

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

Membership:

Ms M Scrymgour MLA (Chairperson)

Dr C Burns MLA

Ms S J Carter MLA

Dr R S H Lim MLA

Mr E McAdam MLA

Mr G Wood MLA

COMMITTEE BRIEFING

Tape-Checked Verbatim

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2 October 2002

Milikapiti

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CHAIR: And then I'll just introduce all the members, and then you can introduce yourselves.

I now open this meeting of the Select Committee on Substance Abuse in the Community and welcome Mary Elizabeth Maureen from the Milikapiti Community and Kevin Doolan from CAAPS who are appearing before the committee today in relation to substance abuse.

The meeting is not open to the public, however it is being recorded and the tapes will be reproduced which may eventually be taped in the legislative assembly; sorry, it is open to the public and we are encouraging to come from the public to come and meet with us today, we will also be going to Milingimbi and hoping that we will havepublic talk to us there.

Please advise if you want any part of your evidence to be in camera, and that is if you feel it is too sensitive, and you don't want to record it, tell us and we will make sure that it is not recorded and open to the public. The decision regarding this will be at the discretion of the committee, and you are reminded that evidence given to the committee is protected by parliamentary privilege.

For the purposes of the Hansard record. Will you simply state your full name and the capacity in which you appear today and repeat your name each time you speak. And that is just so that we can get the recording you know me I don't need to tell you who I am, and I'll ask all the other members of the committee to

Dr LIM: I'm Richard Lim, I'm from Alice Springs,person, there for 21 years, I've been here two times before, and my training is, I'm a doctor. So I'm interested in the substances used and.....

Mr WOOD: I'm Gerry Wood, I'm from Howard Springs, I used to work out this way in Nguiu for quite a while, and I was the Council Clerk and used to run the vegetable garden, do all the park and gardens, I have an interest in this area from a fair way back, especially as two of my daughters were born on Nguiu, so..

Ms CARTER: My name is Sue Carter, I'm the member for Port Darwin, which is the inner city area of Darwin. I'm a nurse by trade and also a health promotion officer, and have a long interest in substance abuse.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: And I must record the other two members of this committee who are now.....Elliot McAdam who is the member for Barkly, and Dr Chris Burns who is the member for Johnson. So both of them I need tounable to travel. So Kevin I invite you and Mary Elizabeth to may be, if you just want to give the committee a brief background on your job and the work that you do.

Look, before I, sorry, I'll introduce Annie Hancock who is the Committee Secretary, and Elizabeth Farnham, the good staff that put up with us and do all our travel and.....and also Ilene Cummings whose department agreed for her to come and be an observer only on this trip. Ilene also does the Indigenous Family Violence strategy.

Mary Elizabeth Maureen: I am Mary Elizabeth Maureen, I live in Milikapiti all my life. I used to be ...with Michael Webber on community alcohol, and coordinator of drug and alcohol.

My job is drug and alcohol coordinator, of Milikapiti. I'm alsocommunity alcohol.

Kevin DOOLAN: My name is Kevin Doolan, and I'm currently the training coordinator with CAAPS in Darwin. I've been there for about 7 nearly 8 years now, as training coordinator, prior to that I was actually working here at Milikapiti, as town clerk for 12 years, and I lived in Milikapiti in the late 60s as well. So I've got close ties with Tiwi people. Actually, my visit today and tomorrow is to work with Mary Elizabeth in trying to set up alcohol and drug infrastructure with support here in Milikapiti. There is a bit of money that the Tiwi Health Board has got from DEET in town and that enables myself to come out and this is my fourth visit to try and sit down and see what people want to do in that area,

and we are talking about substance issues and so it is a coincidence that this select committee meeting is on as well and we are very privileged to be able to attend. Thank you.

CHAIR: Do any members want to ask either Mary Elizabeth or Kevin a question to start off, or would you like to may be just go into some of it. We'll just go through and do a little description, I mean, give us some idea ofof the problem, and we are talking about just substance misuse? I mean to what extent does it affect Milikapiti?

Mary Elizabeth: Well I have been living here in Milikapiti for so many years, and it is really rare that people drinks or take away.....

We used to have a night patrol, and now.....and I used to be the council on night patrol, the ladies used to night patrol, stop the violence, but now it isthere is nobody doing that job.

So may be in the night we now have minimum of one, two o'clock in the morning there is still fighting, and we have got no car. I walked at night to go to stop people from fighting. In the morning I just come and report to the office.if I don't get support or help from the council, I ring the police, 'cos I get help from the police.

I have a little office the council made me over there at the library, but settling area here, where there is police, office then my office here. You won't build it.

Madam CHAIR: When people go to that house, they can buy beer and they can also take beer away?

Mary Elizabeth: They've got Monday, drinking, Tuesday, take away. I don't usually go to the club but I give message. Monday drinking, but Tuesday take beer in to K....any empty can, like lemonade. There's nobody there watching them what they do. How many time I been to report this to police. Take away, they only take away, that's what they are doing. Since.....we see them every two or three, four days. That's where the money goes, not to children.children at the school, some do and some don't, that is not their fault and

Ms CARTER: Why did the night patrol stop?

Mary Elizabeth: I don't know. Too hard to answer your question. Only want a man working like that. We had four ladies on that, aboriginal ladies I think, but we need that back up man. We need

Madam CHAIR?: Who stopped it?

Mary Elizabeth: I don't know, may bethe clerk

Ms CARTER: From the council? The council stopped it?

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, I don't know, I actually believed it was some other council member.

Ms CARTER: May be that is something we can ask the council.

Dr LIM: Mary Elizabeth when you go out at night to check out and to help, are you walking around publicly?

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, I with children.

Dr LIM: You are with children, but no other adults come and help you?

Mary Elizabeth: Only my children, I have five daughters they are

Dr LIM: So you are doing this while it is

Mary Elizabeth: I do that because I love the people. I don't want the mothers to give it there....That's why I want to do it.

Dr LIM: So theand can't stop the violence, you yourself get personally injured or threatened by the people.

Mary Elizabeth: I've been threatened time and places, but I leave it to next day, when the persons stops. That's the time to talk to people like that, not when they are drunk, but when they saw some sense. They've been fighting us two weeks ago, and I ran from the club and stopped a young boy not to hurt his sister, then he turned around, he said 'who you talking to?' and I said, 'you come and see me tomorrow when you are sober'. So there's a truck load came into my place, and I told him.

Ms CARTER: ?

Mary Elizabeth: Everybody needed to say or wanted to apologise to, and he apologise to me, what he said, 'you know what you did wrong thing? Youwith this lady. Got to open head' and his family was there,I went and stood with C....la so she wanted me to hurt the police aide, so even the council not supporting.

All the violence come out when they drink.

Dr LIM: So is alcohol the biggest problem? Or are there any other drugs thatpeople?

Mary Elizabeth: Marijuana.

Dr LIM: So of they, alcohol and marijuana, which is first. Alcohol?

Mary Elizabeth: Alcohol is worse.

Dr LIM: And how much marijuana? Everybody use marijuana?

Mary Elizabeth: Only a few. A few may be, young people, that smoke, under age kids, they smoke.

Dr LIM: Do they cause problems?

Mary Elizabeth: I've been (glad) to say to every girl, I don't drink, I don't smoke. I need help, from somewhere for this.

Mr WOOD: Is there any men that don't drink?

Mary Elizabeth: No.

Mr WOOD: Is there any men that have tried to give up drinking?

Kevin Doohan: Yes some do, some try.

Mr WOOD: You think they are back.....

Kevin Doohan: Pressure and temptation.

Mary Elizabeth: When they go to CAAPS, they go six weeks at treatment centre in Darwin, recovery,they come back, there's a temptation. People laugh at them when they come home.

Mr WOOD: I know that.

Mary Elizabeth: They are trying and we are trying to help them.

Mr WOOD: It's a while since I've been back here, is there any outstations at all that are dry or any outstations at all where some of these people could go?

Mary Elizabeth: I'm related to gurupa Outstation. Our country, I want to try to ask him if canpaper that I

Mr DOOHAN: They are trying to develop a formwork to Bathurst Island. That's getting a little bit of support from CAAPS and its sister organisation AAFR, but it is a really slow process and it has a lack of support and basically in this areahas no support, the only people that are helping with intervention, is Mary and her family, most other people are either directly or indirectly affected. Some very heavily, through people drinking and smoking ganja.

Dr LIM: You've got a health centre here?

