

**EDUCATION AND HEALTH  
STANDING COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF  
PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES FOR ALCOHOL AND  
ILLCIT DRUG PROBLEMS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE  
TAKEN AT BROOME  
MONDAY, 26 JULY 2010**

**SESSION SIX**

**Members**

**Dr J.M. Woollard (Chairman)  
Mr P. Abetz (Deputy Chairman)  
Ms L.L. Baker  
Mr P.B. Watson  
Mr I.C. Blayney**

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**Hearing commenced at 3.26 pm**

**BIN KALI, MR CHRISTOPHER**  
**Director, Milliya Rumurra, examined:**

**KELLY, MS LEONIE**  
**Director/Chairperson, Milliya Rumurra, examined:**

**MARTIN, MS MARY ANN**  
**Board Member, Milliya Rumurra, examined:**

**The CHAIRMAN:** On behalf of the Education and Health Standing Committee, I would like to thank you for your interest and your appearance before us today. I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners, past, present and future, of the land on which we are meeting today. The purpose of this hearing is to assist the committee in gathering evidence for its inquiry into the adequacy and appropriateness of prevention and treatment services for alcohol and illicit drug problems in Western Australia.

The Education and Health Standing Committee is a committee of the Assembly of Parliament. This hearing is a formal procedure of the Parliament and therefore commands the same respect given to proceedings in the house itself. This is a public hearing. Hansard will be making a transcript of the proceedings for the public record. If you refer today to any document or documents during these discussions, it would assist if you can give the full title for the record. As I said before, there will be a witness form and some notes. When Alice gets here, we will stop so you can have a look at that. If you have any problems, and you want to, we can start again. If you are quite happy when you have signed the paperwork, once Alice gets here, we will just continue with the hearing.

There are several aspects to this inquiry. We are looking at people from the beginning. What are children getting at school to prevent them from turning to alcohol and drugs? Are they getting enough within the school curriculum? As part of the hearings today, an educational person said it was not actually necessarily what was in the curriculum but a case of giving more support to get children to the schools. We are looking at what can be done to help children as they get older. We will stop for a minute while everyone signs the paperwork.

**Hearing suspended from 3.29 to 3.36 pm**

**The CHAIRMAN:** Have you completed the “Details of Witness” form, that you are filling in now? At the bottom of that form it explains about giving evidence to a parliamentary committee. It says that the evidence you are giving today will come back to you but then it goes into our inquiry. We will then own, basically, the information you give us today. Did you see the information for witnesses briefing sheet, which I think was attached?

**The Witnesses:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think we covered that but do you have any other questions about being a witness? Please state the capacity in which you appear before the committee.

**Mr Bin Kali:** I am on the board of directors of Milliya Rumurra.

**Ms Kelly:** I am the chairperson of Milliya Rumurra.

**Ms Martin:** I am a board member.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We will go around one by one and listen to what you say. You are basically painting a picture for us. Once you have painted the picture, anything we are unsure of, we will ask you questions about, and, hopefully, you can clarify any areas.

**Mr Bin Kali:** Milliya Rumurra was established in 1978 through a voluntary effort of concerned local Indigenous and non-Indigenous people who identified the need for a cultural centre for substance misuse service. Milliya Rumurra means the first start of a brand-new day. It is a medium to long-term alcohol rehabilitation centre located in Broome, West Kimberley. It is a not-for-profit community controlled organisation that provides a residential rehabilitation service for people who are dependent on and abuse alcohol and other drugs. Milliya Rumurra's mission is to continue to develop and strengthen its status by offering a full range of services that are Indigenous-specific based on current evidence-based practice. Milliya Rumurra will achieve its mission by providing a supportive, unfrontational alcohol and drug-free environment. That is why Milliya Rumurra was set up in the first place.

**The CHAIRMAN:** When did you say it was established?

**Mr Bin Kali:** In 1978.

[3.40 pm]

**Ms Martin:** In 1974.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It was established in 1974. Right back then it was for alcohol and any other drug problems. You said that it was for Aboriginal people or —

**Mr Bin Kali:** Indigenous and non-Indigenous, but our first preference is our Indigenous people. It used to be from the Kimberley area, but now it is the whole state of WA to get the referrals from.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is 36 years now.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** The facility here has not been going for that long, though. I think it says out the front 1994 or something.

**The CHAIRMAN:** No, 1974.

**Ms Kelly:** That is this certain building.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** The building was opened in 1994.

