will be missed, NDRI's recruitment and staff development policies, and the commitment of all staff members, have ensured that the Institute's research activities have continued undiminished.

After an extensive national and international search, a committee chaired by Curtin University of Technology Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Jeannette Hacket appointed Professor Steve Allsop to replace Tim Stockwell. Steve is well qualified for the position. He was formerly Director of NDRI's sister centre the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction and Acting Executive Director of Western Australia's Drug and Alcohol Office. Until his appointment as NDRI Director, he was a member of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs and NDRI's Board of Management. Steve will take up his appointment in early 2005. Since Tim Stockwell's departure I have been Acting Director of NDRI. I want to thank all NDRI staff members, particularly Simon Lenton and Fran Davis, for their contributions and commitment during this time of transition.

Research, Policy and Practice

Once again, NDRI's research output has been considerable. On top of core funding of approximately $1.6m received from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (AGDHA), staff attracted additional research grants and commissions of $430,000. NDRI had 22 research staff in 2004. Together they: conducted 39 research projects; authored or co-authored 18 refereed journal articles, 12 monographs, books or book chapters, 16 technical reports; and gave 41 papers at conferences, seminars or workshops.

This year NDRI finalised what has been a major research undertaking. Over the past two years, led by Wendy Loxley, various NDRI staff members and colleagues from the Centre for Adolescent Health at the University of Melbourne completed a comprehensive review of the prevention of alcohol- and other drug-related harm. The objective of the review – and one which I believe we achieved – was to ‘…establish an integrated map of the systems, pathways and strategies that act as interconnections between risk factors, protective factors and outcomes related to the prevention of drug-related harm’. A comprehensive report, The Prevention of Substance Use Risk and Harm in Australia: A Review of the Evidence, and a shorter summary report were published by the AGDHA (which commissioned the study) and it was launched in Melbourne in June. Interest in the report has been extremely high and it is likely to have a significant effect on policy and practice.

With Tim Stockwell's departure, Tanya Chikritzhs took over management of various alcohol research projects. As part of the National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP), Tanya and her colleagues produced two more NAIP Bulletins; one on Trends in Youth Alcohol Consumption and Related Harms and the other on Under-aged Drinking Among 14–17 year olds and Related Harms. Within the Australian community, there is increasing concern about patterns of alcohol misuse among young
people and these bulletins have made an important empirical contribution to debate on this issue.

The Western Australian Cannabis Control Act 2003 came into effect on March 22, 2004 marking the commencement of the WA Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme. NDRI staff had a major role in this process. From the early 1990s, Simon Lenton and his colleagues conducted research with other Australian collaborators which contributed to the evidence base behind the scheme. NDRI recommended to the 2001 WA Community Drug Summit that such a scheme be introduced and this was subsequently endorsed by Summit participants and the Government. NDRI also had a central role in the Ministerial Working Party on Drug Law Reform, which devised the scheme put to government and which formed the backbone of the legislation introduced in Parliament. NDRI is now undertaking a pre-post evaluation of the scheme.

Space precludes more detailed discussion of various research activities undertaken by other NDRI staff. However, highlights include the following. In addition to various on-going projects – including collaboration with staff from the Menzies School of Health Research on a project examining heavy cannabis use in two remote communities – members of NDRI's Indigenous research team are conducting a multi-site collaborative project examining the policing implications of volatile substance misuse. David Moore has taken important strides in the development of a research program based on ethnographic studies of drug use and its social contexts. This includes the development of a multi-site investigation of the social meanings of alcohol misuse among young adults in recreational settings. While she has been on maternity leave for much of 2004, Nyanda McBride's research into school-based drug education was recognised with a National Drug and Alcohol Award for Excellence in Research.

**Dissemination**

NDRI staff members have actively worked to disseminate information about their research activities. As indicated, during 2004 staff gave 41 presentations at various conferences, seminars and meetings. These included presentations in Europe and North America by Tim Stockwell, David Moore and Richard Midford and presentations to important policy making bodies such as the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drug Strategy.

Once again our active media strategy – supported in the first part of the year by Sheridan Webb and later by Vic Rechichi – has paid dividends. Media coverage of NDRI’s research activities included 60 articles in major newspapers, 52 interviews on radio news and current affairs programs, and 34 television interviews. Such coverage considerably broadens the audience for NDRI’s research and makes a significant contribution to informed debate on alcohol and other drug issues.

**Administrative changes**

A number of administrative changes have been made within the Institute in 2004. A second Deputy Director position was created and reporting arrangements were re-structured so that academic staff report to one of the Deputy Directors and administrative staff to the Institute's Business Manager – thus relieving the Director of a considerable direct supervisory role. At about the same time, the University's Management for Continuous Improvement and Growth was implemented and Work and Development Plans prepared for all staff members. This will ensure that staff are able to negotiate agreed workloads and support arrangements with their supervisors that are linked to the Institute's work and strategic plans.

Under this re-structure, informal meetings previously held between senior staff were formalised, with regular meetings now being held between the Director, Deputies and Business Manager. This ensures the administrative load is spread and will enhance participatory decision making within the Institute – providing the framework and support for future research activities.
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 the Vice-Chancellor Professor Lance Twomey. The Institute’s core funding is received from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and in addition further funds are sought from a variety of Australian Government and State granting bodies.

The mission of the Institute is to contribute to the overall aim of the National Drug Strategic Framework, which is; “To improve health, social and economic outcomes by preventing the uptake of harmful drug use and reducing the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs in Australian society”. The Institute does this by undertaking research designed to establish the preventative 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 treatment.

**NATIONAL DRUG RESEARCH INSTITUTE 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.
NDRI is amongst the largest centres of drug research expertise in Australia, employing 22 research staff in 2004. The Institute also works in close collaboration with a number of relevant agencies and research centres in Western Australia and other Australian states and territories.

In accord with its key result areas, a number of key priority areas have been identified, within which NDRI conducts and disseminates research and develops research capacity:

**KEY PRIORITIES**

1. National monitoring of alcohol and other drug consumption patterns and related harms.
3. The prevention of the spread of blood-borne viruses and other harms among injecting drug users.
4. The impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to minimise alcohol and other drug-related harms.
5. The development and evaluation of more effective school drug and education programs.
6. The development and evaluation of more effective community drug prevention programs.
7. Identifying fundamental, strategic and developmental research questions in the area of prevention of harmful drug use.
8. Investigating the influence of structural determinants and the social contexts of drug use on the implementation of strategies designed to reduce and prevent harmful drug use.

Following are details of projects undertaken by NDRI during 2004, organised under the eight key priority areas listed above.
Key Priority 1
National monitoring of alcohol and other drug consumption patterns and related harms

National Alcoholic Indicators Project (NAIP)
Chief Investigator: Professor T R Stockwell and T Chikritzhs
Co-investigator: S Donath, P Catalano, S Matthews and R Pascal
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

Collaborating Organisations: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc.

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 1980s until the present time. NDRI has been funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to access a number of these data sets with the intention of tracking trends in alcohol consumption and related harms from 1992.

The data on alcohol-related harm and alcohol consumption patterns can 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.

To date, a series of eight statistical summary reports with accompanying technical reports have been produced by the National Alcohol Indicators Project. These include: alcohol-caused deaths and hospitalisations to 1997 (Chikritzhs et al., 1999), alcohol-related road trauma to 1997 (Chikritzhs et al., 2000), patterns of risky alcohol use in 1998 (Heale et al., 2000), trends in per capita alcohol consumption to 1998/99 (Catalano et al., 2001) and trends in alcohol-related violence up to 2000/01 (Matthews et al., 2002). The sixth report examined Australian health statistics and data from a range of indicators for all states, territories and the nation as a whole from 1990 to 2001; and, this is the first time this has been achieved for an Australian population.