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah. Health Centre yeah.

Dr LIM: And does the health centre help at all in alcohol prevention in any way?

Mr DOOHAN: I think they are too busy in treating people that are sick.

Mary Elizabeth: Day and night, they work, you know. The alcohol is their work day and night.people, speak to people, send them to Darwin.

Mr WOOD: Theythemselves all the time?

Ms CARTER: Why do you think people drink so much?

Mary Elizabeth: They reckon they.....They've given up.....

Mr WOOD: Is there a problem with people recognising within themselves that alcohol is a problem. Do they understand it is a problem, or they just don't care?

Mary Elizabeth: Some people understand. Some people don't.

Mr DOOHAN: It's a big shame job.

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah.

Mr DOOHAN: It's a big shame job and

Ms CARTER: What's a big shame job?

Mr DOOHAN: Well, saying that your can't drink sensibly or normally. It just so happens that some people, doesn't mean everyone here for example, but some people do become addicted to alcohol. If they don't, in fact, become addicted to alcohol, it is the most destructive of all the drugs. It breaks families apart, itparents and children against each other. Last night here, for example, there was another fight.....you see, it is a lot of temptation for people to continue with drinking, because that is the relief,

TAPE 3 js

Last night here for example there was another fight, andyou see, and it is a lot of temptation for people to continue with drinking, because that is the relief, people are, of course I'm not talking about Milikapiti alone, but in general terms, people who are drinking and addicted to alcohol, drink to much, do the stuff that we all hear about and read about, wake up in the morning sick, very sick, because of that addiction and because of that guilt, so what they are doing is trying to find some release and the release is going back and drinking again. So the cycle continues on.

So it is a difficult area to get into, because there is a lot of shame and there is a lot of denial.

Dr LIM: The shame job is because you cannot handle alcohol, but is it a shame job not to drink? I haven't drunk for over 30 years. My questionsame thing..... I come from

overseas, but then I decided one day, I'm not going drink any more, and for a long time people said, come on youand I said, no I don't drink, and then after a while people accepted that, so now.....Is it a shame job not to drink, not because you are not handling the alcohol, but you don't want to?

Mr DOOHAN: Well, it is a very scary thinking that are going that way, as Mary said, who doesn't drink, and who isn't affected also by ganja, and I've got to be careful because I can't talk directly about Milikapiti, I don't live here any more, I've got.....ties here, so the thing is, there is very little support at the community level. If people come in to train here to do treatment in CAAPS, and they are sober for a long time for that whole period, and then go back, and people are laughing at them, you know. Come back and drink, everyone says.so there is so much temptation, for people to go back and be one of the crowd again. It is a viscous cycle.

David GUY: I want to.....town to set up athat's my bloody town, and I come back and continue doing what I do in town, every time I come back it's like a full stop. There is nothing, no support, no backup support like CAAPS, when they come back it is like a big truck hitting bricks you know. Full stop. There is nothing there continuingprogram...

Madam CHAIR: Can I just introduce David Guy who is an aboriginal health worker in the clinic, and Dianne Griffin, she's the nurse, and they'veI'm the Chairperson, Dr Richard Lim, Gerry Wood and Sue Carter, the parliamentary select committee, there are other two other members aren't here, and are not able to attend, sorry David, thought I'd better just get your names

Mr GUY: Yeah, it's good we send people for help over there, but as soon as they come back, that is another ongoing activity with those, to continue to fund, and those programs at home need support back up as well,there's no support from their families and friends having a good time at that club, and makingnothing for me here to do, well I don't drink, enjoyment,enjoyment of something, but I don't know, I seeclients of CAAPS come back,.....but we need to set up something for them to come back home, here, input something here in the community, saying I'm going to stop.....people I'm going backward.....looking backwards.

Mr WOOD: Is your club connected with the football.....?

Mr GUY: Yes it is.

Mr WOOD: So they want to play sport and the drink and the sport go together here?

Mr GUY: Yes.

Mr WOOD: If there was a place, not far away, I know you mentioned about Karakumi, if there was a place where people could come, and they could go home withoutwould that have any benefits, if it was a place not far away from here, you could come and work during the day here, but may be, if it was a dry community, where those people could live without the pressure.

Mr GUY: Well, I was thinking about making a halfway house, dry areas at my country.....That's a long time from the airport, where the black tank is. I think the last four or five years, and a marker.....I'd have to ask, you know for the support, need to set up a men's group under that Tiwi outpost.....without money from city, and ask those people, do you want to come to a meeting, but most of them come to a meeting they discuss aboriginal men's issues,set up a smaller shedthat's the environment here but we've only got onewe just set a common boundary here to set the foundations, and the concrete and that.

Ms CARTER: Does that group ever talk about alcohol?

Mr GUY: Yeah yeah, talk about everything

Ms CARTER: With regard to alcohol though, what sort of things do they talk about, what do they say?

Mr GUY: Well, alcohol,set up a program for aboriginal who come back. Talk about family and also about families,, marijuana,youth, drunk people, finding a job for them and talking about how those people going to,force them, what we can do for them not to get bad when they get back. A lot of our people come back here and bored.....set up as a group trying to support those people coming out fromor coming out from CAAPS or justits good to support our people here, not just Milikapiti andall over

Dr LIM: Do you ever drink yourself?

Mr GUY: Yeah.

Dr LIM: You are able to say, okay, that's enough, or drink so much, and then you stop.

Mr GUY: I drink light can.

Dr LIM: Light can. Yeah but do you drink until you are drunk, or do you drink two or three cans and think, that's enough for the day? And then, I'll come back another day. Do you stop yourself?

Mr GUY: I limit to myself.

Dr LIM: Yeah, okay, now when you limit yourself, instead of, okay I don't want any more, will you have much pressure from your friends who say, have another one, have another one, have another one?

Mr GUY: No, I take home my beer, I don't drink at the club. That's where you get lot of friends, in that club. So I take away. Plus I only have a little bit, ask me sometimes, give me some money, take my beer so I don't drink it.

Mr WOOD: How many beers a day?

Mr GUY: All depends about money. About 6.

Mr WOOD: So there's no limit, is there?

Mr GUY: Yeah, once they get to us, they're on limits.

Mr WOOD: Oh right, what's the limit for the club?

Mr GUY: Only 6 cans beer each day.

Mr WOOD: You're a health worker, if people consume 6 cans a day, every day bar Sunday is it?

Mr GUY: Saturday.

Mr WOOD: Saturday, do they see a health problem as well? Not so much just a violence problem, but do they see, that if they drink that much beer every day, do they see....

Mr GUY: Well they've got 2 hours drinking hours, so if you've only got two hours, you are going to make people drink more beer, so it would be about time limits, and that's the way I see it, that's where I see problems, drinking inside the club, a long time ago before this, look at three days drinking, two days.....before,

Mr WOOD: What I was probably trying to ask you, is that even 6 cans every day, every day, every day, do people see that as a problem? For help? Or do they think it is alright, doesn't affect them, they think it

Mr GUY: I think there's many reasons why they are cut, they'll have a drink and take it across the street. Like I said, 2 hours and thatmake people, inside the club, drink more beers,

Dr LIM: Drink as much as you can in those two hours?

Mr GUY: Yeah, within two hours, and if you ask me if that isn't a health risk? So I think ittime. I worry about that sometimes, and at night too, the landlord, they takeback home at night, may be 3 00am drunk, and it is pretty hard getting them off, they want to get that.....

Dr LIM: I asked before, what sort of health promotion in alcohol abuse programs do you give them?

TAPE 4

(INAUDIBLE OWING TO BAD RECORDING) GRIFFIN: Probably very limited. Pretty well put out.....and also heart disease.....health promotion.....certainly client consultation you talk through minimising the amount of alcohol a bit about smoking, talk to them about children with asthma and that is quite effective.....other members don't smoke, so all the time when you are asking someone, you are asking if we have any education, but actual programs I think we have very limited. There's also no mental health teams here now due to lack of funding, so that is a real issue for us ..

Ms CARTER: How has that impacted upon this area? And when did it cease?

Ms GRIFFIN: Well I've only been here since March, so I'm still on a huge learning curve, and I'm working with another male nurse who has been here for a few years and very experienced, and he's given me lots of support, so I'm very fortunate there, we share on-call, do one week on, one week off, and by the end of that call, we are pretty well

Ms CARTER: Worn out.

