Preventing harmful drug use in Australia
Tier 1 Research Centre
WHO Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Funded by the National Drug Strategy
www.ndri.curtin.edu.au

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The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) is based within the Division of Health Sciences at Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Western Australia. NDRI was established in 1986 as one of two centres of excellence in drug research by the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse, now known as the National Drug Strategy.

NDRI aims to conduct research that contributes to the formation of more effective policy and practice in Australia in relation to the prevention and reduction of harmful alcohol and other drug use. The Institute’s research complements the work of its sister organisations: the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) in Sydney, which focuses primarily on treatment research; and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) in Adelaide, which is concerned with workforce development in the field.

NDRI receives core funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, under the National Drug Strategy, with additional research funds being sought from a variety of national and international funding bodies. The Institute also receives support from Curtin University of Technology.

### 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.

### Values
The work of NDRI is guided by the following values:

- Encouragement of academic excellence and productivity;
- Academic independence;
- Service to the community;
- Social equity and justice;
- Ethical conduct;
- Relevance to efforts to combat major health and social problems;
- The need for rigour and evidence in policy and practice development and implementation;
- Openness to other views from internal and external peer review;
- Fairness and equity for staff of all levels.

### Key Result Areas
In striving to achieve its mission, NDRI has identified three ‘key result areas’:

- Conduct high quality research that will contribute to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug related harm.
- Contribute to the building of national capacity for research in the primary prevention of drug related harm.
- Disseminate research findings to policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, other researchers, community interest groups and the general public in order to increase awareness of drug related harm and effective prevention strategies.
This has been a busy and exciting year. Of particular note, the Institute celebrated its 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion a research symposium brought together many friends and colleagues from around Australia and overseas. With support from the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, we were able to bring key research staff from around the world to review past and present research endeavours and to consider the lessons for future challenges. This underlined the fact that, in general, alcohol and other drug research has been well funded over the last two decades and it was noted that this has resulted in research outputs that have had impacts on policy and practice not only in Australia, but also overseas. In the near future we intend to publish a number of the papers presented at the symposium in a peer reviewed journal.

One comment made at the symposium had particular resonance for me. A number of overseas visitors were impressed that we had such collaborative relationships between Australian law enforcement and public health staff. It is easy to take our alliances for granted, but I agree that they have been critical to NDRI’s success.

While the year has included an acknowledgment and celebration of the past, the future has been marked by a change in the corporate image and, critically, enhanced research capacity. The Institute was confirmed as a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention and Control of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Also, Curtin University of Technology established a small number of Tier 1 and Tier 2 research centres. NDRI was one of only six research centres across the University to achieve Tier 1 status. Being recognised as a university centre of research excellence has symbolic and practical importance and we will receive significant infrastructure support. As well as attesting to the quality and impact of research conducted by the Institute, the process allied NDRI with other researchers who were engaged in drug research. Consequently, as a Tier 1 research institute, NDRI has been joined by a number of eminent researchers from across the University. Additional funds enhance the security of our research infrastructure and our research team and expertise has been expanded. Thus, the research capacity of the Institute has been greatly enhanced.

It is pleasing that the efforts of the Indigenous Research Team have been recognised. The Team won the National Drug and Alcohol Award for “Excellence in Research” and the Curtin Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for its work with Indigenous communities. The Australian Government has now funded NDRI, in collaboration with colleagues from Edith Cowan University and the University of Queensland, to enhance the capacity of Indigenous communities to respond effectively to alcohol problems. There is no doubt that our ability to contribute to this work will be advanced by the addition of Associate Professor Ted Wilkes to the Team.

The excellent work of the Alcohol Team has also achieved formal recognition. Dr Tanya Chikritzhs was awarded the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs ‘Early Career Award’, and the Alcohol Team was a finalist in the National Drug and Alcohol Award for ‘Excellence in Research’.

I have to acknowledge that all NDRI research staff have contributed to a highly productive year. From key texts on school drug education, informed debate about benzodiazepine misuse, drugs and driving, and alcohol policy, NDRI has been involved in over 80 projects, many of which have relied on establishing new collaborations and maintaining existing partnerships. As a national centre, we rely on our collaborative relationships with law enforcement, public health and other colleagues from all eight jurisdictions and overseas and the quality of our work, and its impact, would be much reduced without them.

Finally, the work of the research staff is described in the project outputs of publications, policy documents and presentations at national and international conferences. Less visible is the critical support provided by the business services staff. Our high level collaborations and research outputs simply would not be possible without the administrative, financial, computer, communication and library support provided by our business services team. They are the engine room of the organisation and deserve much of the credit for our successful year.

Professor Steve Allsop
Director
During 2006, NDRI researchers were involved in over 80 projects, many of which are expected to result in positive outcomes for policy, practice and the community, as previous work has done. Much of NDRI’s research is conducted in partnership with other organisations, and 2006 was an important year for building new, and maintaining existing, relationships. 2006 was also significant for the Institute in the dissemination of research, with NDRI’s 20th anniversary symposium being the major event for the year.

**Highlights**

**2006 achievements included the following:**

- NDRI hosted a two-day international research symposium in September to mark the 20th year of the Institute’s operation (see page opposite).
- NDRI achieved Tier 1 research centre status (see box below).
- NDRI’s Indigenous Research Team won the Award for Excellence in Research at the National Drug and Alcohol Awards in Sydney, for work on the prevention of substance misuse among Indigenous Australians (see page 12).
- The Indigenous Team also won the Curtin Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence for its work with Indigenous communities.
- Tanya Chikritzhs won the APSAD Early Career Award for producing research that has had a significant influence on alcohol policy and practice, in particular the NAIP project (see page 10).
- David Moore spent 5 weeks visiting the Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour in London on a trip funded by a peer-reviewed Award from the Western Australian Health Department.
- Researchers completed a collaborative project to enhance understanding within the law enforcement sector of the extent and nature of volatile substance misuse by Indigenous Australians (see page 13).
- At the request of the World Health Organization, Wendy Loxley prepared a review of “alcohol and harm reduction” to serve as background material for a report to the World Health Assembly.
- NDRI was part of an international study which found the health benefits of alcohol for moderate drinkers have been exaggerated (see page 18).
- NDRI conducted a review of the National Competition Policy in relation to alcohol, and provided recommendations for ‘a way forward’ for operation of the policy.
- Richard Midford co-edited and launched a book on school drug education providing practical guidance for teachers and others involved in school drug programs (see page 16).
- Dennis Gray and Sherry Saggers co-edited a special Indigenous section of the journal *Drug and Alcohol Review* bringing together topical papers on substance misuse among Indigenous people (see page 25).
- Susan Carruthers continued her involvement in the development and implementation of WA’s Hepatitis C strategy (see page 14).
- NDRI’s research influenced liquor licensing decisions, including significant changes to the Western Australian Government’s policy announced in March.
- Previous research by Simon Lenton and James Fetherston influenced the development of new repeat drink driving legislation which is soon to be tabled in the Western Australian Parliament (see page opposite).
- Work commenced on an innovative 3.5 year, whole-of-community, evidence-driven initiative in partnership with the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder to reduce alcohol related harm in that community (see page 17).
- A National Drug Research Institute logo was developed and launched.

**NDRI achieves Tier 1 status**

In 2006, NDRI achieved Tier 1 research centre status as part of a review of research within Curtin University of Technology. Curtin’s Review of the Structure, Funding and Management of Research was aimed at improving the University’s research profile within a highly dynamic and competitive higher education system, and at ensuring the University delivers internationally-recognised research leadership, maintains diversity, and builds research capacity.

The Review recommended that the University make a strategic investment in a small number of Tier 1 and 2 areas of research excellence to build the scale and focus required for internationally competitive research.

NDRI was one of six centres at the University to achieve Tier 1 status, which required “an ability to demonstrate excellence in relation to the quality of research output, outcomes and impact along with effective research and project management.”

A number of colleagues from within Curtin’s Division of Health Sciences formally joined NDRI’s application for Tier 1 status, bringing skills in such areas as medicine, public health and biostatistics to strengthen the bid. NDRI staff look forward to working with ‘new’ colleagues - Professors Colin Binns, Andy Lee, Rob Donovan and Peter Howat; Associate Professor Bruce Maycock; Doctors Andrew Joyce and Owen Carter; and Mr Geoffrey Jalleh - on alcohol and other drug projects in the future.
Marking a milestone - NDRI’s 20th anniversary research symposium

In 2006, the National Drug Research Institute reached a significant milestone: 20 years since it commenced operations. To mark the achievement, on 25-26 September the Institute hosted an international research symposium, Responding to drug problems: Lessons from the past, future challenges and opportunities.

While the event provided an opportunity for old friends to meet, the aim of the symposium was to bring together international and Australian experts on drug and alcohol policy, prevention and harm minimisation, to reflect on the aims of the National Drug Strategy and the achievements of the drug and alcohol research sector in Australia.

The symposium asked what lessons could be learnt from the past two decades, and promoted discussion about current issues facing the field and the challenges and responsibilities ahead. Speakers reflected the diverse research interests of the Institute, collaborative networks, and the extensive expertise that addresses alcohol and other drug related harm.

The symposium brought together 150 participants from a range of sectors including health and law enforcement researchers and people involved in policy and service planning and delivery, in both government and non-government organisations throughout Australia. A third of delegates were from interstate and another ten delegates travelled from Canada, New Zealand, Philippines and the USA.

The format of the event was specifically designed to allow for extensive debate and discussion following presentations. Speakers in each session were asked to sit on a panel to expand issues raised by their presentations. In addition, a panel of ‘research consumers’ – comprised of Jill Rundle from WANADA; the Australian Drug Foundation’s Bill Stronarch; Coralie Ober from the Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre; Gary Kirby from the Western Australia Drug and Alcohol Office; and Jo Townsend from the Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services – was brought together to discuss how research by the prevention and alcohol research sector in Australia.

The format, combined with the quality of speakers, made it a lively and stimulating event, with overall feedback being very positive. Participants indicated the symposium addressed a number of key issues relevant to their work, such as the relationship between policy, research and practitioners; tensions between research and the political context; Indigenous and policing relevant research; ethics, the alcohol industry and research; and collaboration between research and practice for more effective outcomes.

Participants were also asked what the key messages from the symposium were for NDRI and the alcohol and other drugs field. Responses included: the importance of research, policy and practice; the need for more research into Indigenous communities in each State; clearer information to the public on alcohol and the associated health effects; and that research to practice needs attention as one size does not fit all.

Following interest from participants and those unable to attend, symposium presentations have been put on NDRI’s website (www.curtin.ndri.edu.au), and a number of keynote speakers have committed to publishing their symposium papers in a special section of Drug and Alcohol Review.

The symposium was sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, and the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation.

NDRI has played a central role in the development of new repeat drink driving legislation, soon to be tabled in the Western Australian Parliament

In August 2002, Simon Lenton and James Fetherston submitted their report of the Repeat Drink Drivers Study to the WA Road Safety Council (RSC). The report made a number of specific recommendations for improving responses to repeat drink drivers and suggested that ways should be sought to keep offenders within the system that consists of formal laws and informal social controls, rather than apply penalties in ways that undermine adherence to the law and reinforce further drink driving. Among other strategies, the adoption of alcohol interlock devices was seen as worthy of consideration.