The two most recently published reports examined alcohol consumption and related harms in young people (aged 15-24) up to 2002 (Chikritzhs & Pascal, 2004) and under-aged drinking among 14–17 year olds and related harms to 2002 (Chikritzhs et al., 2004).

Current NAIP focus and future directions include a feasibility study to investigate the efficacy of expanding NAIP to specifically identify reliable and relevant indicators of consumption and related harms for Indigenous communities as well as the impact of legislative change on levels of consumption and harm throughout Australia, such as a re-evaluation of the Northern Territory’s Living With Alcohol Program.

NAIP Bulletin 7

NAIP Component Study: Analysis of trends in drinking patterns 1983-2003
Chief Investigator: Professor T R Stockwell and S Donath
Co-investigator: S Clement
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The National Drug Strategy Household Surveys have been modified in various ways since their inception in 1983. Different sampling methodology, methods of questioning and response rates have been achieved - all of
which can impact on estimates of the prevalence of alcohol and other drug use. The 2001 NDSH Survey introduced a new suite of questions on alcohol consumption but retained some older questions as well.

There are also national surveys, such as the National Health Survey, which have at regular intervals enquired about alcohol consumption, again using methodologies that have changed over time. The purpose of this project will be to assess comparability between different surveys and different times and establish what trends have occurred in alcohol consumption for different age and sex groups in Australia over the past 20 years. A particular focus will be on levels of compliance with current NHMRC drinking guidelines.

**NAIP component study: expansion of NAIP to include Indigenous Australians**

Chief Investigator: Professor T R Stockwell, Associate Professor D Gray, T Chikritzhs and Professor S Saggers

Co-investigator: A Stearne and R Pascal

Project Status: Continuing in 2005

In late 2002 the National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol (NEACA) received a request from the Indigenous Reference Group to consider expanding the National Alcohol Indicators Project to develop specific indicators for Indigenous populations. A proposal was developed by the NAIP group in association with the NDRI Indigenous Australian Research Team.

This was presented to a joint meeting of NEACA and the Indigenous Reference Group in November, 2002. The first phase of this project will involve examining databases held by NAIP to extract data specifically on Indigenous people. A methodology will also be developed for assessing levels of problems in 'sentinel' communities with a high proportion of Indigenous residents. A national consultation process will occur to establish the utility and acceptability of the various indicators available and most appropriate means of dissemination.

**Alcohol use and an ageing population: An examination - PhD Project**

Chief Investigator: C Wilkinson

Supervisor: Associate Professor S Allsop

Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The research will examine the implications of an ageing Australian population and the impact that this will have on alcohol use patterns, potential harm and hence related policy and practice.

It is the purpose of the proposed study to examine:

- projected patterns for alcohol consumption in Australia in 2030;
- prevalence of contraindicated medication use and alcohol use amongst 55+ age group;
- links between medication use and alcohol consumption and potential harm; and
- implications of above for intervention, prevention and policy initiatives.

**Party Drugs Initiative in WA**

Chief Investigator: Dr S Lenton

Project staff: Dr F Chanteloup

Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This is part of a national study coordinated by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) and funded by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF). Its aims are to examine the demographic characteristics, patterns of ecstasy and other drug use, perceived harms associated with use, drug market factors such as price, potency availability of ecstasy and other party drugs in Perth, Western Australia from a sample of regular users of ecstasy.
The study involves data from three sources: face-to-face interviews of 100 regular ecstasy users; telephone interviews with 20 key informants; and analysis of name de-identified existing databases from the health and law enforcement sectors. The three sources of data are triangulated against each other in order to minimise the weaknesses inherent in each one and to ensure that only valid emerging trends are documented. The objectives are to add this data to that collected in other Australian jurisdictions to monitor drug trends and inform strategies to reduce drug related harm associated with the use of ecstasy and other party drugs.

**Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)**

Chief Investigator: Dr S Lenton  
Co-investigator: J Fetherston  
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This study comprises the Perth arm of a research project to monitor illicit drug use trends in major cities across Australia. The project is coordinated nationally by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC). The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) provides a coordinated 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 for 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, 2000, 2001 and 2002 by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. In the past three years additional funds were obtained from the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) to enable an injecting drug user survey component of the IDRS to be run in all jurisdictions. Thus the methods employed in the Perth arm for the last three years included a survey of 100 injecting drug users, 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).
Key Priority 2

Partnerships in the prevention of alcohol and other drug misuse among Indigenous Australians

Bibliographic database on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug use

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor D Gray and Professor S Saggers
Project staff: B A Sputore, A Stearne and P Strempel
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The web-based bibliographic database project aims to disseminate information about publications on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug use. It also forms an important part of NDRI’s research infrastructure. The database contains information on over 1000 publications which are keyworded by publication type, drug type, and geographic location, and complements NDRI’s database on Indigenous Australian intervention projects.

Building Indigenous research workforce capacity

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor D Gray
Co-investigator: T Walley
Project staff: T Esgin
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The objectives of this project are to: create a three year research internship for an Indigenous Australian graduate; provide the person with ‘on-the-job’ research training in both a national research institution and an Indigenous community-controlled substance misuse agency; enable the intern to manage an intermediate size research project and to undertake two or three projects in his/her own right; and, to equip him/her to embark upon a career in the alcohol and other drugs field.

Evaluation of the ‘Makin Tracks’ 2 project

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor D Gray and A Stearne
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

Phase 2 of the ‘Makin Tracks’ project is being conducted by the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA). The aim of the project is to provide support to individuals and organisations working to reduce the demand for, and harms associated with, substance misuse among Aboriginal people in South Australia. NDRI staff are evaluating the project and providing basic evaluation training to ADAC field workers.

Evaluation of the DASA outreach program

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor D Gray
Project Staff: A Stearne
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This is a collaborative project with the Drug and Alcohol Services Association (DASA), Alice Springs. NDRI staff are evaluating an intervention to provide support and follow-up to frequent Indigenous clients of DASAs sobering up shelter.

Evaluation of youth led futures - partnership grants with Indigenous communities

Chief Investigator: Professor S Saggers, J Sorenson and A Stearne
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The evaluation aims to provide assistance to four partner organisations – Bawrunga Aboriginal Medical Service, Dandaloo Gayngil Aboriginal Corporation, Fitzroy Work Project, and Mt Theo Substance Misuse Program – and to The Foundation for Young Australians which assists in the ongoing implementation of each initiative.

The evaluation objectives are to describe and monitor the implementation and development of each project, and to make recommendations for change and adaptation to each project where required. The evaluation will develop a suitable methodology to achieve its aims and objectives, and in so doing will:

• consult with The Foundation for Young Australians and with the funded organisations to determine the scope of the evaluation;
• measure the Youth Led Futures outcomes in relation to each partner;
• measure the performance and broad social impact of the Youth Led Futures grant model; and
• provide the Foundation and partners with feedback and recommendations to assist continuing improvement in implementing initiatives and objectives.

