

First Review of Alcohol and Drugs (AOD) Indigenous communities Project (2011-2014) May 2012



Centre for Remote Health

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Acronyms

AFL	Australian Football League
AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory
AOD	Alcohol and other drugs
ASIST	Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
BLAC	Building leadership and capacity
BOM	Board of Management
CAAPS	Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services
CRH	Centre for Remote Health
DEEWR	Department of Education AND Employment Workplace Relations
DRISPN	Darwin Region Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network
FaHCSIA	Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
FORWAARD	Foundation of rehabilitation with Aboriginal alcohol related difficulties
NAPCAN	National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
NTEIPP	Northern Territory Early Intervention Pilot Program
NT	Northern Territory
NTAOD	Northern Territory Alcohol and Drug Service
TESIAT	Top End Suicide Intervention and Awareness Training
VS	Volatile substances
VSM	Volatile substance misuse (interchangeable with VSA)
VSA	Volatile substance abuse (interchangeable with VSM)
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association



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Introduction

This report covers the activities of the Alcohol and Drugs (AOD) Indigenous communities Project (2011-2014) over the first twelve months. This project is a continuation of the 2008-2011 Project which was evaluated in May 2011. This review was undertaken to determine if the project was on track and to discover and highlight areas for concern. Records of outputs and activities were checked against project reports and tabulated in the table below. Also a review of what data would be required to demonstrate project impact was undertaken to ensure that appropriate data collection instruments would be available to complete the evaluation of project impact in mid 2011. This is also tabulated below in the areas marked impact. The project has three major objectives (purposes) as listed below.

1. To develop systems and processes that reduce supply of volatile substances and associated harms in the greater Darwin region.
2. Increase the capacity of Indigenous communities, in the Darwin region, to reduce the harms and demands of alcohol, drugs and volatile substances.
3. Increase the capacity of Amity and other community service providers, individually and collectively, to work with Indigenous communities.

Evaluating purpose 1 – To develop prevention strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities.

Question – What prevention strategies have been developed to reduce the harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities?

This has evolved from the previous 2008-2011 project which itself continued from the Retailers responsible Sale of Solvents Project 2007. Supply issues regarding retailers are still being addressed and 37 retail visits have been completed since July 2011, and two volatile substance training sessions were delivered to Bunnings and Crazy Clark. In addition 30 small outlets selling volatile substance products were visited in conjunction with the Northern Territory Alcohol and Drug Service (NT AOD) in the Darwin area and stores were provided information regarding responsible sale of solvents. NT AOD continues to utilise Amity's resources available through the Amity website <http://www.amity.org.au/AOD-Indigenous/VSM-resources.shtml>.

Diversionary activities provide alternatives to using harmful substances and engaging in anti-social behaviour. Having nothing positive to do continues to be identified by community members as a major reason for the harmful use of substances, including alcohol. Involving the community in meaningful activities therefore increases their capacity to reduce substance induced harm.

Amity continues to refer residents to the Balunu Foundation who target disadvantaged youth through their Indigenous Youth Healing Program. The program aims to support youth in addressing anti-social behaviour by providing positive cultural experiences through their participation in cultural camping trips.



Evaluating purpose 2 – To develop protection strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities.

Question – What protection strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities have been developed?

The new volatile substance amendments to the act are currently with the senior policy officer in finalised draft form and it is envisaged these will become law passed through the NT Legislative Assembly. Essentially the submission to make amendments is being finalised.

Amity has developed a 20 sessional driver training program for Indigenous communities which incorporate drink driver education and AOD information. This has been successful and is being used by NT Road safety and incorporated in the Drive Safe NT program.

Amity has been engaging the youth in afterschool activities and currently run two youth diversion programs at Milgarri and Gurdorrka community, which has been support by Corrugated Iron Youth Arts and Team Health. Youth and families have engaged and participated in youth arts and community events such as Nite Street, Browns Mart Community Arts and Sport and. Through the after school activities Amity has engaged several older youth from the communities to attend a Danila Dilba presentation on sexual health.

Through AFL Amity has provided opportunities for young men to link with other services e.g. Team Health, Danila Dilba and YMCA. Amity has also provided alcohol and other drug information and awareness sessions in consultation with the AFL team.

