

Western Australian Government Response
Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee Report No 8
Alcohol Restrictions in the Kimberley: A 'Window of Opportunity' for Improved Health, Education, Housing and Employment

Recommendation	Response	Comments
<p>Recommendation 1 Proposals from communities for further section 64 restrictions, based on the experience of the current restrictions in place in other parts of the Kimberley, should be supported by the Director of Liquor Licensing when such support will protect women, children or the elderly from alcohol-fuelled abuse. If a proposal from a community is not supported by the Director, the reasons why should be included in the Department's annual report.</p>	Noted	Section 64 restrictions are a statutory responsibility for the Director of Liquor Licensing to determine. Decisions are published as an outcome of any proceedings.
<p>Recommendation 2 The Director of Liquor Licensing should commence discussions with Broome residents as to how similar restrictions to those in Kununurra could be put in place with their support. The consultative process could be used as a model to assist in the introduction of similar restrictions in major towns in the Pilbara and Goldfields.</p>	Noted	See response to Recommendation 1.
<p>Recommendation 3 That the Minister for Indigenous Affairs request the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee and the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council to jointly review the Fitzroy Valley as a possible location for a new local governance model for improving Government service delivery aimed at decreasing the problems associated with alcohol abuse. The outcomes of this review should be tabled in Parliament by December 2011.</p>	Supported in part	<p>The Remote Service Delivery National Partnership agreement with the Commonwealth includes a requirement to review outcomes during 2013/14. This review will be the appropriate time and context to consider new approaches to local governance in the Fitzroy Valley.</p> <p>This National Partnership focuses on three Kimberley locations: Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and the Dampier Peninsula. At Fitzroy Crossing, the State Government has worked with community representatives since 2000 to develop the Fitzroy Futures Forum, and has used the Forum as the single point of contact for collaboration between Government and the community under the NP.</p>

<p>Recommendation 4 The Minister for Racing and Gaming release to Parliament by June 2011 the confidential report prepared by the Department of Racing, Gaming and liquor on the possible implementation in Western Australia of an alcohol restriction system based on the 'banned drinker' register in the Northern Territory.</p>	Supported	The Minister announced the outcome of the review on 17 May 2011. The report has been released to members of the Committee.
<p>Recommendation 5 The Directors General who are represented on the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee should visit the Kimberley region on a bi-annual basis. The Directors General should actively support and encourage their regional directors to participate in, and in their Annual Report provide details, of the success of interagency networks, including interactions with local Government and Federal Government agencies</p>	Supported in part	<p>Agencies represented on the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC) each have a strong regional presence tailored to their specific business needs. Directors General represented on the AACC understand the importance of travelling to regional Western Australia as a part of their leadership role within Government and to involve themselves first hand in the business of their respective agencies. The AACC may visit the Kimberley region as a group when circumstances warrant it. However the recommendation that AACC should meet bi-annually in the Kimberley region is not supported, due to the expense and logistical difficulties.</p> <p>Imposing a requirement for agencies to report separately on their networking activities will add little value to the current method of outcome based annual reporting.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 The Departments represented on the AACC fund two senior positions (based in the East and West Kimberley) to manage across-government collaboration in the Kimberley by Government and non-Government agencies, and detail in their annual reports key performance indicators for service delivery in the Kimberley, strategies for cross-agency liaison, the program resources used to deliver services, and the effectiveness of such programs.</p>	Supported in part	The AACC currently employs two Chief Operating Officers (COO). The COOs are executive level positions funded from contributions from member agencies of the AACC. In 2010 one of the COO positions was permanently located in the Kimberley in view of the range of issues presenting in that region.
<p>Recommendation 7 The Treasurer ensure that all State Government departments are using high-population growth projections in their modelling and planning for the future delivery of services to the Kimberley</p>	Not Supported	State-wide population growth projections are published in State Budget papers, but are at best, estimates. High growth population projections do not take into account events such as major global economic shifts and/or natural disasters and their use in regional areas, such as the Kimberley, has the ability to mask

region.		very small actual numerical increases.
