

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 19-23 October 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 2: Indigenous
Topic: Management of Alcohol

Senator: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

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Question:

Senator McLUCAS: It might help the committee, Ms Edwards, if you could then provide us with a list of those activities that have happened by community so that we can get an understanding of what is happening around the management of alcohol.

Ms Edwards: We can certainly take on notice to provide as much of that as possible. Some of the things that community comes up with are things that they themselves have decided to do and so on and there might be some privacy issues and so on, but we will come back to you with an explanation of what has been going on and what we can tell you about.

Senator McLUCAS: I would like to see what has been going on and what has been funded.

Senator Scullion: We fund the Northern Territory government for this. As you would appreciate, Senator, sometimes that is a vicarious relationship with an outcome, but we will do our best to find out from them what has been happening at those things. It is not actually delivered by us particularly. So we will ask them—

Senator McLUCAS: But it is Australian taxpayers' money that is funding this and I would like to see what is happening.

Ms Edwards: We will give you a breakdown of the funding and what it has been used for. That will help you with them.

Answer:

The Australian Government seeks to reduce alcohol related harm in Northern Territory (NT) communities by providing funding to the NT Government to support practical local initiatives that tackle alcohol and by directly funding services under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS).

Under the former Tackling Alcohol Abuse measure under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Stronger Futures in the NT (SFNT), for the period July 2012 to June 2015, the Australian Government provided approximately \$10.5 million in National Partnership payments to the NT Government to support alcohol management planning, support for licensing inspectors and data collection and analysis on alcohol related harm.

The NT Government has provided a list of some of the activities it has funded or implemented in communities that have an alcohol management plan (AMP) under development or in place. The information is provided at [Attachment A](#).

The Australian Government has also supported the NT Department of Health employment of remote Alcohol and Other Drugs workers (remote AOD workers) across the NT through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Programme – Substance Use Project. In 2014-15 the Australian Government provided \$1.97 million to support the remote AOD worker programme. Further information about the regions in which they operate is available at [Attachment A](#).

Under the NPA on SFNT, the Australian Government also provided significant funding to improve community safety more broadly by supporting remote policing. This included funding for the Substance Abuse Intelligence Desks and Dog Operations Units, to improve the collection of intelligence to detect and disrupt the trafficking of illicit substances including drugs, kava and alcohol, into remote communities.

Under the new NPA on NT Remote Aboriginal Investment, which was announced in the 2015-16 Budget, the Australian Government will continue to support the NT Government to reduce alcohol related harm and provide police services in remote Indigenous communities in the NT. New arrangements are currently being negotiated with the NT Government, which is responsible for delivering services or contracting providers to deliver services. Once the new NPA has been finalised, the agreement and relevant implementation plans will be published on the website of the Council on Federal Financial Relations. This will also include a breakdown of funding for the new NPA.

Under the IAS, the Australian Government also directly funds activities that tackle alcohol related harm in NT communities. Further information about some of these activities is provided at [Attachment B](#).

The information in Attachments A and B is provided by region according to providers' principal service delivery location. At times, providers deliver an outreach service or deliver services across multiple communities within a region or across regions.

ATTACHMENT A

Activities provided by the NT Government

The table below outlines AMP related activities for those communities that have an AMP under development or in place. These activities have been put in place by the NT Government since July 2012. These are in addition to ongoing activities already in place that target alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues. This information was provided by the NT Government who has advised that the list includes examples only and is not exhaustive. Listed activities include both unfunded community initiatives as well as funded activities. The Australian Government has supported the planning and delivery of these activities.

Region	Activity
Greater Darwin Region including the Tiwi Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research study into the feasibility of a rehabilitation centre on the Tiwi Islands • Assertive outreach in public spaces to provide supports to people living rough and to prevent alcohol related harms and anti-social behaviour. • Six fulltime AOD positions, providing clinical support, AOD counselling and or education (including Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) education) in communities.
Arnhem Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of local community members/elders to support and drive the AMP and community initiatives on the ground. • AOD community education • FASD education resource development • Five fulltime AOD positions, providing clinical support, AOD counselling and or education (including FASD education) in communities.
Katherine Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social club improvements: responsible drinking campaign; additional fencing • Research on alcohol related violence • Supply reduction (voluntary agreement to close liquor outlets during funerals) • Six fulltime AOD positions, providing clinical support, AOD counselling and or education (including FASD education) in communities.
Barkly Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOD community education • Voluntary Liquor Accord • Reduced speed limits on busy highway near liquor outlets • Development of community signage and cultural protocol, code of conduct and induction kit for residents and visitors including expectations regarding responsible drinking • Supply reduction – change in licensing conditions to provide beverages with lower alcohol content • Five fulltime AOD positions, providing clinical support, AOD counselling and or education (including FASD education) in

Region	Activity
	communities.
Central Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol education and research project • AOD community education • Safety lighting • Increased police presence (from existing NT Police funding allocation for these services) and change in hours of community night patrol service to better meet needs of community. • Road safety and driver training • Increase in Men’s Shed activities and programs • Supply reduction – local liquor outlets to sell lower strength beer • Eight fulltime AOD positions, providing clinical support, AOD counselling and or education (including FASD education) in communities.
NT Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menzies Place Based Framework – working with communities to develop community indicators to measure progress in reducing alcohol harms • Goodsports Program including in remote communities • Seven fulltime AOD positions, providing clinical supervision and support of remote AOD workers.

ATTACHMENT B

Activities supported by the Australian Government

Under the IAS, the Australian Government funds activities that reduce AOD related harm and divert people from engaging in anti-social behaviour. Some examples of this, in 2015-16 to date, are:

- Over \$25 million for 15 community night patrol providers to help improve community safety by patrolling the streets, offering culturally sensitive assistance and providing transportation to a safe place, and
- Over \$13 million across 16 providers for delivery of Indigenous AOD treatment services in the NT.

The service delivery regions for these activities are as follows:

Region	Service
Greater Darwin Region including the Tiwi Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four AOD treatment services providers. Range of services includes: residential rehabilitation facilities (three locations); early intervention; treatment and prevention; counselling; mediation; aftercare; advocacy and referrals; education and health promotion; case management; youth specific support; outreach support; and life skills support.• Three community night patrol providers.
Arnhem Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One AOD treatment services provider, providing early and clinical intervention, education initiatives including men's and women's camps, and input and support to the local alcohol permit committees.• Three community night patrol providers.
Katherine Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four AOD treatment services providers. Range of services includes: residential rehabilitation facilities (one location); early intervention; treatment and prevention; counselling; mediation; aftercare; advocacy and referrals; education and health promotion; case management; youth specific support; outreach support; life skills support; and cultural and capacity building.• Four community night patrol providers.
Barkly Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two AOD treatment services providers. Range of services includes: early intervention; treatment and prevention; counselling; mediation, aftercare; advocacy and referrals; education and health promotion; case management; and outreach support.• Two community night patrol providers.
Central Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Five AOD providers in the region. Range of services includes: residential rehabilitation facilities (two locations); early intervention; treatment and prevention; counselling; mediation; aftercare; advocacy and referrals; education and health promotion; case management; youth specific support; and outreach support.• Three community night patrol providers.