In June 2011, Amity supported 100 adults and 54 children from Gurdorrka, Milgarri, and Minmarrama with transport and team registrations to attend the Barunga festival, which assisted 25 AFL and 22 basketball player registrations and thirteen musicians. The Barunga festival is an annual sports and cultural festival which consists of competitions including a Road Safety Song Competition. Amity supported community bands, both the Young Guns from Bagot and Rising Star Bands, to attend Barunga and the Jabiru Wind Festival.

Development of protection strategies in Darwin Aboriginal Communities has been hampered due to the folding of the Building Leadership and Capacity (BLAC) program supporting Community Leaders and governed by Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT). AMSANT provided mentoring support and enhanced knowledge of community leaders so they could strengthen their abilities to be better advocates for comprehensive primary health care with their own communities they served. Funding was pulled out and the community leaders informed us they were abandoned and continued to advocate for their communities with no financial or mentoring support.

Amity has been applying the Community Readiness Model as a practical assessment tool to help communities understand their strengths and vulnerabilities to manage change. The model can be applied to a range of issues affecting a person psychosocial wellbeing. The model has been



applied when assisting the Bagot community develop prevention strategies to reduce harms associated with alcohol and associated harms. The model has also been applied to establish the Theory Learn to Drive, Road Safety and Alcohol and Other Drug workshops for Gurdorrka and Milgarri.

Bagot community has invited Amity to deliver information sessions to Bagot Community's Housing Reference Group and youth Group. As a result this has opened discussions regarding Alcohol Management Plan and the community developing Alcohol Management Plans with FaHCSIA and Department of Justice. Youth representatives on the community identified the desire to see more programs that included education, alcohol and other drugs, sexual health and training education expos on the community.

Through the stakeholders group of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit Amity has formed new partnerships with the Regional Coordinator of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit and are developing supply reduction resources for contractors across the Northern Territory.

Evaluating purpose 3 – Develop intervention strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities.

Question - What intervention strategies have been developed to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities?

Amity has been working with other agencies to develop referral pathway and information sharing with community residence.

In November and December there was (and continues) a number of concerns around volatile substance abuse in both Milgarri and Gurdorrka communities. Amity has held discussions with VSA Clinicians and families to obtain family support for intervention and referral to mandated treatment. Interventions have been difficult as often the person who is sniffing volatile substance goes into hiding. Family members continue to approach us and are prepared to offer assistance to get individuals to assessment and treatment. Two men and one woman from Gurdorrka have been referred for treatment and three young people aged 16, 18 and 21 years from Milgarri have been referred with support from their families.

There are currently 170 referrals for VSA treatment services and limited spots available in the Northern Territory, usually due to the nature of treatment and associated erratic behavior. Voluntary behavior has proven to be stronger though fraught with let down as places are limited. For example Bush Mob has a two month waiting list and referrals are for young people at risk and during the time of writing this report both Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties (FORWAARD) and referrals to Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services Inc. (CAAPS) referrals are through Department of Health and Families Alcohol and Other Drug Program Services in the Top End.

Some strategies common to both communities include:

- Calling the police



- Securing petrol containers in the community
- Removing petrol and glue from the person
- Trying to talk to the person about harms associated with petrol and glue sniffing when the person is sober.

Amity's work and relationship with the families has assisted them to source supply of volatile substance abuse. Amity has approached a Caltex Retailer and informed them a person is obtaining petrol with their basics card. Amity continues to provide the program's fact sheets to the retailer which assists them to refuse sale. Toy World in Berrimah was discovered as a source of supply and anecdotal evidence suggests the product was purchased at \$7 per can of Tamiya Color S-16 for plastic and shoplifted, as the product was tucked away near an often unattended hobby counter. Staff at the store have been very helpful and are addressing storage of the product. Staff have been provided with information regarding retailer's rights and responsibilities under the NT VSAP Act and associated retailer training.

Amity has support residence from the communities and supported the following referrals:

- Age Care Assessment Team Support
- Anglicare Power and Water Financial Assistance
- Birth Deaths and Marriages
- Centrelink
- Danila Dilba
- Drink Driver Education
- Iron Bark Job Service Assistance
- Larrakia Nation Targeted Family Support
- Medicare
- Mission Australia Job Service Assistance
- Musicians to Browns Mart and Music Northern Territory
- Top End Mental Health Services
- Top End Women's Legal Service
- Volatile Substance
- Woolaning homeland Christian college
- Yilli Rreung and housing concerns

Amity provided support for young mothers of Milgarri and Gurdorrka communities to attend the FaHCSIA supported Core of Life workshop. The program prepares young Aboriginal mothers to deal with birthing and parenting. Conflict within the communities prevented engagement and attendance.