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<p>Recommendation 8 The Departments represented on the AACC adopt a common protocol for communicating with remote Kimberley communities to ensure that they are willing and prepared for all agency visits. These departments should coordinate the timing of their visits to maximise community participation.</p>	Supported in part	<p>Agencies doing business within remote communities should do so in a way that respects the protocols for visiting these places, particularly given that the communities are typically located on Aboriginal land. The approach to doing business within any community needs to be responsive to the nature of work undertaken and the circumstances and priorities of each community. Adopting a common protocol is not likely to add value.</p> <p>Agencies are adopting coordinated approaches to working with communities, particularly in the priority locations of Beagle Bay, Ardyaloon, Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek (through the National Partnership on Remote Service Delivery (RSD)), and Oombulgurri, Roebourne, Carnarvon and Warburton (AACC priority locations). For RSD communities this includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment in 2009 of a Regional Operations Centre in Broome and Local Area Coordinators at each location to provide a single point of contact in managing Government business; • appointment of a male and female Indigenous Engagement Officer at each location; and • Local Implementation Plans, agreed between the communities and governments, to ensure that the planning and delivery of services reflects the priorities of local residents.
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<p>Recommendation 9 The Government provide additional funding to allow the Yiriman program to extend their operations across the Kimberley.</p>	Noted	<p>The State Government invested \$13 million through the State Suicide Prevention Strategy to develop sustainable and individualised Community Actions Plans (CAPs) across 50 communities and 50 organisations in WA. The Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC) will receive \$800,000 to fund four community coordinators to work across the Kimberley for 12 months to develop Community Action Plans (CAPs). The coordinators will cover the Wyndham and the East Kimberley region, Fitzroy Crossing and West Kimberley, Broome, Derby and Halls Creek. The Yiriman Program will be considered as an option under the CAP's for these regions.</p> <p>Since 2008, the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) have received funding of \$302,850 for the suicide prevention elements of the wider Yiriman project through the National Suicide Prevention Program (NSPP). This funding ends 30 June 2011. The Yiriman Youth Diversion Program has recently been offered funding by the Commonwealth Government of \$396,380 over the next three years.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10 The Drug and Alcohol Office ensure that alcohol and drug services are available to all residents in the Kimberley. These services should be delivered to Indigenous residents, inclusive of all family groups. The Drug and Alcohol Office highlight in their annual report residents and communities who may have missed out on these services.</p>	Noted	<p>The Government recognises that the current level of alcohol related harm in the Kimberley is disproportionately high. The State Government has committed additional resources through the Royalties for Regions scheme over the next four years to expand specialist drug and alcohol support services in the Kimberley. The funding will allow for more comprehensive and sustained service delivery, including improved access in remote locations.</p>

<p>Recommendation 11 The Minister for Indigenous Affairs report to Parliament by November 2011 on the Department of Indigenous Affairs research into the viability and cost effectiveness of small remote communities in the Kimberley.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>In May 2011 the State Government endorsed <i>State Planning Policy No. 3.2 – Aboriginal Settlements</i>, which forms part of the State Planning Framework under the Urban Growth and Settlement sector. Policy No. 3.2 amendments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of reference to Traditional Owners and clarification of their role in the production and endorsement of Community Layout Plans; • Clarification of the role of Incorporated Community Councils, local government and the WA Planning Commission in relation to Community Layout Plans; and • Introducing provisions to enable the development of operational policies that support implementation of the Policy. <p>Guidelines for the Provision of Housing and Infrastructure in Remote Aboriginal Settlements will also be developed to provide practical and transparent means for prioritising and coordinating Government investment in communities. The Guideline will be in the form of an operational policy under the new State Planning Policy 3.2.</p> <p>Given the timing of these developments, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs will not be in a position to advise Parliament of these matters in November 2011 but will do so at a later date.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>The Minister for Education provide to the Parliament by November 2011 a report on the school based attendance officer the Department of Education employs in the Kimberley, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of school-based attendance officers it has employed at each primary school and high school in the region for each year between 2006-10; • The number of these school-based attendance officer positions not filled at each primary and high school in the region for each year between 2006-10 and the duration of any vacancy; • The contribution made by Police or other personnel in ensuring school attendance; • The attendance rates for each term for the period 2006-10 for each school in the region; and • What measures the department will take to improve attendance rates in the Kimberley. 	Supported	Employing school-based attendance officers (under Section 50D of the <i>Western Australian Equal Opportunity Act 1984</i>) has been a key component of the Kimberley Attendance Improvement Strategy since 2006.