Ms GRIFFIN: We might do three or four nights out of that. By 7 00, usually either you are called out around that period of time, just weave your way down the road through both male and female people, and then quite often you hear noises from town, so its very unsettled. A few weeks ago, we had a hanging, and that was, had a huge impact on the town.

When I first started here, we had a mental health worker, who came from the Tiwi Health Board, but that is no longer the case, I used to find I had a few instances where I really found their support invaluable.

Ms CARTER: In what way?

Ms GRIFFIN: Well, one day, I wassiege to the clinic, there were three incidents going on in town related all to alcohol abuse. At 11 00ish I got called in the previous night, and it was the partner that they were flogging that following night, and I was workingand just in the clinic, because I knew that if I had gone out,his injuries were okay, and I thought about letting him go, but just feared for his safety, so the clinic was virtually seized by the whole town, there were other incidents that followed and in that two days, I did have the help of the mental health worker, who was able to liaise with me.....and be able to minimise the risk to myself and the clinic, and at the same time protect the patient that was injured and basically, in just using those people, going out, talking.....we sort ofthe morning of the whole situation just sort of calmed down. But on our own we're really need to, because we're notwe need knowledge of the language.....so you're not sure what is going on.....part of the history gets really confused.

Dr LIM: Interesting you say that because, were you referring about that you were sheltering the boy that was talked about before, and the whole town, the clinic was sieged.The town wanted the boy because this boy needed, thehad been addressed by the town with the boy? And whether imposing our ground rules to protect the child, or the boy, was the appropriate reaction to the situation or whether it is something thatthe town wanted this boy because there is a

problem, okay? Was this a pay back situation? I don't know, but we are enforcing our own standards and saying this boy has to be protected, whereas we need this community as a community to resolve the issue.

Ms GRIFFIN: There is no way to handle it. There is no safe house.

Madam CHAIR: Do you want, part of giving evidence to this committee is, if the information is sensitive, if you are going to name people, it would be good to advise me that it is going to be sensitive, so those bits of evidence, if you are going to name somebody, that we keep the names not. No if you are going to, I'm just advising you now, that if you are going to issues like that, that you advise the committee and we can not have it recorded on the transcript.

Dr LIM: Because it is a public hearing, I don't think the person needs to be mentioned at all.

Ms GRIFFIN:so advised by them, and that particular person was still.....having neuro obs done.....so I was required to keep him in the clinic, while also organising his transfer out to the RDT. S.....such that he required more information but we werefurther management. I just felt that with that mental health worker then, we were able toa very mild situation, and just liaise with him.....give us somein the community where it just calmed people down.

Ms CARTER: I had heard previously that the budget for mental health is pretty low for the Tiwi Islands and given the number of suicides that are occurring here, I just wonder, wanted to get some feedback as to whether you've felt that having a mental health team helped it all, or whether it was quite reasonable to cut back in that area, and put funds somewhere else?

Ms GRIFFIN: I think it us tragic. I think it is a very necessary part of work out here.

Ms CARTER: Guy, what sort of things did you see the mental health team doing, because you have been here quite a while.

Mr GUY: Certainly I'm here because our people lack competency of our people, they have problems they can't see

Ms CARTER: Aboriginal mental health?

Mr GUY: Aboriginal mental health, yes. Eileen, she was pretty good with our people yeah, because peopletrust her and were able to talk to her about anything else. Which is good, plus take a lot of that away from Dianne or Ted.

Ms CARTER: And say, for example, Eileen, was she from Milikapiti, or was she from somewhere else?

Mr GUY: No. She got taken away, but she grew up in

Ms CARTER: Round this area.

Mr GUY: Yeah.

Ms CARTER: But she is working somewhere else now is she?

Mr GUY: No she's at emergency.

Madam CHAIR: With the mental health if I could just clarify something, there were mental health workers here, and very good mental health workers here, because I know thatwas mental health worker here twice and there was mental health workers in nearly all of the communities over here

TAPE 5

Unfortunately it was the Tiwi Health board that made the decision that mental health, mental health programs had to be cut. Unfortunately, one of the most important programs that got cut, because the mental health scheme actually did decrease the suicide that was happening, because there was.....suicide, there was the Memenek coronial inquiry, that that team actually decreased a lot of the suicides over 18 years,.....

So it is a huge problem, and it is something that needs, and sure, funding, what the Tiwi Health Board gets, there is still inadequate funding in terms of that program, but certainly the board are the ones that made that decision, I just thought I'd have that clarified.

Mr WOOD: I suppose we are looking at the results of alcohol abuse or misuse, I'm just wondering, how many people are on CDEP. Everybody that can't work are on CDEP?

Mr GUY: Oh yeah.....

Mr WOOD: But some people don't. They still receive their unemployment benefit?

Mr GUY: Yeah, there are no

Mr WOOD: The CDEP concerns me, I just, when I worked on Nguiu, we didn't have CDEP, everybody worked, because there was enough money and then it came in at about 1979, so I'm just interested if there are people sitting down, some still on Nguiu ?

Mr GUY: Would(n't) make a lot of difference.....we had a European man running the club as it definitely take the pressure of Tiwi people running that club,.....lot of families.....

Mr WOOD: Who would protect him? Do they know what it is like to be European and such, they get threats of course.

Madam CHAIR: What about like Nguiu, I mean Nguiu has got a white publican, there is a white, but there is still problems there, so iseven peoplehere, is that going to solve the problem?

Mr DOOHAN: We can look at all those issues, and it is important to look at all those issues, but please don't getall these incidents happen because of the alcohol and drugs. You've got theon top, and as a result, you've got all these other problems, you've got the nursing staff being called out to bashings on a continuous basis. The women who are coming into CAAPS on every training course saying we are just sick of living in fear of our lives, because people are drinking to much, totally out of control, now whatever.....said today, is very true. Not very many people don't drink, and most of the money in the community, if people are on CDEP for example, most of that CDEP money will go to alcohol or to ganja, so there's not much money left in the bucket for food, and that is why the kids are suffering as well, so it is really important to understand that all of these big issues really come from these two areas, alcohol and drug misuse. As I said earlier on, alcohol, they say the figures are 60% of the drinking population can drink safely. Well 40% can't and for those 40% that can't it is a devastating drug. It kills people and it breaks them.....

Mr WOOD: Is that 40% getting higher?

Mr DOOHAN: 40% is getting higher all the time. Now okay, there are specific problems on the communities, these issues are still happening in town as well, people need to come to terms with themselves as individuals with this process of okay, we need to do something about it, it needs to change, too many people are being hurt. Now the processes for this one (suicide?) to me, are very clear. A lot of it is marijuana based, a lot of it isbased, alcohol based. But this is the picture, okay, people are getting stoned, forgetting all about that process, going to sleep, waking up the next day, no money in the pocket, they are threatening people for money, their own family, blackmailing their family for money, for.....for ganja, and if you don't give me, I'm going to kill myself. And that threat has been carried out. And now that in reality is what is happening. But people do not want to talk about it, because it is too much of a shame job, so there's full on denial from all quarters, what we are saying at CAAPS is okay lets take away the blame and let's look at the issue, and the issue is,suffering, people suffering from alcohol and drugs. Don't worry if I say the

name, we do a tape swap straight away. So people are suffering from the effects of alcohol and drug misuse, not only Milikapiti, but all over the place. All over the place, and it is a sad situation when people are too frightened and too shamed to talk about in reality, what is happening, it is complete madness, it is endemic, for communities. I just did a placement with a sobering up shelter and it is just devastating, the effect that alcohol is having on traditional people.

I mean look at it, strictly, I can't tell the wrong story.

Mr WOOD: Well, I'd rather hear the right story, because how do you, I mean, government can do things, but it can't change people, people have to take the big step themselves, but are there any leaders, besides yourself, who can try and change things? Some of the young people getting up?

Mr GUY: Yes, some of those young people, they are getting up into, you're doing a good job, make 'em feel proud and they said 'Yeah, I'm doing for our people's sake, if I do it, maybe he can follow me on.

Mr WOOD: They're being a strong ...

Mr GUY: Yes. Being strong long enough, our people can see me, hey. Youngkill himself, I'm doing it not only for myself, but for us, the whole community – and myself as well, and also for my kid to see me strong person.

Mr DOOHAN: You know you said before about people coming back for the treatment, and for the ...

Mr GUY: Yes, that's what they doing – yes, they come back heads hitting a brick wall, there's nothing there.

Ms GRIFFIN: It's actually a social thing isn't. At four o'clock the town empties everyone goes to.....it is a social activity.