**Ms Kelly:** Over there, there is an old building and the old kitchen here was the office as well.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** This organisation has been involved in rehabilitating people since 1974.

**Mr Bin Kali:** First, it was not residential; it was just for a day until they established a residential hostel building for people to live in.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Roughly, when did the residential part start? Can you recall that at all?

**Mr Bin Kali:** Probably about a year later. It was not very long.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** So you have a lot of experience in this organisation in terms of helping people and rehabilitating people with alcohol and drug issues.

**Mr Bin Kali:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You said that you might not be able to talk so much about the day to day, but you would have a report from —

**Mr Bin Kali:** Maria.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So you would have some idea of how many people are coming here and the main problem that they are coming here for, whether it is alcohol, cannabis, heroin or cocaine. Could you tell us a little bit about what you have heard and what Maria has given to you in reports about what the main problem is at the moment in the area? Is it alcohol predominantly?

**Ms Kelly:** I think so. It is more alcohol than drug substances. That was in those days, but at present it is getting to be drug related.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Which drug, or is it all drugs?

**Ms Martin:** It is all drugs—any illicit drugs. We have got all sorts in town, from heroin to speed to crack.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We heard today that cannabis was becoming more of a problem with suppliers coming from South Australia.

**Mr Bin Kali:** It is starting to come in and normally around local communities. In most of the Kimberley, marijuana is normal to people. You see people drinking it every day and they think, “That’s just normal; we’ll just do what they do.”

**The CHAIRMAN:** Last year Peter and I went to a conference in Darwin. We were very surprised when we heard someone from America talk at that conference who explained that when people, particularly young children—when I say “young children”, I mean teenagers—sit down and smoke marijuana, it actually damages the nervous system. I cannot remember whether it was the grey matter or the white matter, but we saw from that that there are now culturally sensitive educational materials being prepared to try to help get that message across to people about the damage that marijuana can do.

To start with, the first item that we were looking at was education. As I said to you, the problem with education was that we were told that a lot of children are just not attending school. Are you aware of that problem; and, if you are aware of that problem, what would you suggest? One of the suggestions today was providing a bus to pick up children and also offering more sporting facilities and trying to make school more attractive.

**Ms Kelly:** I think that is happening. A lot of kids miss school due to parents drinking late at night and substance abuse and everything else. They go without lunches. There is a bus system running for certain children who have that problem. The police and citizens youth club is doing that. Unfortunately, they pick them up only in the morning, but they do not drop them home in the afternoon. As far as educating kids is concerned, I think our biggest problem is educating our adults. It might be too late, but you can start. It is never too late to learn anything. I think with our Aboriginal people, you can talk until you are blue in the face; I think it is more a pictorial way that they understand. When we go out to talk to people, we do it more with pictures and signs so that they can see it and understand it and relate it to their own style of living. When we do have clients here, most of them come from Kununurra and to the south. When they leave here, they do not have anything. I do not think there is a step—I might be wrong; Maria can correct me—to helping them when they get back on their feet again. We have workers here who are trying to do that, but we have only a certain amount and they are in only one little area. That could be in the major towns in the Kimberley. Even if they come from down south, there is a place where they can go. Most of our people are fantastic artists or storytellers. That is the proof there. They built up their self-esteem in doing that book. Even going into the schools and talking to our kids, that might help with education. A person with experience with alcohol and drugs could go into the schools and there could be support from government with that as well. Schools get only a certain amount of money for the core subjects, but they do not look at the social side of it—the alcohol and the illicit drugs. Some schools do not want to bring in lecturers or anybody else to talk about those kinds of things in schools. They have to learn that this is everyday living nowadays.

[3.47 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** So do you think then that Aboriginal people should be able to go into the schools? Who do you think should be providing that education in the schools? Do you think it should come from the teaching staff, or do you think it should come from someone outside the school?

**Mr Bin Kali:** A combination.

**Ms Kelly:** It should be both.

**Mr Bin Kali:** A combination of teaching staff and local grassroots people.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Is it a combination at the moment? Who is it at the moment?

**Ms Kelly:** There is no-one, really, because —

**Mr Bin Kali:** I do not think there is anything about alcohol and drugs education in the schools. They may do it in high schools, but it will come under biology or something else like that, but it will not be specifically alcohol and drug education.

**Ms Kelly:** You see, once upon a time we had our own Aboriginal people going into the schools and doing role plays, and that went really well with our kids, because they could see it, and the slang our kids use are what they understand, and our people were doing that, and they could relate that to what was happening on the streets. But if you show them a film or something, it would not really sink in. Who knows better than Aboriginal people what Aboriginal people are going through?