<p>Recommendation 13</p> <p>The Ministers for Education and Indigenous Affairs establish and fund a multi-disciplinary task force to improve school attendance rates in the Kimberley, with assistance from the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council, the Indigenous Implementation Board and the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee.”</p> <p>“This taskforce should gather evidence from local grass roots stakeholders (including parents) and report to Parliament by March 2012.”</p>	Noted	<p>The Department of Education is represented on the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee and the State Operations Committee coordinated by FaHCSIA to deliver the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership (RSD NP). These existing bodies are best placed to address strategies to improve attendance rates.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Kimberley Success Zone, in which all Kimberley schools and sectors are involved, has been established to support all Kimberley schools to improve outcomes for their Indigenous students. The Kimberley Success Zone will share good practice in various ways, such as professional development and school/community interaction.</p> <p>The two positions referred to Recommendation 6 will include providing an education focus to existing interagency efforts.</p> <p>NB The Indigenous Implementation Board completed its 2 year term in February</p>

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<p>Recommendation 14 School staffing numbers in the Kimberley should be based on educational needs. Where schools are below the 60th percentile for normal academic achievement, the Minister for Education should ensure that either additional teaching staff are allocated to the school to enable additional tuition to be given to those students falling behind, or special needs classrooms are established within schools for one on one or intense supervised teaching. The Minister should report to the Parliament at the end of each year on schools in the State that are below the 60th percentile for normal academic achievement.</p>	Supported in part	<p>See the response to Recommendation 31 for information about initiatives aimed at improving school attendance rates.</p> <p>School staffing numbers in the Kimberley, as in all regions, are based on educational needs.</p> <p>The requirement for 'special needs classrooms' for one-on-one tuition is not supported, as this may not be the most appropriate teaching and learning adjustment required for individual students with special needs.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme provides supplementary tutorial assistance to assist Government Aboriginal students with their literacy and numeracy skills in Years 4 and 6 and lower secondary school. Students in Years 11 and 12 undertaking Western Australian Certificate of Education studies may access tutorial assistance in other relevant subject areas.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15 The Minister for Sport and Recreation report to Parliament by December 2011 on the Department of Sport and Recreation's funding for existing Indigenous sporting programs in the Kimberley. This report should include proposals for increased funding for programs throughout the Kimberley that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. motivate Indigenous adults to volunteer to run sports and leisure programs for young people; ii. engage young Indigenous women; and iii. run outside of the existing Australian Football League season 	Supported	<p>Sporting programs can be a useful way to engage the community and address the various reasons for excessive alcohol consumption and illicit drug use. Western Australia's Indigenous Sport Program provides a wide range of participation and development opportunities through its network of Indigenous Sport Development Officers, three of which are based in Broome, Derby and Kununurra.</p> <p>The Department of Sport and Recreation will continue to be represented on the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee to work towards better coordination of services delivered to remote Kimberley communities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16 The Minister for Police should ensure that the Kimberley district be resourced with sufficient experienced Police officers. The auxiliary police officer model should be used to increase the number of local Indigenous Police in the Kimberley.</p>	Noted	<p>The recruitment and retention of police officers in country locations continues to be a challenge with individual expectations and work-life balance of our younger work generation being two of the main road blocks identified. During 2010 and 2011 advertisements for police auxiliary officers in the Kimberley resulted in no applications being received. The police auxiliary officer positions have recently been converted to operational police officers that will undertake frontline roles within the Kimberley during 2011.</p>

<p>Recommendation 17 The Minister for Mental Health provide annual funding, commencing in the 2011-12 budget, for compulsory rehabilitation programs for any person who has more than one court appearance related to anti-social or criminal behaviour associated with alcohol abuse.</p>	Noted	<p>In Western Australia, a comprehensive range of police and court diversion programs are offered State-wide for people with illicit drug related problems (although not all programs are available in all locations). These programs provide opportunities for those coming to the attention of police and courts to be referred to specialist treatment services to address their drug use and break their cycle of offending.</p> <p>The State Government will consider options to expand the Western Australian Diversion Program to include alcohol as a principal drug of concern. In addition, an Early Intervention Pilot Project targeting underage drinkers is currently being trialled at a series of youth events and within the Perth Police District.</p>