The report also recommended that the RSC establish an expert working group to review the report and advise it regarding policy implications and implementation of specific recommendations. Such a group was established in January 2003, and included representation from NDRI by Simon Lenton. The group submitted its report, including a recommended model for dealing with repeat drink drivers, to the RSC in October 2003. The model has since been lauded by experts in the field as international best practice.

It is anticipated that the new legislation will enact many of the key components to come out of this work, including a statewide alcohol interlock program, a strategy to reduce the incidence of unlicensed driving, targeted public education, and a rehabilitation program.

The report of the Repeat Drink Drivers Study to the WA Road Safety Council (RSC) in October 2003. The model has since been lauded by experts in the field as international best practice.

Following interest from participants and those unable to attend, symposium presentations have been put on NDRI’s website (www.curtin.ndri.edu.au), and a number of keynote speakers have committed to publishing their symposium papers in a special section of Drug and Alcohol Review.

The symposium was sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, and the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation.

Day 1 speakers (from left): Tim Stockwell (Past NDRI Director), Margaret Hamilton, Sally Casswell, Neal Blewett (Health Minister when National Drug Strategy was established), Kate Graham and Eric Single
Board of Management

Prof Mike Garlepp (Chair)
Acting Executive Dean, Division of Health Sciences
Curtin University of Technology

Ms Virginia Hart (from July 2006)
Assistant Secretary
Population Health Division - Drug Strategy Branch
Australian Government Dept of Health & Ageing

Prof Steve Allsop
Director
National Drug Research Institute

Mr Mick Burnby (from September 2006)
Assistant Commissioner, South Metropolitan Region,
Western Australian Police Service

Prof Barney Glover (until February 2006)
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Development
Curtin University of Technology

Ms Jenny Hefford (until February 2006)
Assistant Secretary
Population Health Division - Drug Strategy Branch
Australian Government Dept of Health & Ageing

Prof Linda Kristjanson (from April 2006)
Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Development
Curtin University of Technology

Ms Pam McKenna
Chief Executive Officer
Palmerston Association Inc

Mr David Menarry (until November 2006)
Chief Financial Officer
Curtin University of Technology

Mr Terry Murphy
Executive Director
Drug and Alcohol Office

Ms Coralie Ober
Research Fellow, Queensland Alcohol and Drug
Research and Education Centre,
University of Queensland

Mr Mal Shervill (until July 2006)
Assistant Commissioner (Crime Support)
Western Australian Police Service
In 2006, NDRI worked in collaboration with a number of relevant agencies and research centres locally, nationally and internationally. The Institute is also a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

**NDRI Collaborating Centres**
- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council of South Australia
- Australian Institute of Criminology
- Centre for Youth Drug Studies at the Australian Drug Foundation
- Drug and Alcohol Services Council of South Australia
- National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction
- National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
- New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

**Other Project Partners**
- Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service
- Alcohol and Drug Council of Australia
- Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, USA
- Australian Drug Foundation
- Australian Intravenous League
- Bawrrunga Aboriginal Medical Service
- Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria, Canada
- Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute
- Centre for Mental Health Studies, University of Newcastle
- Centre for Remote Health, Flinders & Charles Darwin Universities
- Centre for Research into Drugs and Health Behaviour, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Centre for Social Research, Edith Cowan University
- Chemistry Centre of Western Australia
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Community Alcohol Action Network, Australian Drug Foundation
- Curtin University of Technology
- Dandaloo Gayngil Aboriginal Corporation
- Drug and Alcohol Office of Western Australia
- Drug and Alcohol Services Association, Alice Springs
- Faculty of Community Services, Edith Cowan University
- Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Queensland
- Fitzroy Work Project
- Foundation for Young Australians
- Gascoyne Public Health Unit
- Health Department of Western Australia
- Institute for International Research on Youth at Risk, National Development and Research Institutes
- Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Kimberley Community Drug Service Team
- Massey University, NZ
- Menzies School of Health Research
- Mt Theo Youth Substance Misuse Program
- National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health
- National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
- National Centre in HIV Social Research
- National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee
- NSW Attorney General’s Department Drug Programs Bureau
- NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
- NSW Department of Health
- Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research Centre
- School of Health Sciences, Deakin University
- School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, James Cook University
- School of Social Sciences, LaTrobe University
- St Bartholomew’s House, Perth
- Tangentyre Council, Alice Springs
- Ted Noffs Foundation
- Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
- University of British Columbia, Canada
- University of California, San Francisco, USA
- Western Australian Police Service

**Committee/Reference Group Memberships**
- Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet Reference Group
- Australian Network of Academic Public Health Institutions
- Child Death Review Committee, Dept of Community Development
- Health Institute Consultative Committee, Division of Health Sciences, Curtin University of Technology
- Health Promotion Strategic Planning Tobacco Expert Advisory Group, Health Department of WA
- Indigenous Alcohol Clinical Practice Guidelines Reference Group
- National Cannabis Strategy Law Enforcement Reference Group, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
- National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee
- Public Health Consultative Committee, Public Health Department, ECU
- Research Coordination Committee, Drug and Alcohol Office of WA
- Victorian Premier’s Drug Prevention Council panel to evaluate the Australian Drug Foundation’s Drug Info Clearinghouse
- Web-based Alcohol and Tobacco Intervention Consultative Committee, School of Public Health, Curtin University of Technology
- Western Australian Butane Taskforce
- Western Australian Viral Hepatitis Committee
Research Overview

NDRI is amongst the largest centres of alcohol and other drug research expertise in Australia. Recognising that problems associated with drug use are complex, a multi-disciplinary approach to research is pursued and researchers are drawn from a range of disciplines including psychology, epidemiology, public health, sociology and anthropology.

The following pages give details of selected projects undertaken by NDRI during 2006, organised by the eight key research priorities (listed below) under which research is conducted. Appendix 1 (page 36) lists all 2006 research projects, and further information can be found on NDRI’s website at www.ndri.curtin.edu.au.

Key Research Priorities

1. National monitoring of alcohol and other drug consumption patterns and related harm: Research conducted under key priority 1 aims to monitor Australians’ patterns of alcohol and other drug use and associated levels of harm over time, evaluate the impact of established harm minimisation strategies, and inform future policy changes.

2. Partnerships in the prevention of alcohol and other drug misuse among Indigenous Australians: The focus of key priority 2 is research and evaluation that enhances the ability of Indigenous Australian communities to address alcohol and other drug misuse. Importantly, work in this area includes efforts to build Indigenous research capacity.

3. Prevention of the spread of blood-borne viruses and other harm among injecting drug users: Research under key priority 3 involves investigating the social and behavioural factors associated with the transmission of hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses among injecting drug users to inform policy and the development and implementation of prevention strategies.

4. The impact of educational, legislative and regulatory strategies to minimise alcohol and other drug-related harm: Key priority 4 involves the collection of data on the impact of various educational, regulatory and legislative models for drugs in Australia to inform the future implementation and modification of strategies to reduce alcohol and drug-related harm.

5. Development and evaluation of more effective school drug and education programs: Projects under key priority 5 involve the development, evaluation and dissemination of school drug education programs that are most likely to be effective in the Australian cultural context.

6. Development and evaluation of more effective community drug prevention programs: The aim of key priority 6 is to undertake innovative research in partnership with local communities to stimulate and inform the development of relevant, effective programs that target population level change as a way of reducing alcohol and other drug harm.

7. Identification of fundamental, strategic and developmental research questions in the area of primary prevention of harmful drug use: Key priority 7 involves identifying fundamental, strategic and developmental research questions in the prevention of drug use, risk and harm across the spectrum of licit and illicit drug use.

8. Investigation of 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: Research under key priority 8 involves investigating how educational, legislative and regulatory strategies impact on structural determinants and social contexts of alcohol and other drug use to

Philosophy

In conducting its research, NDRI follows the philosophy of harm minimisation that has underpinned Australia’s National Drug Strategy since 1985. Harm minimisation recognises that drug use, both legal and illegal, is a fact of modern society, and while use may be reduced to a degree, there will always be a need to protect people from the harmful consequences of drug use.

As harm minimisation focuses on the harms caused by drug use, it provides a framework in which a range of strategies can be legitimately used to achieve the overall goal. Strategies can be broadly classified into three areas:

- **Supply reduction** - controlling the amount of drug available;
- **Demand reduction** - encouraging people not to use, to delay use, or to use less of a drug; and
- **Harm reduction** - helping to reduce harm for those who continue to use drugs.
Research Activities

Key Priority 1
National monitoring of alcohol and other drug consumption patterns and related harm

New Projects

Alcohol outlet density and related harm
NDRI staff: Paul Catalano, Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: HDWA; WAPS
Funded by: NDLERF
The use of policy interventions to minimise alcohol related harm by controlling alcohol outlet density is not currently considered within legislation in Western Australia (WA). This project aims to determine whether it is feasible to develop a model of alcohol outlet density that can be used to inform such interventions. Although focusing on WA, this feasibility study will include an assessment of the practicalities of developing such models in other states and territories in Australia.

GENACIS
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: Turning Point; Deakin University
Funded by: NHMRC
The GENACIS study aims to develop knowledge about and measures of social problems associated with drinking, which have been less studied and are much less quantified than the health and casualty problems resulting from drinking. The research will endeavour to gain a better understanding of patterns of alcohol consumption and of the relationship of such patterns to problematic social relations, particularly within couples and the family. These patterns will initially be studied in Australia and, through participation in an international project, will later be analysed and interpreted in the context of findings from comparable studies elsewhere.

Ongoing Projects

Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)
NDRI staff: Jessica George, Simon Lenton
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: AGDHA
The EDRS, formerly known as the Party Drugs Initiative (PDI), has been operating in Western Australia since 2003. The EDRS developed from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) and together the projects act as complementary early warning systems designed to identify emerging trends in various illicit drug markets and in patterns of use. Like the IDRS, a triangulated approach is used for the EDRS methodology and comprises of: interviews with regular ecstasy users; interviews with “key experts” working in relevant fields such as law enforcement, health and entertainment industries; and statistical data such as drug seizures and analysis of purity. Both projects are conducted on an annual basis in the capital city of every Australian jurisdiction and coordinated nationally by NDARC in Sydney.

Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)
NDRI staff: James Fetherston, Simon Lenton
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: AGDHA
See box below

IDRS - an “early warning system”
The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) seeks to act as an “early warning system” by timely detection of emerging trends in illicit drug markets. Operating in capital cities in all Australian jurisdictions, the IDRS has demonstrated how the illicit drug markets of each city possess features that distinguish each of them from other drug markets in Australia.

2006 was the seventh year of operation of the IDRS in Western Australia. Commencing in 1999 it initially used data collected from key experts such as drug counsellors, emergency department workers and members of the law enforcement sector combined with existing formalised data sources like phone calls to the Alcohol and Drug Information Service, police seizures and purity analysis and callouts to overdoses. The following year the project was expanded to include interviews with regular injecting drug users as a valuable sentinel population, triangulating this new information with original data.