Heavy cannabis use in two remote Aboriginal communities

Chief Investigator: A Clough
Co-investigator: Associate Professor D Gray, C Burns, R Parker and Associate...
Professor P d’Abbs
Project Status: Completed in 2004

The aim of this study - conducted jointly with the Menzies School of Health Research - described patterns of cannabis use among Aboriginal men in three age groups in two Aboriginal communities. Life history data to model recruitment to and ongoing involvement in patterns of harm and cannabis use focused on interactions with the justice and service systems. Participant interviews were used to describe knowledge and attitudes to harm and cannabis use.

Indigenous substance misuse - editing of special issue of Drug and Alcohol Review

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor D Gray, Professor S Saggers and Dr L Jackson Pulver
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The purpose of this study is to bring together a series of topical papers on substance misuse among Indigenous Australians in a special issue of the journal Drug and Alcohol Review. An effort is being made to attract papers authored or co-authored by Indigenous Australians. The issue of the journal is being edited by Dennis Gray (NDRI), Sherry Saggers (ECU) and Lisa Jackson Pulver (UNSW) who have undertaken to provide special editorial assistance to Indigenous authors.

Longitudinal study of the distribution of alcohol and other drug intervention projects for Indigenous Australians

Chief Investigator: B A Sputore
Co-investigator: Associate Professor D Gray
Project Status: On hold in 2004

The aim of this longitudinal study is to provide information that will facilitate a more rational approach to the planning of and allocation of funds for interventions targeted at the misuse of alcohol and other drugs among Indigenous Australians. It will replicate an earlier study which mapped the distribution of Indigenous intervention projects; thus providing information on changes through time.

The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- Identification and mapping of alcohol and other drug projects and the funds allocated to them in the 2003-04 financial year.
- Comparison of the 2003-2004 data with similar data collected in 1999-2000 to identify any changes that might have taken place over the three-year period. In this comparison, particular attention will be paid to: whether imbalances and gaps identified in 1999-2000 have been addressed; whether any imbalances or gaps have emerged over the three-year period; and what might need to be done to improve the distribution.
of interventions and the allocation of resources to them.
• Development of a set of recommendations that will aid future project planning and funding allocation.

**Loss and its consequences among town campers in Alice Springs: the role of alcohol and other drugs**

**Chief Investigator:** J Ulrik  
**Co-investigator:** Associate Professor D Gray  
**Project Status:** Continuing in 2005

This project aims to identify the impact of loss and grief on the ability of Aboriginal town campers in Alice Springs to function, work and to care for family, and the role of alcohol in this. In particular it aims to describe the dimensions of loss and associated grief, to document how Aboriginal people perceive their situation, and to provide insights into the social and cultural milieu. Particular attention is paid to notions of resilience and vulnerability in this context.

It is a descriptive study, largely using qualitative research methods, but also including collection of some quantitative data. The identification of risk factors and the strategies people use to reduce the impact of loss and grief will enable the development of strategies to reduce the impact of alcohol and related harm within Town Camps. The project has been developed in conjunction with Tangentyere Council, an umbrella Aboriginal community-controlled organisation representing the Town Camps.

**Priorities for the delivery of treatment services across the Northern Territory**

**Chief Investigator:** Associate Professor D Gray  
**Project Status:** Completed in 2004

The purpose of this consultancy was to facilitate and report on a Forum of representatives of non-government and government agencies to identify priorities for the delivery of treatment services in the Northern Territory.

**The policing implications of petrol sniffing and other inhalant misuse in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ communities**

**Chief Investigator:** Associate Professor D Gray  
**Co-investigator:** Associate Professor P d’Abbs, A Mosey, G Shaw and Dr C Spooner  
**Project staff:** A Stearne, B Sputore and N Barrow  
**Project Status:** Continuing in 2005

This project was commissioned by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund. The aim of the project is to enhance the understanding of the law enforcement sector of the extent and nature of petrol sniffing and other inhalant misuse by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in remote, rural and urban communities. The project will also seek to identify the most appropriate ways for police to deal with sniffing incidents.

**The policy response to Indigenous petrol sniffing and how to improve it**

**Chief Investigator:** Associate Professor P d’Abbs and Associate Professor D Gray  
**Co-investigator:** Dr M Brady  
**Project Status:** Completed in 2004

This project – conducted jointly with the Menzies School of Health Research – utilised a policy analysis methodology to examine a number of case studies of attempts by various governments to respond to Indigenous petrol sniffing. Data collection included documentary sources and interviews with key informants.

The focus of the project was on the policy-making process, rather than on petrol sniffing itself. The findings were used to make recommendations designed to improve the capacity of governments to respond more effectively, and thereby to reduce the harm caused by petrol sniffing.

**Volatile substance misuse in an urban area**

**Chief Investigator:** Associate Professor D Gray  
**Co-investigator:** T Walley  
**Project staff:** T Esgin  
**Project Status:** Discontinued in 2004

This project was being conducted jointly with Noongar Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service. It aimed to assess the prevalence of volatile substance misuse in the Perth Metropolitan Area and to assess the service need of those using volatile substances. However, it was discontinued due to staff loss.
Key Priority 3

The prevention of the spread of blood-borne viruses and other harms among injecting drug users

A review of Hepatitis C prevention research in Australia. Where to next?

Chief Investigator: Dr S J Carruthers
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This project comprises a review of the current literature relating to the prevention of Hepatitis C transmission among injecting drug users. It includes a review of the world epidemiology and patterns of Hepatitis C infection and looks at the various strategies by which the control of this epidemic in Australia has been attempted. The review will explore the possibility of alternative prevention strategies and make recommendations for the future of Hepatitis C prevention in Australia.

Susan Carruthers
Key Priority 4

The impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to minimise alcohol and other drug-related harms

An evaluation of the impact of changes to cannabis law in WA on cannabis use, the drug market, law enforcement, knowledge and attitudes, and cannabis-related harms

Chief Investigator: Dr S Lenton
Co-investigator: Associate Professor R Midford, T Chikritzhs and A Ferrante
Project staff: J Fetherston, Dr F Chanteloup, F Farrington, M J Barratt and Dr A Sutton
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This project comprises a pre-post evaluation of changes to legislation and regulations for minor cannabis offences as a result of recommendations of the WA Community Drug Summit held by the WA Government in August 2001. The WA Government endorsed the Summit’s recommendations on 27 November 2001 and the Cannabis Infringement Justice Scheme came into effect on March 22, 2004.

The evaluation is investigating: police implementation of the changes; drug market effects; impact on regular cannabis users, population prevalence, knowledge and attitudes regarding cannabis and the law; effect on school children; and effect on apprehended cannabis users.

Funding has been granted by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) to do the pre-phase (year 1) only. A separate application will be made to fund the post phase (year 3) at the completion of the first phase. It is expected that year 3 data collection will commence at least 18 months after the introduction of the proposed cannabis scheme in WA.