<p>Recommendation 18 The Minister for Police provide the Commissioner of Police with additional resources to allow the completion of incident reports for every child under 16 years of age found on the streets after 10.00pm in the Kimberley during 2011. This incident report data be made available to the Ministers for Indigenous Affairs, Regional Development, Health, Education and Child Protection. The Minister for Child Protection prepare a Report on this data for Parliament by June 2012 detailing how the Government has, and will continue to address, this issue.</p>	Noted	<p>Western Australia Police advise that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bidyadanga Community Council has put in place an 8pm curfew on all school aged youth within their community except on Saturday nights. • Police/School Truancy Officer/ Department of Child Protection (DCP) in the Kimberley liaise and network in relation to all truanting and offending youth. • Police pro-active patrols assist with encouraging youth to not wander the streets in the community late at night. • Halls Creek Police are providing the names of all children 14 years and under on streets after 2100hrs to the DCP. <p>Whilst police do collect names as outlined above there are significant times when police duties are prioritised to areas outside these town sites or required to attend serious criminal / anti social behaviour offences.</p> <p>There are well-established protocols and local working relationships between the Department of Child Protection and WAPOL which enable the agencies to communicate and cooperate to respond to children on the street at night. These local agreements and protocols are a key to responding well and can be tailored to local conditions and availability of resources, enable sharing of information and provide for successful co-working.</p>

<p>Recommendation 19 In Kimberley locations that have Department for Child Protection staff, the Department for Child Protection be given responsibility to take a child to a safe house if they are found on the streets after 10pm. In other locations, the Police continue to undertake this role. The Minister for Child Protection provide the funding to ensure that this occurs.</p>	Noted	<p>The Department for Child Protection and the WA Police have existing relationships and protocols to work collaboratively. The Department has on call arrangements where such a response is required.</p> <p>In Implementing the At Risk Youth Strategy 2011-14, the Department for Child Protection will provide a mechanism to further build relationships with Police to target action and support to these children on the street.</p>
<p>Recommendation 20 The Minister for Regional Development allocate Royalties for Regions funding in the 2011-12 budget to initiatives that support families and address responsible parenting in the Kimberley region.</p>	Noted	<p>The 2010-11 State Budget included a \$27.9 million Royalties for Regions allocation over four years toward the expansion of Responsible Parenting, Parent Support Services and Best Beginnings programs administered by the Department for Child Protection (DCP). DCP had already extended its programs to the Kimberley. Royalties for Regions has provided funding to extend delivery to the Murchison (Mid West), Great Southern, Goldfields, Pilbara, Wheatbelt and South West Regions.</p> <p>Possible further Royalties for Regions funds for additional parent and family support services in the Kimberley could be considered in the 2012-13 Budget. Royalties for Regions funds are also able to be accessed through the Regional Development Council's Action Agenda funding round. Agencies providing services in the Kimberley could also apply to future rounds of the Kimberley Regional Development Commission's Regional Grants Scheme.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21 The Minister for Child Protection report to Parliament by 1 July 2011 on measures taken by the Department of Child Protection to improve its communications with other government and nongovernment staff working with children in the Kimberley. These measures and communications should ensure that all agencies understand the Department's protocols for removing at risk children from their families.</p>	Noted	<p>The Department of Child Protection has protocols and memoranda of understanding with all relevant government agencies. These protocols outline respective roles and responsibilities of the Department and specifically the reporting of child abuse and neglect. These protocols are publicly available. The Department's Policy Framework for Child Protection Practise and Case Practise Manual are also published on its website. These activities negate the need for the Minister to report separately to Parliament</p> <p>In addition, relationships in the Kimberley are supported through the Kimberley Interagency Working Group (KIWG) of agencies providing services 'on the ground'. The KIWG draws membership from the three tiers of</p>

		government as well as non government organisations.
