



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

13th Assembly

Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours

Terms of Reference

1. That a Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours be appointed comprising three (3) Government Members, one (1) Opposition Member and one (1) independent Member to be nominated in writing to the Speaker by the relevant Whip or non-party aligned Member by 18 May 2018
 - (1) Best practice, humanitarian approaches that effectively reduce the damage caused by illicit drug-use through effective harm reduction policies and legislation; and
 - (2) Identify best practice strategies that have a coordinated treatment approach to deal with the broad-range of addictive behaviours; including, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco and gambling.
2. That the Inquiry is established in the May Sittings 2018 and is to provide an interim report by 12 March 2019, and finally report back to the Assembly by 31 August 2019.

Proposed scope of Inquiry:

The Inquiry is to review the available evidence regarding effective harm reduction strategies used to address health problems associated with illicit drug-use and other addictive behaviours and, also, strategies for reducing the impact of these behaviours on families and the broader community.

The proposed Inquiry will look at:

1. The current scale and trends of illicit drug-use in the Territory and its impacts upon health, justice, drug and alcohol and law enforcement activities;
2. Current harm reduction measures available in the Northern Territory and other jurisdictions and their alignment with the National Drug Strategy;
3. A review of best practice evidence in the following areas to support the development of a revised harm reduction framework for the Northern Territory:
 - (1) Medical response and ongoing treatment,
 - (2) Health interventions such as:
 - i. Needle and syringe programs;
 - ii. Medically supervised injecting facilities; and
 - iii. Pill testing.
 - (3) The adoption of culturally relevant health and education interventions;
 - (4) Police and criminal justice responses to drug-related offending;
 - (5) Police and court diversion programs;
 - (6) Drug driving programs;
 - (7) Public awareness campaigns, including school-based education; and
 - (8) Support for affected families and communities.
4. Effective strategies for coordination across treatment facilities to also provide for addictive behaviours more broadly.

Resolved by the Legislative Assembly on 10 May 2018 and amended on 14 February 2019.