NAIP Component Study: Re-evaluation of the public health impact of the NT’s Living With Alcohol Program

Chief Investigator: Professor T R Stockwell and T Chikritzhs
Co-investigator: P Catalano and R Pascal
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

One of the first applications of the National Alcohol Indicators developed by NAIP was an assessment of the health and economic impacts of the first four years of the Northern Territory’s Living with Alcohol Program. The evaluation found substantial reductions in alcohol related deaths, injuries and illnesses, substantial reductions in overall consumption and alcohol consumption as well as a net economic benefit to the Northern Territory of $31 million per annum. There was uncertainty as to what were the ingredients in the program that generated these benefits, eg. the rise in the price of alcohol caused by the special levy as opposed to the many new treatment and prevention programs funded. It was also unclear whether external economic circumstances driving down alcohol consumption in the early 1990s may also have contributed to these apparent benefits. In late 1997 the special levy was discontinued and some three years later the program itself, having been funded federally, was also discontinued. In this project, trends in alcohol indicators for the Northern Territory during these latter years were re-examined and contrasted with equivalent areas drawn from Northern parts of Western Australia and Queensland. This will be a very powerful design to investigate the relative impacts of the alcohol levy, the Living with Alcohol Program and prevailing economic conditions. A summary of the project and main findings was presented at the APSAD conference in November 2004, and a technical report will be available in 2005.
Key Priority 5

The development and evaluation of more effective school drug and education programs

SHAHRP Dissemination Project
Chief Investigator: Dr N McBride
Project staff: F Farringdon and C Kennedy
Project Status: Completed in 2004

Past reviewers of school drug education have noted that effective school drug education programs are not readily available to teachers in a useable format (Foxcroft, Lister-Sharp, & Lowe: 1997; Tobler & Stratton: 1997; Paglia, & Room: 1998; Dusenbury, & Falco: 1995).

This Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation community partnership grant will therefore aim to disseminate the SHAHRP education materials, which have proven effectiveness, by providing training to teacher educators from Government, Private and Catholic Education sectors in several states of Australia.

A key aspect of this dissemination process will be the training of new and existing teacher educators so that a permanent skilled group of educators is available to train interested school-based staff in the use of the program.

A part time SHAHRP project manager based at NDRI and a part time project officer based at NCETA will provide the initial training to teacher educators who will then be contracted to provide a minimum of two workshops for teachers in their local district and education system.

Secondary analysis of SHAHRP data to determine the effectiveness of the Western Australian School Drug Education Project
Chief Investigator: D Cross and Dr G Hamilton
Co-investigator: T Shaw, M Hall and Dr N McBride
Project Status: Completed in 2004

Edith Cowan University’s Child Health Promotion Research Unit conducted retrospective analyses to explore the impact of the School Drug Education Project (SDEP) on drug use among WA school children.

These analyses used a ‘dose-response’ approach to establish if drug use outcomes were associated with process measures related to implementation of SDEP components.

Four data sets were used to explore the impact of the SDEP: the Smoking Cessation for Youth Project (WACHPER), Australian Secondary School Alcohol and Drug Survey 1999 and 2002 (DOH); and the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (NDRI).

Book on Drug Education in Schools
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor R Midford and G Munro
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This project involves producing an edited book on school based drug education, with an emphasis on Australian experience.

Evaluation of the School Drug Education Project’s ‘In Touch’ Program
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor R Midford and D Wilkes
Project Status: Completed in 2004

This project involved evaluating the impact on both participants and the school in which they work of a program of staff training designed to improve school management of drug use incidents and students at risk from drug use.

A repeated measures control group design was employed. Dependent measures were school policy and practice and individual knowledge, attitude and professional practice.
Key Priority 6

The development and evaluation of more effective community drug prevention programs

Carnarvon Health And Men Project (CHAMP) - Second Phase
Co-investigator: Associate Professor R Midford
Project Status: Completed in 2004

This community based project addressed the issues related to men’s health identified by the Commonwealth Government in 1999 (Connell et al) including alcohol abuse and suicide among men in the Gascoyne region, WA. NDRI provided evaluation support.

Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP)
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor R Midford
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This three and a half year project is undertaken as a formal partnership between the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin and the City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder. The Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP) seeks to prevent problematic alcohol use and remediate associated harm in a community which historically has had high levels of both. The project will undertake an integrated range of local intervention strategies that have been derived from sound research evidence. In order to increase local ownership a menu approach will be used, whereby the community is involved in selecting the mix of interventions best suited to local circumstances. The project will simultaneously conduct a range of early intervention, coalition building, media marketing, community education, skills training, enforcement and high risk group programs that address the individual, social and structural determinants of alcohol consumption and harm at the community level.

Promising Programs: A Scoping Study of Prevention Strategies for Reducing Drug Related Harms in Childhood and Adolescence
Co-investigator: G Shaw, F Ian, M Lois, M Bern, H Cahill, Professor J Wyn and Associate Professor R Midford
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This project will undertake the following activities:
• Gather relevant information from all states and territories that represent the most promising projects and interventions addressing the needs of young people in two key transitional pathways, primary to secondary school and post school.
• Develop ‘indicators’ and review tools based on the Protection and Risk Reduction Approach to Prevention to assess the quantity, quality and complexion of implementation of the interventions at key transitional points in the lives of young people.
• Consult nationally, targeting stakeholders in key portfolio areas.
• Collect and present exemplars and models of practice from around Australia and from the broader evidence-based field that have applicability to a whole of population implementation.
• Produce a report describing most promising interventions to assist the development of practical and grounded prevention activity that have potential to contribute to national best practice under the National Drug Strategy Prevention Agenda.

The Community Impact of Licensing Restrictions in Port Hedland
Chief Investigator: Associate Professor R Midford
Co-investigator: D Playford
Project staff: Dr D J Young
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This project assesses the impact of restrictions on the advertising and sale of certain high alcohol products in the community of Port Hedland. A traditional pre-post
control group experimental design has been employed.
The pre-intervention community survey and key stakeholder interviews were conducted in November and December 2003 with post repeated measures undertaken in December 2004. Serial measures of consumption and harm data are being gathered in early 2005.

The harms associated with concurrent alcohol and party drug use amongst young people: Risk environments and the implications for prevention. AERF Scholarship PhD Project

Chief Investigator: Dr D Moore and Dr S Lenton
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

In the past, the use of amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD and other ‘party drugs’ has primarily been part of a distinct ‘rave’ or ‘dance party’ counter-culture, where alcohol was usually shunned. However, in recent years, as rave culture has become more mainstream, and parties held in licensed venues, concurrent use of alcohol and party drugs has become a part of dominant youth culture. This is a potentially important area of study given that concurrent use of alcohol and other drugs can exacerbate both the risks and the harms associated with alcohol or any of these drugs when used in isolation.

The project will examine the social, cultural and economic contexts of concurrent alcohol and party drug use, and the associated harms, amongst social networks of young people attending nightclubs, raves and dance parties. It will also focus on the harm reduction strategies that young people may have developed in order to reduce the harm associated with their concurrent use of alcohol and party drugs. The findings will inform the design of appropriate interventions for young people.
Key Priority 7

Identifying fundamental, strategic and developmental research questions in the area of prevention of harmful drug use

Development of a prevention monograph and companion document to inform the evidence base of the National Drug Strategy Prevention Agenda

Chief Investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Co-investigator: Associate Professor D Gray, Associate Professor R Midford and Dr S Lenton
Project staff: B Haines and K Scott
Project Status: Completed in 2004

NDRI, in collaboration with the Centre for Adolescent Health, was selected by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing to contribute to the development of a comprehensive Prevention Agenda for the National Drug Strategic Framework. This project involved the preparation of a major literature review to inform the evidence base of the National Drug Strategy Prevention Agenda.

The review, known as the Prevention Monograph, identified the full spectrum of prevention intervention measures and evaluated Australian approaches to the prevention of drug supply, use and harm; reviewed current application of prevention policy and strategy in Australia and gaps in prevention knowledge and effort; and recommended future prevention activity. The review was informed by experts around Australia with a wide range of understandings of addiction, developmental issues, health across the life span, social policy, at-risk populations, crime and law enforcement. The manuscript was published in early 2004.