Through the AFL town community competition and Barunga Sports Carnival Amity has supported opportunities for 23 young men to link with other services in particular Team Health, Danila Dilba and YMCA.

Evaluating purpose 4 – Institute measures to address co-morbidity in communities with respect to the harmful use of substances.



Question – What measures to address co-morbidity in communities with respect to the harmful use of substances have been instituted?

Through the women's group there has been an expression of interest to help them with grief and loss. As one participant remarked '*Often the old people say we are tired of burying our young people*'. The Department of Justice approached Amity as through their alcohol management meetings they have also had enquiries on mental health first aid for residence on Aboriginal Town Communities. The women's group on Milgarri have indicated they would like Indigenous specific tools to help create a suicide safer community for families. Through the women's group Amity are developing how best for them to establish information sharing about this sensitive topic.

Amity has researched and located the most experienced trainers regarding mental health first aid that do Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Safe Talk and meet the needs and requirements of Indigenous communities. Both Anglicare and Catholic Care NT have agreed to provide a workshop and information session to residence of the town communities. Central Australia Life Promotions program has offered to forward resources following the evaluation period.

Amity has linked the Aboriginal Health Promotions Officer Training, Education of Top End Mental Health Services with the men's program and they attended fishing trips with the men.

Alcohol and Other Drugs sessions have been delivered to 18 people from Milgarri and Gurdorrka communities, imbedded in the Learn to Drive program.

Amity has been participating and facilitating discussions and provided workshops with FaHCSIA, Department of Justice and Residence of Darwin Aboriginal Town Communities Bagot, Milgarri Knuckey's Lagoon, Gurdorrka 15 mile, Kulaluk, Amangal Adelaide River. Amity has provided detailed information to Department of Justice, Government Business Managers and Communities in particular Kulaluk and Bagot following a request from them to seek Family Based Intervention Programs to support counselling to youth and others at risk. Amity learnt there is little service provision regarding suicide intervention prevention programs that are culturally tailored and available for the Aboriginal Town Communities to access. Resources appear to be either stretch and or exhausted and much needed funding is required to provide suicide intervention service provision. Through the pre-established Alcohol Reference Groups Amity has provided the following information to residence, as a result one of the communities engaged safe talk and some residence have received Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

Immediate Crisis Intervention

- Top End Mental Health Services. This may need to be pushed via the department to initiate timely support to the community
- National 24 hour services you can call in a crisis: Lifeline - 13 11 14 Kids Help Line - 1800 55 1800 (young people up to 25 years old) Mens Line - 1300 78 99 78 Suicide Call



Back Service - 1300 659 467 Tamarind On Call Team - (08) 8999 4988 (Darwin local) or call a friend, family member or other person for help.

Suicide Training

- Top End Mental Health Services auspice programs with Anglicare they are evidence based and / or have much support with Indigenous Communities. Contact is Sandy Ford ph 8931 5999 for the following programs:
- Safe Talk is part of Living Works and is a 3 hour program (min 12 people) This program prepares anyone over the age of 15 to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources. Most people with thoughts of suicide invite help to stay safe. Alert helpers know how to use these opportunities to support that desire for safety (<http://www.livingworks.net/page/safeTALK>)
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Program - Top End Suicide Intervention & Awareness Training Program (TESIAT) is funded by NT Dept of Health & Community Services (Mental Health) to provide suicide intervention and awareness training at a subsidised rate to government and non-government agencies, the general public and targeted communities across the top end of the Northern Territory. The program offers both the skills based 2 day Living Works Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshop and a half day Suicide Awareness session. Programs for adults interested in improving their capacity to effectively intervene when someone is showing suicidal behaviour. Contact is Laurencia Grant ph 89504600 The Mental Health Association of Central Australia
- There is a program called suicide story developed in central Australia that is being rolled out. Not available until after the evaluation. This program provides a dialogue to talk about suicide. Often people are afraid to talk about suicide, it's been set up in Yirrikala and Yindamo . Feedback from the sessions has been incredibly positive, as run by Aboriginal Mental Health Association of Central Australia. The contact is Laurencia Grant ph89504600. Patrick Ahkit from Top End Mental Health is the identified trainer in Darwin. Other useful contacts include Headspace ph 89315 999
- Ngaree Ahkit Deputy Chair Darwin Regional Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network mob 0405158637
- Danila Dilba Social and Emotional Wellbeing – Sue Whitford 8927 9335,
- Darwin Region Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network (DRISPN) DRISPN was established in October 2010 following a community rally which drew attention to the high rate of indigenous suicide in the territory. Wesley Mission, the Danila Dilba Health Service, community members and other stakeholders worked together to assist the start up of the Network.
- Lifeline – CEO Jane Johnson 89412365
- Top End Suicide Prevention Network (TESPN), a group of community members, professionals, and service providers who are dedicated to reducing the devastating rates of suicide in the Northern Territory. Approximately 6 people take their lives each day in Australia, with the NT recording the highest rate of suicide across all states and territories. TESPN believes that suicide is everybody's business. Their mission is to raise



