Preventing harmful drug use in Australia
About NDRI

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 conducts research that contributes to the formation of effective policy and practice in Australia in relation to the prevention and reduction of harmful alcohol and other drug use and its consequences. The Institute's research is complemented by 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 drug and alcohol field.

NDRI receives core funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, as part of the National Drug Strategy, with additional research funds obtained 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 to increase awareness of drug related harm and assist in developing effective prevention strategies.
Board of Management

Prof Jill Downie (Acting Chair)
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Assistant Secretary
Population Health Division - Drug Strategy Branch
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

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Research Fellow, Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC),
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Curtin University of Technology

Mr Andrew Tovey (from November 2008)
Detective Superintendent, Licensing Enforcement Division
Western Australia Police
Director’s Report

Following a detailed review of the Institute’s functions and outputs, which occurred in 2007, we were pleased to be awarded a new 3-year funding contract with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. This attests to the quality of the Institute’s outputs and to the work of all the staff. Well done to all. The new funding allows us to continue to contribute to the National Drug Strategy. In addition to securing core funding, we have continued to attract competitive research and other funding.

NDRI staff were involved in leading three successful NHMRC grant applications. Associate Professor Tony Butler was the lead investigator on a large NHMRC 2008 capacity building grant for population health and health services research, which drew together staff from our Indigenous Research Team with colleagues from around Australia. The project aims to build Australia wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery, with the program of research to commence in 2009. He was also successful in a collaborative NHMRC project (with colleagues from New South Wales and University of Western Australia) that will examine the role of traumatic brain injury in offending behaviour, and an Ausaid funded project that will aim to strengthen China’s response to HIV, TB and HIV/TB co-infection in labour camps. Associate Professor David Moore was the lead investigator on a significant NHMRC funded project which aims to investigate barriers to treatment and other forms of service provision, and to improve treatment engagement and retention of people who inject methamphetamine.

The year has seen the development of two new research streams in the Institute. Associate Professor Tony Butler has established a highly productive team who focus on research and other activities that aim to reduce alcohol and other drug problems among criminal justice populations. In addition to successful research bids, Professor Butler launched the National prison entrants’ bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey at the 20th Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine conference in Perth. University funds allowed long-term collaborator Professor Sherry Saggers to join NDRI to head a new research program that focuses on the social determinants and contexts of drug related problems, building our capacity to contribute policy and prevention initiatives. The research team has recently been engaged in evaluating Pathways to Prevention, an early intervention program for pre-school children and their parents in the northern suburbs of Perth, and the Communities for Children initiative in the East Kimberley. Members of the social determinants research team and the Indigenous research team completed an Analysis of Indigenous child deaths for the WA Child Death Review Committee, recommending significant changes to the service response to children requiring protection.

It is pleasing to see NDRI’s research being applied. For example, NDRI launched the Alcohol outlet density study in early 2008, which confirmed that an increase in the number of liquor outlets is associated with an increase in alcohol related violence and assault. The report provides a practical methodology that can assist in liquor licensing decisions. The School Health Alcohol and Health Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) has received a great deal of international interest. The SHAHRP international bulletin was launched in response to this interest, to ensure that we more effectively disseminate the outcomes of the project.

In a project with clear practical application, Dr Jeremy Northcote led the development of resources to enhance service responses for homeless people who are affected by alcohol and other drug use. These have been incorporated into a web-based ‘Homeless Information Portal’ that was launched by the Australian National Council on Drugs.

Our Tier 1 colleagues, Professor Peter Howat and Associate Professor Bruce Maycock have been leading a highly practical study investigating the effectiveness of an online alcohol intervention for students. They have been able to ensure an incredible participation rate and the program (THRIVE) is being packaged for use by other organisations.

In partnership with the Australian Institute of Criminology, staff at NDRI developed a national amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) strategy. The strategy was adopted as the basis of the Australian Government’s National Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Strategy 2008-2011 and nationally distributed in 2008.

The Institute’s work has also been cited at the highest levels. For example, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd referred to NDRI’s work on Melbourne radio, citing the 2004 ‘prevention monograph’ report as establishing beyond doubt that increasing the price of alcohol leads to a reduction in alcohol consumption and related problems.
NDRI staff were involved in a number of submissions, verbal and written, to subsequent inquiries about a range of strategies to reduce alcohol related harm.

Cannabis has been a key feature of research and other activities this year. Associate Professor Simon Lenton worked with the Beckley Foundation in the UK to develop its Global Cannabis Commission Report, *Cannabis policy - moving beyond stalemate*, and attended the report launch at the House of Lords, London.

NDRI is a consortium partner in the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) and, as part of this role, Dr Julia Butt, Mr Michael Doyle, Professor Dennis Gray, and Associate Professor Ted Wilkes, along with other NDRI staff and community based organisations, are engaged in developing clinical guidelines to ensure effective responses to cannabis problems in Indigenous communities.

Two scholars successfully completed their PhDs this year. Congratulations to Fumi Hirayama, whose thesis examined alcohol consumption, smoking and lifestyle characteristics for Japanese patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and to Celia Wilkinson whose thesis investigated alcohol use amongst older Australians.

Other PhD candidates are progressing well. For example, four candidates (Monica Barratt, Rachael Green, Amy Pennay and Christine Siokou) gave presentations on their research at international conferences in Spain and Italy and Rachael Green and Christine Siokou have had articles related to their theses accepted for publication.

All of our achievements are possible because of the commitment and efforts of high quality staff. It is pleasing to see this acknowledged in awards and commendations and invitations to contribute to strategic events. For example:

- Associate Professor Ted Wilkes attended, as an invited participant, the Australia 2020 Summit held in April 2008 at Parliament House, Canberra;

- Dr Tanya Chikritzhs was one of five finalists in the Aileen Plant Medal presented at the Population Health Congress 2008, and was awarded a Certificate of High Commendation for significantly influencing and informing alcohol policy both in Australia and overseas, and her integral role in major national and international research in the alcohol field.

- NDRI Tier 1 colleague Professor Rob Donovan of the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer Control was awarded a 2008 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.

It is also important to acknowledge the fantastic support we receive from our Business Services staff. They are without doubt the engine room of our productivity.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the substantial contributions of Professor Colin Binns to public health research in general and to the alcohol and drug field in particular. Professor Binns was head of the National Centre for Research into Drug Abuse (which became NDRI in 1999) when it was established and initiated its first research projects. We all wish him well in his retirement after 30 years of highly productive work at Curtin.

Professor Steve Allsop  
**Director**  
National Drug Research Institute
During 2008, NDRI researchers were involved in over 110 projects, many of which are expected to result in a direct influence on policy, practice and the community. Much of NDRI’s research is conducted in partnership and collaboration with other organisations, and this year was important for building new, and maintaining existing, relationships.

2008 highlights and achievements include:

- Following a successful review in 2007, NDRI was awarded a new 3-year funding contract with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.
- Long-term collaborator Professor Sherry Saggers joined NDRI to head a new research program on the social contexts of substance misuse (see page opposite).
- NDRI hosted its inaugural NAIDOC Week event in July, with Noongar elder Associate Professor Ted Wilkes leading the proceedings (see box opposite).
- Prime Minister Kevin Rudd referred to NDRI’s work on Melbourne radio, citing the 2004 “prevention monograph” report as establishing beyond doubt that increasing the price of alcohol leads to a reduction in alcohol consumption and related problems.
- Associate Professor Ted Wilkes attended, as an invited participant, the Australia 2020 Summit held in April at Parliament House, Canberra.
- Associate Professor Simon Lenton worked with the Beckley Foundation in the UK to develop its Global Cannabis Commission Report, Cannabis policy - moving beyond stalemate, and attended the report launch at the House of Lords, London (see page 16).
- NDRI, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Criminology, developed a national amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) strategy which formed the basis of the Australian Government’s National Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Strategy 2008-2011 to address use and harm caused by amphetamine-type stimulants in this country (see page 15).
- Associate Professor Tony Butler was awarded a major NHMRC capacity building grant for population health and health services research to build Australia wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery, with a program of research commencing in 2009.
- Associate Professor David Moore was awarded a significant NHMRC grant to conduct research investigating barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine injectors in drug treatment and other health services (see page 20).
- Professor Steve Allsop launched his book, Drug use and mental health: effective responses to co-occurring drug and mental health problems at an NDRI seminar in September (see page 29).
- Associate Professor David Moore co-edited a new book, Drugs and public health: Australian perspectives on policy and practice (see page 26).
- The National prison entrants’ bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey was launched at the 20th Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) conference in Perth (see page 14).
- Dr Tanya Chikritzhs launched the Alcohol outlet density study, which confirmed that an increase in the number of liquor outlets is associated with an increase in alcohol related violence and assault (see page 11).
- The SHAHRP international bulletin was launched in response to continuing international interest in the school health and alcohol harm reduction project (SHAHRP) (see page 17).
- The ‘Homeless Information Portal’ developed during the Working with homeless people who use drugs project was launched by the ANCD in Sydney in October (see page 21).
- NDRI postgraduate student Celia Wilkinson was awarded a PhD following completion of her thesis investigating alcohol use amongst older Australians (see page 10).
- NDRI and Public Health postgraduate student Fumi Hirayama was awarded a PhD following completion of her thesis examining alcohol consumption, smoking and lifestyle characteristics for Japanese patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
- Four PhD candidates (Monica Barratt, Rachael Green, Amy Pennay and Christine Siokou) gave presentations on their research at international conferences in Spain and Italy, and Rachael Green and Christine Siokou have had articles related to their theses accepted for publication.
- Members of the Indigenous and the social contexts of substance use research teams completed an Analysis of Indigenous child deaths for the WA Child Death Review Committee, recommending significant changes to the service response to children requiring protection (see page 13).
- Dr Tanya Chikritzhs was one of five finalists in the Aileen Plant Medal presented at the Population Health Congress 2008, and was awarded a Certificate of High Commendation for significantly influencing and informing alcohol policy both in Australia and overseas, and her integral role in major national and international research in the alcohol field.
- NDRI Tier 1 colleague Professor Rob Donovan of the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer Control was awarded a 2008 Vice Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.
New NDRI research program focuses on the social contexts of substance misuse

A new program of research specifically aimed at addressing health and wellbeing in diverse populations commenced at NDRI in 2008. The program - Social contexts of substance misuse - is organised within a social determinants of health framework and aims to complement and extend the work of the Indigenous and other NDRI research teams.

