



Footsteps

road to recovery

NW Region SA Residential Rehabilitation Service

acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait ancestors, elders and traditional owners of country in the NW SA region

ANNUAL REPORT

It's been a year of expansion and a milestone in the history of the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council. - for the first time ever, ADAC, as part of a Consortium partnership, is establishing an alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation service in Port Augusta for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the north west region of South Australia!

Last year, in response to community need, the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA (ADAC), Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHCSA) and Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) together tendered for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residential rehabilitation services across South Australia. They were successful with funding for a north-west regional service only, which is funded to June 2015.

All three partners have existing links with Aboriginal community controlled health services, family support services and communities in the region, which paves the way for referral pathways and will provide a continuum of care for clients, pre and post rehabilitation.

A Steering Committee of regional service representatives has been assisting the Consortium to plan, develop and operate a comprehensive and coordinated model of service and the Clinical Advisory Committee of regional health practitioners has been working on the clinical protocols needed.

As the lead organization, the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council will be responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of the service.

The site of the residential rehabilitation service will be at Ellis Close, Port Augusta, which has eight established houses, office and activities area. Unfortunately, due to delays with the Australian Government transferring the facility we have been unable to start work on the site, however this hasn't stopped us from progressing.

In May this year, Sue-Anne Morley was appointed as the Regional Coordinator to work with the Consortium to establish the service. Sue-Anne has a strong background in alcohol and drug policy, program management and has worked with many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the NT and Cape York to address alcohol and drug misuse.

Since then, there has been overwhelming support from councils and community services, which clearly demonstrates the residential rehabilitation service is much needed in the region.

Agreed partnerships with the Aboriginal Health Council SA, regional community health services, Aboriginal family support services and other regional services will form a whole of community effort to provide a comprehensive, coordinated and collaborative approach to alcohol and drug service delivery across the region.

Aboriginal communities in the region are also supportive - elders, traditional healers and the Aboriginal Community Engagement Group of Port Augusta will be providing advice and expertise to make sure the service has a comprehensive cultural program to also support a person's recovery.

Residential rehabilitation services across Australia and the Australian Therapeutic Communities Association have offered their expertise, policies, manuals and programs and even staff placement, to help the service get established.

ADAC is running a regional competition for a name for the north west region residential rehabilitation service. Hopefully it will be a shorter name than the current one! The successful applicant will win a prize valued to \$1,000.

As the only alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation facility of its kind in the region, the service will operate a therapeutic community model of care, adapted with a culturally appropriate focus and staffed by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

ADAC is a proud employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and regards its human resources, cultural integrity and service partnerships as key components to the success of its services.

TARGET GROUP and AREA

The catchment area for clients coming to the service covers almost 900,000 klms and includes;

Anangu Lands + communities	Pitjantjatjara	Yangyantjara	Maralinga Valley	Tjarajara	Lands + Oak	Roxby Downs
Burra		Eudunda	Marree		Penong	Scottdesco
Ceduna + 11 homelands		Kadina	Oodnadatta		Port Augusta	Whyalla
Coober Pedy		Konribba	Orroroo		Port Lincoln	Yalata Community

OUR SERVICES

The North West Regional Residential Rehabilitation Service will offer a 12-bed short term residential accommodation for men and women and will operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Services will include:

Community	Reconciliation, Advocacy, Education and awareness initiatives, service provider links
Health	Assessment, Education and Promotion
Referrals	Coordinated case management
Counselling	A range of therapies suitable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents
After care support	Access to short term accommodation, social supports, re-engagement with community
Cultural programs & activities	Utilising traditional healers, elders, cultural mentoring and leadership
Programs and Activities	Holistic programs and group therapies

The therapeutic community consists of individuals with alcohol and drug problems, all supporting each other in changing their attitudes, behaviors and the many aspects of their lives that are not healthy - in a positive nurturing environment. Learning to reconnect with families, communities and culture, as well as education, employment and life skills are also an essential part of the program.

EVALUATION

The National Drug Research Institute has agreed to evaluate the establishment of the service and will continue to monitor its progress once it is up and running.

This will provide ADAC with valuable feedback on how the service is tracking and whether it is meeting the needs of the community.

MEETING COMMUNITY NEED

In the process of establishing the residential rehabilitation service, ADAC undertook extensive community consultation across the north west region of South Australia (almost 900,000 square kilometres), and found a number of service gaps in the region to address alcohol and drug misuse.