IDRS data is used by both the health and law enforcement sectors to inform policy, funding and provision of services. It has also been utilised by detectives from the organised crime squad for the provision of specialised evidence to court hearings. In recent years NDRI has commenced an annual seminar presentation of IDRS and EDRS findings that is open to all workers from the Perth AOD sector. 2006 also saw a number of invited guest lectures largely based upon this research provided to diverse groups including clinical staff at the Drug and Alcohol Office, trainee recruits to the Organised Crime Squad and medical students at the University of Notre Dame.
National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP)
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal
Funded by: AGDHA
NAIP is a nationally co-ordinated project aimed at tracking and reporting on trends in alcohol related harm in Australia at national, state and local levels. A first for Australia, the development of a nationally coordinated source of data on alcohol consumption and related harm has arisen from the need for an efficient monitoring system on alcohol and increasing concern over levels of alcohol-related harm in the Australian community. One of the main objectives of the project is to produce and disseminate summary bulletins which highlight the major points from each research area. Ten statistical bulletins have been released, dealing with topics such as: alcohol-caused morbidity and mortality; serious alcohol-related road trauma; risky drinking patterns; per capita consumption; alcohol and violence; youth alcohol consumption; under-aged drinking; and alcohol and the elderly. Bulletin 11, which will address alcohol-attributable mortality among Indigenous Australians, is planned for early 2007, and progress is being made toward bulletin 12 which will provide updated economic cost estimates for alcohol-attributable mortality and morbidity for all states and territories in Australia. The project will also examine the relative impacts of apparent protective effects of alcohol against Ischaemic Heart Disease on cost estimates. All NAIP Bulletins are available on the NDRI website (www.ndri.curtin.edu.au) and hard copies can be obtained on request.

Indigenous National Alcohol Indicators Project (INAIP)
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Tanya Chikritzhs, Anna Stearne, Richard Pascal, Sherry Saggers
Project partners: CSR, ECU; NIDAC
Funded by: AGDHA
The Indigenous National Alcohol Indicators Project (INAIP) aims to address a gap in the evidence base supporting Indigenous alcohol harm reduction initiatives, namely the need for indicators of alcohol related harm specific to Indigenous Australians. Such information would allow the timely and reliable measurement of the effectiveness of policies and interventions, thus better facilitating targeting of resources to areas of greatest need.
INAIP is a nationally coordinated project which uses the techniques of NAIP to track and report on trends in alcohol related harm specific to Indigenous populations in Australia, at national, state and local levels. INAIP brings together two NDRI research teams, one concerned with Indigenous Australian research and the other with the analysis of national alcohol indicators. The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) is acting as an Advisory Committee for the project. The first Indigenous NAIP bulletin (Bulletin 11), which will show trends in Indigenous alcohol-attributable mortality by ATSIC zones, will be launched in early 2007.

NAIP researcher recognised
In November 2006, NDRI Senior Research Fellow and NAIP project leader Tanya Chikritzhs won a coveted Australasian professional award voted on by her peers. Dr Chikritzhs was awarded the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) Early Career Award at the APSAD conference in Cairns. The award recognises an outstanding contribution to reducing the harm associated with alcohol and other drug use in the region. Dr Chikritzhs won the award for producing research that has had significant influence on alcohol policy and practice, in particular the National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP).
In accepting the award, Dr Chikritzhs said: “It’s a great honour to have your work recognised by your peers. It’s very important to me that our research makes a real difference in the community by informing the way we minimise and respond to the harm caused by our favourite drug, alcohol.”

Completed Projects
Review of alcohol and harm reduction for the WHO
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley, Zaza Lyons
Funded by: WHO
This project involved preparation of a substantial background paper on “alcohol and harm reduction” for the World Health Organization, to serve as background material for a report to the World Health Assembly on “evidence-based strategies and interventions to reduce alcohol related harm”, with a view to drawing up recommendations for effective policies and interventions.
Research Activities

Key Priority 2

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

New Projects

Enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Steve Allsop, Sherry Saggers, Ted Wilkes, Coralie Ober, Violet Bacon
Project partners: CSR, ECU; QUADREC
Funded by: AGDHA

The objective of this new multi-stage research program is to enhance the access of Indigenous Australians to quality treatment for alcohol-related problems. In Stage 1 of the project, an expert advisory committee will identify priority intervention areas and a call will be made for the submission of expressions-of-interest in conducting projects to enhance service provision in collaboration with Indigenous community-controlled organisations. On the basis of these submissions, NDRI will commission the preparation of reviews and research proposals in six priority areas which will be undertaken in Stage 2. In Stage 3 these proposals will be independently reviewed and presented at a national workshop. Depending on the balance between priorities, project costs and available resources, five or six projects will be selected for funding. In Stage 4, the commissioned projects will be undertaken over a 12 to 18 month period. In Stage 5, based on the research findings, NDRI will develop a comprehensive set of recommendations for enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems and a plan for implementation of those recommendations.

Bibliographic database on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug use

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: AGDHA

This 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. The bibliographic database complements NDRI’s database on Indigenous Australian intervention projects.

Building Indigenous research workforce capacity

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray
Project partners: Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service
Funded by: AERF

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.

Ongoing Projects

Enhancement of the patrol monitoring and evaluation database

NDRI staff: Anna Stearne, Donna Campbell, Dennis Gray
Project partners: Tangentyere Council; Julalikari Council; Kununurra-Waringarri Aboriginal Corp
Funded by: AERF

The aim of this project is to research and develop a low-cost computerised database that will enable Aboriginal community controlled organisations to monitor and evaluate their night patrols and warden schemes. The first version of the Patrol Database was launched in Alice Springs in December 2001 and was subsequently distributed to various patrol and warden programs as part of a pilot program. Funding has since been provided by AERF to undertake further programming to enhance the database, and develop a computer-based training package on the use of the database. A member of NDRI’s Indigenous team is currently based at Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs to develop the training package.

Development of Tangentyere Council research hub

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers
Project partners: Tangentyere Council; CSR, ECU; Centre for Remote Health

This project aims to build the capacity of Tangentyere Council to conduct its own research into the needs of Aboriginal Town Camp residents in Alice Springs. It has developed out of long standing cooperative relationships between NDRI and Tangentyere Council, the Centre for Social Research and the Centre for Remote Health – including work on ‘loss, grief and alcohol’, alcohol restrictions in Alice Springs and the development of a night patrol monitoring and evaluation data base. The project includes the provision of training and support for Tangentyere Council staff and collaboration on various current and proposed research projects.

See Appendix 2 (page 40) for List of abbreviations
**Research Activities**

**Key Priority 2 (continued)**

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

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**Indigenous Research Team recognised for excellence in research**

NDRI’s Indigenous Research Team received wide recognition in 2006 for outstanding work on the prevention of substance misuse among Indigenous Australians, winning the Award for Excellence in Research at the National Drug and Alcohol Awards in June, followed in October by the Curtin Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.

The 2006 team consisted of team leader Dennis Gray, research associates Anna Stearne and Donna Campbell, research fellow Heidi Nietz, support officer Ed Garrison, and long-time collaborator Sherry Saggers of the Centre for Social Research at Edith Cowan University.

NDRI’s Indigenous Australian Research Program was established in 1992 with the aim of entering into partnerships to conduct research into the prevention of substance misuse among Indigenous Australians. Since then over 30 projects in conjunction with 27 Indigenous community controlled organizations in Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland have been undertaken.

Indigenous capacity building has been an important focus of activities. Identified positions have been established for Indigenous people and various provisions for training, mentoring and support have been put in place – including employment of a staff member whose sole role is Indigenous staff support. The team has also established a joint research internship with Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Services in Perth and, perhaps most importantly, has helped Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs to establish its own research unit.

Also important has been the dissemination of information about Indigenous alcohol and drug misuse and measures for its prevention. Activities include the establishment of a web-based bibliographic database on Indigenous substance misuse, the publication of several review articles, circulation of publications to agencies working in the area, and presentations on substance misuse to Indigenous community-controlled organizations, government agencies, policy making bodies such as NIDAC, and various committees of inquiry.

The team’s research has had demonstrable positive impacts at regional, state and national levels. However the team is particularly proud of its work with local Indigenous organisations. In accepting the National Drug and Alcohol Award Dennis Gray said:

“Our success in winning this prestigious award is largely due to the strong collaborative relationships we have developed with Indigenous community organisations… Such collaboration demonstrates that Indigenous people are taking positive action to address the problems confronting their communities, and our success is more of a tribute to their efforts than it is to ours.”

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**Evaluation of the ‘Makin Tracks’ 2 project**

**NDRI staff:** Anna Stearne, Dennis Gray  
**Project partners:** ADAC (SA)  
**Funded by:** AGDHA

Phase 2 of the ‘Makin Tracks’ project is being conducted by the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) of South Australia (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 is evaluating the project and providing basic evaluation training to ADAC field workers.

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**Evaluation of the DASA outreach program**

**NDRI staff:** Anna Stearne, Dennis Gray  
**Project partners:** DASA  
**Funded by:** AERF

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

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**Evaluation of “youth led futures” partnership grants with Indigenous communities**

**NDRI staff:** Anna Stearne, Sherry Saggers  
**Project partners:** CSR, ECU  
**Funded by:** Foundation for Young Australians

This project aims to provide assistance to four partner organisations involved in Indigenous youth-led initiatives – Bawrunga Aboriginal Medical Service, Dandaloo Gayngil Aboriginal Corporation, Fitzroy Work Project, and Mt...
Research Activities

Key Priority 2 (continued)

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

Theo Youth 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 initiative, and to make recommendations for change and adaptation where required.

Indigenous alcohol and drug staff development initiative

NDRI Staff: Ed Garrison, Dennis Gray
Funded by: AERF, AGDHA

There is a dearth of academics doing high quality research aimed at informing policy and practice in the prevention of harmful alcohol and other drug use among Indigenous Australians. This project focuses specifically on the professional development of Indigenous and non-Indigenous academic staff working in the Indigenous alcohol and other drugs area. The active participation of Indigenous academics in a collegial work environment is requisite if culturally sensitive issues are to be adequately addressed in the conduct of alcohol and drug related research. NDRI seeks to address this dilemma by providing individualised educational support for Indigenous and non-Indigenous junior staff in the early stages of their professional academic careers in the Indigenous alcohol and drugs research area, thus seeking to minimise the attrition that so often results when desire to participate fully in academic life is not supported by confidence and the requisite skills.

Not just scholars but leaders: Learning circles in Indigenous health research

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray
Project partners: Curtin University of Technology; CUCRH; Menzies School of Health Research; TICHR
Funded by: NHMRC

This collaborative research proposal brings together an outstanding team of population health researchers with a team of highly talented Indigenous achievers, including two medical doctors, two researchers who have completed doctorates and seven with Masters degrees. The primary aim of this capacity building grant is to develop a critical mass of Indigenous researchers undertaking high quality research into population health research priorities determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to link research findings into policy and practice. Over a period of five years, Indigenous researchers will be linked with centres of excellence in research elsewhere in Australia and internationally.