The program is headed by Professor Sherry Saggers, who joined NDRI full-time in early 2008 from the Centre for Social Research at Edith Cowan University, where she has been a long-term NDRI collaborator. Professor Saggers believes that in Australia today we are regularly reminded that we are primarily responsible for our own good or ill health – that eating wisely, drinking moderately or not at all, and exercising regularly are the keys to better health and longer lives. Smoking is now beyond the pale, and using any illicit drugs deemed an irresponsible act. This emphasis on the individual’s responsibility for health from the media, politicians, and others makes it hard to argue that the social contexts in which we live profoundly influence – and sometimes determine – our health profile, including the likelihood of misusing alcohol and other drugs. While it is true that our lifestyles influence conditions such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, and individual choices to drink and smoke contribute to these, other factors which no individual can control continue to have a powerful impact on our health. This new program aims to conduct research and evaluation of positive approaches to better health and wellbeing, which acknowledge the broader contexts of people’s lives.

Much of the research will be conducted in collaboration with other universities and organisations. Research areas include:

- the impact of early intervention among disadvantaged populations; particularly the way in which attention to maternal health and wellbeing, child health, and early learning and care ameliorates socio-economic disadvantage and leads to more positive futures;
- child-centred, family and community interventions and their role in improving health and social outcomes, such as school retention and employability;
- social inequalities and their impact on health outcomes; and models of leadership and community development in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities which draw upon diverse theoretical and methodological approaches and incorporate understandings from many disciplines – anthropology, sociology, psychology, and the creative arts – to explore successful models of leadership and development.

The research builds upon international work exploring the social and economic benefits of prevention and early intervention, particularly among marginalised populations, in terms of more equal health outcomes, reduced substance misuse, safer children, and more cohesive communities.

Research funding is being sought from diverse sources – including national competitive grants, commissioned and competitive government tenders, the non-government sector, business and industry, and private philanthropy. The only qualification for funding sources is the absence of any real or perceived conflict of interest between funding sources and this program, and an ‘arms length’ approach by funders at all stages of the research process, including the right to publish research findings.

The program - Social contexts of substance misuse - aims to complement and extend the work of the Indigenous and other NDRI research teams.

NAIDOC Week at NDRI

NDRI’s inaugural NAIDOC Week event, held on 7 July 2008, combined a celebration of Indigenous Australian culture with a presentation on the work of the NDRI Indigenous Australian Research Team.

The ‘lunchtime gathering’ featured traditional Noongar dancing by the Wilkes Dancers, accompanied by Noongar elder and NDRI Associate Professor Ted Wilkes playing the didgeridoo. He also led a doak (stick) throwing demonstration. The event concluded with a presentation describing NDRI’s research into Indigenous drug and alcohol issues over the past 15 years, and outlining ongoing projects.

Professor Wilkes hoped the event would become an annual fixture. “NDRI is in a great position to be able to bring people in to celebrate our culture while being able to educate them about some of most important issues affecting our people and how they can help,” he said. “Drugs and alcohol affect the whole Australian community and we need a good understanding of the issues. We need research, like that which NDRI has done over the past 15 years, to make sure our efforts in dealing with alcohol and drugs are aimed in the right direction.”

Indigenous Australian research team leader Professor Dennis Gray said NDRI actively promoted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ownership of research and encouraged new and emerging researchers. “It is important when we do research to always keep in mind that Aboriginal culture is living and breathing and all Australians should celebrate and take pride in the fact that we have the oldest culture in the world,” he said.
In 2008, NDRI worked in collaboration with a broad range of agencies and research centres locally, nationally and internationally. The Institute is 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

- Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, USA
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
- Beckley Foundation (UK)
- Broome Regional Aboriginal Health Service
- Cairns Base Hospital
- Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria, Canada
- Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health Research, Burnet Institute
- Centre for Harm Reduction, Burnet Institute
- Centre for International Health, Curtin University of Technology
- Centre for Mental Health Studies, University of Newcastle
- Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE), Massey University
- Centre for Social Research, Edith Cowan University
- Centre for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, Monash University
- Centre for Youth Drug Studies, Australian Drug Foundation
- Chemistry Centre of Western Australia
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Community Alcohol Action Network, Australian Drug Foundation
- Curtin University of Technology
- Deakin University
- Department of Corrective Services, WA
- Department of Public Health, University of Melbourne
- Derby Aboriginal Health Service
- Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Queensland
- Hunter New England Health
- Injury Research Council UWA
- Institute for International Research on Youth at Risk, National Development and Research Institutes, USA
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council
- Mission Australia
- Monash Institute for Health Services Research
- National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU
- National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, UNSW
- National Centre for HIV Social Research, UNSW
- Rural Clinical School of Western Australia (UWA)
- St Bartholomew’s House, Perth
- Ted Noffs Foundation
- Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
- University of California, San Francisco, USA
- University of New South Wales
- Western Australian Health Department
- Western Australia Police
- Wollongong University
- Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne

Committee/Reference Group Memberships

- Addiction Journal, Editorial Board
- Addiction Research and Theory Journal, Editorial Board
- Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Research Committee
- Anex Research Advisory Committee
- Australian Indigenous Healthinfonet Reference Group
- Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Board
- Cancer Council Australia, Alcohol Working Party Advisory Committee
- Commission for Occupational Safety and Health WA
- Dept of Community Development, Child Death Review Committee
- Drug & Alcohol Review Editorial Board
- Drug & Alcohol Office WA Board & Cannabis Consultation Group
- Drug Info Clearinghouse Prevention Research Reference Group
- Eastern Goldfields Sexual Assault Referral Centre Board
- Orygen Research Centre Expert Panel
- Goldfields Women’s Refuge
- National Drug Strategy Expert Panel
- Healthway Leadership Development in Health Promotion Programme
- Healthway Research Sub-Committee
- Hepatitis Council of Western Australia
- Independent Priority Assessment Ctte, Disability Services Commission
- Injury Control Council of Western Australia
- International Journal of Drug Policy, Editorial Board
- National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee
- National Prison Health Information Group Technical Expert Committee
- NHMRC Career Development Awards Population Health Panel
- NHMRC Indigenous Public Health Scholarship Review Panel
- NHMRC Public Health Scholarship Review Panel
- NHMRC Review of Australian Alcohol Guidelines Working Committee
- Orygen Research Centre MAKINGtheLINK Schools Project Ref Group
- Prevention Research Reference Group, Centre for Youth Drug Studies
- Prisoner Health Special Interest Group, Public Health Assoc of Australia
- Public Health Consultative Committee, Edith Cowan University
- WA Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (WANADA)
- WA Viral Hepatitis Advisory Committee, Health Department of WA
- WA Centre for Public Health Consultative Committee
- WA Child Dev Study Survey, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
- Western Australian Community Alcohol Network
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 an illustrative selection of new, ongoing and completed projects undertaken by NDRI researchers during 2008, organised by eight key research priorities (listed below). Appendix 1 (page 36) lists all 2008 research projects, and further project information can be found on NDRI's website at 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 development.

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 produce or reduce harm.

### Philosophy

In conducting its research, NDRI follows the philosophy of harm minimisation that has underpinned Australia’s National Drug Strategy since 1985. Harm minimisation aims to reduce harm to individuals and communities for those who continue to use drugs. 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** - reducing and 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 arising from drug use for those who continue to use.
Research Activities

Key Priority 1

National monitoring of alcohol and other drug consumption patterns and related harm

New Projects

National collection of wholesale alcohol sales data
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Steve Allsop
Funded by: AGDHA (via DAO, WA)

The wholesale alcohol sales data project aims to:

- Construct an ongoing, regularly updated, national database of standardised alcohol sales data, containing specifications described below for all Australian states/territories;
- Monitor alcohol consumption trends by regularly estimating per capita alcohol consumption for all participating states/territories;
- Provide an annual report on consumption by region containing summaries of alcohol sales data and per capita alcohol consumption estimates for all participating states/territories and the Commonwealth;
- Provide standardised alcohol sales data sets for use by jurisdictions.

An investigation of the nature, extent and effects of point-of-sale promotions for alcohol beverages
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs, Clare Stevens
Project leaders: Wollongong University; SHORE, Massey University
Other partners: Cancer Council Victoria
Funded by: ARC

This project will systematically investigate the nature of point-of-sale promotions for alcohol beverages in both on-premise (eg pubs) and off-premise (eg liquor stores) venues; the effect of such promotions on drinking intentions and behaviours of people aged 18-25 years; and utilise the results to develop a proposal for revisions to regulation of alcohol promotions to reduce alcohol-related harm. Utilising a range of methodological approaches including observational, qualitative and experimental studies, it is the first systematic investigation – not only in Australia but anywhere in the world – of the nature and extent of non-advertising alcohol promotions and their effect on young people’s drinking intentions and behaviours.

Pouring practices of 65-74 year old current drinkers: Implications for drinking guidelines and estimates of risk

In December 2008 NDRI postgraduate student Celia Wilkinson was awarded a PhD following completion of her thesis investigating alcohol use amongst older Australians. The research involved three studies:

In Study 1 a national key informant survey (n=32) was conducted to investigate appropriate alcohol guidelines for 65 to 74 year old Australians. It was found that older men should consume no more than 2 standard drinks per day to avoid the risk of long-term alcohol-related harm and no more than 3 per day to avoid the risk of short-term alcohol-related harm. Older women should consume no more than 1 standard drink per day to avoid the risk of long-term alcohol-related harm and no more than 2 per day to avoid the risk of short-term alcohol-related harm.

In Study 2 the accuracy of self-reported alcohol consumption amongst a sample (n= 844) of 65 to 74 year old men and women was assessed, based on an examination of alcohol pouring practices and of how individuals convert the amount of alcohol they pour into standard drinks. It was found that older Australian men underestimate their alcohol consumption by 23% and older Australian women by 16%.

Study 3 assessed the prevalence of at-risk alcohol consumption amongst an Australian national sample (n=2,300; NDSHS data) of 65 to 74 year old current drinkers, using results from Studies 1 and 2 to analyze the data. It was found that 12.6% of older Australian men and 5.1% of older Australian women were at risk of short-term alcohol-related harm. For long-term alcohol-related harm, the percentage of older Australian men at-risk was 35.2% and older Australian women was 30.9%.

The research concluded that the 2001 NHMRC alcohol guidelines were not appropriate for older Australians. When used as a benchmark to ascertain the prevalence of at-risk drinking, they were likely to underestimate the extent of risk. As older people under-report their consumption of alcohol, doubt exists about the accuracy of prevalence estimates of at-risk consumption amongst older people. Future research investigating prevalence of at-risk alcohol consumption should be based upon age appropriate alcohol guidelines and be adjusted to account for an under-estimation in self-reporting.
**Ongoing Projects**

**Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)**

NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Jessica George, Candice Rainsford

Project partners: NDARC

Funded by: AGDHA

This study comprises the Perth arm of a research project to monitor illicit drug use trends in major cities across Australia. The aims of the study are to examine the demographic characteristics, patterns of ecstasy and other ‘party drug’ use, perceived harms associated with use, drug market factors such as price, potency and availability of ecstasy and other party drugs in Perth, Western Australia from a sample of regular users of ecstasy. The project is coordinated nationally by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), and has been conducted annually in WA since 2003.

**Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)**

NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, James Fetherston, Laura Santana, Jessica George

Project partners: NDARC

Funded by: AGDHA

This study comprises the Perth arm of a research project to monitor illicit drug use trends in major cities across Australia. The project is coordinated nationally by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC). The Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) provides a coordinated approach to the monitoring of data associated with illicit drug use in Australia. The information collected is intended to act as an early warning system for the availability and use of four main drug categories: heroin, amphetamines, cocaine and cannabis. The project has been funded in all states and territories in Australia since 1999 by The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

**Completed Projects**

**Alcohol outlet density and related harm**

NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Paul Catalano

Project partners: WA Health Dept; WA Police

Funded by: NDLERF

See box.

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**Alcohol outlet density study links alcohol sales and violence**

The use of policy interventions to minimise alcohol related harm by controlling alcohol outlet density has not been considered within legislation in Western Australia (WA).

The Alcohol outlet density and related harm project aimed to determine the feasibility of developing a model of alcohol outlet density to inform such interventions.

The research involved examining the effect of liquor licence approvals on alcohol related problems. Using this information, a model was created that predicts the likely effect of granting a new liquor licence anywhere in Australia on alcohol-related assaults, hospitalisations, deaths and road crashes.

The research confirmed that an increase in the number of liquor outlets (hotels and/or bottle shops) is associated with an increase in alcohol-related violence and assault in the surrounding area. An unexpected finding, however, was that, regardless of the type of new liquor outlet, most of this increased violence occurs in private homes rather than at licensed premises.

Chief Investigator Dr Tanya Chikritzhs said the research demonstrated that the decisions of liquor licensing authorities had a significant impact on the health and safety of communities.

“The model developed in this study allows, for the first time, to predict the social impacts of any new liquor outlet anywhere in Australia,” said Dr Chikritzhs. “Liquor licensing authorities should be obliged to consider these impacts when deciding whether to grant a new licence.”

Based on figures from WA, the study found that an additional ‘average’ hotel in metropolitan Perth would increase the number of domestic violent assaults by 17 a year, and a new ‘average’ metropolitan liquor store would see an extra 8 assaults in private homes. If that liquor store was located in WA’s Wheatbelt, the number of domestic assaults would increase by 29 each year.

“A common perception is that most alcohol-related violence happens in and around licensed premises, but in reality much of it goes on behind closed doors either following a night out at the pub or after drinking takeaways at home. We can assume that the domestic assault figures in this study are just the tip of the iceberg because many alcohol-related violent incidents, particularly domestic, go unreported,” Dr Chikritzhs said.

The report, Predicting alcohol-related harms from licensed outlet density, is available at www.ndlerf.gov.au.
Research Activities
Key Priority 2
Partnerships in the prevention of alcohol and other drug misuse among Indigenous Australians

New Projects

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cannabis intervention
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Julia Butt, Steve Allsop
Project partners: Indigenous community-controlled health services
Funded by: NCPIC
The cannabis intervention project is a two year collaboration between NDRI and four Indigenous community controlled health services. The project, which is funded through the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) aims to develop, pilot and disseminate cannabis intervention protocols for Indigenous primary health care settings.

Restor(y)ing Aboriginal parenting: development and evaluation of a culturally relevant program to support Aboriginal parents promoting their children's behavioural and social competence and readiness for school learning
NDRI staff: Ted Wilkes
Project partners: Curtin University
Funded by: NHMRC
The Restor(y)ing Aboriginal Parenting Project involves the development and evaluation of a culturally relevant program for Aboriginal parents of young children. It aims to address the intergenerational effects of past policies of forced separation of children on the cultural and social transmission of parenting knowledge and skills. It seeks to restore identification with culture, promote parental confidence, knowledge and child rearing skills and enhance resilience in Aboriginal children.

Randomised controlled trial of an intensive smoking cessation intervention in Kimberley Aboriginal PHC settings
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray
Project partners: Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; Cairns Base Hospital; Rural Clinical School of WA (UWA); Derby Aboriginal Health Service; Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council
Funded by: NHMRC
Aboriginal people smoke at much higher rates than non-Aboriginal people and smoking is an important contributor to increased disease, hospital admissions and deaths in Aboriginal populations. Quit smoking programs in Australia have not had the same impact on Aboriginal smokers as on non-Aboriginal smokers and Aboriginal people are twice as likely to smoke as non-Aboriginal people. It is important that improved techniques for assisting Aboriginal people to quit be developed and implemented as part of comprehensive strategies to improve Aboriginal health. A range of strategies have been used to encourage Aboriginal people to quit smoking however there have been few good quality studies that show what approaches work best. More evidence of strategies that could work more widely in Aboriginal PHC settings is needed if good policy is to be developed and implemented. This trial will be based in two major Aboriginal health services in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and run over three years. Participants who agree to participate will be randomly allocated to either a program following current Australian recommended primary care smoking cessation strategies or a more intensive supported quit smoking intervention.

Jaru Pirrjirdi suicide prevention project
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggers, Anna Stearne
Funded by: Mt Theo-Yuendumu Substance Misuse Program
This project is an evaluation of the Jaru Pirrjirdi Project, which is a part of the Mt Theo-Yuendumu Substance Misuse Program (MYSMAC). The Jaru Pirrjirdi Project serves as a significant mechanism for the empowerment of young adults aged 17-25 within Yuendumu community. The project aims to develop them as young community leaders, in turn preventing suicide and substance misuse, especially petrol sniffing. The evaluation will measure and evaluate the processes and the overall effectiveness of the program model.

Ongoing Projects

Enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Steve Allsop, Sherry Saggers, Ted Wilkes, Violet Bacon
Project partners: Centre for Social Research, ECU; QUADREC
Funded by: AGDHA
This project is currently in the second stage of a three-stage program, being managed by NDRI, and aimed at enhancing the access of Indigenous Australians to quality treatment for alcohol-related problems. In stage 1, five independent research projects were commissioned:
- Evaluating the management of alcohol-related problems among urban Aboriginal People in Western Australia: using an action research approach to enhance service delivery and collaboration for client care.
  - Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service; Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service; Centre for International Health, Curtin University of Technology.

See Appendix 1 (page 36) for full list of research projects
• Multidisciplinary, self management rehabilitation care plans and case management to improve alcohol treatment for Aboriginal people in Alice Springs. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress; James Cook University; University of Sydney; University of Queensland.

• “Where’s your country?” “Who are your people?” Asking the right questions when treating problematic alcohol use amongst Indigenous Australians. Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, University of NSW; National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University; Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Medical Service.

• The integration of brief intervention into Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in five rural communities in NSW. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; Rural Clinical School, University of NSW; Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service; Armajun Aboriginal Health Service; University of Queensland; University of Newcastle.

• A community based brief intervention: increasing access to the full range of treatment services for alcohol problems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Sydney South West Area Health Service.

These projects are being undertaken in stage 2 of the program over a 15 month period. In stage 3 a set of recommendations based on the results of the projects will be prepared and a plan developed for their implementation.

Identifying areas of greatest need in Indigenous substance misuse intervention

NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne, Jennifer Dodd, Michael Doyle, Mandy Wilson
Funded by: NIDAC
The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) – a sub-committee of the Australian National Council on Drugs – was established to provide high level advice on the most appropriate and effective approaches to addressing Indigenous drug and alcohol issues. To facilitate its role in this area, NIDAC commissioned this project aimed at providing an in-depth report on:

• current alcohol and other drug services for Indigenous Australians;

• funding of current alcohol and other drug services for Indigenous Australians;

• the appropriateness of current services and funding for them; and,

• the identification and assessment of unmet needs.

Completed Projects

Analysis of Indigenous child deaths
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggers, Dennis Gray and Ted Wilkes
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: WA Child Death Review Committee
See box.

Analysis of Indigenous child deaths

Media reports have highlighted shocking cases of child neglect in non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities, and governments across Australia are exploring the effectiveness of service responses to these and other cases. A research team from NDRI and Edith Cowan University was contracted to undertake a group analysis of Indigenous child deaths where chronic neglect was present.

The analysis of 22 Indigenous child deaths revealed that all of the children who died were living in families with multiple risk factors, such as alcohol and other drug dependence, family violence, homelessness, mental health problems and financial hardship.

It was found that the service system response to these cases of neglect was inadequate, mostly because of a focus on family centred practice that minimised potential cumulative harms for children and the proper assessment of their needs and wellbeing. In particular, while service workers recommended harm minimising drinking strategies to parents to protect children during drinking episodes, there was insufficient attention paid to the cumulative effects of substance dependence on parenting. In what has been called the ‘start-again’ syndrome, single instances of neglect, rather than long-terms patterns of neglect, were highlighted by workers. The absence of proper risk assessments in many cases, ad hoc case management record keeping, and inadequate interagency coordination and referrals were also noted.

The research team’s recommendations for safer practices include recognition of the risk factors for neglect, the provision of targeted support such as treatment for substance dependence, routine child impact assessment, and an increased emphasis on early intervention through ‘shared care’ arrangements between families, statutory authorities, Indigenous child care agencies and communities. Strengths-based, family-focused practices must have children’s wellbeing at their core. It is acknowledged that the DCP’s current reform agenda for field service delivery, Indigenous engagement, whole of government partnerships and corporate support systems provides a more robust framework to address the concerns highlighted by this research.

The report, Group Analysis of Aboriginal Child Death Review Cases is available on the NDRI website: ndri.curtin.edu.au.
Research Activities

Key Priority 3
Preventing the spread of blood-borne viruses and other harm among injecting drug users

New Projects

Comparative research of Chinese and Australian approaches to illicit drug use and HIV prevention
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tony Butler
Project leaders: Centre for International Health
Funded by: AusAID Australian Leadership Awards
The goal of this program is to enable research and leadership capacity building for a leading researcher in a region with a high prevalence of HIV in China (Professor Yang, Lijun, Yunnan Province). The broad activities include course work, training workshops, conferences, research seminars, regular mentorships with leading experts on drug research and interviews with relevant policy makers, police force and clinicians in Australia. Whilst the Chinese Government has made significant progress in implementing methadone substitution programs in registered drug users, it faces other challenges in developing this service to all illicit drug users. The issue of how Australian research and practice in drug and HIV prevention may be useful for China should be addressed. A particular focus will be on Australian multi-level approaches to reduce HIV transmission and practical strategies to reduce risks associated with injecting behaviours. The expected outcomes include policy (legal and clinical) and research recommendations for HIV prevention in China. The program will facilitate and enhance exchanges between Australia and China in research, practice and policy.