Mr WOOD: Well, when I worked at Bathurst Island I was one of the few that didn't drink too and we used to play handball at the big handball courts at Nguiu, and the only people we could get to play handball, were women. I used to go and play theChristian Brothers. There was very little alternative for recreation away from the club. I mean the club there is on the football oval, and you've got the club here on the football oval, I know that Power Bitters sponsors the scoreboard, does that, is there some way that people could have some recreation in a non-alcohol way. Somewhere away from here, that you could go out

Mary Elizabeth: We could have it.....under rights now that bar.

Mr WOOD: Could we have this system somewhere else, where there is no bar, where you can go and enjoy yourself.....

Mary Elizabeth: Where you could find money somewhere. Stop.....the money and just put up a safe house where people can go.....

Dr LIM: The club is a place where people gather to socialise but out of the whole is part of that socialising, is it possible to have another club that you could go to to talk andbut have no alcohol. Surely.....

Mr DOOHAN: There is a recreation centre there and

Dr LIM: You can have sports and sports and sports, you cannot play sports all day, you can't start playing sports at 400 and then play until midnight, it is just not possible. You can call thetrip, what you can do

Madam CHAIR: Can I, Richard, while you are talking about that, I'll let you continue, but just before you finish, can I get Steve Sparks who is the Sports and Recreation Officer to the Council.....maybe he can respond to some.....

Dr LIM: I mean the thing I see about sports is that you can not play sports all day, all night

Mr DOOLAN: Well sports is an option of course, but what Mary was talking about before was to have somewhere where people can go away from the community, maybethis area just here where people can go to away from the pressures of people saying ‘ come on, let’s have another drink’, ‘well let’s have drink’,.....know what I mean, because the pressure is immense on people to continue drinking and taking drugs. So we are looking at setting something up out bush, it is only 15 minutes away past, it’s a traditional area. I remember last time I was here.....we went down there and as soon as we get onto the land, the kids are running around getting some food, some mud mussels, tapping the drum, dancing around the fire, people were really happy, and that is available.

Ms GRIFFIN: Specially for those who are banned from the pub, that must be so difficult for them to handle, well it is difficult for them to maintain, because there is no where else for them to go, and the pub is the social place of the town.

Unidentified Male: So we are talking treatment centre, we are talking treatment centre

Madam CHAIR: Do they leave the community then and go to

CHATTER

TAPE 6 COMMENCES

Mr WOOD:became the like, I am talking peer group pressure here. If you had another club which was a non-drinking club, it might have a small oval where you could still kick and go hunting, you did it after work, I am not talking about 24 hour sport, I am saying, I am looking at, it is a problem in other places too, but there is full employment. I would rather see full employment by the Commonwealth government. They have enough money here that everyone who wants a job, has a job. If you do not want a job, you do not get unemployment benefits, too bad.. And when you finish you have the choice of here or another place, which is dry, you can kick a footy, you can play music, you go hunting, but that one has to be strictly enforced as a dry, to try and make that place the best place to go to, not this one the best place to go to.. That would require some government money, but it would require will from here to make it work.....

Madam CHAIR: But could it be possible if that is not theI mean itgovernment assistance, I mean the club in terms of profits and stuff, it would be interesting to see how much of the profits from the club actually go back into prevention education awareness. No because, governments, I mean if governments put money in, but if these clubs are the ones where all the destruction is being caused, you know, the association because that is an association, the clubthere has to be a decision by, you know our mob have to start taking control of this.

Ms CARTER: What do they do with the money?

Mr SPARKS: They are paying off a loan at the moment that

Madam CHAIR: For the building?

Unidentified Male: No for the shop.

Mr SPARKS: That finishes in February so these questions are very relevant now because the money is going to start rolling in. What are they going to do with it?

Mr DOOLAN: And the shop is, the shop has traditionally made a profit as well over the years. But the simple fact of the matter is, when I was here in the 80’s, the late 80’s, when this club started in fact, I worked up there for a while, and on average then and I would say it would be probably the same now there was \$4 500 turnover a day. Now sometimes it would be down, on payday it would be up, but it averages around \$4 500 turnover per session.

Mr WOOD: How many people live here?

Mr GUY: Almost 500

Mr WOOD: And how many drinkers of drinking age?

Mr GUY: Would not know. There is no under age drinkers.

Mr WOOD: No, no. I am just sort of getting an idea how many men

CHATTER

Dr LIM: I supposefor instance the Northern Territory has poker machines and there is a tax on the poker machines before pocketing benefit, and I was just wonder whether the profits from the club could be spent supporting the non-drinking club. I think thatand you transfer the profits from one to the other so that the other social outlet for people who do notReally drinking the way I see it, having lived in Australia for the last 40 years, is that people go to pubs for company, and then the alcohol is part of it, but it is really the talking, the discussion, flapping the breeze, that is what it is all about, and drinking is just coincidental. But unfortunately as the night wears on it become more and more problem

Madam CHAIR: Well because the violence starts and stuff like that.

Mr WOOD: We have the non-drinking footy team start up. Maybe

Unidentified Male: Alcohol will always be there

Dr LIM: But we could use that money, the profits from there to support the other club.....That club should surely bring profit itself as well.

Mr DOOLAN: Well it does not need to be big, it just needs to be infrastructure development for somewhere likeYou do not need a multi-million dollar alternative venue, when what you need is people to be comfortable in what they are doing without alcohol.

Mr WOOD: And an alternative for those people like you say, under pressure. Well the bus takes them out there, or somebody takes them out there to get away from that pressure.

Unidentified Male: A safe place away

Ms GRIFFIN:the other thing is having the programs too, that I notice a lot of the senior men in this community that enjoy drinking, and they see that cutting out the drinking is not the answer. They need to be assisted in safe drinking habits but we would not be addressing the need to look at that issue as well.

Mr WOOD: If you had, if you introduced drinking to those non-drinking areas you would probably find thatstarted deteriorating. The issue you are talking about probably has to work back here. Leave that as the safety valve.

Ms GRIFFIN: But you also need a programs running in conjunction to assist those people who have been drinking for many years, particularly

Mr WOOD: Yeah, do not get rid of that.

CHATTER

Dr LIM: You need to have alcoholprograms including the dry areas also because that is when they are sober. They can absorb the information you are providing whereas if they are drunk they are not going to listen to you anyway.

Mr DOOLAN: Well,call it 'AA' we like to call it self help, sharing groups. People can sit around the fire, 'AA' as well, so it is a social group or a self help group where people can sit down, stay away from drinking and share how they feel.

Mr WOOD: In my area we have got ANSTI which is 'A New Start for Independence', it does not mention AA, it is dry but it is a way of trying to get people to get used to living back in the community without drinking.

Mr DOOLAN: And you can not cut alcohol out. People are entitled to drink if they want to. It is just the effect of it when there is too much consumed.

Mary Elizabeth: Unintelligible

Mr SPARKS:Chair, I have had a thought and I have run it through a couple of council members unofficially at this stage just to get the feeling on this and sensible drinking I think is a very important issue. What I am suggesting was that meals should be provided at the club and I think that would be one way to go because people go there, they wait for it to open, they have not eaten which is an issue in itself, so I mean if it was a compulsory to 'sit down, table service' eat and drink I think it would be a very good positive

Mr WOOD: And this licence hasn't got that?

Mr SPARKS: No. Well it possibly has, it certainly has got the facilities to introduce it

Madam CHAIR: I think at, when I checked out, because I know that they tried that at Nguiu. They tried to implement that the compulsory meal before you went into drink, the restaurant, or you know the sit down and eat a meal part was opened first at Nguiu, over there before they went and drank. But I mean it went well for a couple of weeks but then it just all

Mr DOOLAN: And the reason is there is only a certain amount of money available to people and if you have that dependency to alcohol you will not touch the food, you will not buy the food, but that is an important thing to look at. The options need to be there.

Mr SPARKS: My idea was though that you can not drink unless you have

Dr LIM: Yes, but in terms of the licence is that you can only sell alcohol with food, then they have no choice, no choice.