community awareness around suicide prevention and break down the social stigmas which isolate those at risk and prevent effective support.

- An invitation was forward for members of the community they could contact Top End Suicide Prevention Network, which hold monthly meetings every second Tuesday of each month at 3pm in Peter Chandlers office.
- Other resources that were offered to the communities included resources available through Tricia Nagel – Menzies School of Health Research 08 8922 7944 – Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative Resources.

Evaluating purpose 5 – Increase Amity’s capacity to work with Indigenous communities.

Question - In what way has Amity’s capacity to work with Indigenous communities been increased?

Amity currently holds board representation on Human Service Training Advisory Council and Stolen Generation committees. Monthly supervision important to maintain good, open communications and continue to build on the work relationship and provide quality assurance for the organisation and balance the deeds with the client group and also the agency.

All staff have a working with children’s card and first aid accredited training. Annette has completed CERT IV in training and assessment TAE 40110; Cert IV in project management BSB41507; and Cert IV in front line management BSB40807

The following in-house training has been made available to staff:

- Assertion training
- Drink Driver Education
- Mandatory Reporting
- Motivational Interviewing in house training
- Rational Emotive Therapy with CEO Amity Community Services

External training made available to staff:

- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
- Certificate II in Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Certificate III in Alcohol and Other Drugs
- First aid accredited training HLTFA301B
- Smart driver 4 x 4 drive training.
- Identifying and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect
- Indigenous Psychological Services Mental Health Assessment
- Mental Health First Aid
- Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

The Program Co-ordinator attended Linking Indigenous Police to Service Delivery and the conference provided insight to overcome barriers of delivering service to Indigenous



communities for the purpose of capacity building. The importance of building partnerships and consistency of service was identified at the conference as fundamental to successful program service delivery.

Two project staff members, with Community Band Members, attended the iNTune Music Conference held in Darwin. This provided exposure to learn new skills and network with some of Australia's leading music industry figures and to view a variety of band showcasing talents.

Evaluating purpose 6 – Continuous evaluation and quality improvement of project delivery and outcomes.

Question – Has continuous evaluation and quality improvement of project delivery and outcomes been performed?

The evaluation framework together with the data collection is a continuation of the collaborative effort between Centre for Remote Health (CRH) and Amity project staff in particular the project coordinator for input and management of the evaluation. The evaluation maintains a strong focus on process. Key performance indicators (KPI's) developed with the community measure project outputs or deliverables and further set to measure the projects purposes (objectives). Continuation of the projects evaluation of process facilitated by the review process has proved to be a good management tool as evidence by quality feedback and completion of outputs, which are largely paced by community engagement.

Evaluation feedback is distributed following retailer training and following the driver education training. Continuous reflection is provided to the monthly Board of Management (BOM) Reports and through the weekly team meetings. The project is also a member of Amity's People and Learning and Client Service subcommittees.

The purpose of People and Learning is to support staff, team development and meetings, inclusive decision making, induction recruitment strategies and provide feedback to each other for learning. Client Services looks at outreach work health coaching and group work models for AOD and responding to community needs.