Do some drug users have less to live for? Examining the role of perceived life wealth in the extent to which young adults’ drug use is controlled or excessive

Chief Investigator: A Dale
Co-investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

While there is a burgeoning literature providing explanations of why individuals use drugs, there is a paucity of literature which accounts for the differences between controlled and excessive drug use. Indeed, much of the aetiological literature to date has reflected the societal notion that drug use belongs to the deviant, the homeless and the deranged.

However, research indicates that the majority of Australians drink alcohol, a substantial minority experiment with marijuana and a smaller minority with other illicit drugs, but that drug use results in significant problems for only a small minority of these individuals. Despite this, the literature has failed to provide a theoretical understanding of the possible mechanisms that guide an individual’s path towards controlled or excessive drug use.

There remains a missing link accounting for why drug use for some individuals remains largely controlled and non-problematic, whereas for others, it becomes a quagmire of difficulties and problems. The aim of the current research is to investigate the mechanisms underpinning different drug using patterns (controlled or excessive).

Does moderate drinking prevent heart disease? A meta-analysis

Chief Investigator: Professor T R Stockwell, Dr K Fillmore and T Chikritzhs
Project Status: Continuing in 2005
This project comprises 1) a meta-analysis of the published international research on the issue of drinking patterns and heart disease and 2) the application of these findings to the making of new estimates of alcohol’s contribution to premature death in Australia. The status of alcohol as a possible benefit to health as well as contributor to harm has major implications for prevention and public education about alcohol.

The proposed research is a collaboration between the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin and the Department of Social and Behavioural Science, University of California. The project has the support of the Mental Health and Substance Dependence Department of the World Health Organization and several eminent international researchers who will serve as unpaid consultants. Towards the end of the project the WHO has undertaken to hold an international symposium to reassess the purported health benefits associated with moderate drinking and to disseminate the findings.

Preventing substance use, risky use and harm: What is evidence-based policy?

Project staff: Professor T R Stockwell and W Loxley
Project Status: Completed in 2004

In partnership with:
- The Centre for Adolescent Health (University of Melbourne)
- The National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction (Flinders University)
- The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (University of NSW)
- The Alcohol and Public Health Research Centre (Auckland, NZ)
- Prevention Research Center, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (Berkeley, California)

NDRI has been engaged in two major projects that have involved reviewing evidence for ‘what works’ in the prevention of risky and harmful substance use, including both licit and illicit substances. The first project was sponsored by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence of WHO, Geneva and sought to identify those research studies which provided ‘exemplary’ evidence regarding the effectiveness of programs concerned variously with public education, school-based education, regulation of availability and community action.

The second study was funded by the National Drug Strategy Prevention Agenda and conducted in partnership with the Centre for Adolescent Health, University of Melbourne and in association with a multi-disciplinary group of expert advisers. The result was (i) a research monograph which summarises the available empirical and scientific evidence regarding best practice in the prevention of substance use problems and (ii) a companion document which considers the evidence and issues in detail for young people.

It is hoped that dissemination of these reviews will contribute both to general understandings about evidence-based prevention both throughout the life course and across the full range of intervention modalities. It is anticipated that there will be some common themes and clear linkages with recent prevention reviews from the areas of crime prevention and mental health promotion (Brown et al, 1999; Williams et al, 2000). It is also anticipated that there will be some unique issues, risk factors and opportunities that are specific to the prevention of particular varieties of drug-related harm.

The relationship between non-fatal overdose of pharmaceutical medications, suicidality and depression
Chief Investigator: P Heale
Co-investigator: Associate Professor W Loxley
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This exploratory study focuses on both pharmaceutical and over-the-counter medication overdose. People who attend the emergency department of St Vincent’s Hospital in Melbourne in relation to such an overdose are invited to participate in a single interview about their experience.

The interview covers a range of domains including demographic information, physical and mental health, the current overdose event, previous overdose experiences, severity of suicidal ideation, depressive symptomatology, personal and family history of suicide attempts, pathways through the health care system (e.g. prescribing of medications, experience of the emergency department, other help-seeking attempts), recent life stress, alcohol and other drug use, and social support.

The study aims to examine the relationship between depression, suicidal ideation and the overdose event at an individual level, as well as the broader context in which the overdose occurred.

WHO international comparative study of emergency room data on alcohol and injury

Chief Investigator: C Cherpitel
Co-investigator: Professor T R Stockwell, S MacDonald, N Geisbrecht and G Borges
Project staff: Dr D J Young
Project Status: Completed in 2004

Collaborating Organisations: ARG, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, WHO.

This project has been funded by the US National Institute for Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse for a period of three years. Several countries generated high standard data on the alcohol consumption of Emergency Room patients including the United States, Australia, Canada, Spain, Mexico, Argentina and Poland.

The aim of the project was to perform comparative analyses of relationships between demographic factors, consumption patterns and types of injury outcomes across these different cultural contexts.

Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia: An integrated ethno-epidemiological approach

Chief Investigator: Dr D Moore, Dr P Dietze, Associate Professor L Maher, Dr G Bammer and Dr M C Clatts
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

National drug surveys and surveillance systems have detected sharp increases in the use of ‘psychostimulant’ drugs such as the amphetamines, ecstasy and cocaine. The level of harms associated with excessive use of these drugs, such as mental health problems and drug dependence, has also increased, as has the use of these drugs via injection.

These increases in the prevalence of use and related harms have also been detected internationally. Previous research of psychostimulant drugs, in Australia and overseas, has suggested that using these drugs in particular ways might be associated with a greater chance of contracting HIV and other blood-borne viruses such as Hepatitis C (e.g., through sharing needles and syringes or other equipment associated with injecting drugs); sexually transmitted infections and other sexual health problems (e.g., through unsafe sex); and of being involved in violent incidents.

Despite this previous research, however, little is known about the specific social and cultural contexts associated with psychostimulant-related harms, and this has stymied the development of appropriate responses to prevent such harms occurring.

This research project will provide a greater understanding of the individual, social and cultural factors associated with psychostimulant-related harms through an innovative combination and integration of anthropological and epidemiological approaches known as ‘ethno-epidemiology’. In order to access a diverse range of psychostimulant-using contexts, research will focus on three urban sites: street-based drug users in Sydney, club drug users in Melbourne and home-based, recreational drug users in Perth. These groups have been chosen because they have high prevalences of psychostimulant use. The project will provide important data that will inform future interventions, improve multidisciplinary models for drug research, and contribute to Australia’s capacity to conduct cutting-edge public health research.
**Research Activities**

**Key Priority 8**

**Investigating the influence of structural determinants and the social contexts of drug use on the implementation of strategies designed to reduce and prevent harmful drug use**

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**An investigation of the links between social and economic disadvantage, alcohol consumption and related harm (Alcohol & Poverty)**

Chief Investigator: Dr P Dietze  
Co-investigators: T Chikritzhs, Professor T R Stockwell, D Jolley and S Clement  
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The overall aim of the proposed research is to undertake an ecologic examination of the relationship between measures of income disparity and the rates of key alcohol related harms at a local-area level in Australia in 1996 and 2001.

The specific objectives of the research project are to:

1. develop measures of income disparity (GINI coefficients) for Australian Statistical Local Areas (SLAs)
2. develop measures of the rate of key alcohol related harms for Australian SLAs as well as rates for a number of control conditions (e.g., diverticulitis)
3. using multi-level models, examine the relationship between income inequality and the rate of alcohol related harms at an SLA level
4. map the relationship between income inequality and the rate of alcohol related harms in Australian SLAs.