Completed Projects

A review of hepatitis C in Australia
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: AGDHA
This project comprised a review of the current literature relating to the prevention of hepatitis C transmission among injecting drug users. It included a review of the world epidemiology and patterns of hepatitis C infection and looked at various strategies by which the control of this epidemic in Australia has been attempted. The review explores the possibility of alternative prevention strategies and makes recommendations for the future of hepatitis C prevention in Australia.

National prison entrants’ bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey 2007
NDRI staff: Tony Butler, Cerissa Papanastasiou
Project partners: NCHECR, UNSW
Funded by: Part funded by DCS, WA
See box.

National prison entrants’ bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey 2007

The National Prison Entrants’ Bloodborne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey Report 2004 & 2007 was launched in September at the 20th Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) Conference in Perth. The report is unique as it provides ongoing national surveillance on the prevalence of blood-borne viruses amongst the prison population in Australia. Monitoring these viruses among prisoners is important as many are unaware they are infected and possibly contributing to their transmission. Routine screening strategies for blood-borne viruses vary across Australia in terms of both their scope and coverage.

The survey took place over a two week period in October 2007 and included 740 prison entrants at 17 reception prisons across Australia. Findings from the national survey showed that the prevalence of hepatitis C among prison entrants was highest in NSW with 42% and lowest in WA (21%). Women prisoners were more likely to have hepatitis C than men. Prisoners are underserved with regard to treatment for hepatitis C infection - a population that would benefit from a comprehensive prison-based treatment programme. The incidence of hepatitis B remains elevated at just under 30% nationally. This population is at greater risk of hepatitis B infection as many people showed no evidence of immunity against hepatitis B when screened for the virus, showing that more could be done to vaccinate this population against infectious diseases such as hepatitis B. The prevalence of HIV was low at less than 1% in all states, and for both sexes.

Amphetamines were the most frequently reported drug last injected by prison entrants and tobacco smoking was highlighted as being at epidemic proportions in this population - around 90% of prisoners surveyed reported that they currently smoked tobacco.

Incarceration is an important, but underutilised, public health opportunity to initiate health interventions amongst this highly marginalised population group.

The report is available on the NDRI website: ndri.curtin.edu.au.
Research Activities

Key Priority 4

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

New Projects

Development of a national needle and syringe program strategic framework
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project leaders: CHR, Burnet Institute; NCHECR
Funded by: DHS, Victoria

In this project, NDRI will form a consortium with the Centre for Harm Reduction at the Burnet Institute and the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR). Together these centres represent a partnership which traverses diverse policy and research expertise and geographic territory. The consortium provides previous experience developing national strategies, expertise in NSP service delivery both in Australia and internationally and drug and alcohol, HIV and HCV qualitative and quantitative research. It will establish a strategic framework for the NSP sector that can be mutually supported and achieved across all of Australia’s states and territories.

Data analysis reporting and dissemination of two sub-studies from the evaluation of the cannabis infringement notice scheme
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Jessica George
Funded by: UNSW

This project entails conducting data analysis, writing reports and refereed journal articles, and giving conference presentations and other briefings for policy makers locally, nationally and internationally on two sub-studies from the Western Australian evaluation of the cannabis infringement notice (CIN) scheme. The first substudy of regular cannabis users examines pre-post qualitative and quantitative interview data from a sample of regular cannabis users. It explores the impact of the CIN scheme on patterns of drug use and acquisition, drug market effects, sale of hydroponic equipment, drug driving, and knowledge and attitudes towards the law. The second substudy of school students examines pre-post quantitative self completion survey data of year 9 and 12 secondary school students. 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.

Development of the national amphetamine-type stimulant strategy

In 2006, the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) agreed that there was a need to develop a National Amphetamine-Type Stimulant (ATS) Strategy to coordinate efforts to reduce the harms of amphetamine and other dangerous psychostimulants (ATS). ATS is now recognised as a major illicit drug issue within Australia, with the production and use of ATS posing significant health risks to users, illicit manufacturers, the general community and first responders attending clandestine laboratories. All jurisdictions have already instigated initiatives to target drugs such as crystal methamphetamine or ‘ice’ as well as ‘speed’. This new national approach will take jurisdictional efforts to the next level.

The National Drug Research Institute, and in particular its director, Professor Steve Allsop, was asked to lead development of the strategy, working in partnership with Dr Toni Makkai of the Australian Institute of Criminology in Canberra.

As part of the process, a program of national consultation was embarked upon. Consultation forums were held in each Australian state and territory between March and June of 2007 (15 forums were held in total). In addition, targeted consultation forums were held with consumer groups, youth, Indigenous people/groups and 13 key organisations and individuals. Written submissions were also received.

The strategy was presented to the MCDS in May 2008 and endorsed. It encompasses a comprehensive approach to addressing problems associated with the use of amphetamine-type stimulants, with a range of actions recommended under each of the National Drug Strategy priorities – prevention, reduction of supply, reduction of drug use and related harms, improved access to quality treatment, the development of the workforce, organisations and systems, and strengthened partnerships.


See Appendix 2 (page 42) for list of abbreviations
Research Activities

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

Ongoing Projects

Training of health staff for the implementation of the Smoke Free WA health system policy
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Richard Midford, Owen Carter, Clare Stevens
Funded by: WAHD
The implementation of the Smoke Free WA Health System Policy requires staff to be trained in using evidence based screening tools and the delivery of sound advice on the use of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) with the support of resources to assist patients accessing health services to consider their tobacco use and make informed decisions about the management of their nicotine dependence. Staff are being trained in the delivery of sound NRT advice that will provide them with the confidence to address the issue of NRT use and assist patients in making decisions on the management of their nicotine withdrawal. Staff will have the capacity to monitor the efficacy of the NRT prescribed and assess the level of nicotine dependence and evidence of withdrawal. Staff will have the capacity to provide brief intervention advice to assist patients who wish to remain abstinent after discharge. Staff will be able to encourage patients not willing to remain abstinent on discharge to consider quitting in the future.

Completed Projects

Development of the draft national amphetamine-type stimulant strategy
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Simon Lenton, Jessica George
Project partners: AIC
Funded by: AGDHA
See box on previous page.

Global Cannabis Commission Report - chapter on the impacts of cannabis policy reforms within the current drug control regime
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton
Funded by: Beckley Foundation (UK)
See box.

Reforming global cannabis policy

Despite cannabis being the most widely used illegal drug, and therefore the mainstay of the ‘war on drugs’, it has only ever held a relatively marginal position in international drug policy discussions. In recognition of this, the Beckley Foundation, a UK charitable trust, convened the ‘global cannabis commission’ - a team of some of the world’s leading drug policy analysts - to prepare an overview of the latest scientific evidence surrounding cannabis and the policies that control its use. The team comprised: Robin Room, University of Melbourne and Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre; Peter Reuter, University of Maryland; Benedikt Fischer, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver; Wayne Hall, University of Queensland; and Simon Lenton of NDRI.

The global cannabis commission’s report, Cannabis policy - moving beyond stalemate, was published in September 2008 and launched in October 2008 at a two-day symposium on the report’s findings and implications held at the House of Lords in London. It received extensive coverage in the UK and international media, including the New Scientist.

The report reviewed the issues which need to be considered by policymakers in developing more effective cannabis policies that minimise the harms associated with its use and the laws which control it. It addressed four major topics relevant to a reconsideration of cannabis policies: (1) An up-to-the-minute review of what is known about the health consequences of cannabis use and its public health significance; (2) A thorough assessment of the costs and consequences of cannabis use and its prohibition at a societal level; (3) A critical analysis of the successes and shortcomings of the different strategies adopted around the world to control cannabis use; (4) A consideration of how the international regulations that determine national drug policies might be reformed to allow countries a greater degree of flexibility in adopting policies which better reflect their own individual circumstances.

Among other things the report aimed to bring cannabis to the attention of policymakers and also provide them with the relevant facts to inform their decisions in the context of the March 2009 United Nations Strategic Drug Policy Review in Vienna, which reviewed the international drug conventions. It is also hoped that the report will prove useful in policy discussions concerning cannabis, as a blueprint for governments seeking to reform their cannabis policies, and will promote a wider discussion of these issues amongst the general public.

The report, which is under consideration to be republished as a book by Oxford University Press, is available at www.beckleyfoundation.org.
Research Activities

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

New Projects

Cochrane collaboration review of workplace AOD programs
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Richard Midford, Rina Cercarelli
Project partners: NCETA
This project involves a Cochrane systematic review of workplace interventions for alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems in the workplace. Alcohol and other drugs can have a significant impact on workplaces. They can result in a loss of productivity from absenteeism, poor decision making, and increased morbidity. Given the potential risks involved with AOD use in the workplace, this systematic review will examine the effectiveness of workplace interventions for AOD problems. Specifically, the review will examine the effectiveness of health promotion, information and education, drug testing, employee assistance programs, workplace controls, and other forms of interventions (such as contingency management interventions).

School drug education evaluation tools project
NDRI staff: Richard Midford
Project partners: Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne; CYDS, ADF
Funded by: DEECD, Victoria
This is a pilot project designed to develop and test an evidence-based, school drug prevention intervention that comprises classroom and parent-assisted homework components. The project is being carried out in collaboration with the Youth Research Centre at the University of Melbourne and the Centre for Youth Drug Studies at the ADF. The work will be carried out over two years in four Victorian government high schools. The intervention will recruit a cohort of students who commenced year eight in 2008. The formative research and initial pilot follow up intervention with the same group in 2009. The intention is that this project forms the basis for the future development of a comprehensive evidence-based drug education program.

Ongoing Projects

Continuing dissemination of the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride
Funded by: AGDHA
See box.

New Projects

International dissemination of the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Clare Stevens
Funded by: AGDHA
See box.

School health and alcohol harm reduction project (SHAHRP)

The School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) is world first research assessing the impact of an alcohol harm reduction program in secondary school, rather than the most widely used goal in alcohol education of abstinence. The first phase results (from baseline to final follow-up 32 months later) demonstrated that students who participated in SHAHRP lessons (versus regular alcohol lessons) had 10% greater alcohol related knowledge, consumed 20% less alcohol, were 19.5% less likely to drink to harmful or hazardous levels, experienced 33% less harm associated with their own use of alcohol and 10% less harm associated with other people’s use of alcohol than did the control group.

Given the success of SHAHRP there has been a high level of international and national interest from researchers, policy makers and practitioners. A SHAHRP study website has been developed and provides an overview of the study design, evidence-based features and results. Free copies of the program resources can also be downloaded from the website. There have been many requests for copyright, program advice, and research advice to replicate the program and the research in Australia and other countries.

The International Dissemination of SHAHRP project has identified and developed a database of international agencies and organisations, and the key contacts within each who have a role in policy and practice related to alcohol education. In 2008 SHAHRP researchers developed and published an ‘international bulletin’ which identifies key aspects of the SHAHRP study, program, and evidence base. This electronic bulletin has been sent to all the above database organisations and individuals who requested further information about the SHAHRP study.

