



CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE
**INDIGENOUS
HEALTH + ALCOHOL**

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Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review
c/o Department of Health
PO Box 40596
CASUARINA NT 0811
Alcohol.Review@nt.gov.au

Dear Review Manager

SUBMISSION TO THE ALCOHOL POLICIES AND LEGISLATION REVIEW

We are pleased to submit the attached submission to the Alcohol Policies and Legislation Review. This Submission is written on behalf of the Centre of Research Excellence: Indigenous Health and Alcohol.

This Centre is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and its Chief Investigators of this Centre have a range of clinical, policy, public health and research experience on prevention and treatment of alcohol use disorders. The investigators (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) have combined expertise on research, practice and policy on prevention and treatment of harms related to alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) peoples.

However, their expertise is not confined to Indigenous health. For example, one of the investigators, Professor Paul Haber was lead author on the Australian Alcohol Treatment Guidelines (2009), and the lead investigator, Professor Kate Conigrave, currently chairs the NHMRC alcohol working group, which is revising the national drinking guidelines.

You can read more about the investigators and the Centre in the attached one page summary of the Centre. On 31 July 2017, the webpage for this Centre will also become available on www.gathering.edu.au.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to any questions or for our representatives to meet with the enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Kate Conigrave
Professor and Senior Staff Specialist
Principia

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NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence: Indigenous alcohol and health

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) communities around Australia report alcohol as a high priority issue. Alcohol contributes to poor mental and physical health, injury and death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Aboriginal) Australians. Drinking problems can have a major effect on individuals, families and communities. However there is a national shortage of Indigenous Australia researchers with expertise in the prevention and treatment of alcohol problems. This means that it is harder to have research that is appropriately designed, delivered and interpreted.

This Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) brings together health service, cultural and research expertise to prevent or treat alcohol problems. These responses are then being developed in partnership with community and with Aboriginal services. The responses include the full spectrum of action: from community-based prevention, through primary care-based treatment, right through to residential treatment and harm reduction. And this is to be done in a way that considers the individual's physical and mental health, the setting of family and community, and government policy.

This NHMRC-funded Centre focuses on building Indigenous research capacity to find solutions to alcohol problems. It brings together health service, cultural and research expertise to prevent or treat alcohol problems. It builds on years of strong relationships between the research team and community controlled health services in several states and territories of Australia. The Centre brings together senior Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal investigators (see list overleaf), who, in addition to many years of research experience, have an extensive track record in advocacy and policy experience. The team also has a long track record of supporting or supervising the training of Aboriginal researchers and clinicians.

The Centre supports the recruitment and training of Aboriginal researchers, and will help establish a strong and ongoing network of Aboriginal research expertise in this field. It will generate new knowledge, integrating efforts along the continuum of prevention and treatment for unhealthy drinking and alcohol use, in the real life setting of mental and physical comorbidity health needs, family and community, and government policy.

The Centre's work includes creation of PhD scholarships, and of research traineeships to help transition Aboriginal researchers into postgraduate studies, and an annual training symposium. The research trainees will work on a range of projects, focused on prevention, treatment or residential treatment of unhealthy alcohol use. These projects build on the base of existing strong research partnerships, with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in across a wide range of Australian states and territories.



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INDIGENOUS HEALTH + ALCOHOL

Chief Investigators

Kate Conigrave	Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney; Sydney Local Health District, NSW Ministry of Health
Scott Wilson	Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, SA
Anthony Shakeshaft	National Drug and Alcohol Centre, University of NSW
Noel Hayman	Inala Indigenous Health Service; School of Medicine, University of Queensland
Paul Haber	Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney; Sydney Local Health District, NSW Ministry of Health
Kylie Lee	Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney; Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, La Trobe University
Rowena Ivers	Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service; University of Wollongong
Chris Doran	Central Queensland University
Anton Clifford	University of Queensland

Associate Investigators

Angela Dawson	University of Technology, Sydney
Annalea Stearne	Children's Ground, Jabiru, NT
Dennis Gray	National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, WA
Jimmy Perry	Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, SA
Kristie Harrison	Sydney School of Public Health, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney
Michael Doyle	Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney
Steve Ella	Central Coast Local Health District, NSW Ministry of Health
Timothy Dobbins	National Drug and Alcohol Centre, University of NSW