Mr WOOD: But you need, you need, like all these places, unless there is someone to enforce it, it is very difficult for locals. I mean it is

Mr SPARKS: Well my idea is somehow having a table service routine, where people do not go to the bar to buy a drink. That the only way they can do that is that they buy a ticket when they buy their meal and then there is something like they sit down and have their meal, and then they use that ticket and it is table service. And that way you can create some employment for people too, for waiting staffing and things like that. So it is just an idea, that I think.....sensible drinking

Mr WOOD: Where do you get the community to support it? I mean when it comes back to the crunch, if all the drinkers decide that is rubbish, most I would say, well. I reckon it is a good idea but

Dr LIM: Where else would they get the alcohol if they do not

CHATTER

Mr WOOD: I am not arguing against it, I think it is a good idea

TAPE 7 COMMENCES

Madam CHAIR: No, it is something that has its merits, I mean I think there is a lot of merits with it and I know at Nguiu when they first tried it there was a lot of enthusiasm because people said 'oh yeah, because we are not eating we are just going straight to the club and we are just drinking and then

Mr WOOD: And then feeling hungry

Madam CHAIR: Yeah, so if we, people get quite enthusiastic about it.

Ms GRIFFIN: Unintelligible, hamburger

Madam CHAIR: but the cost of some of those meals too, so people were starting to think, oh well I only have \$20 or \$30 and then they were calculating how many plastic cups they could buy with the \$30 and so which one do you think then got, I mean they were not buying the meals because the cost of the meals was then, then they would be short on the money for

Mr SPARKS: But then what we were saying before about the club's responsibilities to the community, surely the meals could be subsidised through the club itself anyway, because they are making the money.

Ms CARTER: Or have a \$2 door charge, and then a free barbie, you know, sausages

Madam CHAIR: I think that would behad to work through the Association and encourage, because it is the Association that then makes the decision, and if they take that on board and decide to do that

Mr WOOD: If you had the alternative social group, you make sure they have the free barbie too.

Mr SPARKS: Just going on stuffbefore when you were saying about that. One of the first thing, I spent the last 5 years at Yirrkala, and the store there, which is a community run store, contributed a lot of money to housing and sport and recreation there and it worked really well. When I came here I could not believe that the shop and the club who were the biggest money makers in the community had separate associations and the community themselves did not have any input or control.

Mr WOOD: Who controls that?

CHATTER

Dr LIM: The corporate associations.

Madam CHAIR: They have their own associations?

Mr WOOD: And where do there profits normally go, back into themselves?

Mr SPARKS: Well whatever the association declares.

Dr LIM: Within the charter of the association. I mean that is the problem that.....with the Territory Food Price Review. It came out so clearly that community stores that are under the governance of the local council did the best for the community because the money is channelled through the council into the community

Unidentified Male: They are the best stores too.

Dr LIM: Then you had stores that were run, owned by an association in the community, so it did a little bit like

Madam CHAIR: And they can set their own prices?

Dr LIM: And then you had stores that are owned by traditional owners and they creamed the whole lot, and there is nothing for the community. And so there is all sorts of different styles and I was trying to promote that community councils should actually own the stores, own the club so that profits are coming

Mr WOOD: All the people should own the stores basically

Dr LIM: That is right, and then the profits would come back to the council and the council would act, do all good community things. And in fact there is a possibility that

Mr DOOLAN: That happened actually in the 80's. The club did have that control over the, I'm sorry, the council did have that control over the club and we got a \$10 000 cheque at the end of every month, as a contribution from the club. I do not know whether that is happening at the moment, but certainly the money is there available for these programs and I think it should be there for that.

Mr SPARKS: Just for, because I have to get back to work, the point on having a dry area and non-alcohol recreational centre is a fine idea. I think the big mistake, you have to go back and I do not know what you can do now, the biggest mistake that was ever made in this community was putting the club in the centre of town. I mean as far as what I believe, the club itself should be out of town, so that it is a bit of an effort to get there. Not making it too difficult because we have a recreational hall here which is next door to the club. Now I mean we have, the recreation hall at the moment is doing incredibly well. We are getting on average 60 or 70 kids in there every day. But of course when they need a couple of dollars they have to walk down to the club because that is where mum or dad is, and it just makes it incredibly difficult

CHATTER

Mr SPARKS: The club should have been out of town and the town itself, centre of town should have been alcohol

CHATTER

Unidentified Male: Was that the people's decision to put the club here?

Madam CHAIR: Yes, mainly.

Mr DOOLAN: No see we had the council up at the other end in the old days. It was surprising to see the council very close to the club as well. So you have got the recreation centre and the council and the club all in one area.

Dr LIM: In the town centre.

Mr WOOD: I know on Nguiu I mean I just could not, it is always a problem. When they expanded the club it was like a people's decision that is where it should go, there was not questioning. It had to go next to the football ground and itagain it is right in the centre, it is the main. I do not agree with it but it

Mr SPARKS: But the strange thing is when football is on, the club is not open any way.

Mr WOOD:on straight after. The two are related to one another so closely and that was the problem, and here

Mr SPARKS: What you are saying before is that the people who do not want to drink will be away from the alcoholic centre of town.....that is a very sad way to go. I mean, the people who want to drink should make the effort if they want a drink.

CHATTER

Mr WOOD: If it was practical to reverse it I would probably agree with you. Is it practical?

Mr DOOLAN: Well I do not know now. The issue was talked about this time for a long time. That club is really in the centre and there were no houses that way in the old days, the community was that way. So this was on the edge of the community, now it is kind of in the middle because you have got housing that way as well.

Dr LIM: The Bowling Club does the same thing in Darwin.

CHATTER

Mr WOOD: That is exactly right, that is exactly right. But I say that is part, that is our problem, and Tiwi people are taking, copy us. Is that right? The difference is that

Madam CHAIR: David, can I ask you and Mary Elizabeth if I can? I think one of the biggest problems and you mentioned Pamela before, I mean she is one ACPO.

Mary Elizabeth: She needs somebody.

Madam CHAIR: There has always been a problem, and I do not know if the strong men's groups that have been going really well, and I know at Garden Point that thesehave started up which is a good thing. Have they started looking yet because there has never been a male ACPO for here?

Mr GUY: No not since last time. Who was the last one here.

Unidentified Male: Kim

Madam CHAIR: Yeah, but not justhe used to come across

Mr GUY: One and a half years ago.

Unidentified Male: He was here for a little while.

Mr GUY:Roy was based herehe was the last one here.

Mr WOOD: Now they.....they are not always coming from the.....

Madam CHAIR: But the one ACPO that has been here, the female, Pamela, that has been operating and I know for a long time without a vehicle and she is expected to police a lot of this on foot. People ring up the police at Garden Point, because that is where you have to ring, Garden Point.....the response time if it is a really bad incident like the health centre, you talked about the siege and people came. I mean, did you ring the police and what was the response?

Ms GRIFFIN: We did but they were not able to actually come that day. We were talking to them at 3 in the morning and just because things were sort of settled it was decided that they would come the next day. It takes them usually, they get here in an hour. Very rarely

Mary Elizabeth: But when they found the old fellow that died, when they found theand the local people rings the police at Garden Point, all they say is go and see Pamela. We have to go fromwalk up to that place, and Pamela have no car. That council.....

Madam CHAIR: Do you see that as a government responsibility though and not council?

Mary Elizabeth: No, it is both.

Mr GUY: I see the both, the community council and the government. They work together. I mean if they are going to achieve something they must work together to achieve what they will achieve.

Mary Elizabeth: You have to get one more.

Ms GRIFFIN: Especially as we do not have police on site.

Madam CHAIR: Yeah, and that is why I am angry because you do not have police here. Is a lot of the alcohol problems with violence made worse because there is not police here in the community?

Mary Elizabeth:when they take away beer, what today, Wednesday, when they take away beer on Saturday, like Tuesday, yesterday, and they take more beer and like this morning they sell it to the local people for \$40 or \$50 and we people, Tiwi people do not have licence to do that. I see it with my own eyes.....

Madam CHAIR: So people, our mob are selling their own beer

Mary Elizabeth: They are selling grog. That is why you see a lot of people here.....

CHATTER

Ms GRIFFIN: Take away nights are

Mr WOOD: Wherewhere was that grog coming on?

Mary Elizabeth: From the club.

Mr WOOD: And they keep it?

Mary Elizabeth: And they keep it here till next day.

Mr WOOD: Entrepreneurial

Mr GUY: They want to make maybe money for cigarettes.

Mr WOOD: Is much grog, does any grog come in from outside still?

Mary Elizabeth: No just from the club.

Mr WOOD: Does anybody still try and bring it in on a plane?

Mary Elizabeth: No, no

Mr GUY: No we are very strict on that. Ask the committee members. We are very strict on alcohol brought from Darwin.