Evaluation Framework – Showing purposes and outputs

Activities	Question	Response
Purpose 1: To develop prevention strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities	Question – What prevention strategies have been developed to reduce the harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities?	Prevention strategies have been developed in four main areas, Community education; divisionary activities targeting youth; increasing school attendance and divisionary activities targeting community. These are detailed in the outputs below.
Output 1: Increase community education around AOD use and harm minimisation strategies	What community education around AOD use has been done?	<p>Amity has supported eighteen people from Gurdorrka and Milgarri communities obtain their learner’s driver’s licences. The sessions were held at Gurdorrka and at Amity Community Services. AOD, Inhalant Information sessions and road safety learning literacy and numeracy were included in the program.</p> <p>Amity has since had a demand from members of these communities to support them to attend the Drink Driver Education Sessions. Verbal testing proved difficult due to limited resources at Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR), however was overcome through a collaborated effort with local government. MVR testing officer reported the participants passed and performed well and above what was required.</p> <p>Project Officer engaged 7 youth to attend Danila Dilba presentation on sexual health.</p> <p>Staff delivered AOD information sessions to 10 residences.</p> <p>Staff have assisted men from the communities to attend the ‘2 3 Card Raising Awareness to Responsible Gambling’. As a result this opened discussion with the men regarding how more money can be provided to the family if less was gambled.</p> <p>Amity has held AOD information awareness sessions with 10 Community Elders and 9 Government representative discussing how best to approach Alcohol Management Plans with the community. 6 Town Communities in Darwin have been identified to be a part of a Regional Reference Group. The community leader of Bagot objected to Government representatives the removal of night patrol.</p> <p>On Gurdorrka community Amity met with the community members, the six present argued that meetings not be held on a Thursday pay day. Community women and men advised the meeting will be cancelled.</p>
Output 2: Work with		There has been limited engagement during this



<p>associated agencies to facilitate the engagement of community youth in education, training and employment</p>		<p>reporting period due to unforeseen staff absences and the suspension of the FaHCSIA Building Leadership and Capacity Program which supported community leaders on the nominated town communities.</p> <p>The youth project officer attended a 3 hour workshop - NT Early Intervention Pilot Program (NTEIPP) - examining practical resources to engage community youth. He is also linking with the Milgarri children's primary schools to strengthen relationships with the school and families.</p> <p>Amity continues to conduct youth programs with Corrugated Iron and Amity receive support through Team Health's drug beat program. Youth attendance significantly increases during activities associated with nutrition and education.</p> <p>After school activities are being provided on a regular basis and have included sports activities (cricket, basketball), fishing, colouring in, drawings, writing songs, playing musical instruments, writing songs, making plasticine characters for animation.</p>
<p>Output 3: Initiate and support programs that increase school attendance</p>	<p>Has a support program been initiated? What did this involve?</p>	<p>Amity continues to inform community leaders of their involvement with the various groups - this has been problematic as Community Leaders are often not available since the Building Leadership and Capacity Program was not refunded for Gurdorrka and Milgarri. If any group from the community or outside the communities approach staff members Amity always seek clarification from the community leaders and or identified community leadership groups.</p> <p>Save the Children have an active role with schools in ensuring the schools are linked closely with community, this is achieved by employing women on the community as school attendance officers. These women are often seen as strong women on the community and are often participants with the women's programs.</p> <p>Amity has engaged three primary schools, most of the schools the children are associated with are low socio economic with 80% of student being Aboriginal or English as a second language. All the primary schools the children attend have a strong link to Save the Children. Three of the children attending the Amity youth program are identified in leaderships positions at their schools.</p> <p>Amity has engaged with three schools in this reporting period and engaged family to enroll a troubled youth to Woolaning Homeland Christian</p>