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**Social, cultural and economic processes in illicit drug markets and their public health consequences. PhD Project**

Chief Investigator: R Dwyer  
Co-investigator: Dr D Moore  
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

This research focuses on street-level illicit drug use amongst Vietnamese Australians and the implications for public health. It aims to develop an in-depth understanding of the social, cultural and economic processes of illicit drug markets and their relationships to drug-related harm.

Key topics of investigation include:

1. drug market participants’ perceptions of risk and how these are socially and culturally constructed;

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**A multi-site investigation of the social meanings of alcohol misuse among young adults in recreational settings**

Chief Investigator: Dr D Moore and Dr J Northcote  
Project Status: Continuing in 2005

The proposed research will examine alcohol consumption among young adults (ages 18-24 years) with particular focus on binge drinking and related risk behaviours. It will employ a structured ethnographic approach to documenting the social meanings of alcohol consumption amongst six discrete social networks of young adults in three types of recreational settings.
Activities Supporting Key Result Areas

Collaborations

Collaborating Centres

NDRI enjoyed formal Collaborating Centre status with the following organisations during 2004:

- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, South Australia
- Australian Institute of Criminology, Australian Capital Territory
- Centre for Youth Drug Studies at the Australian Drug Foundation, Victoria
- Drug and Alcohol Services Council of South Australia
- New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, South Australia
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, New South Wales
- Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Inc., Victoria

Collaborative Links

Each year NDRI maintains and establishes collaborative links with a number of community bodies relevant to its activities. In 2004 they included:

Within Curtin University of Technology:
- School of Psychology
- School of Public Health

Local Bodies:
- Alcohol Advisory Council of Western Australia
- Crime Research Centre, University of Western Australia
- Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health
- Drug and Alcohol Office of Western Australia
- Health Department of Western Australia
- Hepatitis Council of Western Australia (Inc.)
- Injury Control Council of Western Australia
- Injury Research Centre, University of Western Australia
- Kununurra-Warringarri Aboriginal Corporation
- Liquor Licensing Division, Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor
- Noongar Alcohol and Substance Abuse Service
- Road Safety Council of Western Australia
- School Drug Education Project
- Sellinger Centre, Edith Cowan University
- Western Australian AIDS Council
- Western Australian Police Service
- Western Australian Substance Users Association

National and Interstate Bodies:
- Alcohol and Drug Council of Australia
- Australian Drug Foundation
- Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
- Australian Hepatitis Council
- Australian Intravenous League
- Australian National Council on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
- Centre for Adolescent Health, University of Melbourne
- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Menzies School of Health Research
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction
- National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health
- National Centre for HIV Social Research
- National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
- New South Wales Department of Education and Training
- Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Department of Health and Aged Care
- Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation

International Bodies:
- Center for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
- Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour, London
Graduate Students

An investigation of the effect of legislative and policy initiatives upon alcohol-related violence and driving offences
Degree: Doctoral
Student: Tanya Chikritzhs
Supervisor: Stockwell, T.
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 1996

Social, cultural and economic processes in illicit drug markets and their public health consequences
Degree: Doctoral
Student: Robyn Dwyer
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 2004

Pouring practices of 65-75 year old current drinkers: implications for drinking guidelines and estimates of risk.
Degree: Doctoral
Student: Celia Wilkinson
Supervisor: Allsop, S. and Chikritzhs, T. (Co-supervisor)
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 2004

The relationship between non-fatal drug overdose, suicidality and depression
Degree: Doctoral
Student: Penny Heale
Supervisor: Loxley, W.
Status: Continuing
Date Commenced: 2000

Reviews of Manuscripts and Grant Applications

Staff members reviewed manuscripts for the following journals:
- Addiction
- Alcohol and Alcoholism
- Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research
- Australia and New Zealand Journal of Criminology
- Critical Public Health
- Drug and Alcohol Review
- Medical Anthropology
- International Journal of Drug Policy
- Sex Roles
- The Medical Journal of Australia

Staff members in the Institute assessed grant proposals
Activities Supporting Key Result Areas

for the following organizations:

- Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council
- Alcohol Education & Rehabilitation Foundation
- Department of Human Services

Prizes and Awards
National Drug and Alcohol Award for Excellence in Research, School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)

Media Liaison
In 2004, the National Drug Research Institute continued to build its reputation as a reliable source of scientific information on a range of issues concerned with the prevention of alcohol and drug-related harm. The development and maintenance of relationships with target media enhanced NDRI’s efforts to disseminate its research findings widely and to inform and participate in alcohol and other drug policy development in Australia.

Media coverage in 2004
The Institute received 180 mentions in the media in 2004, with its research findings and comments on issues covered in major national, regional and local news media.

Coverage included:

- 60 articles in national and capital city daily newspapers;
- 52 interviews for radio news and current affairs programs;
- 34 television interviews for state and national television news and current affairs programs.

The main topics receiving coverage included:

- Alcohol consumption and young people
- Alcohol taxation
- Alcohol use and related harms
- Cannabis law reform
- Drinking and driving
- Hepatitis C prevention
- Intravenous drug use among sex workers
- Liquor licensing and retail trading hours
- Psychoactive substance use prevention
- School drug and alcohol education
- Under-aged drinking

Media releases in 2004

- April 1: Successful safe drinking classes in the running for Prime Minister’s award
- April 5: Successful safe drinking program wins National award
- May 6: “Somebody’s Gonna Get Their Head Kicked In Tonight”: Bar room violence and some strategies for preventing it
- June 17: Aboriginal council takes control of research
- June 29: More investment needed in proven strategies to prevent the harms from legal and illegal drugs: Major Australian study
- July 7: Inform teenagers about alcohol, don’t lecture them
- July 22: Alcohol interlocks alone are not the answer – researchers
- November 12: Alcohol-attributable deaths: Mixed fortunes for young people in the Northern Territory
- November 12: Nearly one in six deaths among 15-24 year olds attributable to risky drinking
- November 12: Young people in regions 1.7 times more likely to die from high risk drinking
- November 30: 24-hour access to safe injecting equipment and demarcated areas needed for sex workers in St Kilda
- December 29: Under-aged drinking kills a teenager each week
Organisational Structure and Funding

Board of Management

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

Associate Professor Steve Allsop
Acting Executive Director,
Drug and Alcohol Office of Western Australia

Ms Jenny Hefford
Assistant Secretary, Drug Strategy Branch
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Mr Max Montisci (July 03 - April 04)
Acting General Manager, Financial and Commercial Services,
Curtin University of Technology

Ms Pam McKenna
Director, Palmerston Drug Research and Rehabilitation Association

Mr Mel Hay (Nov 02 - Aug 04)
Assistant Commissioner, Crime Support,
Western Australian Police Service

Ms Coralie Ober (From May 04)
Research Fellow, Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre

Mr Mal Shervill (From Aug 04)
Assistant Commissioner, Crime Support,
Western Australian Police Service

Mr David Menarry (From May 04)
Chief Financial Officer
Curtin University of Technology

Mr Graham Strathearn (Retired Nov 04)
Chief Executive Officer, Drug and Alcohol Services Council of South Australia

Professor Tim Stockwell (1989-2004)
Director, National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University of Technology

Professor Ian Rouse
Head, School of Public Health
Curtin University of Technology

Professor Tim Stockwell (1989-2004)
Director, National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University of Technology

Professor Ian Rouse
Head, School of Public Health
Curtin University of Technology
Organisational Structure and Funding

The role of the Board of Management is to assist the Director in the management of the Institute and to facilitate access to relevant government and other institutions. The Director reports to the Board of Management on a regular basis while 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 Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing in mid-2003 giving the Institute five years of funding. The Board of Management comprises nominated representatives of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, the Drug and Alcohol Services Council in South Australia, the Health Department of Western Australia, the Western Australian Police Service, Curtin University of Technology and representatives of community based organisations.