Completed Projects

Addressing Indigenous substance misuse and related harm: Editing a special issue of Drug and Alcohol Review

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers
Project partners: CSR, ECU; UNSW; Massey University (NZ)
Funded by: AGDHA
See box page 25

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

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne, Peter d’Abbs
Project partners: James Cook University; NDARC; Bowchung Health & Anthropological Services
Funded by: NDLERF, AGDHA
See box below

Indigenous researchers provide practical guidance for law enforcers

The policing implications of petrol sniffing and other inhalant misuse in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ communities was a collaborative project, conducted in communities in Western Australia, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. Commissioned by the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF), the project was completed in May 2006 and a report was published by NDLERF in August 2006. The report was widely distributed within state and territory police services, to Indigenous community-controlled organisations, and other key stakeholders.

The aim of the project was to enhance the understanding within the law enforcement sector about the extent and nature of petrol sniffing and other inhalant misuse among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote, rural and urban communities.

In addition to describing the social and policing context of volatile substance misuse, the report identifies the range of reactive policing strategies that are potentially (and actually) available to officers encountering intoxicated people, as well as various proactive policing activities aimed at preventing or minimising volatile substance misuse and its consequences. Practical guidance on appropriate ways for police to deal with sniffing incidents is provided in the form of a list of do’s and don’ts for officers encountering volatile substance users.
Research Activities

New Projects
Towards developing a model of care for injecting drug users in hepatitis C treatment: Assessing current services and identifying barriers to participation
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: Curtin Strategic Research Scheme

Despite the availability of an effective hepatitis C treatment in the form of pegylated interferon and ribavirin (referred to as combination therapy or CT) less than 1% of the estimated 185,000 Australians chronically infected with hepatitis C, of whom at least 85% are past or current injecting drug users (IDU), have taken up the option. Participation is thought to be constrained by a lack of knowledge of improved treatments and a fear of the sometimes severe side effects of treatment. Furthermore, there is a limited service infrastructure (number, capacity and location of clinical services) and staff to deliver services. Active injecting drug use was an exclusion criteria for CT until 2001, when it was recognised that, with suitable support and access to concomitant illicit drug treatment, IDU could successfully complete treatment regimes, with outcomes similar to those in non-IDU.

This project will identify the barriers and incentives which exist for current IDU in terms of accessing hepatitis C treatment in Perth. The project will also investigate the local health and medical services which are currently available to support IDU during hepatitis C treatment, identify gaps in these services and suggest future links with essential services such as drug treatment. In consultation with key stakeholders around Australia the findings from this project will be used to develop a model of care for treatment of hepatitis C among IDU.

Ongoing Projects
Future directions in the prevention of hepatitis C among injecting drug users: What are the needs of the using community?
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Project partners: AIVL
Funded by: AGDHA

This project comprises an investigation of the needs of the injecting drug user (IDU) community, in terms of hepatitis C prevention and the prevention of other drug related harm, as perceived by Community Users Groups as representatives of the wider IDU community. In collaboration with the Australian Intravenous League (AIVL), IDU community groups in all states and territories will be contacted and key personnel interviewed. Interviews will focus on current prevention activities, the perceived effect of such activities and ideas for future initiatives. The focus will be on the suitability and use of peer education in preventing injecting drug use harms. It is expected that information gained from the community groups will inform the future directions of prevention research at NDRI.

Completed Projects
Review of hepatitis C
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: AGDHA

The dynamics of the pandemic of hepatitis C have changed considerable since this virus was identified in 1989. In the developing world unsafe medical injections account for a large proportion of infections, while in the developed world the introduction of screening of blood donations and increased attention to infection control have reduced the risk of transmission via transfusions and medical procedures to extremely low levels. More than 85% of all hepatitis C infections in the developed world now occur among those who inject drugs and prevalence among this group ranges between 50% and 60%. A comprehensive review of the epidemiology of hepatitis C in Australia was conducted in 1998, and this review is an update which presents the 1999 to 2006 literature. The project consists of an update on the global situation with regards to the continuing transmission of hepatitis C as well as a review of the current situation in Australia, particularly among injecting drug users for whom current prevention strategies appear to be having little effect. It includes a series of recommendations regarding the future prevention of hepatitis C among injectors in Australia and areas in which further research is needed.
Research Activities

Key Priority 4
The impact of legislative, regulatory and educational strategies to minimise alcohol and other drug related harm

New Projects

Assessment of the effectiveness of the regulation of alcohol in WA (WALL)
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley, Tanya Chikritzhs, Steve Allsop, Richard Pascal
Funded by: HDWA

Alcohol-related harm is positively correlated with the availability of alcohol, and all Australian jurisdictions control the availability of alcohol. WA has some of the highest rates of alcohol-related harm in the country, and it is therefore reasonable to ask whether alcohol regulation in WA is effective in reducing levels of alcohol-attributable harm in the community. One way to answer this is to compare WA to other Australian jurisdictions. This substantial review will explore these issues, paying attention to differences in alcohol regulation and harm between metropolitan and regional and remote areas in WA and in other states. The paper will encompass a literature review; extract of data and information sourced from public documents; extract and reanalysis of data held at NDRI; and purchase of data from sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics where necessary.

Development of a drug research action plan
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley, Zaza Lyons
Project partners: Centre for Adolescent Health
Funded by: PDPC, Victoria

This project aims to develop an action plan for drug prevention research in Victoria. This will be undertaken by identifying and clarifying where the Premier’s Drug Prevention Council can make the best strategic investment in research having the most significant impact on preventing alcohol and drug-related harm in the short, medium and longer term.

Evaluation of a best practice integrated intervention for regular methamphetamine users with co-morbid depression
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: Turning Point; Centre for Mental Health Studies; University of Queensland; NDARC
Funded by: Beyondblue

The aim of this project, which is being led by Turning Point with collaboration from NDRI, is to conduct a large, multi-site, randomised, controlled trial to assess the efficacy of an integrated psychological intervention for methamphetamine dependence, which addresses both drug use and concurrent depression.

Ongoing Projects

Review of restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol in Australia and WA
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Dennis Gray, Zaza Lyons, Sherry Saggers
Funded by: AERF and HDWA

This project will examine the existing body of evidence for the effectiveness of restrictions imposed on the sale and supply of alcohol in reducing alcohol related harm. The overall aims are to: evaluate the effectiveness of current and recent liquor licensing interventions to reduce alcohol-related harm through alcohol sale and supply restrictions; identify which types of alcohol sale and supply restriction strategies would be potentially effective in both metropolitan and regional and remote areas; and identify the potentially most effective restriction strategies for Western Australian communities, particularly outside the Perth metropolitan area in regional and remote centres and communities with high levels of alcohol-related harm.

WA CIN scheme evaluation phase 2 (sub-study 7: evaluation in schools)
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Fiona Farringdon
Funded by: DAO

This sub-study comprising a survey of WA school students and a focus group study of drug education teachers is part of the post phase of a large pre-post evaluation of the WA Cannabis Infringement Notice (CIN) Scheme that came into effect in March 2004. It aims to determine whether the legal changes affected students’ cannabis use, knowledge and attitudes to cannabis and the law, their experience of acquiring and supplying cannabis in the drug market, and any impacts on school drug education. It will inform revision of laws locally and consideration of similar schemes elsewhere in Australia and internationally.

Completed Projects

National competition policy and liquor regulation
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal, Vic Rechichi
Funded by: AGDHA

The aim of this project was to review the impact of national competition policy on alcohol consumption and related harm. It consisted of a literature review and interviews with key stakeholders (including police, health, treasury, liquor licensing staff, alcohol retail industry) to identify potential and actual impacts of compliance with national competition policy on alcohol consumption and related harm. A report and recommendations resulting from the study were presented to an Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs working party representing the various interest groups.

See Appendix 2 (page 40) for List of abbreviations
Research Activities

Key Priority 5

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

New Projects

Editing a special edition of *Drug and Alcohol Review* on school drug education

NDRI staff: Richard Midford

Richard Midford was requested by the journal *Drug and Alcohol Review* to edit a special edition dealing with policy and practice research in the area of school and college drug education. Eleven authors from Australia, USA, Canada, UK and New Zealand have agreed to contribute to this special issue. Manuscripts will be submitted by the end of March 2007, with publication planned for late 2007.

Completed Projects

Editing *Drug Education in Schools: Searching for the Silver Bullet*

NDRI staff: Richard Midford

Project partners: Australian Drug Foundation

See box

*Drug Education in Schools: Searching for the Silver Bullet*

NDRI’s Richard Midford believes that the development of a coherent national drug education strategy is crucial if the level and quality of drug education in schools across Australia is to improve.

In May, giving the Dame Elizabeth Murdoch Oration at the 5th International Conference on Drugs and Young People in Sydney, Associate Professor Midford said that while Australia has some good pockets of expertise such as committed drug education teachers and well conceptualised programs, it is critical to increase momentum at the national level.

He believes that although there is now considerable understanding among researchers of what constitutes an effective drug education program, and some world-class drug education research has been conducted in Australia, many programs currently in use have never been properly evaluated to see whether they actually work.

“There have undoubtedly been some achievements in school drug education in recent years, including the development of new guiding principles”, said Professor Midford. “We now need to review what is currently being done against what is considered best practice. This process would be much enhanced with national leadership.”

Richard Midford’s research, for example, has found that if certain ‘critical components’ are included in school-based drug education programs, they can be very effective in teaching students how to keep themselves and others safe from the harm arising from drug and alcohol use. The research is discussed in *Drug Education in Schools: Searching for the Silver Bullet*, co-edited by Richard Midford and Geoff Munro, of the Australian Drug Foundation.

The book, which was launched at the Sydney conference, is written by an international team of authors with extensive career experience in the drugs field. It aims to provide a realistic perspective and practical guidance for teachers and others involved in developing or delivering school programs. It brings together research findings from around the world to present an up-to-date account of the achievements and limitations of contemporary drug education. Effective approaches and the circumstances in which they are most likely to succeed are identified. The book suggests that drug education is worthwhile when it is based on a practical understanding of young people, drug use and sound education methods, and is undertaken by skilled school staff, working in a supportive environment.

“Educators and anyone who works with young people should put this book on their reading list.”

*Drug and Alcohol Review*
Research Activities

Key Priority 6
The development and evaluation of more effective community drug prevention programs

New Projects

Alcohol use during pregnancy: Formative intervention research
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Susan Carruthers
Project partners: TICHR; NDARC
Qualitative research involves focus groups with pregnant women who consume alcohol. The primary aim of the focus groups is to identify potential intervention components, targets and strategies.
Quantitative research consists of a survey of approximately 400 pregnant women who consume alcohol. This will provide information about frequency and quantity of alcohol use, details of pregnancy history, and insights into potential intervention components, targets and strategies.

