

**(Draft) Tasmanian Alcohol Action Plan  
2009 – 2014**

**CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK**

Developed by the Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs



## **Background**

The Tasmanian Alcohol Action Plan 2009-2014 (the Plan) is one of three initiatives under the *Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009* (TDS) framework. The TDS identifies three priorities in responding to the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in the Tasmanian community: community safety; prevention and reduction; and improved access to quality treatment.

The Plan will provide the basis for integrated and well-coordinated strategies to minimise the harm associated with the use of alcohol in Tasmania. It will focus on areas such as public safety, public education and health promotion measures, enhanced professional training, and increased access to treatment (including early intervention). Consideration of and support where applicable and appropriate to the Tasmanian community of National control policies on the availability, pricing and marketing of alcohol will be integrated within future annual implementation plans.

Initial work has been undertaken by the Department of Health and Human Services together with key Government, community and professional organisations to identify and endorse population level goals and strategies around alcohol use in Tasmania. A number of higher level goals are included in the consultation draft Tasmanian Alcohol Action Plan 2009-2014 (attached) under consideration. More detailed strategies from this process will be included in future Implementation Plans. (*Population Health, Department of Health and Human Services. Population Alcohol Strategies: Primary and Secondary Prevention of Alcohol Related Harms – Summary of Future Directions. June 2008*)

In April 2008, the Hon Lara Giddings, Deputy Premier, Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Health announced the development of the Plan as a whole of Government framework taking into account the National Alcohol Strategy, including specific strategies to address alcohol consumption and binge drinking particularly among young people.

In addition, national processes are underway that will assist to inform the future Tasmanian alcohol policy framework, strategies and actions.

In March 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) members agreed to the importance of addressing alcohol misuse and binge drinking among young people. The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) has been asked to report to COAG on options to reduce binge drinking including in relation to closing hours, responsible service of alcohol, reckless secondary supply and the alcohol content in ready-to-drink beverages. The MCDS is presently considering and finalising its report on developing an integrated approach to addressing demand for, and supply of, alcohol through law enforcement, regulation, treatment and prevention. The MCDS Report to COAG will provide COAG with a number of key proposals and a range of other options which the MCDS believes would make an effective contribution to the reduction of harmful levels of alcohol consumption in Australia. The areas being considered and finalised by the MCDS fall under the main headings of liquor licensing; secondary supply; advertising; and alcohol content of ready-to-drink beverages.

The Australian New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council was also asked to request Food Standards Australia New Zealand to consider mandatory warnings on packaged alcohol.

Alcohol-related issues and responses are also being given National priority through the National Binge Drinking Strategy, by the National Preventative Health Taskforce, and under a range of Indigenous initiatives. A number of the key proposals and other options being considered by the MCDS for reporting to COAG will impact on the Tasmanian community. Individual States and Territories will be asked to support and implement a range of actions to ensure national consistency. The Tasmanian Alcohol Action Plan final proposed priority areas, recommended responses and practical application under the annual implementation plans will also be informed by the final proposals, options and timelines for action agreed to by COAG.

### **The Development of the Plan**

The Plan is being developed by the Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs (IAWGD) on behalf of Government. The IAWGD is a whole of government and community representative body reporting through the Department of Health and Human Services to the Hon Lara Giddings, Deputy Premier, Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Health for Government. It includes members of the Departments of Health and Human Services; Police and Emergency Management; Justice; Education; Premier and Cabinet; and Treasury and Finance, and the community sector by members of the Local Government Association of Tasmania; the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council Tasmania; and the Australian National Council on Drugs.

The development of the Plan will build upon the recommendations from the Tasmanian Alcohol Forum convened by the Minister for Police and Emergency Management, held on 17 July 2008.

The Plan will provide a broad framework of key strategic directions, with identified priority areas and recommended responses. Annual implementation plans identifying more detailed actions, performance indicators and reporting requirements will be developed, implemented and monitored over the life of the Plan. An Alcohol Advisory Group will be convened as the principal advisory body to the IAWGD on alcohol-related issues, and its primary purpose will be responsibility for the coordination of the development and implementation of the annual implementation plans.

### **Consultation**

The dissemination of the attached consultation draft of the Tasmanian Alcohol Action Plan 2009-2014 is to ensure those affected by the Plan and the broader Tasmanian community has the opportunity to provide comment.

The consultation phase includes broad dissemination of the attached consultation draft of the Plan. Public input can be made up until 26 June 2009. A targeted statewide consultation workshop will be held mid July 2009 to canvas the views of key stakeholders. Invitees will include representatives of:

- Government Agencies including Police and Emergency Management, Education, Health and Human Services, Economic Development and Tourism, Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (Road Safety Taskforce), Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance (Liquor Licensing)
- Commonwealth Departments of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
- Local Government
- Alcohol Beverages and Hospitality Industries including Australian Hotels Association and the Australian Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union
- Retail Traders Association
- Divisions of General Practice
- Australian Medical Association
- Aboriginal Organisations
- Health Care Workers
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Sector and other Community Sector Organisations
- Peak Bodies
- Researchers
- Cancer Council

It is anticipated the final Plan will be considered by the IAWGD for endorsement in August, prior to being presented to the Hon Lara Giddings, Deputy Premier, Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Health seeking endorsement and presentation to Cabinet.

### **On-Line Input**

On-Line input can be made through the website [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ads/taap](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ads/taap) using the on-line feedback form.

Feedback is welcome. In framing your response, please give consideration to:

- Are your issues or concerns adequately identified?
- Are there other issues not identified?
- Are the priority areas and proposed responses adequate?
- Are there other responses that could be considered?

Please also provide details of supporting evidence (eg details of research, articles etc)

A hardcopy of this paper is available by emailing [adsstateoffice@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:adsstateoffice@dhhs.tas.gov.au) or phoning 62307026.

**The closing date for submissions or feedback is 26 June 2009.**

### Abbreviations used or referred to in the consultation draft

AHA	Australian Hotels Association
AHMU	Australian Hospitality Miscellaneous Union
ANCD	Australian National Council on Drugs
ATDC	Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Council, Tasmania
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSO	Community Sector Organisation
DHHS	Department of Health & Human Services
DIER	Department of Infrastructure, Energy & Resources
DoE	Department of Education
DoHA	Department of Health and Ageing
DoJ	Department of Justice
DPAC	Department of Premier & Cabinet
DPEM	Department of Police & Emergency Management
FaHCSIA	Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
IAST	Inter Agency Support Team
IAWGD	Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs
IGCD	Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy
NAS	National Alcohol Strategy 2006-2009
NDS	National Drug Strategy 2004-2009
RSA	Responsible Service of Alcohol
TDS	Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009