**The CHAIRMAN:** It is interesting, because in Perth the Australian Medical Association—I am sure that a lot of your doctors up here belong to that—has a program called Dr YES, where medical students went around to the schools, playing out scenarios with drugs, alcohol or sex, which is what you had here before, so really, they adopted your model and found that it has been very effective in the metropolitan area, and some other states are now adopting that. That might be a very good suggestion that we can actually discuss as we go around. This is our first day, so we can actually ask the other communities about that, whether that is happening in the schools. Would you like to tell us about this one?

**Ms Martin:** No, I just want to go back to the schools. This organisation does have people going into the schools and talking to the schools. It is mainly the high schools, and it brings its programs into those schools. I do not know whether it has much effect, because by that time the drugs and alcohol have already —

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Taken hold.

**Ms Martin:** Yes. There were kids as young as eight, walking down the street, drinking alcohol. They have little gangs up here now that stick together with their drugs and alcohol. That is happening here, now.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** How do these young kids get the alcohol? Somebody older would have to go and buy that for them, obviously.

**Ms Martin:** Yes, often the parents.

**Ms Kelly:** The parents can be sitting in the front, drinking, and the kids can be getting it and handing it over the fence at the back to a person to take it home.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** So it is not that they are buying it illegally, but they sort of get it from home.

**Ms Kelly:** It is all well and good to educate them in school, but it is for the after-hours that you have to educate them, and that is where it might be that the government should have a look at having more people. I followed the police on night and for goodness' sake, there must have been about 20 underage kids, sitting on the kerb, drinking. They just drove up to them, looked at them, and drove off. I can understand their side; if they were to go after one, the rest of them could have jumped on them and had a big brawl. But I think it might be that we need more help on the streets as well, and educating the kids.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Do you think that if it were in force in a place like that, where underage kids are drinking, for the police to actually pick them up and take them to wherever — Is there some place the police can take them?

**Ms Martin:** Other than the jail, no.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** So there is only the sobering-up centre or the lockup, basically? They are the two options they have?

**Ms Martin:** That is right.

**Ms Kelly:** I am not shy to say that I asked them to do that with my grandchildren, if they found them on the street. I have a good relationship with the police, and I said to them, “If you find my grandsons drinking, I would like you to take them to the lockup and so they can get the feel for what it’s like to be locked away”. It is not all, “I’m going to do it because my friends are doing it”; there are consequences. You have to pay if you are going to be drinking underage.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The police acknowledge that they do pick up children, but they felt that there should be someone from the Child Development Service working around the clock with them so that there was someone who had responsibility because they said they are limited in where they can take those children, particularly when they are having problems.

**Ms Kelly:** It might be that another thing the government could look at is a halfway house where they can take children, or the police could even work with our sober-up shelter. A lot of them could help, but it is just a matter of somebody doing something.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So a halfway house for Broome? I guess one halfway house would be a start, would it not, to see how well that was used?

**Ms Kelly:** Yes, we do not really have a very good relationship with the police here. I know there was once an Aboriginal committee that talked with the police, but I do not know what happened to that. Things were not so bad then, but it just seems to have gotten out of hand. That is education from the top right down to the little kids. We can educate them in schools, but what happens when the sun goes down? It is a different story altogether.

**The CHAIRMAN:** This is something that I would like your response to. There was an article in the paper on Saturday that stated that in Perth, if Aboriginal children — Did you see the article?

[3.53 pm]

**Ms Kelly:** No; I know about it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The article said that if Aboriginal children were not being fed and clothed, and were not going to school, they would be taken—I do not necessarily think it said Aboriginal children; it said that if children in Perth were not being fed and clothed, and taken to school —

**Mr P. ABETZ:** And were wandering the streets at night.

**The CHAIRMAN:** —and were wandering the streets, they would be taken away from their parents. I think the article asked if this was an inequality in that it seemed to be accepted that this was okay for Aboriginal children. I put this to a group this morning and it was suggested that we needed to have more sporting facilities for them to go to school, and more outside activities. From what you have said, what can we do? What do you suggest can be done for families? You have described how some members of the family might be drinking at the front of the house and the children might be taken out the back. What additional support is needed? One of the doctors from the hospital who presented this morning said that more social workers are needed to help people. But what do you think can be done to help families address the problems that they have now? Can you just solve the problems up here in a couple of sentences for me, please! What do we need? What can be done to help families?