Dampier Peninsula prevention project
NDRI staff: Richard Midford
Project partners: Kimberley Community Drug Service Team
Funded by: AERF
The Dampier Peninsula prevention project is a two-year initiative during which time a designated project worker is placed within the Kimberley Community Drug Service Team to hold responsibility for the implementation and development of the project within the region. The main focus of the project is to work with target communities to reduce alcohol and drug related harm in the Dampier Peninsula region. The prevention of harm may include primary, secondary or tertiary prevention initiatives.

Ongoing Projects

Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP)
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Fredrik Welander, Lianne Auld
Project partners: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Funded by: AERF
See box below

Completed Projects

Evaluation of the WA Responsible Parenting Initiative
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Denise Cail
Project partners: Australian Institute of Criminology
The Responsible Parenting Initiative was introduced by the Western Australian Government to promote the responsibility of parents in ensuring that their children do not engage in anti-social, truanting or offending behaviour and to provide appropriate assistance and support to enable them to meet this responsibility. The Australian Institute of Criminology had overall responsibility for evaluating the program, with NDRI undertaking data collection and analysis.

KAAP - An example of an innovative, whole-of-community project
The Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP) is a 3.5 year, whole-of-community, evidence driven initiative that aims to reduce the high rate of alcohol related harm in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community. The project, which was initiated through a partnership between the Western Australian City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and NDRI, is based on the idea that most alcohol related harm, such as road crashes and assaults, is not caused by alcoholics, but by moderate drinkers who sometimes drink in a high-risk way.

KAAP will involve NDRI project staff working with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder community over several years. The first stage of the project is underway, in which research is being conducted to gain a fuller understanding of the current situation in relation to alcohol related harm.

The Kalgoorlie-Boulder community will then help choose and implement a range of prevention activities best suited to local circumstances. Those activities, based on what has worked in other communities, may include media campaigns to reduce risky drinking, brief interventions with drink drivers to reduce road crashes, and responsible service training to address serving of intoxicated patrons at bars and restaurants.
Project staff will also work with local agencies to achieve structural changes to how the community responds to alcohol and related harm.
Research Activities

Key Priority 7
Identifying fundamental, strategic and developmental research questions in the area of prevention of harmful drug use

New Projects

Examination of cannabis contamination and potency in Australia
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC; Chemistry Centre WA
Funded by: NDARC
This pilot study, which is being led and funded by NDARC with input from NDRI, aims to improve our understanding of the potency and contamination of cannabis available on the Australian market. It uses various methodologies to identify and discuss the implications of trends in cannabis potency and the presence of contaminants. The study includes a literature review; consultations/interviews with experts on potency and contamination; an audit of websites associated with cannabis cultivation for information on potency and pesticides, growth promoters and contaminants relevant to local conditions; and a survey of users, growers and dealers addressing their knowledge and beliefs about potency and contamination.

Ongoing Projects

Does moderate drinking prevent heart disease? A meta-analysis
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: University of California, San Francisco, USA; Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, USA; Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria, Canada
Funded by: AERF
See box

Completed Projects

Misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers, Steve Allsop, Simon Lenton, James Fetherston
Funded by: DCPC, Victoria
This project involved the preparation of a draft interim report on behalf of the Victorian Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, in accordance with the terms of reference of their inquiry into the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria. The project included a literature review and analysis of submissions and public hearing transcripts. The Parliament of Victoria has now published a monograph based on the findings of the interim inquiry.

International team questions alcohol’s protection against heart disease
In April, a research team from Australia, the USA and Canada received international media attention upon publication of a paper in the journal Addiction Research and Theory, which challenged the widely held belief that ‘moderate’ drinking helps prevent heart disease.

The team included Kaye Fillmore and Alan Bostrom of the University of California, San Francisco, USA; William Kerr of the Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, USA; Tim Stockwell of the Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Canada; and Tanya Chikritzhs of the National Drug Research Institute.

The research team investigated the suggestion first made by eminent British heart specialist Gerry Shaper that the majority of research studies suggesting ‘moderate’ drinking helps prevent heart disease may be flawed. This is because most of the studies made a consistent and serious error of including as ‘abstainers’ people who had cut down or quit drinking due to declining health, frailty, medication use or disability. When combined in the same group with long-term abstainers, deaths among these people in poor health may have increased the apparent risk of abstinence.

Fifty-four research studies linking how much people drank with risk of premature death from all causes including heart disease were analysed. It was found that only seven of the studies properly compared light drinkers with long-term abstainers, and their results showed no reduction in risk of death among the light drinkers compared with abstainers. The other 47 studies showed significantly lower risk of death among light drinkers compared with a group of “abstainers” that included people who had recently cut down or quit drinking.

The team cautioned that their research has not disproved the notion that light drinking is good for health as too few error-free studies have been performed. However, the extent to which these benefits actually translate into longer life may have been exaggerated.

Tanya Chikritzhs said the study, funded principally by the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, demonstrated that drinking should not be taken up or justified on health grounds as the costs to individuals are likely to outweigh the benefits.

“The widely held belief that light (or ‘moderate’) drinking protects against coronary heart disease has had a great influence on alcohol policy and clinical advice of doctors to their patients throughout the world”, said Dr Chikritzhs. “These findings suggest that caution should be exerted in recommending light drinking to abstainers.”

The research team has called for more well-designed studies that assess people’s alcohol intake and abstinence more precisely as their drinking patterns change with the years.
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

New Projects

Working with homeless people who use drugs

NDRI staff: Jeremy Northcote, Zaza Lyons
Project partners: St Bartholomew’s House
Funded by: ANCD

The aim of this project is to assess the extent and nature of alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems among homeless persons in Australia in order to develop a set of guidelines for assessing, managing and engaging with people who are homeless and have AOD problems. To this end, a comprehensive literature evaluation and consultation process is being undertaken and a best practice ‘Resource Kit’ produced for distribution to homeless agencies and organisations to assist them in their management of AOD problems among the homeless. As a special project initiated by ANCD, the outcomes of this project are envisaged to have far-reaching benefits for addressing AOD issues amongst the Australian homeless population and thereby improving health outcomes in this population group.

Ethnographic research: Identifying risk and enabling change

NDRI's ethnographic research focuses on identifying ‘risk environments’ for alcohol and other drug related harm. It examines the overlapping social, cultural, economic, physical and political environments of drug-related harm across two interacting levels: the ‘micro’ or local and immediate aspects of drug use; and the ‘macro’ or wider societal aspects.

In this framework, policy and practice should aim to create ‘enabling environments’ by identifying various environmental barriers to reducing harm and systematically removing or decreasing them. This approach complements attempts to persuade drug users to change their behaviour by assuming that individual behaviour change is more likely if the environment is conducive to and supportive of such change.

Ongoing Projects

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

NDRI staff: David Moore, Jeremy Northcote, Jocelyn Grace
Funded by: AERF

This research project aims to describe the social contexts and cultural meanings of alcohol use among young adults in recreational settings in Perth; compare and contrast alcohol use in nightclubs, hotels and private parties; understand binge drinking and related risk behaviours; and investigate the impact of social networks and life transitions on young adults’ use of alcohol.

The methodology links structured direct observation of the drinking practices of young people in recreational settings with in-depth interviews focusing on the meanings that they attach to these practices. In-depth interviews are also being conducted with key informants, including venue management, licensing authorities, youth agencies and other relevant stakeholders, in order to explore their understandings of the relevant issues and the ways in which they deal with alcohol-related harm amongst young people.

An investigation of the links between social and economic disadvantage, alcohol consumption and related harm

NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Paul Catalano
Project partners: Turning Point; Deakin University
Funded by: AERF

The overall aim of the “alcohol and poverty” study 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 between 1996 and 2001. The specific objectives of the research project are to: develop measures of income disparity (GINI coefficients) for Australian Statistical Local Areas (SLAs); develop measures of the rate of key alcohol related harms for Australian SLAs as well as rates for a number of control conditions (eg diverticulitis); using multi-level models, examine the relationship between income inequality and the rate of alcohol related harms at an SLA level; and map the relationship between income inequality and the rate of alcohol related harms in Australian SLAs.

See Appendix 2 (page 40) for List of abbreviations
Research Activities

Key Priority 8 (continued)

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

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

NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre; National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research; National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health; National Development and Research Institutes, USA
Funded by: NHMRC

This research aims to provide a greater understanding of the social, cultural and economic contexts of psychostimulant use and related harm amongst young Australians. It focuses on recreational drug use in Perth, street-based injecting in Sydney and rave drug use in Melbourne, and uses an ongoing and concurrent combination of anthropological and epidemiological approaches (ethno-epidemiology) as well as innovative approaches to the integration of diverse data (agent-based modelling). Three PhD students, Rachael Green (Perth), Suzie Hudson (Sydney), and Christine Siokou (Melbourne), have been recruited to conduct the ethnographic research. The project will provide important data to inform future interventions to prevent psychostimulant-related harm, improve multidisciplinary models for drug research, and build Australia’s capacity to conduct cutting-edge public health research.

Ongoing Projects

Research into the cultures and contexts of ecstasy and related drug use in Victoria: New bases for prevention and harm minimisation

NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: Centre for Youth Drug Studies; Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre
Funded by: PDPC, Victoria

The objectives of this project are to: describe patterns of ecstasy and related drugs (ERDs) use, including settings of use, with whom use occurs, time and frequency of use, the profile and social networks of people who use ERDs, and how this changes over time and varies according to age and gender; identify the social and cultural contexts of ERDs users including the role and function ERDs play in their lives and how this changes over time and according to age and gender; identify the harms that users associate with ERDs use and the strategies they employ to reduce or manage those harms; describe users’ perceived future patterns of ERDs use including alcohol and other drug use; and make recommendations about prevention approaches relevant to consumers of ERDs, including when and where these approaches would be most appropriate.

Study helps Melbourne’s street-based injecting drug users and sex workers

The Ethnographic study of heroin markets and health related harms in Melbourne, funded by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, was led by NDRI’s David Moore and involved collaborators from Monash University and Turning Point. It focused on the social contexts of heroin overdose and other drug-related harm amongst street-based injecting drug users and sex workers in Melbourne’s St Kilda area. Research methods included ethnographic fieldwork and in-depth interviews with street-based injectors, sex workers and service providers, ongoing epidemiological monitoring and analysis of policy and practice documents. A key finding was that despite good recognition of overdose risk factors and behavioural prevention strategies, their adoption was being undermined by the social, cultural and economic contexts of street-based injecting and sex work. Therefore, in addition to encouraging individual behaviour change, policy and practice needed to consider how to create ‘enabling environments’ for the reduction of drug-related harm, both at the micro level (e.g. extended needle and syringe program coverage, safer working environments for street sex workers and a supervised injecting facility) and macro level (e.g. addressing marginalisation through housing, employment and education).