During 2004 there were many changes to the membership of the NDRI Board of Management. Professor Tim Stockwell, who has been Director since 1996, accepted another position in Canada and resigned from NDRI in June 2004. Associate Professor Dennis Gray is Acting Director until Steve Allsop, who was appointed Director in late 2004, takes up the position in 2005. Assistant Commissioner Mel Hay was replaced by Assistant Commissioner Mal Shervill, Professor Michael Clinton was replaced by Professor Ian Rouse, and Mr Max Montisci was replaced by Mr David Menarry. Mr Scott Wilson, who retired, was replaced by Ms Coralie Ober.

The Executive Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Management, comprises Professor Charles Watson; Professor Tim Stockwell, who was NDRI Director until mid-2004; Associate Professor Dennis Gray, who was NDRI Acting Director in the second half of 2004; Mr Max Montisci, who was replaced by Mr David Menarry earlier in the year; and NDRI Deputy Director Dr Simon Lenton as an observer and who is responsible for assisting the Director in the day-to-day management of the Institute.

The Institute’s staff have been organised into project teams with each team having responsibility for a particular area. Each team has a designated ‘project leader’ responsible for the day to day management of its activities and adherence to its timelines.

‘Project 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 2004 the project leaders were Professor Tim Stockwell, Associate Professor Dennis Gray, Associate Professor Wendy Loxley, Associate Professor Richard Midford, Dr Simon Lenton, Dr Nyanda McBride and Ms Fran Davis.
Staff

The National Drug Research 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 members are involved in the supervision of masters and doctoral research students and there are several full-time PhD students at the Institute. There are a number of honorary and adjunct research staff. At December 2004, Institute staff numbered 43, including honorary and adjunct staff.

Research Staff

Professor Timothy Stockwell MA MSc PhD
Director (Finished June 04)
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug prevention policies • Indices of drug-related harm • Drinking locations and server responsibility • Liquor licensing • Drug overdose • Risk factors for adolescent drug use

Dennis Gray  BA MA MPH PhD
Associate Professor and Deputy Director
Acting Director from June 04
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug use among Indigenous peoples • Indigenous health

Simon Lenton  BPsych MPsych (Clinical) PhD
Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director
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 • Drink and drug driving

Wendy Loxley  CertTchg BA(Hons) MPsych PhD
Associate Professor
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 • Prevention of harmful drug use

Richard Midford  BA BPsych MPsych PhD
Associate Professor
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

David Moore  BA (Hons) MA PhD
Senior Research Fellow
Research Interests: Youth and drugs • Street drug markets • Recreational drug use • Ethno-epidemiology • Drug service provision

Susan Carruthers  BAppSci GradDipDiet MPH PhD
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and other blood borne viruses and injecting drug use

Paul Catalano  BSc (Hon) MA MCrImJus
Research Fellow (Finished February 04)
Research Interests: Alcohol-related harm

Tanya Chikritzhs  BA(Hons) GradDipEpiBiostats (enrolled PhD)
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Alcohol policy and legislation • Alcohol-related crime • Liquor licensing • Licensed drinking environments

Ben Haines  BA (Hons) MPSych (Clinical) (enrolled PhD)
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Evidence-based prevention and harm reduction policy • Alcohol labelling policy and training issues for AOD workers

Ed Garrison  BA (Anthropology) MEd
Research Fellow
Research Interests: Indigenous substance use • Indigenous health

Nyanda McBride  DipTeach BEd PGD MPH PhD
Research Fellow
Research Interests: School health and drug programs • Adolescent drug use

Deidra Young  BSc GradDipScEd MAppSc PhD
Research Fellow (Finished June 04)
Research Interests: Alcohol research
Organisational Structure and Funding

National Drug Research Institute staff

Nathan Barrow AssocDip ScTech (Curtin)
Research Associate
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug-related issues among Indigenous Australians
Funded by: NDLERF

Francoise Chanteloup BA MA PhD
Research Associate
Research Interests: Cannabis law reform
Funded by: NDLERF

Tuguy Esgin BHSc
Research Associate (Finished April 04)
Research Interests: Indigenous community health
Funded by: AERF

Fiona Farringdon DipTeach BEd MEd
Project Officer (Finished February 04)
Research Interests: School based alcohol and other drug education
Funded by: AERF

James Fetherston BPsych Post Grad Dip ADAS
Research Associate
Research Interests: Repeat drink drivers • Illicit drug trends • Impact of legislative options for cannabis
Funded by: NDLERF

Richard Pascal BSc (Hons) Psych
Research Associate
Research Interests: Alcohol epidemiology and public health policy • Mechanisms of social drug use, particularly social drinking • Youth alcohol use • Binge drinking

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 interventions

Anna Stearne BA GradDipEd
Research Associate
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug-related issues among Indigenous Australians

Phillipa Strempel Grad Cert CCS
Research Officer (Finished June 04)
Research Interests: Alcohol and other drug-related
issues among Indigenous Australians
Funded by: AGDHA

Administrative Staff
Fran Davis GradDipBus
   Business Manager
Rachael Lobo BSc (Hons) (Parental Leave)
   Media Liaison Officer
Vic Rechichi (Started October 04)
   A/Media Liaison Officer
Sheridan Webb (Finished August 04)
   A/Media Liaison Officer
Moira Saunders (March 04 - July 04)
   Media Relations Intern
Paul Jones BSc
   Computer Systems Officer
John Somerville
   Acting Resource Officer (Finished Feb 04)
   Funded by: Research Performance Index, Curtin University of Technology
Maggie Halls BApp Sci (Information & Library Studies)
   Resource Officer
   Funded by: Research Performance Index, Curtin University of Technology
Susan Wilson
   Secretary (Finished November 04)
Pauline Taylor-Perkins
   Administrative Assistant
   Funded by: Research Performance Index, Curtin University of Technology and Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
Philippa Greaves
   Clerical Officer
   Funded by: Research Performance Index, Curtin University of Technology and Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Adjunct Appointments
Emeritus Professor David Hawks  BA(Hons) DPsych MSc(Econ)PhD FBPsS CPsychology
   Professorial Fellow, Emeritus Professor of Addictions, Curtin University of Technology
Professor Kathryn Graham BA MA PhD
   Senior Scientist and Director, Social Factors and Prevention Initiatives, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Professor Sherry Saggers BA MA PhD
   Director, Centre for Social Research, Edith Cowan University
Professor Eric Single BA PhD
   Professor of Public Health Sciences and Sociology
   University of Toronto, Canada
Associate Professor Peter d’Abbs BA MA PhD
   Senior Research Fellow
   Menzies School of Health, Darwin, NT
Associate Professor Steve Allsop (PhD)
   Centre for International Health, Curtin University of Technology and Drug and Alcohol Office
Dr Richard Fordham BA(Hons) MA PhD
   Senior Research Fellow
   Senior Research Associate & Director, NHS Economics Support Programme, University of East Anglia, England
Dr Toni Makkai BA MA PhD
   Senior Research Fellow
   Senior Research Analyst, Institute of Criminology, ACT
Mr Kevin Boots BA MA
   Research Fellow
   Manager, Aboriginal Health Programs, Office of Aboriginal Health, WA Health Department
Mr Neil Donnelly BSc MPH
   Research Fellow
   NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
External Contributions of Staff