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<p>Recommendation 22</p> <p>The Minister for Child Protection ensure that the Department for Child Protection's annual report include data identifying how many Indigenous and non-indigenous children in each region across the State are living in 'at risk conditions' associated with the consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs. The annual report should establish key performance indicators to ensure these statistics improve.</p>	Noted	<p>Information is available on the number of children reported to the Department (DCP) due to concerns for their wellbeing. One of the categories collected at the initial inquiry stage is that parental substance abuse is a significant harm or danger. This data will not however capture all children living in an at risk situation, only those reported to the Department.</p> <p>The Department has previously conducted and published research on substance misuse – <i>Parental Drug and Alcohol Use as a Contributing Factor in Care and Protection Applications 2003</i>. This research involved a main study in 2004 and follow-up research in 2007. The findings are publicly available.</p> <p>The goals for achieving change are set out in the whole of government response of the <i>Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010-2015</i> developed by the Drug and Alcohol Office. DCP, along with other agencies, contributes to the implementation of the framework through an Annual Drug and Alcohol Action Plan.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 23 The Treasurer ensure that by the end of 2011 a regional funding index of at least 20 per cent be provided to enable government and non government organisations to attract and retain staff in the Kimberley.</p>	<p>Not Supported</p>	<p>The Government believes that there are more efficient and cost effective solutions to the issues of staff attraction and retention in the Kimberley that are being actively pursued.</p> <p>The WA Government submission to the Commonwealth's Review of Australia's Future Tax System asked for the efficacy of the current Income Tax Zone Rebate scheme to be examined including options for restoring the value of the zone rebate or an alternative form of compensation for people living in regional areas. The last increase to the income tax zone rebate occurred in January 1993 and the Government believes that the original intent of the policy is not being met and people are not being adequately compensated for the high costs of living in remote areas. . If the zone tax rebate for Zone A was restored to its original value it would equate to \$6,178 and for Zone B would equate to \$3,809 from the current values of \$338 and \$57 respectively.</p> <p>Rather than introduce a 20 per cent funding index for Government and non Government agencies in the Kimberley alone, the Government will continue to lobby the Federal Government to act in order to address the situation for people throughout Zone A and Zone B.</p> <p>The availability of suitable and appropriate housing also plays a role in attracting and retaining public servants in regional areas. The provision of suitable and appropriate housing is the role of the Government Regional Officers' Housing (GROH). GROH accommodation is provided to more than 4,000 employees in over 250 locations throughout Western Australia.</p> <p>Through the Regional Workers Incentives Initiative, Royalties for Regions has allocated \$106.96 million from 2010-11 to 2013-14 (with an additional \$30.9 million for 2014-15 provided in the forward estimates) to provide for increased allowances for public sector workers in regional Western Australia who provide essential government services. Public sector employees in the Kimberley will receive increases of \$2 500 to \$4 500 a year. Eligible employees with dependents receive double these amounts.</p> <p>Royalties for Regions is also funding a new methodology for the calculation and adjustment of the district allowances based on the Regional Price Index</p>
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		which will ensure fair and reasonable compensation to regional employees and that support is going to the regions where the cost of living is the highest.