**Ms Kelly:** I know in the east Kimberley and Halls Creek and Fitzroy, people are given the basic card.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The what?

**Ms Kelly:** It is a card from Centrelink.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** It is the income management system.

**Ms Kelly:** They can get food, but they cannot get alcohol. Do not give the card to everybody, but think of the families that really need help. You have to look at individuals; you cannot just knock everybody off. We are not all the same. You have to look at each group of people. The fact is that we have the dialysis machine here and we have a lot of people from out of town who come here to live in the hostel and who then bring their families, which is overcrowding. You have to look at all those kinds of things. There are problems all around.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** For that we would really need a bigger hostel. There is the dialysis hostel—is there not?—but it is always full; so you really need a bigger one or another one for the other people coming in from outside communities who have to see a specialist or be in hospital or whatever. Because they tend to travel as a family group, they end up staying in the park or wherever, but they really should have a hostel or something where they can stay for very low cost.

**Ms Martin:** I think they are going to build one in Broome for, you know, these people that are just going through. And we have just come to see if it is possible for something like that. But when? I do not know. Probably we will still be waiting for it in another five years' time.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** We had better make sure that it does not take so long!

**Ms Martin:** Exactly.

**Ms Kelly:** As well as that, it is not only in Broome, but when we go to Perth as well that we do not have anywhere to stay.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Right; okay.

**Ms Kelly:** We have long-term patients, not necessarily dialysis people, but people with other illnesses who cannot stay. This is just an example, but a couple are staying in [inaudible] house—it is a hostel, for goodness sake! If you are a very sick person you would not want to stay there. Then we have all those other Aboriginal hostels that are already full. They are run by Aboriginal Hostels. But I do not think that we will ever have a health hostel—no health hostel whatsoever—or a residence in Perth for country people. And I am including people from Geraldton to Kununurra who have to have a long stay in Perth—a couple of years or something. There is nothing to cater for that. It is not only in Broome; I am looking at the wider picture as well. A lot of our families go to the doctor who says they have to go to Perth and they say no, they would rather go back home to die, because they cannot take their family; they cannot even take someone with them to be with them.

**Ms Martin:** Another thing too is that when these people go to Perth there is no one there to meet them. We had a lot of problems with that when I used to work at the hospital. There were a lot of problems about them being picked up. They would be lucky to find another Aboriginal person who could help them and who could explain to them; who could see that they got a taxi and who could explain to the taxi driver where they needed to go. It is just not fair. For some of these people, English is their second language.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So this is a person going to Perth for medical treatment, who arrives down there not really knowing how to get to the hospital.

**Ms Martin:** That is happening right now. There is nothing in Perth.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Just help me understand: it is the Nyoongah people who live around Perth. Is the language that Aboriginal people here speak understood by people in Perth? Would a local Aboriginal person in Perth be able to meet that need or do you need somebody from up here down there to meet the people for that to work properly?

**Ms Martin:** Really the ideal thing is to have someone go down with them on escort so that they can understand them. That is the ideal thing.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** I understand.

**Ms Martin:** But when they get sent to places like Perth, they send them on their own and I think that that is wrong; very wrong. I think PATS is now getting very hard about having escorts go to Perth.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Does PATS fund an escort person?

**Ms Martin:** No.

**Mr Bin Kali:** It is very difficult. They have a meet-and-greet team in Perth, but it only helps between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm.

**Ms Martin:** It is 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

**Mr Bin Kali:** Anybody coming after those hours will have to find their own way. But you still have patients stuck at the airport during those hours as well. The reason they are stuck there is because the hostels or the medical service do not contact the meet-and-greet team, which is there to do this stuff. The meet-and-greet team needs to be a 24-hour and not just a nine-to-four job.

**Ms Martin:** We have four or five planes going down to Perth in the evening. A lot of people are on those planes.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Yes.

**Ms Martin:** And it is going to get worse with the mining starting up here.

[4.00 pm]

**Mr Bin Kali:** In regards to education and in regards to more sporting stuff at school and other outside activities after school hours, my concern is that those other activities after school hours are more like a babysitting tool for parents. Because none of them volunteer to look after them, but they say they want more help with their kids, but yet they will not come and assist you to run the programs that support the kids. It is, “Look after them for two hours for me, and I’ll just go and have my drink for two hours and I’ll come back later. That is my concern about it. There are no other activities around this town already, and our children are not getting into it.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** In a way, by trying to provide more and more stuff for the kids we are really allowing the parents to be dysfunctional and not take responsibility for their kids. My wife and I brought up five kids, and when our kids came home from school we made sure they did their homework and all that sort of stuff and then they could go out and play and all that, but we took responsibility. We did not expect someone else to look after our kids. They might go and play with a neighbour’s kids, but it was still my responsibility—or my wife’s responsibility—to make sure that it was okay. I am hearing you say that we really need to work with families to get parents to take responsibility for their own children.