Susan Carruthers

Memberships:
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs
- WA Viral Hepatitis Committee Advisory Chair

Tanya Chikritzhs

Memberships:
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Fiona Farringdon

Consultancies:
- Western Australian Centre for Health Promotion Research, Curtin University of Technology

Memberships:
- Australian Association for Research in Education

Dennis Gray

Memberships:
- Australasian Epidemiological Association
- Fellow of the Australian Anthropological Society
- Public Health Association of Australia

Simon Lenton

Memberships:
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Australian Psychological Society
- Hepatitis Council of Western Australia
- International Harm Reduction Association
- WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies
- WA Task Force on Drink, Drugs and Driving

Editorial:
- Deputy Editor, Drug and Alcohol Review

Wendy Loxley

Memberships:
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
- International Harm Reduction Association

Nyanda McBride

Consultancies:
- Commonwealth Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs
- Alcohol Concern, United Kingdom
- World Health Organization
- NZ Ministry of Youth Affairs

Memberships:
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia
- Australian Association of Health Promotion Professionals
- Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth
- International Union for Health Promotion and Education
- Public Health Association of Australia

Richard Midford

Consultancies:
- Australian Drug Information Network
- New Zealand Ministry of Youth Affairs

Memberships:
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
Injury Control Council of Western Australia, Vice President
International Harm Reduction Association
Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia Research Committee
NSW Department of Education and Training Cannabis Education Project Reference Group
School Drug Education Task Force
Healthway Research Sub-Committee

David Moore
Memberships:
   International Harm Reduction Society
   Australian Anthropological Society - Fellow
Editorial:
   Assistant Editor, International Journal of Drug Policy

Tim Stockwell
Memberships:
   Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, Director
   Australian Alcohol Guidelines: Campaign Reference Group

Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
Drug and Alcohol Office, WA, Board Member
Economics and Marketing Reference Group
Kettil Bruun Society for Social and Epidemiological Research on Alcohol
National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol
National Health and Medical Research Council Assessors Panel
Rio Tinto Child Health Partnership Advisory Committee
World Health Organization Strategy Advisory Committee on Alcohol

Editorial:
   Assistant Editor, Addiction
   Editor, British Journal of Mental Health

Deidra Young
Memberships:
   Australasian Epidemiological Association
   Statistical Society of Australia
## Funding

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing provided $1,637,239 to the Institute’s core funding for the period January to December 2004. Details of income and expenditure are as follows:

### NDRI Core Income and Expenditure 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>$1,637,239</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Research Income</td>
<td>$10,783</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPI Income</td>
<td>$44,387</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtin R&amp;D Contribution</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtin DEST Income</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading Income</td>
<td>$721</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$6,285</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus BF from December 2003</td>
<td>$143,910</td>
<td>$1,913,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$1,445,564</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating costs</td>
<td>$233,516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Costs</td>
<td>$11,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD Scholarships</td>
<td>$67,875</td>
<td>$1,758,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$78,268</td>
<td>$78,268</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus as at 31 December 2004</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$76,995</td>
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</table>
### Additional funding sources in 2004

#### National Competitive Grants and Tenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Total Grant</th>
<th>Received in 2004</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mapping Indigenous drug and alcohol programs - Phase 2</td>
<td>ANCD</td>
<td>$35,608</td>
<td>$11,973</td>
<td>$8,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit drug reporting system (IDRS)</td>
<td>NDLERF via NDARC</td>
<td>$167,976</td>
<td>$44,713</td>
<td>$51,035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illicit drug reporting system - Party Drugs Initiative</td>
<td>NDLERF via NDARC</td>
<td>$90,529</td>
<td>$45,264</td>
<td>$47,062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention Monograph</td>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>$329,604</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$29,962</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevention of Alcohol Related Violence - PhD Scholarship</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$35,655</td>
<td>$5,654</td>
<td>$11,502</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHAHRP Dissemination</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$293,680</td>
<td>$135,000</td>
<td>$61,167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Indigenous Research Workforce Capacity</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$179,780</td>
<td>$57,776</td>
<td>$2,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate Drinking and Deaths in Australia</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$215,900</td>
<td>$48,159</td>
<td>$126,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policing implications of petrol sniffing and inhalant misuse in Aboriginal communities</td>
<td>NDLERF</td>
<td>$126,166</td>
<td>$62,748</td>
<td>$53,283</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia: An integrated Ethno-Epidemiological approach.</td>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>$603,910</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concurrent alcohol and party drug use - PhD Scholarship</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$99,993</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP)</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$799,981</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total: $2,978,782**  
**Received in 2004: $411,287**  
**Expenditure in 2004: $391,545**

#### Other Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Total Grant</th>
<th>Received in 2004</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the SDEP In Touch Program</td>
<td>SDEP, Health Dept</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$4,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APSAD Conference 2004</td>
<td>DAO</td>
<td>$12,400</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of Liquor Licensing in Port Hedland</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$45,376</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$23,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the COMGAS Scheme</td>
<td>Aboriginal Alcohol &amp; Other Drugs Council, SA</td>
<td>$20,976</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$17,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Care Review Paper</td>
<td>OATSIH</td>
<td>$9,880</td>
<td>$9,879</td>
<td>$1,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Kettil Bruun Society Symposium on Community-based Prevention of Alcohol and Drug-related Problems</td>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth Kettil Bruun Society Symposium on Community-based Prevention of Alcohol and Drug-related Problems</td>
<td>DAO</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>$364</td>
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</table>

**Total: $122,132**  
**Received in 2004: $19,879**  
**Expenditure in 2004: $58,114**
Source of Additional Funding in 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Grant Received in 2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Inc</td>
<td>$246,589</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund</td>
<td>$152,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health</td>
<td>$9,879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian National Council on Drugs</td>
<td>$11,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Office, WA Health Department</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Drug Education Project, WA Health Department</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funding Received</strong></td>
<td><strong>$431,166</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of NDRI Funding in 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Funding</th>
<th>Grant Received in 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Funding (AGDHA)</td>
<td>$1,637,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtin University of Technology R&amp;D Contribution</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Performance Index (DEST/Curtin)</td>
<td>$122,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtin DEST Income (Post-graduate Students)</td>
<td>$25,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trading Income</td>
<td>$721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Income</td>
<td>$17,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Competitive Grants</td>
<td>$411,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants</td>
<td>$19,879</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funding Received in 2004</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,284,831</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANCD</td>
<td>Australian National Council on Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAO</td>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Office of WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEST</td>
<td>Department of Employment, Science and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>Health Department of Western Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDARC</td>
<td>National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDLERF</td>
<td>National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OATSIH</td>
<td>Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDEP</td>
<td>School Drug Education Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Journal Articles


Unrefereed Journal Articles


Monographs, Books and Chapters


**Technical and Other Reports**


**Conference, Seminar and Workshop Presentations**


innovative research method for investigating risk associated with injecting drug use. Invited presentation at the La Trobe University, Melbourne, Vic, Australia, 19th-24th October 2004.


Meetings


NDRI Seminar Series


