

Alcohol Management Plan Review

Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) operate in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state to reduce alcohol misuse and harm. The Queensland Government finalised a review of AMPs in mid-2019 that considered the effectiveness of AMPs and whether changes need to occur to make them better meet community expectations and aspirations.

A renewed approach to alcohol management based on the findings of the review, and other research and evidence, will be implemented by each community with support from the Queensland Government.

Components of the review

Community specific reviews	Proposals were submitted from all communities with AMPs in place (Aurukun, Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mornington Island, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area (which includes Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Seisia and Umagico), Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah).
General review of AMPs	A general review of the overall effectiveness of AMPs was conducted by PriceWaterhouse Coopers Indigenous Consulting (PIC).
The Convictions Project	Commissioned by the Queensland Government to examine whether alcohol restrictions have led residents, who would not otherwise have contact with the criminal justice system, to obtaining a criminal history.

Other evidence considered

Research and stakeholder engagement

- James Cook University (JCU) research on AMPs in Queensland, which resulted in a number of publications
- Engagement with Mayors and community leaders at key community summits
- Statistical analysis of Queensland Government administrative data
- Government and Ministerial Champion visits
- Preliminary discussions with experts from leading academics in the field of alcohol management.

Previous Queensland Government Reviews

- Cape York Justice Study (2001)
- Meeting Challenges, Making Choices (2002)
- AMP initial implementation evaluation (2005)
- Alcohol Reforms (2008).

Key findings

- **Ongoing role for AMPs in ensuring community safety**
The important role of AMPs in ensuring community safety was noted and overwhelmingly supported as a solution to regulating the supply of alcohol.
- **Local leadership and community ownership important for success**
Greater local control of alcohol management is necessary for tailored solutions that reduce alcohol related harm.
- **Targeted strategies required to reduce illicit alcohol (sly grog and homebrew)**
Targeted strategies are required to address illicit alcohol which is limiting the success of AMPs.
- **Investment in demand and harm reduction measures required**
Strategies to address alcohol misuse through coordinated investment in demand and harm are needed to reduce alcohol misuse and harm.
- **Low impact on criminal history**
The Convictions Project found that the vast majority of people (approximately 92%) either did not have a conviction recorded for their breach of alcohol restrictions, or had other offences recorded.

Key findings in detail

<p>Ongoing role for AMPs in ensuring community safety</p> <p>All review elements highlighted the valuable role that AMPs play in ensuring community safety, particularly for vulnerable people, such as children and women.</p>	
<p>Community proposals</p>	<p>Overwhelmingly noted AMPs valuable role in ensuring community safety. Proposals sought continuing but modified restrictions. They demonstrated serious consideration, broad consultation, and a strong belief in AMPs driven by local leadership.</p>
<p>General Review</p>	<p>AMPs have been incrementally effective and this progress should continue to be built upon with sustained political commitment and an evidence-based approach.</p>
<p>Local leadership and community ownership important for success</p> <p>The Review emphasised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having control over decisions that affect their lives is fundamental to achieving shared goals and improved social and economic outcomes.</p>	
<p>Mayors and key community leaders</p>	<p>Have consistently identified the need for a renewed approach to alcohol management that promotes local leadership and decision-making and community specific interventions to address economic and social development.</p>
<p>General Review and JCU research</p>	<p>Found sustainable progress will be achieved through collaboration between local leadership, communities and Government and emphasised the need for tailored solutions.</p>
<p>Targeted strategies required to reduce illicit alcohol (sly grog and homebrew)</p> <p>Illicit alcohol is associated with rapid intoxication, anti-social behaviour and violence and has been destructive to health, family life and community functioning.</p>	
<p>Community proposals</p>	<p>Identified that illicit alcohol has undermined the positive impacts of AMPs and have called for more strategic effort to reduce the supply of alcohol.</p>
<p>JCU's research</p>	<p>Recommended comprehensive approaches to managing takeaway alcohol sales from retail outlets and targeted penalties that differentiate between sly grog sellers and consumers.</p>
<p>Investment in demand and harm reduction measures required</p> <p>The availability of services and a balance between supply, demand and harm reduction activities is key to improving community safety and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>General Review</p> <p>During introduction (2003-2008), AMPs saw limited improvement due to a limited focus on demand reduction. Reforms that occurred in 2008 took a more integrated approach to alcohol misuse with investment into targeting supply, demand and harm reduction. Following the reforms, harm levels (reported offences against individuals) declined.</p>	

A renewed approach to alcohol management

The AMP Review and other evidence collected have informed a renewed approach to alcohol management. The Queensland Government will partner with communities to develop and deliver tailored strategies for each community to reduce alcohol misuse and related harm, and improve community safety and wellbeing. This will include:

- co-designing community-specific safety plans that emphasise shared accountability
- building community capacity to actively manage alcohol
- continuing to implement targeted strategies to reduce illicit alcohol (the Queensland Government has already made legislative amendments to better capture the ingredients used to manufacture homebrew)
- ensuring effective, coordinated and well targeted service delivery through targeted investment.