**Mr Bin Kali:** Yes, we should discuss the drop-in centre. From, like, 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm is for juniors, and 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm for seniors, and at nine o’clock time you see the seniors all walking round the streets. They do not get picked up by their parents, but they are underage.

**Ms Kelly:** They do nothing as a family, because if the parents are there it is that peer thing of “You’re embarrassing me; what are you hanging around here for?” Like you say, you went with your child like I went with my children, and I sat there and I watched them and I cheered them on and I took them home; nowadays when you do they say, “Go away; you’re embarrassing.” It is, and that is where you have to work with both the parent and the child to say, “Look, I am interested in you and I want to know what you’re doing; you come home at 10 o’clock when I say you come home at 10 o’clock.” That is not happening any more. I think it is because we have got too much Americanised TV or whatever it is. This is my personal opinion: the worst thing the government could have ever done was stop punishment in school, because the kids know now that they can report us if we smack them.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** There are no consequences.

**Ms Kelly:** Yes. That might be something government should think about as well now. You are never told to get a head of it. I feel we are doing a pretty good job; the only problem at the moment we have got is that we have not got any vehicles to take the clients out.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Any what, sorry?

**Ms Kelly:** We have not got no buses or anything to take the clients out when they are here over the weekend.

**Ms Martin:** Yes, we have; there are two buses. We have a brand-new one —

**Ms Kelly:** Oh, have we got two brand-new ones? I beg your pardon.

**Ms Martin:** One is brand-new, and the other one is old that they take out for fishing and that.

**Ms Kelly:** But then they take them out and they come back and they—you know. But we have had a lot of trouble with one, anyway.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Going back to what you were saying about young children and alcohol, it is not just happening in the Kimberley. I have just come back from England, where they recently had a 12 or 13-year-old child, I think it was, who had cirrhosis of the liver because of alcohol damage. It really has become a behavioural problem throughout the world. The Kimberley does get more attention in the newspapers here than some —

**Mr Bin Kali:** We scream more.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Sorry?

**Mr Bin Kali:** We scream more.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Usually they say that the squeaky wheel gets the oil —

**Mr P. ABETZ:** You need a lot more oil up here!

**The CHAIRMAN:** — and you have been squeaking but I do not know that you have been necessarily heard. We know that different funding has come up to the Kimberley, but the funding has not addressed the problem. If there was a pot of money—we make recommendations to the government—what do you think should be the major recommendations in light of the problems of children drinking alcohol, smoking cannabis, and taking ecstasy and other drugs? If you had to name three priorities, what would the first priority be to try to stop this terrible behaviour in relation to the alcohol and drugs developing? It is a long way down and it is not going to be an overnight fix, but if there were additional funds where would we put those funds to try to claw back the problems?

**Ms Martin:** Education. This book is about foetal alcohol syndrome; it has been put in schools everywhere and the kids are reading it and they are quite interested. That is one aspect, but of course there are a lot of other things.

**Ms Kelly:** I would say go back to the bush law and culture, because, seriously thinking, as far as I know, our Aboriginal men should not be drinking if they are law people, and they get punished for it. I think maybe we should get a place out of town—far enough away from town—to educate the parents and the child in that place. I hear about a lot of places in Queensland where they do things with kids and everything else; I do not think we have any here in the Kimberley for that kind of purpose.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Are you saying it is custodial law, or are you talking about a health and education centre?

[4.06 pm]

**Ms Kelly:** Yes; and they are teaching them through law and the bush, cultural way as well as—excuse my French but I want to say it—white man way. Educate them in the white man way through talking and pictorial things in the classroom. Teach them the law way of hunting, going back to that style of living. I guarantee you go down the street tonight and you ask any of those kids if they can make a boomerang or make a spear. There might be one or two who will say, “I don’t care.” It might be that is the thing we need to go back to, with the help of the government.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** To develop a sense of pride and identity.