Mr SPARKS: There is very little evidence of anybeer.

Mr GUY: We do not have permit other than permit to drink here.

Mr WOOD: And how does the marijuana come in?

Mr GUY: I do not know, through the plane or whatever, food, socks or whatever

Mr WOOD: You need a puppy dog to sniff it.

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, dog that come in and sniff.

Dr LIM: Is it a big problem, is ganja a big problem?

Mr GUY: Oh it is yeah. In the late 80's we did not have any suicide, many young people.80's when the ganja started coming in about 20 years agosuicide problems. People killing themselves, hanging themselves, but that is whyI reckon this is where the problem started is marijuana. Because we had alcohol all the time, nearly all the time, but since the marijuana come in and use for the Tiwi Islands about 20 years ago

Mr SPARKS: It is the cocktail of the two

CHATTER

Unidentified Male: See they are both depressants right, and alcohol by itself is bad enough, but when you combine it with ganja it knocks you out completely.

Mr SPARKS: The ganja that is brought here, and also Arnhem has got a huge problem. It is, 90% is hydroponically grown, it is commercially grown, it is probably from Adelaide or Alice or Darwin. Extraordinarily strong, and it brings on a psychosis to a lot ofI have seen kids both here and in Yirrkala I would have sworn they were drunk, aggressive, but they were not I found out later they were stoned. But it brings an aggression, schizophrenia. It is frightening, and what worries me in the communities is that no one is strong enough, not strong enough, but I think people are too scared to speak out, because everyone in this community knows who is selling it, everyone knows, but no-one is wanting to risk their own neck by saying, pointing the finger and saying, or ringing up the police and saying these are the people who are doing it. So the issue is, it is not so clear cut. I do not know how you break that down, where it becomes a community responsibility but no-one is willing to risk, because basically there are too many communities around here that drink and smoke. So if you are going to be a good samaritan, you are going to have a lot

Mr GUY: You are going to have people hanging you.

TAPE 8 COMMENCES

Madam CHAIR: It is a small community and they are all family and who is going to dob on their family, because

Mr SPARKS: But the issue is extraordinary, I mean I was in the situation where I was in one of the local swimming holes, and a person was complaining; and this was public, there was a whole group of people there; I was shocked I could not believe what I was hearing. But this person was complaining that two people, two kids, around the age of 11 and 12 came to their place, knocking, wanting some ganja. And this person had said to them, 'no you are too young this is not for you', and they said 'no it is not for us we are getting it for someone else'. So this person gave it to them, sold it to them anyway. Now I could not believe what I was hearing because I thought, this person has gone on saying 'oh they are too young, this is really bad' but then, like, I sold it to them anyway.

Dr LIM: I understand about the small community and everybody knows everybody else and you are reluctant to dob somebody in, but the control is in the hands of the people here. If you do not dob them in who else will do it for you? You say, 'We have a problem, it has got to be fixed'. You can fix it to some degree.

Ms GRIFFIN: I see a lot of the stronger people in this community and when I talk to them they are actually quite strongly, and they believe themselves, that they need help, but they are in survival mode. Like threatened or when they get paid, many of them come to the clinic and demand their credit cards. money has probably just hit the place and they are wanting it for ganja, which means they have got no money left for food. They're constantly being threatened.

Madam CHAIR: With regard to the ganja, I am familiar with normal 'bongs' from say, Darwin urban area, but I have never seen the infamous 'bucket bomb'. We have a whiteboard and marker. Is anyone familiar enough with a 'bucket bomb' to draw one?

Mr SPARK: You just have a bucket, and you put your head in....

Madam CHAIR: A bottle... I have a vision though of a bucket

Mr SPARK: They put a cone in here, they cut this here, they light it with this submerged, and then theyin the bucket of water.

Ms CARTER: Would you like me to show you with some tobacco tonight?

Mr SPARK: And then they light it and they draw this bottle up. What happens, is the effect of the air going down through the cone, then fills...

Madam CHAIR: Okay, let me try it. I mean, I want to get an understanding of what

Ms CARTER: ... You've got a bucket and you've got a whole cone in the top like that..... it sits in the bucket, in the water...

Madam CHAIR: So a bucket bong is, alright..... like that, the water might come along like that. How do you, where do you suck it in from?....

Mr SPARK: Well, what they do is they submerge it, light it like a bring the bottle up, and as they bring it up, you get air just rushing down through the cone..... that's really..... and that way, basically what it is, it's forcing it and also it's not

Mr LIM: So there is higher concentration of the ganja?

Mr SPARK: Yeah. You're not wasting it, yeah.

Madam CHAIR: So it's like a sort of shotgun?

Mary Elizabeth: Like a shotgun yeah. Like a shotgun....

Madam CHAIR: Hello Irene.

Ms HULL: Hello.

Madam CHAIR: We're talking about the mental health position that's gone now, and hearing that is quite a sad thing.

Ms HULL: Yes. There's nobody else. Somebody called up for a meeting one day but they've got their meeting now, and

Ms CARTER: So Irene, do people come to you with mental health problems now?

Ms HULL: Still now. Still now.

Mr GUY: Even though she's not working but people still stay home in there... I mean, they trust her, trust in her because, yeah.....

Ms HULL: because all our troubles..... domestic violence.....

Mr SPARK: Getting just back to the ganja quickly... If there was maybe an increase in surveillance at the airport; but if the people were possibly, you know, that maybe dogs do come on a more regular basis, that could have an influence. I think, I mean my first visit to Milikapiti even before I even got the job, I came to look for the job, that happened to me..... clothes and all sorts of stuff... trying to spot that. I thought, where am I going? What is this place? But that was interesting, they caught about six or seven young people at that time. Now, they're not really the ones you want to get. I mean, they just had little bits on them and they just got.... \$200 fines... but if people know that that could happen, you know, that you could be sprung, that may limit it to a degree. I don't think you'll ever stop it.

Ms CARTER: How much does a deal cost?

Mary Elizabeth: \$30.

Mr SPARK: It's \$50 in Yirrkala... it's just something that...

Madam CHAIR: We're finding it's up now. \$100 for a small bag in OenPELLI, Gumbalanya.

Mary Elizabeth:... \$50 for a little bag like that.

Ms CARTER: \$350 in Darwin..... So say you're, thinking about the type of gear, right, and say you're going to have a cone in there...

Unidentified FEMALE: That's on the side.

Madam CHAIR: Alright, so it's got the pipe there... That's like about \$15 worth or something?

Mr DOOLAN: No, you might get about six bongs out of a stick, and a stick would cost about \$25, \$30, I don't know.

Madam CHAIR: In Darwin, it's not a gross

Mary Elizabeth: They don't use that pipe, they don't use the pipe down here..... got that....

Madam CHAIR: And that's the part that's really not, because then the impact of, I mean the hit, the head; I mean it's not like the old joint where you roll a joint and where you share...

Unidentified MALE: Well, that's a harmless joint.

Madam CHAIR: But it's not a harmless joint.... not the which is point.....

Unidentified MALE: Which bit was in camera and which wasn't?

Madam CHAIR: That bit was in camera.

Mr SPARK: It's a lot stronger, the methods they use now is much more effective, and the other thing that worries me with the Aboriginal kids, is that they don't have a smoke and get stoned and relax. They'll smoke it until it's finished.

Mr GUY: been hash smoking

Unidentified FEMALE: Yeah, it's the same, that's destructive...

Ms HULL: We have to stop this. Ganja has wreaked havoc.....

Mr DOOLAN: This is a dependency and an addiction, and if you're addicted to something you'll get anything to get it, it's as simple as that.

Tape 9

Mr SPARK: But when you grow marijuana, for example, and I used to say this to the kids at Yirrkalá, it's not a matter of 'Don't do it'; it's just , you know, you can say, okay, well if you're going to have a smoke then have a smoke, put it away; because you start to become, when you get more stoned, you get; you know, try to get that into their heads. But it's a matter of, if I don't have it now, someone else is going to get it, so you know, you drink everything until it's finished.....

Mr WOOD: Is there any positive programs in the schools, you know, that says, you don't have to do this to get high. I mean, we're talking about safety issues and all that sort of stuff, but to me, we're basically saying, well, if you want to get your kicks well you can still have grog every day but not too much, or if you want to have your kicks you can still have gunja every day but not too much; but is there a program that says, look, we're going to think of a positive note in another direction.