For further information about the SHAHRP program visit: ndri.curtin.edu.au.
Research Activities

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

New Projects

Evaluation of pathways to prevention initiatives for children and families in Western Australia
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggers
Project partners: Mission Australia
Funded by: Mission Australia
Mission Australia, one of the largest NGOs in Australia, has designed and delivered an early intervention program for pre-school children and their parents in the northern suburbs of Perth. These programs, based on international research and broader programs delivered in Queensland and elsewhere in Australia, are attempting to ameliorate the effects of socio-economic and other disadvantage on the health (including substance use), educational and social futures of young people. The aim of the research is to work with Mission Australia staff and participants of the program to qualitatively assess the extent to which the program is meeting its objectives (primarily to do with school readiness) in the short term. It will also attempt to identify a standard data recording system which will allow comparisons across programs throughout Australia.

Ongoing Projects

Alcohol use during pregnancy: formative intervention research
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Susan Carruthers
Project partners: TICHR; NDARC
Exposure to alcohol during the prenatal period remains the leading cause of preventable birth defects and developmental problems in Australia and as such has generated increase attention from policy, research and health practitioners. A large proportion of women reduce or stop alcohol use when they find out that they are pregnant, however, there is a proportion of women who continue to drink in moderation, and an additional group who continue to drink at risky levels while pregnant. The Alcohol Use During Pregnancy – Formative Intervention Research Study is an explorative, descriptive study using both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study is designed to assess factors that contribute to alcohol consumption during pregnancy, and to identify potential intervention strategies to reduce alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The study targets pregnant women who attend public hospitals in Perth and who are in their second or third trimester of pregnancy. Participants have identified themselves as current alcohol drinkers, 18 years of age or older, and who have English as their primary language.

Over a 14 month period between October 2006 and December 2007, 144 self-completion surveys were returned to the study researchers. Surveys assessed: the demographics of women who consume alcohol during pregnancy; their pregnancy history/ies; past and current alcohol consumption; and a series of questions to assist in identifying context and issues related to alcohol use during pregnancy which will assist in identifying potential intervention targets and strategies. This initial analysis of study data provides some insights into intervention targets, components and strategies that may be useful to guide future interventions aiming to reduce alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The next phase of the analysis will assess the relationship between dependant and independent variables as well as data specific on subgroups within the study, and will further assist in defining and directing intervention planning.

Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP)
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Sherry Saggers, Fredrik Welander, Andrea Schineanu
Project partners: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Funded by: AERF
KAAP is a three-and-a-half year, whole-of-community initiative that seeks to prevent problematic alcohol use and remediate associated harm in a community that historically has had high levels of both. The project, which is a partnership between NDRI and the City of Kalgoorlie/Boulder, is implementing an integrated range of local intervention strategies that have been derived from sound research evidence. The project is simultaneously conducting a range of early intervention, coalition building, media marketing, community education, skills training, enforcement and high risk group programs that address the individual, social and structural determinants of alcohol consumption and harm at the community level.

For further information about the Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project visit: ndri.curtin.edu.au.
Research Activities

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

New Projects

Impact of low and moderate alcohol use during pregnancy: human/animal studies
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride
Funded by: Curtin Health Sciences ICRP Program
Australia’s alcohol guidelines in relation to alcohol use during pregnancy have generated critical comment from several professional and lobby groups concerned with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in children of women who consumed low to moderate amounts of alcohol during pregnancy. However, there are legitimate concerns about adopting a more stringent policy, such as causing maternal guilt, providing limited guidance for women who continue to drink while pregnant, and the current paucity in clinical evidence guiding a policy of no use. The aims of this project include:

- Assessment of animal and human studies that support or dispute that low or moderate intake of alcohol during preconception, pregnancy or breastfeeding can lead to negative outcomes for pregnancy or infant and childhood health.
- Assessment of dose response and timing/pattern of alcohol use during prenatal period on pregnancy and health outcomes.

The methodology involves identifying experts in the field and snowballing initial contacts to seek out experts worldwide who are able to contribute to our level of knowledge of this issue.

Impact of parental substance use on infant development and family functioning
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: 2008 UNSW Goldstar Award
This study aims to identify substance use patterns in a cohort of pregnant women and their partners during the prenatal period and the characteristics associated with substance use. Next the study aims to examine the relationship of maternal and paternal substance use with pregnancy outcomes for mothers and their infants. Finally, the study aims to determine the extent to which substance use in pregnant women and their partners predict problems in: (a) infant development and (b) family functioning. Funding for a pilot study of 60 women and their partners was received from a UNSW Goldstar award for a near-miss NHMRC Project Grant application in 2007.

Ongoing Projects

Alcohol and other drug use at school leaver celebrations in Western Australia
PhD student: Tina Lam
PhD supervisors: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: NDRI scholarship
Many large events have expectations of risky alcohol and other drug use associated with them. Specifically, this project will focus on school leavers' celebrations (or "schoolies"). Many young people, who may not use alcohol and other drugs regularly, may choose to use them on "special occasions" such as large events. This study will examine the role of the large event context in facilitating as well as regulating alcohol and other drug use. Also, whether there are harms associated with this alcohol and other drug use, young peoples’ perceptions of these harms, and novel and existing harm minimisation ideas will be explored.

Mortality among opioid dependent persons in pharmacotherapy
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: NDARC; NCHECR
Funded by: NHMRC
The aims of the project are: to quantify and compare the mortality rate, particularly from suicide and drug-overdose, among prisoners on opioid substitution treatment (OST) with that in prisoners who are not in the treatment program; to determine if the risk of death from suicide and drug overdose in the immediate post-release period is lower for those on OST while in prison, and those who continue in treatment after release, compared with those prisoners who are not on OST treatment in prison; and to determine whether prisoners are more likely to leave treatment than others on OST once they are released from prison into the community.

Review of alcohol and prostate cancer
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Richard Pascal, Tim Stockwell, Kaye Fillmore
Project partners: University of California, USA; CARBC, University of Victoria, Canada
Funded by: AGDHA
The relationship between alcohol and the development of prostate cancer is uncertain. Research study results have been mixed and most past reviewers have concluded no association. This study includes a comprehensive literature review and meta-analysis of the published literature on alcohol and prostate cancer with particular emphasis on outcomes as they relate to study design and methodology. The literature review and meta-analyses have been completed and the study will be published as an invited paper in the journal of Molecular Nutrition and Food Research in 2009.
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

Under construction: the social and cultural politics of hepatitis C in Australia
NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: Centre for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, Monash University; National Centre for HIV Social Research, UNSW
Funded by: ARC

Hepatitis C is a relatively newly identified but heavily stigmatised disease. The key aim of this project is to investigate the ways in which this disease is being constituted medically, socially and culturally in Australia in order to develop insights into how it might be confronted both medically and socially without further stigmatising those affected by it.

The project will make a major contribution to knowledge about the social and cultural aspects of the prevention of hepatitis C, its management and treatment, and the lived experience of affected individuals. Its aim is to understand better how hepatitis C is conceptualised in Australia and how this informs the clinical encounter, the design and delivery of treatment, and the medical response to chronic symptoms. It will also shed light on how individuals understand and cope with their illness, how they view transmission prevention, and what strategies they use to manage their own health.

Understanding the barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine users in health services
NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: National Centre in Epidemiology & Population Health, ANU; Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health Research, Burnet Institute
Funded by: NHMRC

This research aims to map the social contexts and epidemiology of methamphetamine use, related harms and health service utilisation/provision amongst street-based injecting drug users; to integrate these diverse data to better understand the barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine injectors in specialist drug treatment and other health services; to make recommendations for appropriate interventions; and to further develop and supply an enhanced ethno-epidemiology framework to the Australian context.

Ongoing Projects

Improving understanding of psychostimulant related harm in Australia: An integrated ethno-epidemiological approach
NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: Monash Institute for Health Services Research; National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research; National Centre in Epidemiology & Population Health; National Development & Research Institutes, USA
Funded by: NHMRC

This research project aims to provide greater understanding of the individual, social and cultural factors associated with psychostimulant-related harms through an innovative combination and integration of anthropological and epidemiological approaches known as ‘ethno-epidemiology’. In order to access a diverse range of psychostimulant-using contexts, research is focusing on three urban sites: street-based drug users in Sydney, club drug users in Melbourne and home-based, recreational drug users in Perth. These groups were chosen because they have high prevalences of psychostimulant use. The ethnographic research is being conducted by three PhD students: Rachael Green (Perth), Suzie Hudson (Sydney), and Christine Siokou (Melbourne). The aims of the project are to:

1. determine the cultural meanings and social contexts of psychostimulant use in three social networks of young people: (i) street-based injectors (Sydney); (ii) club drug users (Melbourne); and (iii) home-based recreational drug users (Perth);
2. investigate the epidemiology of psychostimulant use and related harms in these social networks;
3. integrate social, cultural and epidemiological data in order to identify the dynamics of the three drug markets in which network members participate and how these dynamics affect specific harms associated with psychostimulant use (eg, risk of blood-borne virus transmission, violence);
4. recommend possible interventions for the prevention of psychostimulant-related harms based on improved understanding of the interaction of market dynamics and social networks.

The research project will provide important data that will inform future interventions, improve multidisciplinary models for drug research, and build Australia’s capacity to conduct cutting-edge public health research.

See Appendix 1 (page 36) for full list of research 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

Although there is clear epidemiological evidence of alcohol-related harm among young adults, there has been little qualitative research on their specific drinking practices. This project seeks to fill a ‘gap’ in the understanding of alcohol-related harm and related risk behaviours by employing a structured ethnographic perspective. It focuses on the effect of setting, values, social relationships and practices on alcohol consumption, but employs a grounded, ‘insider’ approach to understanding these aspects.

The research examines alcohol consumption among young adults (aged 18-24 years) with particular focus on binge drinking and related risk behaviours. It employs a structured ethnographic approach to documenting the social meanings of alcohol consumption amongst six discrete social networks of young adults in three types of recreational settings. The specific aims of the research project are to:

- describe the cultural meanings and social contexts of alcohol use among young adults in recreational settings;
- compare and contrast alcohol use across three types of recreational venue – nightclubs, hotels and private parties;
- understand the specific circumstances in which binge drinking and related risk behaviours occur;
- investigate the impact of social networks and life transitions on young adults’ use of alcohol.

In gaining in-depth, systematic data on young adults’ consumption practices, the findings of the research project will inform the design of prevention policies designed to discourage binge drinking and alcohol-related risk behaviours. The translation of research findings into practical recommendations for intervention strategies will be the major focus of the final project report produced from the study.