<p>Output 4: Support and assist, in conjunction with other agencies, the development of alternative activities within the community.</p>	<p>What alternate activities have been completed and with whom?</p>	<p>College.</p> <p>Meetings with NT AFL, Corrective Services, Team Health and Governance from Bagot Community to assist in sustaining the development of the AFL combined town camps competition, which has lapsed during the current AFL season.</p> <p>Youth programs continue to be conducted at Milgarri and Gurdorrka with Corrugated Iron.</p> <p>Amity, Team Health and Corrugated Iron engaged and supported 30 young people and family from Milgarri and Gurdorrka communities to attend the Nite Street event. This experience provided opportunity to view performances of youth performing traditional songs from their homelands and also experience the diversity of youth expression in arts and entertainment.</p> <p>Staff met with the Executive Director of Human Services Training Advisory Council, who approached Amity to discuss possible inroads to create opportunities for VET and Employment in Aboriginal town Communities. Staff also met with Department of Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) Education and Skills and Job Coordinator Darwin Region and is keen to support the development of skills and workforce from the targeted Town Communities and plans to discuss with this with FaHCSIA Government Business Managers. Programs that Amity is involved with could provide inroads to provide VET Training and Employment Opportunities include: Youth Program, Men’s Program and Music, Women’s Program and Market Garden.</p> <p>Amity has met with the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect’s (NAPCAN) Love Bites Program (a relationship violence prevention program aimed at young people aged 14-18 yrs) and has incorporated the Community Readiness Model as a practical assessment tool to assist communities understands their strengths and vulnerabilities to manage change. The model can be applied to a range of issues affecting a person psychosocial wellbeing and we applied the model to assess the readiness of residence of Gurdorrka Community to establish theory learn to drive, road safety and alcohol and other drugs workshop.</p> <p>Amity is working closely with Palmerston City Council and the Indigenous Darwin Urban Aboriginal Health Nutrition Advisor for the purpose of building stronger alliance to deliver health and</p>
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		<p>nutrition programs to the town communities. Discussion is in progress with the Stakeholder Group and Bagot and Milgarri Communities.</p> <p>Music NT is supporting the development of young musicians and has produced a music demo and engaged the musicians with gigs outside the community.</p> <p>Amity engaged and supported 30 young people and family from Milgarri and Gurdorrka communities to attend the Nite Street event. This experience provided an opportunity to view performances of youth performing traditional songs from their homelands and also experience the diversity of youth expression in arts and entertainment.</p> <p>Amity has linked community musicians to Homeless Connect with Darwin City Council and is progressing to establish regular gigs at Browns Mart supported by Music NT.</p> <p>Amity continues to work with Corrugated Iron Youth Arts and this relationship links other agencies such as Larrakia Arts, Back to Back Theatre and Darwin Community Arts Groups. Activities such as Democratic set involved 30 children from Milgarri and Gurdorrka, 5 Adults and Save the Children to participate in the Democratic Set</p>
<p>Purpose 2: Develop protection strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities</p>	<p>Question – What protection strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities have been developed?</p>	<p>In conjunction with NTAOD visiting retailers to talk about VS issues.</p> <p>Amity has informed Mindel Market organisers about secure storage and appropriate products to use when involving spray painting. Education and information was disseminated through the store keepers about volatile substance misuse. The event organisers were unaware of products such as White Knight Paints, this was the first paint company to produce aerosol paints that are community and environmentally friendly. All locally produced aerosol paint cans are now ‘Safe to Spray’. Safe to Spray is a program that has been launched which includes 3 keys messages: 1) Non Chroming Formula – Toluene free, discourages chroming 2) CFC Free – Won’t harm the Ozone Layer, and 3) Lead & Heavy Metal Free – Safe to use on children’s toys and furniture. White King products in Darwin are available at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bunnings Warehouse ○ Mitre 10 ○ Paint Place Group of Stores
<p>Output 1: Participation in the development of related</p>	<p>Legislation is now finalised in draft and is with the senior</p>	<p>Legislation is now finalised in draft and is with the senior policy officer and waiting the outcomes of NT</p>



legislation	policy officer prior to sanctioning by government.	Parliamentary sittings in 2012. Through the stakeholders group of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit we have formed new partnerships with the Regional Coordinator of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit and are developing supply reduction resources for contractors across the Northern Territory.
Output 2. Working with government and private stakeholders to address issues relating to supply and demand	What specific activities were undertaken here?	Amity has formed new partnerships with the Regional Coordinator of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit (FaHCSIA), who is driving the VSA group. Currently NT Gov is reviewing recommendations to amend the <i>Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act</i> not only include existing VSA management areas required to securely store volatile substances, but to also include the power of the Minister to declare areas and abused substances to be enshrined in the Act, with reference to the regulations associated with storage.
Output 3: Develop strategies with individual communities to reduce demand, supply and associated harms related to high levels of alcohol and other drug use	What strategies have been developed and with which communities?	The Project Coordinator met with Bagot Housing Reference Group and Red Cross, Amity provided an overview of stages of change to assist the community and stakeholders to develop strategies on demand reduction for the upcoming Alcohol Management Plan discussions. Department of Justice in consultation with the Aboriginal Town Communities and FaHCSIA invited the project to attend Alcohol Management discussion forums on the communities. Amity attended meetings at Kulaluk, Bagot, Milgarri, Gurdorrka and 1 mile communities. Engagement has been slow and sporadic, as communities such as Gurdorrka and Milgarri with problematic misuse and extensive sorry business associated with drink driving accidents has been slow to engage. This has also impacted on service delivery on the communities. Both communities have shown little involvement with discussions with Department of Justice. Comments from groups on the community include <i>“they don’t want to talk to government because government don’t listen to them and they feel it’s not their place or land to talk for, and that the decision should come from land owners”</i> . Amity has been engaging with both men’s and women’s group to develop strategies through the learn to drive and alcohol and drug information awareness sessions. Strategies include engagement to obtain identification and to engage with Centrelink, Darwin Regional to participate in employment work ready initiatives.
Purpose 3: Develop Intervention Strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other	Question - What intervention strategies have been developed to reduce harms associated with inhalants,	This has been done through brief interventions, strengthening referral pathways and through the women’s program linking and supporting individuals to relevant services.



drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities	alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities?	
Output 1: Referring individuals to appropriate AOD and/or mental health services		This is largely covered in conjunction with output 2 below. Through the women's program Amity has linked and supported individuals to get mental health support through Team Health, and facilitated volatile substance clinician referral for mandated treatment.
Output 2 Referring individuals to other services as individual needs are identified		Through the women's program Amity has linked and supported individuals to the following: - Centrelink and payments, employment and youth assistance - Medicare for identification - Larrakia Nation Targeted Family Support - Drink Driver Education Course at Amity - Volatile Substance Clinician referral for mandated treatment - Evidence of Identity with Birth Deaths and Marriages and Larrakia Nation - Carers support through Carers NT - Age Care Assessment Team Support - Kormilda College and reenrolment in year 11 - Mental Health Support through Team Health - Musicians to Browns Mart and Music NT - Musicians to Homeless Connect with Darwin City Council - Anglicare Power and Water and Financial Assistance - Iron Bark Job Service Assistance - Mission Australia Job Service Assistance - Top End Women's Legal Service - Yilli Rreung and housing concerns
Output 3: Facilitate and deliver brief interventions	What brief interventions have been delivered? How were the communities involved in this?	Amity through their partnerships, continue to facilitate and deliver brief intervention sessions through AOD Information Workshops, referrals and linking to Drink Driver Education and Family Coping.
Output 4: Work with retailers and contractors to reduce supply		Amity and NTAOD worked collaboratively to deliver retail information as a brief intervention to 23 retailers around Palmerston and Casuarina areas.
Purpose 4. Institute measures to address co-morbidity in communities with respect to the harmful use of substances	Question – What measures to address co-morbidity in communities with respect to the harmful use of substances have been instituted?	A women's working group has been established at Bagot community to empower ladies to access different service providers to address co morbidity. Mental health issues have been addressed by focussing on factors that increase self esteem and social and emotional wellbeing. Community members have also been supported to obtain proof of identification and some members assisted in obtaining their learner driver licence, increasing confidence and esteem in these individuals.
Output 1: Assist the communities to identify strategies aimed at addressing		A women's working group has been established at Bagot community to empower ladies to access different service providers to address co morbidity.



co morbidity in the communities		
Purpose 5. Increase Amity's capacity to work with Indigenous Communities	Question - In what way has Amity's capacity to work with Indigenous communities been increased?	This has been achieved through output 1 below which has had the effect of improving cultural competency when dealing with communities. Being able to assess their stage of readiness to develop interventions by applying the community readiness model, and increasing staff capacity to work with community members by staff development. .
Output 1 Develop a team to effectively work on the AOD Indigenous Communities project		This has been achieved through active recruiting of quality Indigenous staff and ongoing relevant staff development. Which has included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training in cultural competency 2. Facilitating reflective practice 3. Training in community readiness model 4. Supporting professional development (eg cert 4 AOD etc)
Purpose 6. Continuous evaluation and quality improvement of project delivery and outcomes	Question – Has continuous evaluation and quality improvement of project delivery and outcomes been performed?	This was achieved by collaboratively developing the project plan and evaluation framework at the start of the project. Data to populate the evaluation framework has been continuously collected through the medium of communication logs. Periodic review of project direction has been undertaken in collaboration with CRH. A twelve month review was undertaken to support the 12 month report.
Output 1 employ action research methodology to ensure the objective of the project are being met		With support from the Centre for Remote Health the following has been delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Business plan logic and time line -Revise and review of data collection of data; continue collection of data; analyse collected data and methodologies and identified key changes to sustain the project. <p>-Centre for Remote Health presented a qualitative data workshop and principles of community development.</p> <p>A follow up workshop was completed to further develop community development competencies this included delivering the community readiness model to the team. This model matches interventions to community capacity and its readiness to change. Amity has utilized this model successfully on a number of occasions</p>
Output 2 Maintain and review of accurate and comprehensive records of the project including ongoing performance against all objective and deliverable		Amity is currently reviewing comparisons between the achievements of the Aims of the Projects against performance indicators of purpose 1 through to 4.