**Ms Kelly:** Yes.

**Ms Martin:** Painting and things like that; very talented.

**Ms Kelly:** We have got that many places supposedly set up for those kinds of things. It fell through; I do not know.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You mentioned two centres that you have heard of in Queensland —

**Ms Kelly:** We watch Aboriginal *Message Stick* on Sundays.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We do not have that in Perth or, if we do, I do not watch that much telly I am afraid.

**Ms Kelly:** It is on SBS usually. They show you what is being achieved for kids who misbehave. They go through all this hate. They just let them roam in the country to get it out of themselves. It might be we need to start something like that here. Get the people who know that country so they can keep an eye on them if they walk away. That is just my opinion but I think we might need to take them to basics of: who you are, what do you stand for, are you an Aboriginal, you tell me what an Aboriginal is—ask kids those kinds of questions. They say, “I’m just an Aboriginal.” Who and what is an Aboriginal? Hit the parents with, “Are you an Aboriginal? Where is your country? Why are you making humbug in somebody else’s country?” Get the parents to start thinking as well to educate their kids. We can only do so much but it always falls back. If the parents are willing, they have to come to the party and meet halfway. It is not going to be “we give, we give, we give” all the time. The parents have to start using their weight and their thinking.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Parents have to want to make a difference.

**Ms Kelly:** Yes. And they blame everybody except themselves.

**Mr Bin Kali:** I think parents in this generation have lost respect of each other. In our generation it used to be kids would respect their mother and father all the time. This younger generation does not have that respect anymore. I have been through that system.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** It is a problem amongst white kids, too.

**Mr Bin Kali:** The biggest problem is the distribution of getting this funding if you have a baby. Since the government introduced that, a lot of young kids are having babies just because \$5 000 to buy alcohol and drugs for two weeks after that. They have still got a child for the next 18 years but the funding is —

**The CHAIRMAN:** A lot of people have said that was a bad —

**Mr Bin Kali:** That was bad introduction.

**Ms Martin:** Another thing too, a lot of these people live in one house. Extended families live in one house. They do that because each one gets money from the government and they put it all together. Each day of the week they have drinking money. That is how they do it. I live with all the alcoholics around here and I know what that is like.

**Ms Kelly:** You see it happening every day and you are the sole person in the block—what are you going to do any time they come to you and say “Can you ring the cops? Can you ring the ambulance?” You get sick of it as well.

**Ms Martin:** That happens all the time—“Have you got any food? Ring the taxi!”

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is one of the differences in the cultures, is it not? In the Aboriginal culture I believe that if someone from the family comes to see you —

**Ms Kelly:** We look after them.

**The CHAIRMAN:** — you are expected to share everything.

**Mr Bin Kali:** They bring extended families.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes; whereas in my family, if someone comes to stay, I say, “Yes, you can come and stay—from when to when?”

**Mr Bin Kali:** But it is an open invitation!

**The CHAIRMAN:** It is certainly not an open invitation because I do not want all that additional work!

**Ms Kelly:** Another thing, Peter, I would like to see is moving stories come back.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Moving stories?

**Ms Kelly:** Yes. That is the one where we act out being an alcoholic, we act out being druggies; getting the kids to be a part of—you go into the school and get the kids to play a role as well. Promoting health, I suppose.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You are really saying with the children it is prevention? Again going back to children, you said that we need a hostel so that children are not on the streets. In town, in Perth, there is a curfew. From 10 o'clock at night children are not meant to be on the streets. Would you like a similar curfew here?

**Mr Bin Kali:** In the Bronx.

**Ms Kelly:** We have got a Bronx in [re:///?label=&quot;hanlaptop&quot;?datetime=&quot;20100726161148&quot;?Data=&quot;bba49439&quot;](http://re:///?label=&quot;hanlaptop&quot;?datetime=&quot;20100726161148&quot;?Data=&quot;bba49439&quot;) Broome!

**The CHAIRMAN:** You have a Bronx in Broome!

**Mr Bin Kali:** For the late night cafes and the bars!

**The CHAIRMAN:** If children are in a certain area after a certain time, they should be picked up and either taken to a halfway house or taken home. But if people at home are heavily into alcohol, should they then be taken to a halfway house?

[4.12 pm]

**Mr Bin Kali:** I do not know about a halfway house. I think they need to learn what it is to be locked up.

**Ms Kelly:** I think we might have to have a juvenile jail.

**The CHAIRMAN:** One of the problems that I have in Perth with a lot of the legislation that we introduce is that when people come out of prison they are worse than when they went in. I would much rather there was community work or some other form of punishment rather than people being put in a situation in which the people around them could make their behaviour worse than it was before they went there.