Completed Projects

Working with homeless people who use drugs

NDRI staff: Jeremy Northcote, Steve Allsop, Zaza Lyons
Project partners: St Bartholomew’s House, Perth, Ted Noffs Foundation
Funded by: ANCD

The aim of this project was to assess the extent and nature of alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems among homeless persons in Australia to develop guidelines for assessing, managing, and engaging with people who are homeless and have AOD problems.

Working with advisors from the Ted Noffs Foundation and St Bartholomew’s House, the project team of Dr Jeremy Northcote, Zaza Lyons and Professor Steve Allsop devised a set of guidelines and information resources to link homeless services to up-to-date information and advice. The project involved the development of a national website to disseminate the information, which was designed by Starkis Design in Canberra under the direction of the project team.

The Homeless Information Portal was launched on 31 October 2008 by the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) in Sydney. Speakers at the event included Dr John Herron, Professor Margaret Hamilton and Professor Ian Webster, and the launch received national media coverage. The portal has its own dedicated website, which features a national directory of drug and alcohol related services and information on symptoms to help with the identification of use.

According to project leader Dr Jeremy Northcote, the website goes beyond other information portals by offering guidelines for frontline workers and organisations in dealing with drug and alcohol issues. The guidelines include step-by-step procedures for dealing with different types of clients, such as young people and Indigenous clients, and with various situations such as psychiatric emergencies and violent situations. The other area the team focussed on was developing advice for frontline services in improving their capacity to deal with drug and alcohol issues, such as how to apply for funding, building partnerships with other organisations and developing staff competency. It’s not just about providing the right information to services, but improving their capacity to put that information to good use,” said Dr Northcote.

The guidelines were developed from the results of an extensive consultation process with homeless service workers and clients from both metropolitan and rural areas around Australia and with assistance from the Drug and Alcohol Office, Western Australia.

The website can be viewed at www.hip.org.au.

See Appendix 2 (page 42) for list of abbreviations
completed phd projects

alcohol consumption, smoking and lifestyle characteristics for japanese patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
phd student: fumi hirayama
phd supervisor: colin binns and andy lee
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

ongoing phd projects

a case control study of lifestyle factors in the aetiology of ovarian cancer
phd student: dada su
phd supervisor: colin binns

alcohol and smoking in breastfeeding
phd student: roslyn giglia
phd supervisor: colin binns
funded by: aerf, agdha and nhmrc scholarship

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 bc)
phd supervisors: david moore and jean shoveller, mark tyndall (university of bc, canada)

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

new phd projects

hepatitis c and its treatment in australian custodial settings
phd student: james fetherston
phd supervisors: tony butler, susan carruthers, matthew law
funded by: agdha

health inequalities and chronic disease: the experience of disease of disadvantaged people living with type 2 diabetes in an urban community in perth, western australia
phd student: beatriz cuesta briand
phd supervisors: sherry saggers and alexandra mcmanus (curtin university)
funded by: curtin university scholarship

see appendix 1 (page 36) for full list of research projects
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
Robert Donovan, PhD(WAust)
Dennis Gray, BA MA(WAust), MPH PhD(Hawaii) (Deputy Director)
Peter Howat, DipTchg(Chch) DPE(Otago) PhD(III)
Andy Lee, MMath(Wat), PhDBioStats(ANU)
Sherry Saggars, BA(WAust), MA(Hawaii), PhD(Brown)

**Associate Professors**
Tony Butler, BSc(Hons), MSc(London), MSc InfoTech(Kingston), DipAppEp, PhD(UNSW)
Simon Lenton, BPsych, MPsych(Clin)(WAust), PhD(Curtin) (Deputy Director)
Bruce Maycock, MED(WAust), GradDipBus(ECowan)
Richard Midford, BA BPsych PhD(WAust), MPsych(Tas)
David Moore, BA(Hons) MA PhD(WAust)
Edward Wilkes, BA(Curtin)

**Senior Research Fellows**
Julia Butt, BSc(Hons)(WAust), PhD(Qu)
Owen Carter, BPsych(WAust), DPsych(Murd), BA(Ancient History)(WAust)
Jany Chikritzhs, BA(Hons)(Murd), GradDipEpidBioStats PhD(Curtin)
Nyanda McBride, DipTeach BEd(WACAE), PGradDipHlthProm MPH PhD(Curtin)

**Research Fellows**
Susan Carruthers, BAppSc, GradDipDiet, MPH, PhD(Curtin)
Jennifer Dodd, BA(Hons)(ECowan), PhD(Murd)
Ed Garrison, MEd(CalifState), BA(Harpur)
Jocelyn Grace, BSc(Hons)(WAust), PhD(Murd)
Geoffrey Jalleh, MPH(WAust)
Jeremy Northcote, BA(Hons)(Curtin), PhD(Murd)
Andreia Schineanu, BSc, PostGradDipBioSci
Fredrik Welander, BSc(MidSweden)
Mandy Wilson, BA(WAust), BA(Hons)(WAust), PhD(WAust)

**Senior Research Officer**
Paul Catalano, BSc(Hons)(WAust), MCrImJus(WAust), MA(Qu)

**Research Associates**
Michael Doyle
Meredith Green, BSc(Hons)(Curtin), PhD(Curtin)
Natalie Ord
Cerissa Papanastasiou, BHSc(Hons)(ECowan)
Jessica George, BA (Hons)(Murd)
Richard Pascal, BSc(Hons)(Curtin)
Candice Rainsford, BA(ECowan)
Laura Santana, BA(ECowan)Anna Stearne, BA(ECowan), DipEd(WAust)
Claire Stevens, BSc(Hons)(WAust)

**Research Officer**
Katie Frances

**PhD Students**
Monica Barratt
Beatriz Cuesta Briand
Robyn Dwyer
James Fetherston
Roslyn Giglia
Rachael Green
Fumi Hirayama
Tina Lam
Amy Pennay
Christine Siotou
Nicola Thomson
Dada Su
Celia Wilkinson

**Adjunct Professors**
Kaye Middleton Fillmore, BA, MA, PhD(Rutgers)
Kate Graham, CertT BA MA(SFraser), PhD(WOnt)
Tim Stockwell, MA(Hons)(Oxf), MSc(Sur), PhD(Lond)

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

**Adjunct Associate Professor**
Peter d’Abbs, BA(Hons)(Melb), MA(Exe), PhD(Melt)
Wendy Luxley, CertTch(Rhodesia), BA(Hons)(WAust), GradDipPsych(WAIT), MPsych PhD(Curtin)

**Adjunct Senior Research Fellows**
Neil Donnelly, BA(NSW), MA(Syd)
Richard Fordham, BA(Hons)(YorkUK), PhD(WAust)

**Adjunct Research Fellows**
Violet Bacon, BSW MHC(Curtin)
Richard Chenhall

**Business Services Staff**
Fran Davis, Business Manager
Maggie Halls, Resource Officer
Jo Hawkins, Clerical Officer
Paul Jones, Computer Systems Officer
Rachael Lobo, Communications Officer
Jennifer Low, Clerical Officer
Jillian Evans, Clerical Officer
Patricia Niklasson, Secretary/Admin Assistant
Vic Rechichi, Communications Officer
Pauline Taylor-Perkins, Administrative Officer
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 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 conferences, symposia, workshops, seminars and forums. NDRI also 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 at 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.

In 2008, the provision of expert comment and evidence based research further enhanced NDRI’s efforts to disseminate its research findings widely and to inform and participate in alcohol and other drug policy development in Australia.

NDRI received more than 800 mentions in the media during 2008. Much of the media interest revolved around alcohol, including issues about alcohol taxation, binge drinking and alcohol-related violence. However NDRI research and expert comment appeared in electronic and print media on a diverse range of subjects relating to legal and illegal drug use, including homeless youth, workplace drug testing, mental health, hepatitis and prisoner health.

A media highlight of 2008 was Prime Minister Kevin Rudd referring to NDRI’s work on the highest rating morning radio program in Melbourne, citing the 2004 “prevention monograph” report as establishing beyond doubt that increasing the price of alcohol leads to a reduction in alcohol consumption and related problems.
Monographs and Technical Reports


Published Articles, Chapters and Books


Publications (continued)


Dissemination Activities

Presentations

Conference Presentations


Drugs and Public Health: Australian perspectives on policy and practice

A new book edited by NDRI’s Associate Professor David Moore and Paul Dietze, Principle Research Fellow at the Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research, Burnet Institute and Associate Professor at Monash Institute for Health Services Research, was launched in 2008.

Published by Oxford University Press, Australian and NZ, Drugs and Public Health focuses on two key areas: an overview of existing practice responses to alcohol and other drug use, and the identification of emerging innovations in practice.

The book studies the theory, evidence and context of existing and emerging alcohol and other drug practice and aims to provide material that can be used in vocational and professional education, refresher training and the documentation and evaluation of best practice. The book:

- Includes case studies giving examples of innovative practices and how to convert learning into practice.
- Covers a wide range of drug types (alcohol, tobacco, heroin, ‘party drugs’), populations (youth, Indigenous Australians, injecting drug users) and areas of practice (prevention, harm reduction, community development, treatment, law enforcement).
- Considers the contexts – social, cultural, political, legal, and economic – that need to be addressed in innovative alcohol and other drug practice.
- Situates local alcohol and other drug practice and contexts in relation to national and international developments.
Presentations (continued)


Symposium Presentations


Workshop Presentations


Seminar Presentations


**Tackling co-occurring drug and mental health problems**

*Drug Use and Mental Health: Effective responses to co-occurring drug and alcohol problems*, edited by NDRI Director Professor Steve Allsop, was published in 2008. Launching the book at a NDRI seminar in Perth on 23 September, together with one of the book’s contributors, Curtin’s Dr Ali Marsh, Professor Allsop called for improvements to existing service systems to enable the identification and management of co-occurring disorders in a more integrated way that meets the needs of affected people.

Prof Allsop said that people who are drug dependent experience a high prevalence of mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression, and suicide risk is increased among this group. Also, drug use is much more common among those with mental health problems than in the broader community.

However, although people with serious co-occurring drug and mental health problems tend to access health services more frequently than individuals affected by a drug problem or mental health disorder in isolation, they are more impaired, experience more disability and have poorer treatment outcomes, in addition to contributing to higher health and other costs in the community. This is mainly because historically mental health staff have not been trained to respond to drug problems, and drug treatment staff have been ill-prepared to respond to mental health problems. Prof Allsop added that, while some of the recent initiatives that better equip both mental health and drug specific services to respond effectively should be welcomed, there is still a significant challenge.

The book, published by IP Communications, introduces the reader to the issues, and encourages consideration of the evidence about the nature and prevalence of co-occurring disorders and the challenges they create for individuals, the community and service providers. A diverse range of expertise of contributors provides the opportunity to consider the challenges of navigating the various systems of care from the perspective of consumers, parents and clinicians. Researchers and clinicians examine the available evidence about the links between the various disorders and discuss the implications for treatment through a series of case studies, and the reader is guided through evidence-based clinical decision-making.