<p>Recommendation 24</p> <p>The Minister for Housing ensure that by the end of 2011 the Department of Housing makes the 'In Home Practical Support Program', or a similar program, available to all Kimberley social housing residents.</p>	Not Supported	Not all social housing tenants in the Kimberley require a tenancy support program. Aboriginal community tenants are eligible for the Tenancy Support Program (previously known as the In Home Practical Support Program) where the housing is managed through the Department of Housing. Priority is given to tenants moving into new or upgraded housing in remote Aboriginal communities. The Department continues to monitor tenant behaviour and provides tenant support where these services are available and appropriate. A program called 'House2Home' is currently being trialled in Roebourne and if successful, may be expanded into the Kimberley subject to resources.
<p>Recommendation 25</p> <p>The State Government allocate additional funding to address housing shortages in the Kimberley. The Committee anticipates more detailed recommendations on housing from the present inquiry being conducted by the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee</p>	Noted	The 2010-11 Budget included a \$200 million Royalties for Regions allocation to Government for Regional Officers Housing (GROH) program for an additional 400 properties to house government employees, 107 in the Kimberley. In July 2011, the State Government approved the allocation of \$35 million Royalties for Regions funding for the provision of 58 houses for employees of Non-Government Organisations to assist the delivery of key government funded services. A total of 26 of these houses will be located in the Kimberley.
<p>Recommendation 26</p> <p>The State Government consider a social responsibility levy on liquor license holders in the Kimberley and other regions to fund the Police resources required to manage harm from excessive alcohol consumption.</p>	Not supported	Police resourcing needs are assessed on a case-by-case as part of the budget process.

<p>Recommendation 27</p> <p>The Minister for Police increase the WA Police budget for the Kimberley in the 2011-12 State Budget by at least 10% to ensure that the social benefits obtained from the current alcohol restrictions are maintained. New police resources that need to be provided in the Kimberley include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A fourth officer on the Dampier Peninsula to allow the Police to have two teams of two officers; 2) Another eight officers in Kununurra to allow the proper staffing of the lockup 24 hours a day to ensure duty of care to the prisoners; 3) A bail or after-hours facility in Kununurra for juveniles rather than have them housed in the station's cells; 4) A 24-hour Police facility in Fitzroy Crossing to deal with the situation where drunks have returned to houses; and 5) The use of community facilities at Noonkanbah to allow Police to stay for several days in the community. 	Noted	<p><u>27(1)</u> Originally a detective position was provided together with 3 uniform officers however due to a workload analysis and operational requirements; the detective was moved to Derby. With additional resources being committed to the Kimberley in the future, the District Superintendent will regularly review work load to see asses if an additional officer is warranted.</p> <p><u>27(2)</u> See recommendation 16. A number of these officers will be located in the Kununurra police sub district.</p> <p><u>27(3)</u> Corrective Services are to commence the East Kimberley Regional Youth Justice Services during 2011. It is envisaged that this model will encompass similar facilities as implemented in Geraldton and Kalgoorlie.</p> <p><u>27(4)</u> WAPOL do not support this recommendation. The issue of drunken persons is a health matter. The expectation that police are to place persons into a police facility and then be responsible for their well being until released is not appropriate. This is also against several recommendations from Death in Custody inquiries previously undertaken.</p> <p><u>27(5)</u> The Looma Multi Functional Police Facility will be built and opened by late 2011. This location will encompass the Noonkanbah community and the police officers will regularly patrol the Noonkanbah area.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 28 In the 2011-12 State Budget, the Minister for Child Protection provide the Department for Child Protection with funding to construct/maintain and staff a 'safe house' for children at risk in the larger Kimberley towns of Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Wyndham and Kununurra.</p>	<p>Not supported</p>	<p>Reforms and funding are already in place for the Department of Child Protection residential care services in the Kimberley and across the State, following the Ford Review in 2007.</p> <p>This reform has led to a significant expansion in the number of residential placements provided across the state with a progressive increase in capacity and encompasses plans in the development of Residential Group Homes and Family Group Homes. Family Group Homes are to be managed by non-government service providers and provide a safe, therapeutic service for up to four children and young people who have complex needs. They employ a live in carer model with supports to the carer and for the children. Residential Group Homes are managed by the Department and provide safe, therapeutic care for up to twelve children and young people often with complex needs through a rostered staff model. These homes are supported by professional services and additional resources when required.