



*Drug and Alcohol Office*

# WA Comprehensive Diversion Program

COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative

Andrew Salter

## COAG IDDI

- WA Diversion Program covers IDDI programs
- Emphasis on early intervention illicit drug users
- Continuum of programs:
  - Police (point of detection) programs
  - Court (early intervention) programs
- Other diversion programs besides IDDI/WADP

## Diversion in WA

- Commenced in November 2000
  - Has operated under both state governments
- Structure
  - Department of Health and Ageing
  - State Reference Group
  - Drug and Alcohol Office
  - Treatment agencies
- Funding to treatment agencies
  - Retainer
  - Sessional

# Management

- State Reference Group
  - Drug and Alcohol Office
  - Department of Health & Ageing
  - WA Network of Alcohol & other Drug Agencies
  - DOH (Office of Aboriginal Health)
  - Australian National Council on Drugs
  - WA Police
  - Department of Corrective Services
  - Department of the Attorney General

# WA Diversion Program

- Cannabis Education Session
  - Small quantities of cannabis
- All Drug Diversion
  - Small quantities of illicit

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- Young Persons Opportunity Program (YPOP)
  - Young people 10-18
  - Children's Court – in development
- Pre sentence Opportunity Program (POP)
- Indigenous Diversion Program (IDP)
  - Early intervention in court

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- Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime (STIR)
  - Moderate offenders, more chaotic clients
- Children's Court Drug Court

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- Perth Drug Court

Continuum



## Locations

- **YPOP**
  - Metro + all regional centres
- **POP**
  - Metro (5 locations) + all regional centres
- **IDP**
  - Kimberley + Gascoyne
  - Investigating Pilbara, Goldfields, Great Southern, Murchison
- **STIR**
  - All regional centres
  - Investigating metro

# WA Diversion Program

- Police diversion
  - Cannabis Education Session
    - Simple cannabis offences
    - 28 days to expiate by payment, education session or court
  - All Drug Diversion (compulsory assessment)
    - Simple offences for drugs other than cannabis
    - 30 days to complete 3 treatment sessions
  - Young Person's Opportunity Program

# Young Person's Opportunity Program

- 10 – 18 year olds
- Early in offending history
- Police or court refer to JJT
- Juvenile Justice Team refer to YPOP
- Chaotic or difficult to engage clients
- YPOP officer undertake extensive assessment:
  - Young person
  - Parents/carer
- Provide treatment or refer to appropriate service

## WADP...Cont'd

- Court diversion (some areas only)
  - Pre sentence Opportunity Program
  - Indigenous Diversion Program
  - Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime
  - Drug court programs
    - Children's Court Drug Court
    - Drug Court Regime
    - Pre sentence Order Programs

# POP

- Piloted in March 2003
- Early intervention – AOD use and offending history (normally expect to receive fines or community based orders on plea of guilty)

### Aims:

- provide incentive for offenders to identify and treat their illicit drug use
- provide face-to-face assessment
- match offenders - treatment agency
- monitor treatment progress & inform the court
- refer to continuing treatment

# IDP

- Pilot in Broome and Carnarvon from early 2004
- Similar to POP but attempts to overcome barriers for Aboriginal people in accessing diversion programs.
- Indigenous worker travelling magistrate's circuit

### Aims:

- increase number of Indigenous persons accessing diversion
- increase number of Indigenous persons trained to work with mandated clients
- increase availability of culturally appropriate diversion options in regional areas of WA
- implement indigenous prevention and early intervention strategies within regional areas of WA

## POP/IDP Process

- Appear in court
- Stood down for assessment
- If suitable, remanded for 6-8 weeks
- Engage in treatment
- Report to magistrate
- POP/IDP taken as a mitigating factor

# STIR

- Targets moderate level offenders & higher level of drug dependency
- Offender managed by a Community Corrections Officer

### Objectives:

- provide incentive for offenders to attend and treat their drug use
- engage in treatment
- provide ongoing supervision
- engage family members/significant others
- refer to other support service(s)
- refer to continuing treatment at STIR conclusion

## STIR Process

- Appear in court
- Stood down for assessment
- If suitable, remanded for 2-4 weeks (3-4 month duration)
- Engage in treatment. Urinalysis
- Case management – magistrate, worker, lawyer
- Remand 2-4 weeks (or longer). Case management.
- STIR taken as a mitigating factor at sentencing

## Children's Court Drug Court

- Children (12-18) appear
- Given indicated sentence
- Judicially case managed with a CATS officer
- Referred to treatment
- Fortnightly reviews
- Sentenced at completion



## Perth Drug Court

- State funded and not part of the WA Diversion Program
- Work together to ensure continuum of services
- See Lynton Piggott – Panel #6, 4:00pm

## Current Developments

- Communications:
  - Magistrates, Lawyers, AOD sector
- Training for AOD sector
- Consistent service requirements, Quality Framework, supporting materials
- Indigenous diversion
- Development of benchmarks and funding model
- Evaluation
- State wide roll out & new programs

## Difficulties

- Communications:
  - Consistency with visiting magistrates
  - Lawyers – Legal Aid, ALS - referral
  - AOD sector – consistent, information
- Need to increase Aboriginal engagement
- Servicing remote areas
- Numbers – lack or surplus & managing this



## *Drug and Alcohol Office*

Andrew Salter

A/Manager WA Diversion Program

Ph: (08) 9370 0335

[andrew.salter@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.salter@health.wa.gov.au)