Forum Presentations


Meeting Presentations


Dissemination Activities

NDRI Seminar Series

NDRI Seminar Series 2008
The National Drug Research Institute hosts regular events as part of its Seminar Series. These seminars serve several purposes. They provide NDRI staff with an avenue to disseminate research findings; they help build the presentation skills of early career researchers; and they provide a forum for NDRI staff and others in the alcohol and drug field to hear from visiting researchers.

The NDRI Seminar Series program is available on the NDRI website at ndri.curtin.edu.au.

14 March 2008
Drugs and Crime: Tapping into the AIC
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Toni Makkai, Australian Institute of Criminology

4 April 2008
The more things change…Do they stay the same?
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Wendy Loxley, NDRI

10 April 2008
‘We are quite good at looking after each other when we’ve been drinking’: Alcohol, risk and harm reduction among young people in Perth
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Jocelyn Grace and Jeremy Northcote, NDRI

12 May 2008
Break free: Reducing smoking in prisons
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Tony Butler, NDRI and Robyn Richmond, University of New South Wales

24 June 2008
“I’m trying to get somewhere like everyone else is on this good earth”: Experiences of young people attending AOD treatment services in Perth
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Mandy Wilson and Sherry Saggars, NDRI

7 July 2008
A NAIDOC Week Event: Indigenous Australian Research Seminar
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggars, Ted Wilkes and Anna Stearne, NDRI

17 July 2008
Universal web-based alcohol screening and brief intervention for university students: a randomised controlled trial
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Jonathan Hallett, WA Centre for Health Promotion Research

7 August 2008
Drugs and violence: Toxicology and circumstances of death of homicide victims
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Shane Darke, National Alcohol and Drug Research Centre

23 September 2008
Effective responses to co-occurring drug and mental health problems
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Steve Allsop, NDRI, and Ali Marsh, Curtin University of Technology
(See page 29)

16 October 2008
Information evening for 2009 Honours and Masters students
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Simon Lenton, Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggars, Susan Carruthers, James Fetherston, Tanya Chikritzhs and Tina Lam, NDRI

20 October 2008
Cannabis potency and contamination
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Wendy Swift, National Alcohol and Drug Research Centre

27 October 2008
“Just Dexies”: Recreational use of dexamphetamine in a social network of young people in Perth, Western Australia
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Rachael Green, NDRI

18 November 2008
Extending drug ethno-epidemiology using agent-based modelling
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
David Moore, NDRI, and Anne Dray, Australian National University

2 December 2008
Taxation and price controls: the Holy Grail of alcohol policy?
NDRI Seminar Room, NDRI, Perth
Tim Stockwell, Centre for Addictions Research of BC, Canada
The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing provided $2,431,215 to the Institute’s core funding for the period January to December 2008. Details of income and expenditure follow.

### National Drug Research Institute Core Income and Expenditure 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>$</th>
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<td>Research Contributions</td>
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<td>RDI and DEST PhD Income</td>
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<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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<td>Surplus BF from December 2007</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Operating costs</td>
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<td>Capital Costs</td>
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<td>PhD Scholarships</td>
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<td>Surplus at 31 December 2008</td>
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<td>Add Reserves</td>
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**Total funds available at 31 December 2008**  $706,462
## National Competitive Grants and Tenders

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Total grant approved for project</th>
<th>Grant received in 2008</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illicit drug reporting system (IDRS)</td>
<td>NDLERF via NDARC</td>
<td>$378,428</td>
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<td>Ecstasy and related drugs reporting system (EDRS)</td>
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<td>$282,061</td>
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<td>Policing implications of petrol sniffing and inhalant misuse in Aboriginal communities</td>
<td>NDLERF</td>
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<td>Research into alcohol outlet density and related harm</td>
<td>NDLERF</td>
<td>$58,481</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>
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<td>Understanding the barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine users in health services</td>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>$756,850</td>
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<td>Building Indigenous research workforce capacity</td>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>$179,780</td>
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<td>Concurrent alcohol and party drug use (PhD Scholarship)</td>
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<td>$99,993</td>
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<td>Kalgoorlie alcohol action project (KAAP)</td>
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<td>Multi-site investigation of the social meanings of alcohol misuse among young adults in recreational settings</td>
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<td>Review of restrictions on the sale and supply of alcohol in Australia and Western Australia</td>
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<td>Working with homeless people who use drugs</td>
<td>ANCD</td>
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<td>Identifying areas of greatest need in indigenous substance misuse intervention</td>
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<td><strong>$4,098,278</strong></td>
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## State Competitive Grants and Tenders

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<th>Total grant approved for project</th>
<th>Grant received in 2008</th>
<th>Expenditure in 2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MHRIF Round 11 Award - Simon Lenton</td>
<td>WAHD</td>
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<td>MHRIF Round 11 Award - Ethnographic research</td>
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<td>NIRIS Award 2007 - Tony Butter</td>
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<td>Training of health staff for the implementation of the smoke free WA health system policy</td>
<td>WAHD</td>
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<td>Review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community controlled alcohol and other drugs sector</td>
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<td>Indigenous alcohol and other drug misuse and harm service provision</td>
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See Appendix 2 (page 42) for list of abbreviations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<td>attitudes, deterrent effects and knowledge - phase 2</td>
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<td>Alcohol sales data collection project</td>
<td>AGDHA via DAO</td>
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<td>Research into factors associated with young people’s risky alcohol use,</td>
<td>OCY &amp; OCP</td>
<td>$95,376</td>
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<td>particularly in relation to large private and public events - PhD scholarship</td>
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<td>Development of key performance indicators for local government in</td>
<td>Fairfield &amp; Brisbane Councils</td>
<td>$66,538</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>National prison entrants bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey 2007</td>
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<td>Indigenous child death review</td>
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<tr>
<td>families in WA</td>
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<td>$12,000</td>
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<td>School drug education evaluation tools project</td>
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<td>pharmacotherapy treatment service</td>
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<td>Seeding project to develop prison specific smoking reduction group</td>
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<tr>
<td>program</td>
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<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cannabis intervention</td>
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<td>evaluation of cannabis infringement notice scheme</td>
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<td>SRG 2008 social determinants of health framework</td>
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<td>PhD allocation 2008 - infrastructure</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Summary of NDRI Funding in 2008

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Funding</th>
<th>Grant Received</th>
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<td>Core funding (AGDHA)</td>
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<td>National competitive grants</td>
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<td>State competitive grants</td>
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<td>Other grants and tenders</td>
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<td><strong>Total funding received in 2008</strong></td>
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### Sources of Research Grants Received in 2008

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<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Grant Received</th>
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<td>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation</td>
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<td>Australian National Council on Drugs</td>
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<td>Curtin University of Technology</td>
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<td>Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Child Protection, Western Australia</td>
<td>$37,758</td>
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<td>Department of Education, Early Childhood Development, Victoria</td>
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<td>Drug and Alcohol Office, Western Australia</td>
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<td>Drug and Alcohol Services, South Australia</td>
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<td>National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund</td>
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<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<td>Department of Justice, Victoria</td>
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<td>Kimberley Community Drug Services Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Australia</td>
<td>$19,027</td>
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<td>Mount Theo Substance Misuse Association</td>
<td>$23,576</td>
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<td>National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW</td>
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<td>Queensland Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Health Service</td>
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<td>Turning Point</td>
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<td>University of New South Wales</td>
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<td>Western Australian Health Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total additional research grants received</strong></td>
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</table>

See Appendix 2 (page 42) for list of abbreviations
Appendix 1
Full list of research projects

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

NEW PROJECTS
An investigation of the nature, extent and effects of point-of-sale promotions for alcohol beverages
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs, Clare Stevens
Project leaders: Wollongong University; Centre for Social and Health Outcomes Research & Evaluation (SHORE), Massey University
Other partners: Cancer Council Victoria
Funded by: ARC

Benchmarking and identifying new and existing key performance indicators for the SA Alcohol Action Plan
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: (DASSA) SAHS

Development of aetiological fractions for emergency departments
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Steve Allsop
Funded by: AGDHA via DAO

National collection of wholesale alcohol sales data
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Steve Allsop
Funded by: AGDHA via DAO

ONGOING PROJECTS
Developing a national minimum dataset for prisoners’ health
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Funded by: AIHW

Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Jessica George, Candice Rainsford
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: AGDHA via NDARC

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

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

Indigenous National Alcohol Indicators Project (INAIP)
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Dennis Gray, Richard Pascal
Funded by: AGDHA

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

NAIP component study: analysis of trends in drinking patterns 1983-2004
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: Turning Point; Dept of Public Health, University of Melbourne
Funded by: AGDHA

NDSHS 2004 drinking prevalence study
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Paul Catalano
Project partners: CARBC, University of Victoria, Canada
Funded by: CARBC, University of Victoria, Canada

Nutritional information labelling for alcoholic beverages
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: Turning Point

Prevalence and cost of alcohol-caused hospital admissions in rural NSW
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: AERF

The range and magnitude of alcohol’s harm to others
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Steve Allsop
Project partners: Turning Point
Funded by: AERF

COMPLETED PROJECTS
Alcohol outlet density and related harm (phase 1)
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs
Project partners: WAHD, WA Police
Funded by: NDLERF

DUMA research into drug use and offending
NDRI staff: Wendy Loxley
Project partners: AIC
Funded by: AIC

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

NEW PROJECTS
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cannabis intervention
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Julia Butt, Steve Allsop
Project partners: Indigenous community controlled health services
Funded by: NCPIC

Jaru Pirnirdi suicide prevention project
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggars, Anna Stearne
Funded by: Mt Theo Yuendumu Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation
Mt Theo Enhancing Capacity Management project (Mt Theo Palka-Jarrija Project)
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggers, Anna Stearne
Funded by: Mt Theo Yuendumu Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation

Randomised controlled trial of an intensive smoking cessation intervention in Kimberley Aboriginal PHC settings
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray
Project partners: Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; Cairns Base Hospital; Rural Clinical School of WA (UWA); Derby Aboriginal Health Service; Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council
Funded by: NHMRC

Restoring Aboriginal parenting: development and evaluation of a culturally relevant program to support Aboriginal parents promoting their children's behavioural and social competence and readiness for school learning
NDRI staff: Ted Wilkes
Project partners: Curtin University of Technology
Funded by: NHMRC

ONGOING PROJECTS

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

Bibliographic database on Indigenous Australian alcohol and other drug use
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers, Anna Stearne, Michael Doyle
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: AGDHA

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

Development of Tangentyere Council Research Hub
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers, Anna Stearne
Project partners: Tangentyere Council; Centre for Remote Health (Flinders University & Charles Darwin University)
Funded by: AGDHA