The findings of this research have influenced and informed the redrafting of the City of Port Phillip’s local drug strategy, which calls for the implementation of policy and practice recommendations emerging from the research. They have contributed to the redesign of existing drug services and renewed advocacy for a trial of a supervised injecting facility. They were also used in submissions by practitioners to Victorian politicians, including the Health Minister; were disseminated in other forums comprising policy makers, practitioners, residents and other stakeholders; and received extensive media coverage.
New PhD Projects

Use of online forums by Australian party drug users: Making drug use safer or more dangerous?
PhD student: Monica Barrett
PhD supervisors: Simon Lenton and Matthew Allen (Curtin University of Technology)
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

Ongoing PhD Projects

An examination of injection drug use sites: The influence of social and physical context on drug-related harm and public health interventions
PhD student: Will Small (enrolled University of British Columbia, Canada)
PhD supervisors: David Moore and Jean Shoveller, Mark Tyndall (University of BC)

Exploring drug users’ socially constructed conceptualisations of drug use in the search for an alternative discourse
PhD student: Laura Willis (enrolled Curtin)
PhD supervisors: Ali Marsh, Brian Bishop (Curtin School of Psychology) and David Moore

Loss and its consequences among town campers in Alice Springs: The role of alcohol and other drugs
PhD student: Jane Ulrik
PhD supervisors: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

Pouring practices of 65-74 year old current drinkers: Implications for drinking guidelines and estimates of risk
PhD student: Celia Wilkinson
PhD supervisors: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: AERF, NDRI

Social, cultural and economic processes in illicit drug markets and their public health consequences
PhD student: Robyn Dwyer
PhD supervisors: David Moore and Andrew Dawson (University of Melbourne)
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

The ethno-epidemiology of party drug use and related harm in the Melbourne club/rave scene
PhD student: Christine Siokou
PhD supervisors: David Moore and Helen Lee (La Trobe University)
Funded by: NHMRC

The ethno-epidemiology of recreational party drug use and related harm in Perth
PhD student: Rachael Green
PhD supervisors: David Moore and Lisa Maher (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW)
Funded by: NHMRC

The ethno-epidemiology of psychostimulant use and related harm amongst street-based injecting drug users in Sydney
PhD student: Susan Hudson (enrolled UNSW)
PhD supervisors: Lisa Maher (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW) and David Moore
Funded by: NHMRC

The harms associated with concurrent alcohol and party drug use amongst young people: Risk environments and the implications for prevention
PhD student: Amy Pennay
PhD supervisors: David Moore, Simon Lenton
Funded by: AERF scholarship

The relationship between non-fatal overdose of pharmaceutical medications, suicidality and depression
PhD student: Penny Heale
PhD supervisor: Wendy Loxley
Funded by: NDRI scholarship
Staff

Academic Staff

**Director**
Steve Allsop, BSc(Hons)(Stir), PostGradDip(Paisley), PhD(Curtin)

**Professors**
Colin Binns, MBBS(WAust), MPH(Harv), PhD(Hon)(Inje,Seoul) FRACGP FAFOM FAFPHM (from July 06)
Robert Donovan, PhD(WAust) (from July 06)
Dennis Gray, BA MA(WAust), MPH PhD(Hawaii) (Deputy Director)
Peter Howat, DipTchg(Chch) DPE(Otago) PhD(III) (from July 06)
Andy Lee, MMath(Wat), PhDBioStats(ANU) (from July 06)

**Professors**
Colin Binns, MBBS(WAust), MPH(Harv), PhD(Hon)(Inje,Seoul) FRACGP FAFOM FAFPHM (from July 06)
Robert Donovan, PhD(WAust) (from July 06)
Dennis Gray, BA MA(WAust), MPH PhD(Hawaii) (Deputy Director)
Peter Howat, DipTchg(Chch) DPE(Otago) PhD(III) (from July 06)
Andy Lee, MMath(Wat), PhDBioStats(ANU) (from July 06)

**Associate Professors**
Simon Lenton, BPsych, MPsyc(Clin)(WAust), PhD(Curtin) (Deputy Director)
Wendy Lokey, CertTch(Rhodesia), BA(Hons)(WAust), GradDipPsych(WAITS), MPsych PhD(Curtin)
Bruce Maycock, MEd(WAust), GradDipBus(ECowan) (from July 06)
Richard Midford, BA BPsych PhD(WAust), MPsych(Tas)
David Moore, BA(Hons) MA PhD(WAust)
Edward Wilkes, BA(Curtin) (from Dec 06)

**Senior Research Fellows**
Tanya Chikritzhs, BA(Hons)(Murd), GradDipEpidBioStats PhD(Curtin)
Nyanda McBride, DipTeach BEd(WACAE), PGradDipHlthProm MPH PhD(Curtin)

**Research Fellows**
Susan Carruthers, BAAppSc GradDipDiet MPH PhD(Curtin)
Owen Carter, BPsych(WAust) DPsych (Murd) BA (Ancient History)(WAust) (from July 06)
Paul Catalanado, BSc (Hons) (WAust), MCrimJus (WAust), MA (Qu)
Ed Garrison, MEd(CalifState), BA(Harpur)
Jocelyn Grace, BSc(hons)(WAust), PhD(Murd) (from April 06)
Geoffrey Jalleh, MPH(WAust) (from July 06)
Heidi Nietz, PhD, GradCert(Higher Ed) (until March 06)
Jeremy Northcote, BA(Hons)(Curtin), PhD(Murd)
Fredrik Welander, BSc(MidSweden)

**Research Associates**
Liane Auld (until Oct 06)
Denise Cail (until Aug 06)
James Fetherston, BPsych PostGradDipADAS(WAust)
Jessica George, BA (Hons)(Murd)
Zaza Lyons, BA(Hons)(BristolUK), MPH(WAust)
Richard Pascal, BSc(Hons)(Curtin)
Anna Stearne, BA(ECowan), DipEd(WAust)

**Research Officer**
Andrew Joyce, BA(Hon)(Melb) GradDipEd(Monash) PhDPsych(LaTrobe)

**Project Officer**
Donna Campbell, (until Oct 06)

**PhD Students**
Monica Barrett
Robyn Dwyer
Rachael Green
Penny Dwyer
Amy Pennay
Christine Siokou
Jane Ulrik
Celia Wilkinson

**Adjunct Professors**
Kate Graham, CertT BA MA(SFraser), PhD(WOnt)
Sherry Sagger, BA(WAust), MA(Hawaii), PhD(Brown)
Tim Stockwell, MA(Hons)(Qxf), MSc(Sur), PhD(Lond)

**Emeritus Professor**
David Hawks, BA(Hons)(WAust), MSc(Econ), DPsych(Lond), PhD(Qu) FBPsS CPsychol

**Adjunct Associate Professor**
Peter d’Abbs, BA(Hons)(Melb), MA(Exe), PhD(Melb)

**Adjunct Senior Research Fellows**
Richard Fordham, BA(Hons)(YorkUK), PhD(WAust)
Toni Makkai, BA, MA, PhD(Qu)

**Adjunct Research Fellows**
Vi Bacon, BSW MHC(Curtin)
Kevin Boots, MA(LaTrobe), SEN(Alfred), GradDip(KingsleyColl), BA(Melb)
Neil Donnelly, BA(NSW), MA(Syd)

**Business Services Staff**
Fran Davis, Business Manager
Philippa Greaves, Clerical Officer
Maggie Halls, Resource Officer
Paul Jones, Computer Systems Officer
Rachael Lobo, Communications Officer
Patricia Niklasson, Secretary/Admin Assistant
Vic Rechichi, Communications Officer
Pauline Taylor-Perkins, Administrative Assistant
Dissemination Overview

The National Drug Research Institute widely disseminates its research findings to increase awareness of drug related harm and effective prevention strategies, and to inform community debate and public health policy and practice.

Research is disseminated through various means, including the media, publications and presentations, to policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, other researchers, interest groups and the community. Further information can be found on NDRI’s website at www.ndri.curtin.edu.au.

Publications
Research findings are published in refereed journals, reports and monographs, which are widely circulated throughout Australia and internationally. The publication of NDRI’s research findings has played a significant role in research translating into policy and practice.

Presentations
Research findings are presented locally through the NDRI seminar series, and nationally and internationally through presentations at national and international conferences. NDRI also hosts regular conferences and directly influences policy through frequent presentations and submissions to national and state policy bodies.

CentreLines
Produced alternately by NDRI and its sister organisation, NDARC, this bi-monthly newsletter presents the latest NDRI research and provides a platform for debate on issues affecting drug and alcohol policy.

Research Bulletins
The findings of the National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP) are disseminated in four-page colour bulletins. This ‘user friendly’ approach has proven effective in broadening the reach of NDRI’s research beyond the academic sphere.

Website
Further information about NDRI’s research is available through its website, www.ndri.curtin.edu.au. The site is a popular way for the community, the media and other researchers to access NDRI’s work, registering more than 500,000 hits annually.

Media
The media is an important conduit for NDRI’s research to reach the community. NDRI has built a reputation as a source of reliable scientific information on a range of issues concerned with the prevention of alcohol and drug-related harm.

The provision of expert comment and evidence based research has enhanced NDRI’s efforts to disseminate its research findings widely and to inform and participate in alcohol and other drug policy development in Australia.

In 2006, NDRI received more than 220 mentions in the media. Research findings and comment were carried by international, national, regional and local news and current affairs outlets.
Published Articles, Chapters and Books


Indigenous researchers focus on solutions to Indigenous alcohol and drug issues

In May 2006, the journal Drug and Alcohol Review published a special Indigenous issue in which Indigenous researchers focused on solutions to some of the alcohol and drug issues facing Indigenous people in Australia. The issue was edited by NDRI’s Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers (ECU) Lisa Jackson Pulver (UNSW) and John Waldon (Massey University, NZ), who undertook to provide special editorial assistance to Indigenous authors. The editors also wrote a paper contextualising and commenting upon the eight papers in the collection.

The journal papers described projects conducted in urban, remote and regional towns to address issues with petrol, tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs. The papers were written by people actively involved in working to improve the health and welfare of Indigenous people by developing and conducting specific intervention projects with Indigenous communities. Seven of the eight papers were authored or co-authored by Indigenous people, including health service administrators and service providers, as well as individuals employed in academic institutions.

On publication of the journal, Dennis Gray said the papers showed that action to address alcohol and other drug problems in Indigenous communities needed to take place on two fronts.

Generally, action was needed to address the underlying structural determinants of Indigenous health, including providing meaningful employment, providing an educational system that is relevant and supports Indigenous Australians, tackling poverty, and providing an opportunity to accumulate life-long assets, social and financial capital.

Specifically, action needed to be directly targeted at reducing harmful alcohol and drug consumption, and providing specific drug prevention and treatment programs.

“Alcohol and drug problems affect the whole Australian community. Such problems have major relevance for Indigenous communities, but these papers demonstrate that we can reduce these problems in partnership with Indigenous people,” Professor Dennis Gray said.

Included in the special issue of Drug and Alcohol Review was a paper contributed by Aboriginal researchers at Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs. NDRI has a long-standing relationship with the Council and is involved in providing training and support for the Council’s own ‘research hub’ (see page 11).