</p> <p>Across the Kimberley there are 13 Family Group homes and 3 Residential Group Homes already existing and one residential group home and 3 Family Group homes to be established</p> <p>All residential services are underpinned by the Departments "Residential Care Conceptual and Operational Framework", published on the Department's web site.</p> <p>The Department of Corrective Services, as part of their Youth Justice Strategy, provide bail accommodation options for juveniles. Agencies works in collaboration to ensure these services are utilised when appropriate and in situations where young people have offended.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 29 In its 2011-12 State Budget, the Minister for Mental Health fund the Drug and Alcohol Office’s proposal for increased resources in the Kimberley to enable services to be provided to the region based on four zones rather than two.</p>	Supported	<p>The Drug and Alcohol Office is receiving funding to increase the capacity of alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services in the Kimberley to better meet the needs of the community. This will expand resourcing in existing hubs and double the number of service hubs from two to four. New funding of \$11.045 million over four years will be provided through Royalties for Regions for the expansion of alcohol and other drug services within the Kimberley. The funding will allow for the employment of up to 18.5 additional alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment workers for the Kimberley.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated in 2011-12 for the provision of four transitional accommodation dwellings for high needs clients exiting alcohol and drug residential treatment in the Kimberley.</p>
<p>Recommendation 30 In its 2011-12 State Budget, the Minister for Racing and Gaming fund the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor proposal for increased resources to provide services flowing from the greater number of communities applying for section 175 restrictions.</p>	Noted	<p>Recurrent funding for an additional resource has been secured through the 2011/12 budget process. The Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor is in the final stages of recruiting a suitable candidate.</p>

<p>Recommendation 31</p> <p>In introducing and evaluating initiatives to encourage Kimberley students to attend school, by December 2011 the Minister for Education should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the current school funding mechanism so that it recognises the unique challenges faced by schools in the Kimberley; • amend the Education Act to facilitate three year olds attending kindergarten at public school; and • increase the Department of Education’s budget to support educational programs which have been evaluated and have key performance indicators which have proven successful in engaging children to remain at school, such as the Joodoogeb-begerring Werlelemen program in Kununurra. 	Support in part	<p>A range of initiatives is required to improve attendance at school. The Government released the <i>Better Attendance: Brighter Futures</i> strategy in 2010 to improve public school student attendance in general. It included targeted funding to all regions to implement strategies at the local level to help close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal attendance rates. On 22 May 2011, the State Government launched a new campaign called <i>It All Starts At School</i> to convey to young people that the path to achieving their life goals begins with regularly going to school.</p> <p>Cross-sectoral collaboration on school attendance across the Kimberley is also encouraged, by seeking the support of government and non-government schools – particularly when cultural and other circumstances result in Aboriginal students moving between schools in either sector. Software has been developed to track the attendance of transient students as they move between schools. Recent auditing of student attendance at Kimberley non-government schools – which affects payment of State and Commonwealth per capita grants – has led to improved recording and monitoring of attendance and encouragement to maintain higher attendance rates.</p> <p>A review of the school funding mechanism is already underway, and the current funding mechanism already makes allowances for the unique challenges faced by the Kimberley. The unique funding challenges presented for Western Australia’s schools - both government and non-government – which operate in remote areas of the State (with a majority of Aboriginal students) have been acknowledged in the State Government’s submission to the Australian Government’s Review of Funding for Schooling.</p> <p>The legislative mechanism for facilitating three year olds attending kindergarten at public schools is under consideration. There are already 29 Aboriginal Kindergartens run at public schools across the State.</p> <p>Legislation to support the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care is due to be passed by all States and Territories by 1 January 2012. For some communities, especially those in remote regions, the logical place to provide care and education services to children younger than kindergarten age is the local school. The</p>