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

Enhancing the management of alcohol-related problems among Indigenous Australians - Stage 2 and 3
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Steve Allsop, Sherry Saggers, Ted Wilkes
Project partners: CSR, ECU; QUADREC, University of Qld
Funding: AGDHA

Evaluation of the ‘Makin Tracks’ 2 project
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne
Project partners: ADAC (SA)
Funded by: AGDHA and ADAC (SA)

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

Identifying areas of greatest need in Indigenous substance misuse intervention
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne, Jennifer Dodd, Michael Doyle, Mandy Wilson
Funded by: National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee

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

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

Review of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled alcohol and other drugs sector in Queensland
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers, Ted Wilkes
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council

The role of resiliency in responding to blood borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities
NDRI staff: Ted Wilkes
Funded by: NHMRC

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Analysis of Indigenous child death review cases
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Sherry Saggers, Ted Wilkes
Project partners: CSR, ECU
Funded by: Department of Child Protection

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

Indigenous alcohol and other drug misuse and harm service provision
NDRI staff: Dennis Gray, Anna Stearne
Funded by: WANADA
Appendix 1
Full list of research projects (continued)

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

NEW PROJECTS
Comparative research of Chinese and Australian approaches to illicit drug use and HIV prevention
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Tony Butler
Project leaders: Centre for International Health, Curtin
Funded by: AusAID Australian Leadership Awards

Hepatitis C and its treatment in Australian custodial settings (PhD project)
PhD student: James Fetherston
PhD supervisors: Tony Butler, Susan Carruthers, Matthew Law
Funded by: AGDHA

Strengthening China’s response to HIV, TB and HIV/TB co-infection in labour camps (lao jiao suo) in Guangxi Autonomous Region: developing a prevention model to inform national policy
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: UNSW School of Public Health, National Center for AIDS/STD Control & Prevention, Beijing
Funded by: AusAID

ONGOING PROJECTS
MY-Peer project
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Project partners: WA Centre for Health Promotion Research, School of Psychology, and Centre for Developmental Health, Curtin University of Technology
Funded by: Healthway

WA Prisoner Health Survey
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: ECU
Funded by: ECU

COMPLETED PROJECTS
An investigation of pharmaceutical drug misuse and harms among drug treatment clients in Victoria, Tasmania, West Australia and Queensland
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Project partners: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
Funded by: Ministerial Council on Drugs

A review of hepatitis C in Australia
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: AGDHA

Hepatitis C in magazines aimed at youth
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers
Funded by: AGDHA

National prison entrants' bloodborne virus and risk behaviour survey 2007
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: NCHECR, UNSW
Funded by: Part funded by DCS WA, DCS Qld, DCS NSW, DCS Vic

Outcome evaluation of the Department of Corrective Services Prison Pharmacotherapy Program
NDRI staff: Susan Carruthers, Jocelyn Grace
Funded by: DCS, WA

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

NEW PROJECTS
Data analysis reporting and dissemination of two substudies from the evaluation of the cannabis infringement notice scheme
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Jessica George
Funded by: UNSW

Development of a National Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) strategic framework
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: CHR, Burnet Institute; NCHECR
Funded by: DHS, Victoria

ONGOING PROJECTS
A longitudinal study of pharmacological smoking cessation aids efficacy in real-life settings
NDRI staff: Rob Donovan, Owen Carter
Funded by: NHMRC

Book on prevention policy in relation to alcohol and other drugs
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop

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

Identifying elements of alcohol TV advertising that predict advertising impact on under-age youth
NDRI staff: Rob Donovan, Owen Carter
Funded by: Healthway
Multivariate analysis of Cannabis Infringement Notice data
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: NDRI

Training of health staff for the implementation of the smoke free WA health system policy
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Richard Midford, Owen Carter, Clare Stevens
Funded by: HDWA

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)
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

WA CIN scheme cannabis evaluation - phase 2 (sub-study 2, regular users study)
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: DAO and NDRI

WA CIN scheme cannabis evaluation - phase 2 (sub-study 7, evaluation in schools)
NDRI staff: Simon Lenton, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: DAO and NDRI

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

NEW PROJECTS

Cochrane collaboration review of workplace AOD programs
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop, Richard Midford, Rina Cercarelli
Project partners: NCETA
Funded by: AGDHA

International dissemination of the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Clare Stevens

School drug education evaluation tools project
NDRI staff: Richard Midford
Project partners: Youth Research Centre, Uni of Melbourne, Centre for Youth Drug Studies, ADF
Funded by: DEECD, Victoria

ONGOING PROJECTS

Continuing dissemination of the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride

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

NEW PROJECTS

Evaluation of pathways to prevention initiatives for children and families in Western Australia
NDRI staff: Sherry Saggars
Project partners: Mission Australia
Funded by: Mission Australia

Seeding project to develop a prison specific smoking reduction program
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: DCS, WA
Funded by: DCS, WA
Appendix 1
Full list of research projects (continued)

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

Alcohol consumption by women in Australia; changes with pregnancy and 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 study
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride, Susan Carruthers
Project partners: TICHR; NDARC

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

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

Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project (KAAP)
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Sherry Saggers, Fredrik Welander, Andreia Schineanu
Project partners: City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Funded by: AERF

People with mental health disorders and cognitive disability in the criminal justice system (ARC linkage project)
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: UNSW
Funded by: Australian Research Council

The influence of fathers on infant feeding practices in Western Australia (FIFA-WA)
NDRI staff: Colin Binns, Peter Howat, Bruce Maycock
Funded by: Healthway

COMPLETED PROJECTS
Development of key performance indicators for local governments in Australia: Achievements on drugs and alcohol action and community safety (KPI)
NDRI staff: Richard Midford, Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs, Rina Cercarelli
Funded by: National Local Govt Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee

Long term evaluation of Liquor Licensing Restrictions in Port Hedland
NDRI staff: Richard Midford
Funded by: Health Department of WA

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

NEW PROJECTS
Impact of low and moderate alcohol use during pregnancy: human/animal studies
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride
Funded by: Curtin Health Sciences ICRP Program

Impact of parental substance use on infant development and family functioning
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC
Funded by: 2008 UNSW Goldstar Award

ONGOING PROJECTS
Impact of low and moderate alcohol use during pregnancy: human/animal studies
NDRI staff: Nyanda McBride
PhD student: Tina Lam
PhD supervisors: Steve Allsop, Tanya Chikritzhs
Funded by: OCY, OCP

An examination of cannabis contamination and potency in Australia
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC; Chemistry Centre WA
Funded by: NDARC

Does moderate drinking prevent heart disease? A meta-analysis
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Tim Stockwell, Kaye Fillmore
Project partners: University of California, San Francisco, USA; Alcohol Research Group, Berkeley, USA; CARBC, University of Victoria, Canada
Funded by: AERF

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

Mortality among opioid dependent persons in pharmacotherapy
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Project partners: NDARC; NCHECR
Funded by: NHMRC

Reducing impulsive behaviour in repeat violent offenders using a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Funded by: NSW Health

Review and meta-analysis of alcohol and prostate cancer
NDRI staff: Tanya Chikritzhs, Tim Stockwell, Kaye Fillmore
Project partners: University of California, San Francisco, US; CARBC, University of Victoria, Canada
Funded by: AGDHA
Secondary analysis of the relationship between cannabis use, dependence, mental health and associated outcomes in the Victorian Adolescent Cohort study
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop
Project partners: NDARC, Centre for Adolescent Health
Funded by: NDARC

Sexual Health & Attitudes of Australian Prisoners Survey
NDRI staff: Tony Butler
Funded by: NDARC

THRIVE (tertiary health research intervention via email) online alcohol intervention
NDRI staff: Peter Howat, Bruce Maycock
Funded by: Healthway

Tobacco capacity building scholarship
NDRI staff: Rob Donovan, Owen Carter
Funded by: Healthway

**COMPLETED PROJECTS**

Alcohol consumption, smoking and lifestyle characteristics for Japanese patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (PhD project)
PhD student: Fumi Hirayama
PhD supervisor: Collin Binns

Drug use and mental health book
NDRI staff: Steve Allsop

**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**

Under construction: the social and cultural politics of hepatitis C in Australia
NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: Centre for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, Monash University; NCHSR, UNSW
Funded by: ARC

Understanding the barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine users in health services
NDRI staff: David Moore
Project partners: NCEPH, ANU; CEPHR, Burnet Institute
Funded by: NHMRC

**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

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 (Uni BC)

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

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 (Uni of Melbourne)
Funded by: NDRI scholarship

The ethnography 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 ethnography 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 ethnography 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, Simon Lenton
Funded by: AERF scholarship

**COMPLETED PROJECTS**

Working with homeless people who use drugs
NDRI staff: Jeremy Northcote, Zaza Lyons, Steve Allsop
Project partners: St Bartholomew’s House, Perth; Ted Noffs Foundation
Funded by: ANCD
## Appendix 2

### List of abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAC (SA)</td>
<td>Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (South Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AERF</td>
<td>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGDHA</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIC</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Criminology</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIHW</td>
<td>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANCD</td>
<td>Australian National Council on Drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANU</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APSAD</td>
<td>Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARC</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASHM</td>
<td>Australasian Society for HIV Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATS</td>
<td>Amphetamine-type stimulant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARBC</td>
<td>Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHR</td>
<td>Centre for Health Research, Burnet Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIN</td>
<td>Cannabis infringement notice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSRGS</td>
<td>Curtin Strategic Research Grant Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSR, ECU</td>
<td>Centre for Social Research, Edith Cowan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUCRH</td>
<td>Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASA</td>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Services Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAO (WA)</td>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Office of Western Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCP (WA)</td>
<td>Department for Child Protection, Western Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS, Qld</td>
<td>Department of Corrective Services, Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCS, WA</td>
<td>Department of Corrective Services, Western Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD, Victoria</td>
<td>Department for Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEST</td>
<td>Department of Education, Science and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DHS, Victoria</td>
<td>Department of Human Services, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>DJ VIC</td>
<td>Department of Justice, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU</td>
<td>Edith Cowan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDRS</td>
<td>Ecstasy and related Drugs Reporting System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH, NSW</td>
<td>Justice Health, New South Wales</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDRS</td>
<td>Illicit Drugs Reporting System</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAAP</td>
<td>Kalgoorlie Alcohol Action Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCDS</td>
<td>Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIP</td>
<td>(Indigenous) National Alcohol Indicators Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCETA</td>
<td>National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction</td>
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</tbody>
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Published Articles, Chapters and Books

Dissemination Activities Continued
Publications like this or below as Subhead 1

New Projects
Project title
NDRI Staff:
Project Partners:
Funded by:
Body text

Ongoing Projects
Project title
NDRI Staff:
Project Partners:
Funded by:
Body text

Completed Projects
Project title
NDRI Staff:
Project Partners:
Funded by:
Body text

Key Priority 1: xxxxxxx