The paper, Researching ourselves back to life: New ways of doing Aboriginal alcohol research, highlights the importance – and provides an example – of Aboriginal control over research. It describes how Aboriginal people from Tangentyere Council conducted a survey of the attitudes of people who reside in Town Camps to a trial of liquor licensing restrictions in Alice Springs; how the results of the survey were used; and how the project led to the establishment of a permanent Tangentyere Council ‘Research Hub’.

The paper provides a model of conducting research for other Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and can inform non-Aboriginal researchers about ways of working with Aboriginal community organisations to address substance misuse and other health problems.


Dissemination Activities

Publications (continued)


Monographs and Technical Reports


**Conference Presentations**


Dissemination Activities

Presentations (continued)


Symposium Presentations


Dissemination Activities

Presentations (continued)

the past, future challenges and opportunities, Acacia Hotel, Perth, WA, 25-26 September 2006.


Workshop Presentations


Dissemination Activities
Presentations (continued)

Seminar Presentations


Dissemination Activities
Presentations (continued)

**NDRI Seminar Series**

23 March 2006
**WA drug trends 2005: Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System and the Party Drugs Initiative**
James Fetherston, NDRI

27 April 2006
**Is Australia ‘fair dinkum’ about drug education in schools?**
Richard Midford, NDRI

25 May 2006
**A review of restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol in Australia**
Zaza Lyons, NDRI

6 June 2006
**A snapshot of alcohol policy research at NDRI**
Tanya Chikritzhs, NDRI

29 June 2006
**Does narrative therapy practice have potential to assist Indigenous Australians reduce substance misuse?**
Vi Bacon, NDRI

27 July 2006
**Outlet density: The relationship between alcohol outlet density and alcohol related harms in WA**
Paul Catalano, NDRI

31 August 2006
**National competition policy and liquor regulation**
Richard Pascal and Steve Allsop, NDRI

27 September 2006
**The Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP)**
Alison Ritter, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney

26 October 2006
**Policing, volatile substance misuse and Indigenous Australians**
Dennis Gray, NDRI

8 November 2006
**Treating complicated grief and co-occurring substance use disorders**
Allan Zuckoff, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh

9 November 2006
**NDRI information evening for 2007 honours and masters students**
Steve Allsop, Susan Carruthers, Wendy Loxley, Tanya Chikritzhs, Rachael Green, Celia Wilkinson, James Fetherston, NDRI

14 November 2006
**Tobacco control – the state of the art**
Mike Daube, Professor of Health Policy, Curtin University of Technology

20 November 2006
**The health impacts and politics of change in the minimum purchase age for alcohol in New Zealand**
Kyp Kypri, Senior Lecturer, University of Newcastle
Finance Report

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing provided $1,837,439 to the Institute's core funding for the period January to December 2006. Details of income and expenditure follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGDHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Grants Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Grants Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHMRC Study Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPI Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtin R&amp;D Contribution</td>
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<td>Sundry Income</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus BF from December 2005</strong></td>
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<td>$2,427,499</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating costs</td>
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<td>Capital Costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD Scholarships</td>
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<td><strong>Surplus at 31 December 2006</strong></td>
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<td>$282,762</td>
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<td>Add Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>Total funds available at 31 December 2006</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$434,363</strong></td>
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## Finance Report

### National Competitive Grants and Tenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Total grant approved for project</th>
<th>Grant received in 2006</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illicit drug reporting system (IDRS)</td>
<td>AGDHA via NDARC</td>
<td>$265,900</td>
<td>$49,817</td>
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<td>Ecstasy and related drugs reporting system (EDRS)</td>
<td>AGDHA via NDARC</td>
<td>$177,670</td>
<td>$44,356</td>
<td>$48,439</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate drinking and deaths in Australia</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$215,900</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$27,565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policing implications of petrol sniffing and inhalant misuse in Aboriginal communities</td>
<td>NDLERF</td>
<td>$139,440</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$18,395</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>$169,357</td>
<td>$179,225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel study grant</td>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>$8,529</td>
<td>$8,529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concurrent alcohol and party drug use (PhD Scholarship)</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$99,993</td>
<td>$35,065</td>
<td>$39,363</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kalgoorlie alcohol action project (KAAP)</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$799,981</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$138,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-site investigation of the social meanings of alcohol misuse among young adults in recreational settings</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$308,286</td>
<td>$121,120</td>
<td>$80,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol in Australia and Western Australia</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$61,808</td>
<td>$56,808</td>
<td>$36,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous alcohol and drug staff development initiative</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$18,648</td>
<td>$18,648</td>
<td>$9,830</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancement of the patrol monitoring and evaluation database</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$247,446</td>
<td>$235,000</td>
<td>$119,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDRI 20th anniversary research symposium</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working with homeless people who use drugs</td>
<td>ANCD</td>
<td>$63,587</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$13,897</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research into alcohol outlet density and related harm</td>
<td>NDLERF</td>
<td>$58,481</td>
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<td>$3,089,578</td>
<td>$795,063</td>
<td>$803,630</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Finance Report

### State Competitive Grants and Tenders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Total grant approved for project</th>
<th>Grant received in 2006</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2006</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Award 2005</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$16,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment of the effectiveness of the regulation of alcohol in WA (WALL)</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$27,053</td>
<td>$22,727</td>
<td>$22,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towards a model of care for injecting drug users in hepatitis C treatment</td>
<td>CSRGS</td>
<td>$9,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHRIF Round 9 Award - Simon Lenton</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$11,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHRIF Round 9 Award - Dennis Gray</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$9,428</td>
<td>$9,428</td>
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<tr>
<td>MHRIF Round 9 Award - Nyanda McBride</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$11,252</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIRIS Award - Tanya Chikritzhs</td>
<td>HDWA</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<td>$3,555</td>
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<tr>
<td>NDRI 20th anniversary research symposium</td>
<td>DAO</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research into factors associated with young people’s risky alcohol use, particularly in relation to large private and public events - PhD scholarship</td>
<td>OCY &amp; OCP</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$197,545</strong></td>
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### Other Grants

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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<th>Total grant approved for project</th>
<th>Grant received in 2006</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2006</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the SDEP In Touch program</td>
<td>SDEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcohol fact sheets: Alcohol and your health</td>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>$18,111</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,453</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous alcohol and drug projects 2005 (Mapping 3)</td>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>$64,777</td>
<td>$19,433</td>
<td>$23,453</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the Australian Responsible Parenting Initiative</td>
<td>AIC</td>
<td>$37,681</td>
<td>$37,027</td>
<td>$20,894</td>
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<tr>
<td>DUMA research into drug use and offending</td>
<td>AIC</td>
<td>$29,590</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inquiry into the misuse/abuse of benzodiazapines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria</td>
<td>DCPC, Vic</td>
<td>$28,557</td>
<td>$28,557</td>
<td>$23,565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of a drug prevention research action plan</td>
<td>PDPC, Vic</td>
<td>$78,314</td>
<td>$14,240</td>
<td>$848</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$272,030</strong></td>
<td><strong>$92,985</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Finance Report

### Summary of NDRI Funding in 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Funding</th>
<th>Grant Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core funding (AGDHA)</td>
<td>$1,837,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtin University of Technology R&amp;D contribution</td>
<td>$83,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Performance Index (DEST/Curtin)</td>
<td>$41,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry income</td>
<td>$115,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>National competitive grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>State competitive grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other grants</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total funding received</strong></td>
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</table>

### Sources of Additional Research Grants Received in 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Grant Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation</td>
<td>$486,641</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Government Dept of Health and Ageing</td>
<td>$19,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Institute of Criminology</td>
<td>$62,027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, Parliament of Victoria</td>
<td>$28,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premier’s Drug Prevention Council, Victoria</td>
<td>$14,240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Children and Youth &amp; Office of Crime Prevention</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Department of Western Australia</td>
<td>$65,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Office, Western Australia</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curtin Strategic Research Grants Scheme 2005 (for 2006 funding)</td>
<td>$9,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total additional research grants received</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,032,163</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 1
Full list of research projects

Key Priority 1: National monitoring of alcohol and other drug consumption patterns and related harms

Alcohol outlet density and related harm
NDRI staff: Paul Catalano, Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: HDWA, WAPS
Funded by: NDLERF

Development of a paper for the WHO on alcohol and harm reduction
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley, Zaza Lyons
Funded by: WHO

DUMA Research into drug use and offending
NDRI Staff: Wendy Loxley
Project partners: AIC
Funded by: AIC

Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) (previously Party Drugs Initiative)
NDRI staff: Jessica George, Simon Lenton
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: AGDHA

Evaluation of the reliability of the WAPS Information Management System mandatory alcohol field
NDRI Staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Partners: WAPS
Funded by: AGDHA

GENACIS
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre; Deakin University
Funded by: NHMRC

Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)
NDRI staff: James Fetherston, Simon Lenton
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: AGDHA

Indigenous National Alcohol Indicators Project (INAIP)
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Tanya Chikritzhs, Anna Stearne, Richard Pascal, Sherry Saggars
Project partners: CSR, ECU; NIDAC
Funded by: NDS, AGDHA

Monitoring of alcohol-related violence and crime in NSW
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NSW BOCSAR; NSW Attorney General’s Department Drug Programs Bureau; NSW Health
Funded by: NSW Department of Health

National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP)
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal
Project partners: Turning Point
Funded by: AGDHA

NAIP component study: Economic costs associated with alcohol attributable mortality and morbidity in Australian states and territories
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal
Funded by: AGDHA

New independent researcher infrastructure award 2006
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: HDWA

Pouring practices of 65 - 74 year old current drinkers: Implications for drinking guidelines and estimates of risk (PhD project)
PhD student: Celia Wilkinson
PhD supervisors: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: AERF, NDRI

Key Priority 2: Partnerships in the prevention of alcohol and other drug misuse among Indigenous Australians

Addressing Indigenous substance misuse and related harm: Editing a special Indigenous issue of the journal, Drug and Alcohol Review
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggars
Project partners: CSR, ECU; UNSW; Massey University (NZ)
Funded by: AGDHA

Beyond the big smoke - a clear vision for Aboriginal tobacco control
NDRI staff: Bruce Maycock, Peter Howat
Funded by: Australian Respiratory Council

Bibliographic database on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug use
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggars, Anna Stearne
Funded by: AGDHA

Building Indigenous research workforce capacity
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray
Project partners: Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service
Funded by: AERF

Development of Tangentyere Council research hub
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggars
Project partners: Tangentyere Council; CSR, ECU; Centre for Remote Health (Flinders University & Charles Darwin University)
Funded by: AGDHA

Development of best practice guidelines for Indigenous residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs (Fellowship)
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggars
Project partners: Menzies School of Health Research; CSR, ECU
Funded by: NHMRC

Enhancement of the patrol monitoring and evaluation database
NDRI staff: Anna Stearne, Donna Campbell, Dennis Gray
Project partners: Tangentyere Council; Julalikari Council; Kununurra-Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation
Funded by: AERF

Enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Steve Allsop, Sherry Saggars, Ted Wilkes, Coralie Ober, Violet Bacon
Project partners: CSR, ECU; QUADREC
Funded: AGDHA