**Ms Kelly:** Okay. My question to you would be: what would you do with a white child?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I would not want a white child to go to jail.

**Ms Kelly:** I found that my grandson behaved—really behaved—and pulled himself up after I asked the police to chuck him in jail. They said “Are you so and so; are you Leonie’s grandson?”. He said, “Yeah”. They said “Your grandmother told us to put you in the paddy wagon and take you to jail”.

He came running home and said, “Nana, I don’t want to go” and I said “You better behave from now on”. I think the parents need to be told that too.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** I think a night in the lockup has certainly given a lot of kids a wake-up call in the sense that they realise, hang on a minute, it is a cold place and it is not a good place to be. For some of them it is that point where they wake up to themselves. I think jail is perhaps a step too far.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We established that alcohol and drugs are becoming a problem too young, that not enough is being done with children and youth to teach them about alcohol and drugs and what it may lead to—we have not gone into all the gambit of the health problems caused by alcohol and drugs—and that more resources are needed, particularly resources for adults and children—adults who may be drinking, where they can go. We were told this morning that the sober-up centre in Broome is seeing—We know that alcohol is becoming more and more of a problem, yet we were told that the statistics for the sober-up centre have gone from —

**Mr P. ABETZ:** — five thousand in 2003 and 3 000 people in 2009. They think this year it will probably be about 2 000.

**Ms Kelly:** Where did you get those statistics from?

**The CHAIRMAN:** We were given that information from the mayor of Broome.

**Ms Kelly:** He would not know. We have got our own stats.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We would like more facilities, but from this it looks like the figures have gone down.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** The shire president was saying that there are more and more drunks in town. I said, “Hang on a minute; if there are more and more drunks, how come there are less and less going to the centre?” He said that people can choose where they go and so a lot of them get taken elsewhere. I was not altogether convinced.

**Ms Kelly:** They do come to our houses or to family and they come back to us, which is not right. We have told the patrol, no, take them back to jail or take them to the sober-up centre.

**Ms Martin:** But the patrol will drop them —

**The CHAIRMAN:** — at home —

**Ms Martin:** — or wherever they want to go. This is happening a lot.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** They do not force them to go to the centre.

**Ms Martin:** They have to get their stats up and things like that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If an adult is intoxicated, should he or she be taken home?

**Ms Kelly:** No way.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Because they cause problems in the home.

**Ms Kelly:** They do.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If someone is picked up by the police, or by the Kullari patrol and they are under the influence of alcohol, do you believe that they should go to the sobering-up shelter until their blood alcohol level is zero and then taken home rather than initially taken home?

**Ms Martin:** When they go to the sober-up shelter they are given a shower and a bed to sleep in. In the morning they get breakfast. They go from one place—The men’s shelter is just over the road so the men go over the road for a second breakfast. At least they are clean and fed. With the sober-up shelter, it just isn’t big enough.

**Mr Bin Kali:** You wouldn’t be able to take every intoxicated person to that centre.

**Ms Martin:** That is right.

**The CHAIRMAN:** But they are saying that the numbers are cutting back.

**Mr Bin Kali:** Yeah, I know. I am just saying what you just said. You said that if a person is intoxicated, would we take them to the centre. I said we would not fit everybody in there in one night.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Oh right.

**Ms Martin:** It only has a certain amount of beds for males and females.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Maybe that is why they started taking people home and more and more people are going home now because of the lack of beds.

**Mr Bin Kali:** That is the choice you have when you get picked up.

**Ms Martin:** I do not know how you put it—whether they have a choice or not.

[4.18 pm]

**Ms Kelly:** You see 90 per cent of the ones they pick up are the homeless people. What home do they go to? They go to family who lives in Broome and they come back for them.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** It creates problems for those families, so in a way it would be better to go to the —

**Ms Kelly:** It would help to build a bigger sober-up shelter.

**Ms Martin:** I think we will try to get some stats for you if you like for next time we meet.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That would be wonderful if you could get some statistics. We will finish today because I am going to the hospital and the alcohol and drug services and Peter is off to have a look round the prison. But, again, you know what this inquiry is about, so if you would like to think about it a little bit more during the week and then, hopefully, Grant may be able to organise a meeting for us next weekend.