Mr SPARK: Well, look, for example, my work is at the school, I've got six there now, young people, 17 to 25; one of them smokes and drinks beer but the others, most of them don't. And we have lots of discussions about that; that we have a lot of fun, we do sport, do other things, and then these guys that come in that are stoned, and they miss the point. But like, we have jokes together, and the

boys that are stoned are just, what? Like, they're missing the point. So we have discussed that amongst ourselves, to say, well half of these guys sittingv are missing out on all the good things in life. So we do that. We don't say; the drink and smoke

Mr WOOD: Does the DARE program come as far as Milikapiti school?

Madam CHAIR: The police was doing, I mean for Garden Point, they, was coming and doing, because I know last year, one of them was coming over and he used to tap into and they did one or two programs at the school; but I mean, again, ... and the view, that everything sort of....

Mr WOOD: I'm just a bit worried. I mean, I get a bit depressed after going ato some of these places I've been too, and I think you know, it's all sort of about living with it; but is there some move to try to tell people to live without it and still get good things out of life?

Madam CHAIR: Get a high on life.

Mr WOOD: Well, that's right. And I was going to ask Mary Elizabeth, you know, is there still some influence from church days? I know the church wasn't here full time, but is there still...

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, we have Sunday mass.

Mr WOOD: And is it mainly women that turn up?

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, a few people go to the church.

Mr WOOD: I just didn't know whether there was still some influence in that way to try and get people to look slightly differently at life.

Mr SPARK: But not in the church.

Mary Elizabeth: Yes.

Mr WOOD: No, not so much as that, no, I didn't mean that, but in some sort of looking back, in a cultural, spiritual, sort of...

Mr DOOLAN: The cultural issues, spirituality issues, are probably more so important and..... to... people in this community. For example, if you get people out to a place like Tars Lake, away physically from people, you know, and if you get people sitting around a fire and get people hunting and fishing; and it transforms, it's like magic. And it's available. It's there everywhere.

Ms GRIFFIN: Sunday is a wonderful day here.

Mr DOOLAN: Yeah, Sunday is the best day for the community.

Ms GRIFFIN: They tell them what, the children are happy, they love it.

Mary Elizabeth: They tell them what support from young people.... told to us, I want a support, I need a place out there, and to help my people, just leave the domestic violence. I'll need a place, and I need a transport. I make legal, no drunken drive, no people smoke ganja, drug and Because I am strong people and maybe I can tell people off.

Mr DOOLAN: So you want to use that place as to support people, who you want to live.....

Mary Elizabeth: Why? But who don't want to care for themselves, help themselves with their families?

Mr WOOD: And if there was some way that it could be a mixture of money, maybe the government, I don't know, but maybe a fund that could be enforceable, and the club money..... together, yeah? I mean, I'd rather see the money coming from the problem, to going to solve the problem.

Mr DOOLAN: Yeah, see, people doing the treatment or training program, when they come back, what David was saying before, there's no support. If you could get a process in place where people agree to, instead of having the community, they go, they can't stay here..... We want the treatment process to be..... when they're strong enough, come back to the community.

Mr WOOD: I mean, I've seen young people who, you could get them into that situation much earlier so they're not dragged into this very early in life.

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah.

Mr DOOLAN: And all these things that we're all talking about need to be covered in that I think Tiwi are looking at substance misuse issues, it's coming up, and it's talked about by now, where they need someone to coordinate the program, specifically looking at substance misuse.

Ms CARTER: That's in Darwin?

Mr DOOLAN: Now, why is Sunday the best day?

Mary Elizabeth: No grog.

Mr DOOLAN: No no alcohol. It goes back to that. Alcohol.

Ms CARTER: What do people think, though? Do they like Sundays?

Mary Elizabeth: Sunday is a rest day.

Mr SPARKS: It's interesting, that the code was imposed for a not long ago and a lot of men I would have thought, actually enjoy the rest, they enjoy a better week, the don't think it's such a drain.

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, they're getting basketball, them men.

Mr SPARKS: So we've introduced a corporate basketball competition between the different compartments in this community on Mondays, but, I mean we've been doing it now for a month, but we are still waiting for the men's centre, I'm still waiting; because in that one week it was fantastic, it was just fantastic.

Mary Elizabeth: A week and a month. Yeah.

Mr SPARKS: And I hasn't spoken to you yet, for THIS, Neil, he thought I was going to hopefully propose this exchange, if he can cut hours the same, rearrange Saturday and we have a Monday alcohol free day, too. Because Monday, we can get it happening. It was proved in that week that that was the day. It was fantastic. Old and young... When it comes.... we just can't keep.....

Mary Elizabeth: That two months there.....

Mr WOODS: Was there a group from Milikapiti that, Milingimbi...

Ms CHAIR: No, because ATSIC levels up at all the

Mr WOOD: Yeah, I can see they'd have to help Kakadu combine things...

Madam CHAIR: But what actually didn't happen, which we all thought, because I went over to them, there was that land council meetings, and I went there to go to come over to that council meeting; what we thought would be a big drift of our mob from here to Darwin didn't happen. A lot of them didn't actually go into Darwin. They actually stayed home.

Mr SPARKS: And that's what's appropriate, because when you spoke to all the men that drink every day at the club, I said what, how do you think this went. And they actually, I didn't hear many complaining, very much.

Tape 10

Ms CARTER: Did anyone go into the DTs? Was there withdrawal, for anyone?

Mr SPARKS: I don't think it actually.....

Ms GRIFFIN: There were a couple panics..... just a couple that were on psychotic medication. I think it's a combination, actually. Very

Mary Elizabeth: But the average male is able to go to a.....

Ms GRIFFIN: But then ganja also becomes a substitute. So you see more ganja use.

Mr WOOD: One week's off and one week on, since the that will.

Mr LIM: How young are they going to start, smoke ganja?

Mr DOOLAN: There was some stories from Bathurst Island, that you've got kids as young as 11, 12 year olds, smoking ganja. What future is this, you know, for these kids....

Mr WOOD: And they've really got everything going for them..... Everything's here.

Ms GRIFFIN: We've got to change that licensing, we've got to give people licensing here... I'm going to write a letter and you're going to help me.

Mary Elizabeth: Oh. bring licensing, a lot of pressure here. That's when they've already been grog. And they're selling to one another. It's not right thing to do.

Mr GUY: You don't see what's going on.... we're there all the time because.....

Mary Elizabeth: So people go that way and just to buy, get grog.

Mr WOOD: The will pay for protecting but I think...

Mary Elizabeth: Bouncers, they've got bouncers there, but it's Some people don't drink to support that person.

Mr WOOD: Late at night, when they knock on the door? Were they protecting at night? I used to work at Nguiu council and I know late at night you'd get a knock at the door and say 'give me a needle' from a drug person.

Mary Elizabeth: No, if we go work on the night patrol, we don't think about the men. Because the men, they're not women but. I tell you straight, because I was, me and Irene were working on that night patrol. That is not woman. But we put ourselves in there, we got our certificates for that, you know; we did that training; and what now? You see that? It's boring. So we need that transport for night patrol, for the ladies. We've all got licence to drive, we don't drink...

Mr WOOD: Do you think we should have more permanent police here, with a proper policeman?

Mr GUY: It doesn't mean that you've got a police station here, mate..... and that is a must for the community, a police station.

Ms HULL: We need a police station. Because we want woman, a lady.... police officer...

Mr WOOD: Or a policeman here, with her?

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah. We need somebody to help her. At the moment she never has any support, she's always on her own.

Mr DOOLAN: Irene, what about night patrol, is that working?

Ms HULL: The CDEP and they were doing the night patrol but they could not get two top up money so they had to cut thes out and all he was doing was sitting.... top up. But there was only a man, he couldn't go to stop the if they were fighting.

Mr DOOLAN: Is there a vehicle available for night patrol?

Ms HULL: There was a vehicle, it was given to.....

Ms GRIFFIN: There was a..... but that was years ago, a pretty good one though.

Ms HULL: Yeah, there was a car given to the council for night patrol to share with the police but.

Mary Elizabeth: But nothing. Council got decision council. Council made a decision that we want to give Carter that car.

Ms HULL: We've walked on foot, we've.....

Mary Elizabeth: We and walking, nothing walking talking, we set out and... goes to men, hero men came in...

Ms HULL: and uniforms..... I said, how come you said you couldn't have two top ups? They said, we're not allowed..... CDEP..... funding ran out. Yes, us all.