Conclusion

Evaluating purpose 1 – To develop prevention strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities.

As noted above this intervention has evolved from the previous 2008-2011 project which itself continued from the Retailers responsible Sale of Solvents Project 2007. This whole section is running well the intervention is well tested and documented and only needs to continue as previously.

Evaluating purpose 2 – To develop protection strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities.

A good start to this section has been made with significant progress and numerous activities documented in the main body of the review have been implemented. However initiatives have been hampered due to the folding of the Building Leadership and Capacity program supporting Community Leaders and governed by Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT). Governance is a significant issue that needs to be addressed and this section remains very vulnerable and will need some close supervision and support to keep on track.

Evaluating purpose 3 – Develop intervention strategies to reduce harms associated with inhalants, alcohol and other drugs in Darwin Aboriginal Communities.

Amity has been working with other agencies to develop referral pathway and information sharing with community residents, and in addition provided brief interventions to communities. This process is rather labour intensive and some thought should be given as to how this can be maintained and expanded to all target communities in the following year.

Evaluating purpose 4 – Institute measures to address co-morbidity in communities with respect to the harmful use of substances.

Addressing mental health issues as relating to the harmful use of substances is arguably the most important area of the program. A very good start has been made here and is well documented in the main body of the report. However some consideration needs to be given with respect to resourcing this activity in the coming year to ensure momentum is maintained.

Amity has been participating and facilitating discussions and provided workshops with FaHCSIA, Department of Justice and Residence of Darwin Aboriginal Town Communities. This collaboration is potentially a good strategy, however care needs to be exercised in terms of governance of the collaboration to ensure the best interests of the communities are met.



Evaluating purpose 5 – Increase Amity’s capacity to work with Indigenous communities.

Amity have made a considerable effort in this area by providing both in-house and external training . Of particular note was the completion of training in cross cultural competency which will form the basis for developing a cultural safety policy for the organisation.

Evaluating purpose 6 – Continuous evaluation and quality improvement of project delivery and outcomes.

Amity continues to use an action research approach to program evaluation and has worked collaboratively with CRH ensure good program performance. This review is part of that effort.

Recommendations

1. As noted in the previous project evaluation the responsible sale of solvents program is now operating optimally and could be managed by a dedicated program officer. Consideration should be given on how this could be achieved.
2. As noted in the previous project evaluation, lack of capacity in governance was found to be a major impediment to successful community development. It is recommended that consideration be given to employing a senior community development officer that could address this issue and provide “working support” to the community project officers. It may be possible that this position could also manage the responsible sale of solvents program.
3. The cross cultural competency baseline that was commenced at the start of the previous project has now been progressed with further cross cultural training. It is recommended that this be further developed with community input to produce a cultural safety policy for Amity.
4. Although staff currently receive supervision and mentoring, it is recommended that this process be reviewed to strengthen support to the project officers who are working within community settings. This is necessary because of the nature of the work. They are working in demanding community development situations with often less than adequate experience, and would benefit from “on the job” mentoring and training. This should include the use of community development techniques, and reviewing basic concepts, theories and research relating to the project. An ideal way of dealing with this would be to employ a senior community development person who would focus on mentoring, team development and effectiveness.
5. The communications and management system implemented has been effective in retaining corporate knowledge. It is recommended that this be structured and documented to make the interface easily intelligible to new users. In conjunction with the above it is recommended that some thought be given to employing a high level admin person to develop this and also further develop the VSA packages for rollout in other regions. It is conceivable that this person may also manage the responsible sale of solvents program.