Because of the size of the area, it was found that the few services available were inaccessible to many who lived in remote areas. There was also an extremely limited number of sobering up shelters, withdrawal units, alcohol and drug education programs, or diversionary activities, with no transport or supported accommodation for those needing alcohol and drug treatment. (see Attachment A,B)

After identifying these gaps, ADAC will be seeking funding to support a comprehensive approach that serves to strengthen and coordinate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community responses to alcohol and drug misuse and provide the best outcomes for the region. The approach will support the residential rehabilitation service and include:

- 🌐 Alcohol and Drug Day Centres
- 🌐 Outreach Alcohol and Drug Services
- 🌐 Cultural Services to address alcohol and drug misuse
- 🌐 Creating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment opportunities
- 🌐 Alcohol and drug supported accommodation

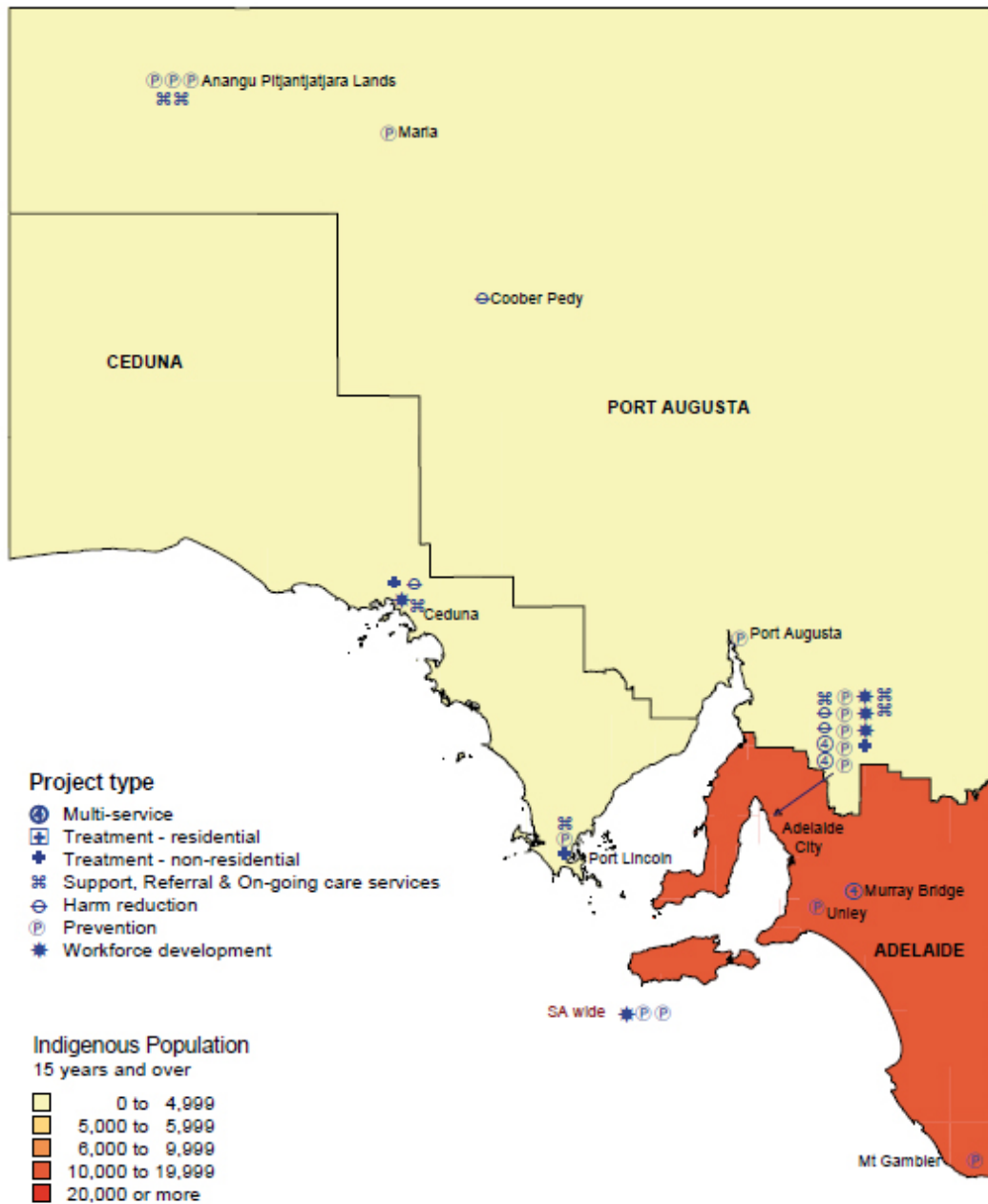
If successful, the service model will provide a continuous pathway of support for communities, individuals and families wanting to address alcohol and drug issues.

Identifying Areas of Greatest Need Report
National Drug Research Institute



Map 2: Indigenous-specific alcohol and other drug intervention projects by ABS Indigenous region, 2006-07

Identifying Areas of Greatest Need Report – South Australia
National Drug Research Institute



Map 12: Indigenous-specific alcohol and other drug intervention projects by ABS Indigenous region, South Australia, 2006-07