

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Health:

Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation

- 1. Communities would like to provide Alcohol and Drug rehabilitation on country. Please advise if this is happening anywhere?**

A Therapeutic Respite Service is in development on the Tiwi Islands in consultation with Tiwi people and members of the Alcohol Reference Groups (Bathurst Island and Melville Island). Tiwi people identified the need for an 'on Country' AOD Respite Service to ensure Tiwi people had access to culturally appropriate alcohol treatment services.

The proposed model is based on principles of harm minimisation focusing on:

- Physically, mentally, culturally and spiritually recovering from the effects of Alcohol and Drugs
- To strengthen/re-connect families to support one another in reflection and healing.
- Participate in cultural activities, redevelop healthy living skills, build confidence and pride, learn relapse prevention skills, and access other essential services (eg: financial, medical, housing, rehabilitation).

A pilot project is in development to facilitate two, eight-day camps informed by a localised Tiwi model of Therapeutic Respite.

Negotiations are also underway with Miwatj Health to deliver a Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) and Mental Health and Substance Use service for children and young people in the East Arnhem Region. Some elements of the proposed model include brokerage funding to enable the use of outstations and homelands for cultural connection and respite purposes.

Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment support will be a component of the Groote Archipelago Local Decision making Agreement Implementation Plan.

Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation operate the 20 bed Mt Theo Youth Rehabilitation service for residential rehabilitation for young people aged 12-25 years.

2. Many communities would like to bring people home from towns and assist them to deal with their addictions on country. What is being done to facilitate this process?

Alcohol Action Initiatives (AAIs) are community driven projects aimed at developing local solutions and practical actions to reduce alcohol related harms in remote Northern Territory Aboriginal communities. The purpose of AAIs is to provide short term funding that supports practical action in remote Aboriginal communities to minimise harm caused by the consumption of alcohol through community driven demand and harm reduction strategies.

There are currently 285 AAI projects approved for implementation in remote Aboriginal communities:

Region	Communities with AAIs
Arnhem	Gunbalanya, Yirrkala, Maningrida, Kakadu, Groote Eylandt, Nhulunbuy, Jabiru
Barkly	Elliott, Ali Curung, Tennant Creek, Alpurrurulum, Ti Tree, Barkly Town Camps
Central	Titjikala, Yuendumu, Mt Nancy, Laramba, Alice Springs, Ntaria, Yuelumu, Atitjere (Harts Range), Alice Springs Town Camps
Katherine	Ngukurr, Lajamanu, Kalkarindji, Borroloola, Jilkminggan, Wugularr, Barunga, Manyallaluk, Binjari and Katherine Town Camps
Tiwi Islands	Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti, Wurrumiyanga, Wurrankuwu
Daly	Belyuen, Peppimenarti, Palumpa, Wadeye, Naiyu, Wudikapildyerr

Some examples specific to healing from alcohol use include:

1. Men's Health and Alcohol Awareness Week in Wadeye – Health promotion and increasing 'help seeking' behaviours. AOD sessions engaged 100 men.
2. Jilkminggan Healing Centre – Construction of an Alcohol Free Healing Centre providing an alcohol-free space for residents.
3. Tiwi Islands Youth AOD Think Tank – supporting young people with advocacy and project management skills through the development of youth-driven harm minimisation initiatives/activities
4. Pirlangimpi Men's Cultural Healing Activities – ongoing mixture of hunting, spear making and art that promotes men's health and AOD education.
5. Palumpa Women's Dilly Bag and Healing Project – older ladies sharing culture with younger ladies through the teaching of dilly bag making, and bush food gathering. Discussions throughout the activities included relationships, AOD harm minimisation and parenting.
6. Belyuen Traditional Camps – bush camps that focus on cultural strength and the transfer of traditional knowledge.

7. Peppimenarti Men's Bark Harvesting Art Project – collecting and preparing bark for artworks, whilst yarning about AOD, health & wellbeing.

3. What is in the 2019/20 budget for this purpose?

A total of \$1.203 Million has been allocated to Alcohol Action Initiatives (AAIs) 2019-20 across the NT.