Mary Elizabeth: So we need to have the reliable patrol car, and we need a European licensee, and the council or the people working night patrol support to go see... if a Tiwi person, that would be more pressure, more... rupiah...

Mr LIM: I think the community council might be the licensee.

Unidentified FEMALE: But if the council takes over the licensee and.....

Mary Elizabeth: You could ask Gama.... I don't want to think about that one.....

Unidentified MALES: One man.... It's the responsibility of the council... Because of better control.....

Mary Elizabeth: Well, when you mob come back again next time and make a meeting with... the council....

Tapel1

Madam CHAIR: Look, Nguiu which is a bigger community than this, it's got three times the population of both Milikapiti and Milingimbi, and for years I've ... only recently. Now, in a population of 1 600, it needs to get that, and if there's not one full time resident police officer, and that's taken 10 years. Now if that's taken 10 ten years, to get one police officer for a population of 1600... This isn't political; none of our committees, I must also make it very clear, even though we have the ALP, the CLP and the independent keeps us honest, we try and keep it ... bipartisan. But it has, I mean it has been a huge problem for a long time. And Nguiu, and I was part of that ... over a few years to try and get police there because that was always the biggest population. Years ago, it was always seen, someone sort of thought that Garden Point was going to be where the population would move and that was where things were going to increase, so they placed all the police up at Garden Point. Milikapiti, because both Garden Point and Bathurst were under ... missions, Milikapiti was always left out in the cold, and that's a historical thing, and that's something that's going to take some time to fix. Because Milikapiti is... has always had...

Mr WOOD: ... 1974. But that's going to change.

Madam CHAIR: But yeah, in answer to your ... that that's going to, I mean, you can put... who you deal with... administration.

Mr WOOD: But maybe, and I know we haven't gone far down the track, but ... saying about whether we should get the breweries, the people that make the alcohol, to be involved in some of these issues. And I know people say probably Buckley's, but it's mainly the profits from alcohol. Is the ... for instance, funding of... I'm not saying it should be sponsored by the alcohol company, but some of that money that comes out of the destruction of these communities goes back into doing the very things we're trying to fix. We're trying to get a policeman and the funding but they say they haven't got it at all, it comes from either as tax law ... or somehow, some of that money goes back into trying to fix those things up. And at the moment, I think that's one of our problems. You know, the community saying you haven't got ... funded by... the people that make the grog. None of right, and you see the destruction it's caused in this community. I'd love some of these bosses of these companies, Carlton United, and all they've got to do is come here and stay for a week. And I think they've been going out drinking at the clubs for years and see what happens.

Unidentified?: They can go on a day trip.

Mr WOOD: Yes, go and stay a night at the hospital and see what the casualties are.

Mr LIM:

Mr WOOD: They probably don't need to take corporate responsibility for what they do.

Mr DOOLAN: I think what a lot of people are saying is that a lot of the issues really have to be dealt with here, by the.... community, has to be. And a clear message also has to be given to drinkers, their entitlement to drinking. People are entitled to want to not drink...

Mr WOOD: And if you can't get that little spark to start, then there's nothing that can... it's government to help the spark but not to be driving the flame along. If they need some help...

Mr DOOLAN: See, money is a big issue and the recreational hall, for example, I mean, the kava, when the council controlled it, the kava put in a contribution of \$35 000. So the money is an issue and money will be advanced. There is a lot of money that's generated through selling alcohol.

Ms CARTER: What's the council like here?

Mr DOOLAN: I don't know.

Mr FARMER: President.

Ms CARTER: Hello. Wayne, this is.... Do you want to have a seat?

Mr FARMER: the conference, and then we got to wait and see what kind of help we getting, but I still got to help the conference, and we don't know what we have in the.... because nothing available... [speaking language] That club ... I'm telling you.

Mr WOOD: The council doesn't have anything to do with the club. It's okay.

Mr FARMER: That club is our own taxes. They built that pipeline in our council, ATSI.... council... here... council, just kill everything, they been talking to they want to ...

Mr WOOD: But they're separate. The council does not run the club.

Mr FARMER: No. We.... Aboriginal.... taxes... finance... bush, bush.... financial...

Madam CHAIR: How much money a month does the government give, say, to council...

Mr FARMER: No, they haven't give it up since last year.

Madam CHAIR: So when they stopped paying on the store, how much money a month were you getting ... passed back into the community.....

Mary Elizabeth: You could invite one of the...

Madam CHAIR: So long, could it be that \$30 000 is a guess, or more or less?

Mr FARMER: Maybe more, eh.

[FOLLOWING IS GROUP DISCUSSION MOST OF WHICH IS INAUDIBLE]

Unidentified MALE: should be available...

Mary Elizabeth: Actually, now that recovery..... that way is wrong. You got local government, every local government..... we got ... I don't want to

Mr WOOD: ... it's just absolutely... I'm going to rub your nose in that one day, about taking the bow from

Ms CARTER: That's alright, this has taken a bow from us.

Mary Elizabeth: Yeah, that's why you know why they should be at, what's before, you know today, all that paperwork going through Nguui, we got council office here.

Unidentified FEMALE: How many times that.....

Mr SPARKS: Can I just give you an example of how the community here is very supportive of non-alcoholic venues. When I first came here to recreation there was a canteen here and it was bringing in an average of about \$60 or \$70 a day in sales. And they projected a budget to me of an income of \$30 000 a year which I thought was, you know, it is going to be difficult. We are currently now running with local staff, young people, we're currently bringing in a budget now estimated on the last six months of \$150 000 to \$130 000 a year. Now, that's, and I'll run across.... now that to me indicates that we are establishing a non-alcoholic venue that is now being supported by the community with the sales, which have... been going on, it's quite extraordinary, and it's not just kids, it's the older people coming in. They can buy their soft drinks and their chocolate or whatever, and they've done it now, they've come, you know... going down there. So the community is very supportive. And if I had the resources, we would expand. We could, you know, and the sky's the limit. But we don't have the resources. I mean, I think we've almost over stretched our resources now. That's just a small indication of how the community is responding. To okay, let's set up something separate, and the community is ... that too, so that's fantastic.

Madam CHAIR: So what you think about last week when the, ... running the clubs collapsed, how much money did you make in the last week?

Mr SPARKS: You mean this week. Well, last month we made, because of that one week, \$15 000. So in that week when the club was closed we've actually be sold out.

Mr McADAM: When is the barge.

Mr SPARKS: But it's good, because we just want them to just go back to the school, too. You know, like, the mob that have set up this sort of this area, and we have ... discos, we have... so that money has all come from that canteen. But again, it's the same, the money also goes to Nguui and so I've got to be careful not to ban carton because if I ban carton it ... disappears. I've got to kind of...

Madam CHAIR: Yeah, you've got to keep an eye out. But with these Sundays, from what you were talking about, I think unless you went with this, I mean here, in these communities, and I know just how the Nguui feel. Sundays is the most glorious sale, and if you talk about Sunday, or if we talk about Sunday, it is a beautiful day but if they can become happy.

Mary Elizabeth: Happy, happy.

Madam CHAIR: And hunting. I mean, hunting for the yooli and everything else.

Mary Elizabeth: Whatever.

Unidentified MALE (Mr FARMER?): Yeah. Transport people. They bring me over here.

Mary Elizabeth: But we only stuck, we got no hulka, pushbike.

Mr SPARKS: Yeah, and that is the problem because I get there is no....., you know, no cars here all the time, so...

Mary Elizabeth: Steve, remember that ...(88 9, or ? island?) Aboriginal up there, you know, about that, what, that building, that takeaway, that markara, and we going to put in the shade there.

Tape 12

Mr SPARKS: Yeah, we're going to put in shade for barbecue.

Mary Elizabeth: For barbecue and meetings.

Mr SPARKS: Yeah. We've knocked down, there was an old generator which quite a pile of rubbish coming.....

Mary Elizabeth: Anybody welcome to come in there, but alcohol...

Mr SPARKS: Yes, we're steering it, we're going to make a nice barbecue and shade area, so that there'll be a great spot for meetings, food and sport, all together in the one space.

Mr FARMER: What's that building for?.... going to steal.... steal everything.

Mr SPARKS: Yeah. I'm a bit.....

Mary Elizabeth: No, this is their brother.... We've got to do this right.

Mr SPARKS: working..... protection.....

Madam CHAIR: I'd like to thank all of you for you've certainly given us a lot of information. We are hoping to do a draft.... report and statements based on our findings by November....