

Beyond 2012 Leading the Way to Action

Resolutions from the Second National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference

The second National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2012) brought together over 400 delegates in Fremantle (June 6-8, 2012) with delegates agreeing to the following:

1. That NIDAC work with relevant Ministers and their Departments to ensure that future decisions about Indigenous AOD funding are explicitly based on considerations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan with support for Indigenous community control (as affirmed by Minister Snowdon), Indigenous capacity building and continuity of service delivery.
2. That a needs and gap analysis of AOD services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is conducted by Government to inform future government funding rounds.
3. That a whole of government analysis and approach to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander AOD issues is required to ensure a clear and unified understanding of expectations of government departments involved in funding and/or providing services. Grants also need to be targeted and timely.
4. That funding bodies begin to recognise the significant improvements that have been made by Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander organisations in governance and that further funding be made available for innovative and targeted assistance to further improve governance within Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander organisations.
5. That governments and funding bodies recognise that Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander AOD organisations and workers understand and operate at best practice levels but require appropriate levels of resources and support to continue to do so.
6. That a specific funding round for Indigenous AOD research is allocated each year as part of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants process.
7. That non-Indigenous service providers and Government agencies providing services to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities are required to provide culturally secure services in partnership with Indigenous community controlled organisations, wherever possible.
8. That consultations with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people on further AOD policies and programs be ongoing, genuine and open.
9. That the new National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Drug & Alcohol Strategy includes public consultation of the draft strategy and clear mechanisms to ensure that all relevant activities are tracked, monitored and evaluated as part of regular outcome focused reports from every jurisdiction.

10. That the new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan being developed by the Australian Government in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people include AOD and mental health issues on the chronic health agenda.
11. That all National Health Campaigns include an Indigenous specific focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including youth, and includes the principles of cultural security.
12. That an ongoing independent evaluation of the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory framework is conducted.
13. That the available data on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander AOD use and impact is insufficient to appropriately inform policy and program development, and that investment to address this gap is urgently needed.
14. That an appropriate screening tool be developed for use by all health services to allow early identification of AOD problems for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander clients.
15. That the commitment to workforce development needs to continue with a focus on increasing the skills of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander AOD workers.
16. That there be a commitment to training the broader health workforce to better respond to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander AOD clients and issues as well as other complex health needs such as mental health and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.
17. That governments support the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drug and alcohol workers skills and capacity in order to enable the current Indigenous workforce's ability to progress into senior leadership and management roles within the sector.
18. That NIDAC explore the establishment of a national Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander AOD workforce and organizational representative body to complement the work of NIDAC.
19. That all governments implement, as a matter of urgency, a Justice Reinvestment strategy to redress the shameful and increasing over-representation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in the correctional and justice systems.
20. That there needs to be a substantial increase in the number of culturally and community focused diversionary programs available to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, and particularly young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, to provide pathways away from the correctional and justice system.
21. That greater investment into through-care programs in correctional and juvenile detention centres is required if recidivism rates are to be reduced.
22. That the alcohol licensing arrangements and approval processes explicitly include the views of communities and take into account the levels of alcohol related harm already occurring.
23. That all governments, funding bodies and industry bodies implement all relevant recommendations of the NIDAC Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) paper.
24. That free nicotine replacement treatments need to be provided to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, particularly within correctional systems, if the high rates of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander smoking are to be reduced.
25. That more investment is required to build young Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people's strength and resilience.
26. That the links, networks and information sharing with Maori people, and other Indigenous peoples within the Oceania Region, be promoted and supported.