Evaluation of the DASA outreach program
NDRI staff: Anna Stearne, Dennis Gray
Project partners: Drug and Alcohol Services Association, Alice Springs
Funded by: AERF
Appendix 1
Full list of research projects (continued)

Evaluation of the ‘Makin Tracks’ 2 project
NDRI staff: Anna Stearne, Dennis Gray
Project partners: Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council of South Australia
Funded by: AGDHA

Evaluation of “youth led futures” partnership grants with Indigenous communities
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggers, Anna Stearne
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: Foundation for Young Australians

Indigenous alcohol and drug staff development initiative
NDRI Staff: Ed Garrison, Dennis Gray
Funded by: AERF/AGDHA

Loss and its consequences among town campers in Alice Springs: The role of alcohol and other drugs (PhD project)
PhD student: Jane Ulrik
PhD supervisor: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

Not just scholars but leaders: Learning circles in Indigenous health research
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray
Project partners: Curtin University of Technology; TICHR; Menzies School of Health Research; CUCRH
Funded by: NHMRC

Substance use in the 2002 NATSISS
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: CAEPR, ANU

The policing implications of petrol sniffing and other inhalant misuse in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ communities
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne, Peter d’Abbs
Project partners: James Cook University; NDARC; Bowchung Pty Ltd
Funded by: NDLERF and AGDHA

Key Priority 3: Prevention of the spread of blood-borne viruses and other harms among injecting drug users

Future directions in the prevention of hepatitis C among injecting drug users: What are the needs of the using community?
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Project partners: AIVL
Funded by: NDRI

Review of Hepatitis C
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: AGDHA

Towards developing a model of care for injecting drug users in hepatitis C treatment: Assessing current services and identifying barriers to participation
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: CSRGS

Key Priority 4: The impact of legislative, regulatory and educational strategies to minimise alcohol and other drug-related harm

Assessing the relative efficacy of past and present youth smoking prevention messages
NDRI staff: Geoffrey Jalleh; Owen Carter; Rob Donovan
Funded by: Healthway

Assessment of the effectiveness of the regulation of alcohol in WA (WALL)
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley, Tanya Chikritzhs, Steve Allsop, Richard Pascal
Funded by: HDWA

Cancer Council alcohol policy
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: Cancer Council

Development and trialling a resource for parents on Alcohol Use and Teenagers
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: Edith Cowan University
Funded by: AGDHA

Development of a drug research action plan
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley, Zaza Lyons
Project partners: Centre for Adolescent Health, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute
Funded by: Premier’s Drug Prevention Council, Victoria

Evaluation of a best practice integrated intervention for regular methamphetamine users with co-morbid depression
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: Centre for Mental Health Studies, University of Newcastle; Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Queensland; NDARC
Funded by: Beyondblue National Depression Initiative

Labelling alcohol containers to inform consumers
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Rob Donovan
Project partners: ADCA
Funded by: AERF

National competition policy and liquor regulation
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal, Vic Rechichi
Funded by: AGDHA

Review of restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol in Australia and Western Australia
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Sherry Saggers, Dennis Gray, Zaza Lyons
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: AERF and HDWA

Revision of the Commonwealth Alcohol Communicators Guide
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal
Funded by: AGDHA

Revision of the WHO international guide for monitoring alcohol consumption and related harm
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: WHO
Appendix 1

Full list of research projects (continued)

Use of online forums by Australian party drug users: Making drug use safer or more dangerous? (PhD project)
PhD student: Monica Barrett
PhD supervisors: Simon Lenton and Matthew Allen (Curtin University)
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

WA Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme evaluation phase 2 (sub-study 7 - evaluation in schools)
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Fiona Farringdon
Funded by: DAO

Key Priority 5: The development and evaluation of more effective school drug and education programs

Editing book Drug Education in Schools: Searching for the Silver Bullet
NDRI staff: Richard Midford
Project partners: Australian Drug Foundation

Editing special edition of Drug and Alcohol Review journal on school drug education
NDRI staff: Richard Midford

Key Priority 6: The development and evaluation of more effective community drug prevention programs

A case control study of lifestyle factors in the aetiology of ovarian cancer (PhD project)
PhD student: Dada Su
PhD supervisor: Colin Binns

Alcohol and drugs in the workplace – South Australia
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NCETA
Funded by: NCETA

Alcohol and smoking in breastfeeding (PhD project)
PhD student: Roslyn Giglia
PhD supervisor: Colin Binns
Funded by: AERF, AGDHA and NHMRC scholarship

Alcohol use during pregnancy: Formative intervention research - qualitative
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Susan Carruthers
Project partners: TICHR, NDARC

Alcohol use during pregnancy: Formative intervention research - quantitative
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Susan Carruthers
Project partners: TICHR, NDARC

Dampier Peninsula prevention project
NDRI staff: Richard Midford
Funded by: AERF via Kimberley Community Drug Service Team

Evaluation of the WA Responsible Parenting Initiative
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Denise Cail
Project partners: Australian Institute of Criminology
Funded by: WA Department of Premier and Cabinet via AIC

Interventions to reduce alcohol use during pregnancy: Systematic literature review
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride

Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP)
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Fredrik Welander, Lianne Auld
Project partners: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Funded by: AERF

Key Priority 7: Identifying fundamental, strategic and developmental research questions in the area of prevention of harmful drug use

Analysing alcohol advertising’s impact on recall of drinking experiences
NDRI staff: Rob Donovan
Funded by: Australian Research Council

An evaluation of cannabis contamination and potency in Australia
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC, Department of Illicit Drugs and Physical Evidence, Chemistry Centre WA
Funded by: NDARC

A multi-site randomised controlled trial of the adolescent cannabis checkup
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC, NCETA

Co-existing mental health and drug problems book
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop

Dietary factors for Japanese patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (PhD project)
PhD student: Fumi Hiramaya
PhD supervisor: Colin Binns

Does moderate drinking prevent heart disease? A meta-analysis
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: University of California, San Francisco, USA; Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, USA; Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Canada
Funded by: AERF

Medications and crash involvement for older drivers: A population based study
NDRI staff: Andy Lee
Funded by: Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Road Safety Research Grant

Misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers, Steve Allsop, Simon Lenton, James Fetherston
Funded by: Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, Parliament of Victoria

Review of alcohol and prostate cancer
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: Department of Social and Behavioural Science, University of California; Centre for Addictions Research of BC, Canada

The relationship between non-fatal overdose of pharmaceutical medications, suicidality and depression (PhD project)
PhD student: Penny Heale
PhD supervisor: Wendy Loxley
Funded by: NDRI scholarship
### Tobacco capacity building scholarship
NDRI staff: Rob Donovan, Owen Carter
Funded by: Healthway

### Web-based alcohol and tobacco intervention
NDRI staff: Peter Hawat, Bruce Maycock
Funded by: Healthway

### 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

**An examination of injection drug use sites in Vancouver: The influence of social and physical context on drug-related harm and public health interventions (PhD project)**
- PhD student: Will Small (enrolled University of British Columbia, Canada)
- PhD supervisors: David Moore and Jean Shoveller, Mark Tyndall (University of BC)

**An investigation of the links between social and economic disadvantage, alcohol consumption and related harm (alcohol and poverty study)**
- NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Paul Catalano
- Project partners: Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre; Deakin University
- Funded by: AERF

**A multi-site investigation of the social meanings of alcohol misuse among young adults in recreational settings**
- NDRI staff: David Moore, Jeremy Northcote, Jocelyn Grace
- Funded by: AERF

**Conceptualising varying patterns of drug use: Exploring drug users’ socially constructed conceptualisations of drug use in the search for an alternative discourse (PhD project)**
- PhD student: Laura Willis (enrolled Curtin)
- PhD supervisors: Ali Marsh, Brian Bishop (Curtin School of Psychology) and David Moore

**Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harm in Australia: An integrated ethno-epidemiological approach**
- NDRI staff: David Moore
- Project partners: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre; National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW; National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University; Institute for International Research on Youth at Risk, National Development and Research Institutes, USA.
- Funded by: NHMRC

**Research into the cultures and contexts of ecstasy and related drug use in Victoria: New bases for prevention and harm minimisation**
- NDRI staff: David Moore
- Project partners: Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre
- Funded by: Premier’s Drug Prevention Council, Victoria

**Social, cultural and economic processes in illicit drug markets and their public health consequences (PhD project)**
- PhD student: Robyn Dwyer
- PhD supervisors: David Moore and Andrew Dawson (University of Melbourne)
- Funded by: NDRI scholarship

### The ethno-epidemiology of party drug use and related harm in the Melbourne club/rave scene (PhD project)
- PhD student: Christine Siokou
- PhD supervisors: David Moore and Helen Lee (La Trobe University)
- Funded by: NHMRC

### The ethno-epidemiology of psychostimulant use and related harm amongst street-based injecting drug users in Sydney (PhD project)
- PhD student: Susan Hudson (enrolled UNSW)
- PhD supervisors: Lisa Maher (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW) and David Moore
- Funded by: NHMRC

### The ethno-epidemiology of recreational party drug use and related harm in Perth (PhD project)
- PhD student: Rachael Green
- PhD supervisors: David Moore and Lisa Maher (National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW)
- Funded by: NHMRC

### The harm associated with concurrent alcohol and party drug use amongst young people: Risk environments and the implications for prevention (PhD project)
- PhD student: Amy Pennay
- PhD supervisor: David Moore and Simon Lenton
- Funded by: AERF scholarship

### Working with homeless people who use drugs
- NDRI staff: Jeremy Northcote, Zaza Lyons
- Project partners: St Bartholomew’s House, Perth
- Funded by: ANCD

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**Appendix 1**

**Full list of research projects (continued)**
Appendix 2

List of abbreviations

ADAC (SA)  Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (South Australia)
AERF  Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation
AGDHA  Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
AIC  Australian Institute of Criminology
APSAD  Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs
CAEPR, ANU  Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University
CSRGS  Curtin Strategic Research Grant Scheme
CSR, ECU  Centre for Social Research, Edith Cowan University
CUCRH  Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health
DASA  Drug and Alcohol Services Association
DAO (WA)  Drug and Alcohol Office of Western Australia
DCPC, Victoria  Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, Parliament of Victoria
DEST  Department of Employment, Science and Training
ECU  Edith Cowan University
HDWA  Health Department of Western Australia
KAAP  Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project
MHRIF  Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund
NAIP  National Alcohol Indicators Project
NATSISS  National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey
NCETA  National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction
NDARC  National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre
NDLERF  National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund
NDRI  National Drug Research Institute
NDS  National Drug Strategy
NHMRC  National Health and Medical Research Council
NIDAC  National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee
NIRIS  New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Award
NSW BOCSAR  Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, New South Wales
OCP  Office of Crime Prevention
OCY  Office of Children and Youth
PDPC, Victoria  Premier’s Drug Prevention Council, Victoria
QUADREC  Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre
RPI  Research Performance Index
RSC  Road Safety Council
SDEP  School Drug Education Project
TICHR  Telethon Institute of Child Health Research
WANADA  WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies
WAPS  Western Australian Police Service
WHO  World Health Organization