**Mr Bin Kali:** As a previous administrator here for Milliya Rumurra, I think we are looking at establishing halfway houses in all the major towns in the Kimberley where all our clients come from, so I think there is nothing there. Once they leave here, they are going back to their normal routine. What we were saying previous to that is we need somewhere where they can go, get this extra bit of counselling, also assist them in finding a job, get them to have a job and go to work on a daily basis, get them back into that same routine, then eventually move them out of the halfway house into their own residence. That is something that we thought of before and that should be something that we will all look at.

**The CHAIRMAN:** In all the major towns.

**Ms Martin:** The major towns do have like a sober-up shelter.

**The CHAIRMAN:** But not a halfway house.

**Mr Bin Kali:** This is not a sober-up; it is a halfway house. When they finish their three months or six months here they go to halfway houses; they transition between here and back into the community again. What we are doing is making them go back straight into their community and straight back into the same old routine that they came into in the first place.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** They need that support to make that transition.

**Mr Bin Kali:** Yes, this is what I was saying should be happening in all of the major towns of the Kimberley.

**Ms Kelly:** Peter, just one question.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Yes.

**Ms Kelly:** Are you going to mental health or to see the hospital?

**The CHAIRMAN:** I am going to the hospital.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** I am going to the prison.

**Ms Kelly:** I would just like to ask a question. When we take our young people there, we know that they are not right. We get our people to see them first before we take them there. If it is cultural, we get our people to see them but when we feel it is not our culture, we take them to the hospital. Instead of observing them for a couple of days or something, they shove them straight to Claremont, to Graylands, and we are not very happy with that situation.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Really?

**The CHAIRMAN:** When they might have mental health problems?

**Ms Kelly:** When they think they have got mental health problems from spiking drinks or overdoses or anything, we feel that they ship them too quickly to Graylands.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Actually, I think that should change because they are building a 14-bed mental health unit.

**Mr Bin Kali:** That is only for the low-risk, they move the high-risk —

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is right; the high-risk go into Darwin still.

**Mr Bin Kali:** And that is determined by the psychologists at mental health, yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** With the high-risk, I have been told in the past that they shift them out but they have had to sedate them so heavily that they have had problems when they have arrived in Perth where they have asphyxiated in the travel, but that is something that is not on the agenda at the moment.

**Ms Kelly:** Yes, because they had an incident. They had my grandson. We knew it was cultural, we fixed him up and then they said, “Oh, well, it’s up to you now” and they put him in hospital. The doctor shipped him straight to Graylands, so he jumped a fence to run away because he thought he was not going to be there. He felt, “I’m not supposed to be here.” If he can think like that, they should have kept him here for at least a couple of days under observation, then if he had got worse then shipped him out.

**The CHAIRMAN:** But you are saying the problem with the hospital, then, is in relation to your people who have mental health problems, not other health problems but mental health problems.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Mental health—they go to shoot them off to Graylands too quickly.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I will ask about that when I am there with them. I do not think we have another meeting with mental health there.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** We can always chase that up, though.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I told them we would be going over there to see them so we could ask them then, it is just that we will not have their response on the record.

**Mr Bin Kali:** I think that issue may change once the beds are up and running and things like that because I think they will do a pre-assessment and look at people, then they will assess whether they are high-risk or low-risk and whether they need to be sent to Graylands or not.

**The CHAIRMAN:** This is the formal part again. Thank you for your evidence before the committee today. A transcript of this hearing will be forwarded to you for correction of minor errors. Any such corrections must be made and the transcript returned within 28 days from the date of the letter attached to it. If the transcript is not returned within this period, it will be deemed to be correct. New material cannot be added via these corrections and the sense of your evidence cannot be altered. Should you wish to provide additional information or elaborate on particular points, please include a supplementary submission for the committee’s consideration when you return your corrected transcript of evidence.

Thank you very much, particularly as this really came out of the blue when we turned up with so many of us and all this equipment!

**Ms Martin:** And can we have more time next time maybe because this was really rushed.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** Sure; yes.

**Ms Martin:** We did not know what to expect.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Hopefully, we can organise something when we are back next weekend. We might then be able to look at some facilities, as well, after the hearing.

**Mr P. ABETZ:** We have a bit of time on Saturday.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes, or Sunday. We will see what is best because Mary Anne does not get back until Saturday, so it might be better Sunday so she has had a chance to find her feet.

**Ms Kelly:** One more thing just to think about, we can cater for only 25 at the moment and we have people asking to come all the time, so there might be something else. But the halfway houses could be handy then, we think.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Thank you; we will accept “Party Girl” as a supplementary submission.

**Hearing concluded at 4.24 pm**