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	<p>policy and legislative settings necessary to achieve outcomes that meet the needs of local communities, including those pertaining to the Kimberley region, are currently under review. The Kimberley was prioritised as one of the first regions for rollout of early childhood initiatives of this National Partnership Agreement.</p> <p>There is also increased provision of extended services and programs for parents of 0-4 year old children accessible through schools in the Kimberley as part of the National Partnership for Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities. Collaborative effort across government agencies will ensure that children have strong foundations for learning in preparation for school. Five new children and family centres are being established across Western Australia by 2014 to improve education and health outcomes for Aboriginal children in the next decade. Three of these centres are located in the Kimberley - in Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra. The centres include early childhood learning and care; pre-pregnancy; antenatal; teenage health services; and maternal and child health services. These will effectively give families a one-stop shop for their early education and health needs. Any additional funding for the Department of Education would need to be sought and approved as part of a Budget cycle. A range of engagement programs and strategies already operate in schools across the Kimberley. Schools are being given increased flexibility to use staffing and budgets to implement strategies and programs that address local needs. The <i>Aboriginal Education Plan for WA Public Schools 2011-2014</i> describes how schools with high proportions of Aboriginal students will be given the opportunity to be part of a network of schools that will have such increased flexibility. Schools evaluate the effectiveness of programs and make decisions at the local level about the operation and management of programs such as the <i>Joodoogeb-be-gerring Werlelemen</i> program in Kununurra.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 32 The Minister for Health ensure that the Department of Health works with the Federal Government to urgently upgrade the WA Country Health Service's information technology and record management systems in the Kimberley by December 2011.</p>	Supported	<p>Funding has been secured through the National Partnership on Closing the Gap on Indigenous Health Outcomes to improve the Electronic Health Records (EHR) of the WA Country Health Service (WACHS). WACHS Kimberley has also supported the Northern Territory Government in its application to National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) to become a lead site for the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR). In combination the availability of a Kimberley wide EHR with the NT proposal will allow (with patient consent) WACHS Kimberley to participate in a Shared Electronic Health Record. This is expected to deliver benefits in a range of areas, including improved coordination of care, enhanced continuity of care, and improved medication management. WACHS is planning to implement this initiative / improvement on IT system in 2012.</p>
<p>Recommendation 33 In its 2011-12 Budget, the Attorney General increase the resources provided to non government organisations who are meeting key performance indicators to prevent criminal activities, incarceration, or repeat incarceration. An example of such a program could be the Alternatives to Violence Project program offered in the Broome Prison.</p>	Noted	<p>It is vital that non-governmental (and governmental) service deliverers are assessed against key performance indicators to illustrate activities that prevent criminal offending, incarceration, or repeat incarceration. If a non-government delivered, community based program can measurably and significantly reduce rates of offending this is in the economic and social interests of the community. The 'Alternatives to Violence' program offered in Broome prison is funded through the Department of Corrective Services. The Drug and Alcohol Office within the portfolio of Mental Health also funds a range of non-government organisations to run treatment and prevention programs for persons with substance abuse problems. To identify promising non-governmental initiatives, the Attorney General has directed that the Department of the Attorney General via the Aboriginal Justice Program develop a framework for identifying and evaluating existing initiatives in relation to family violence and young offending, and on a community by community basis identify areas of deficiency in service delivery. This will expand the body of knowledge as to what initiatives, and what areas of service delivery, are most deserving of government support.</p>

<p>Recommendation 34 The provision of a dedicated Drug and Alcohol Through-Care Service in the Kimberley would contribute significantly to meeting the gaps in services for offender's pre and post release.</p>	Noted	Resourcing for initiatives such as these will now need to be considered in the 2012 Budget process.
<p>Recommendation 35 The Premier and Treasurer negotiate with the Federal Government on income management to discourage welfare payments in Western Australia being spent on alcohol, cigarettes, pornography and gambling by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the suggestion made by the Coroner in 2008 to place dysfunctional families on compulsory income management; • Enabling compulsory income management to be an option for both the Courts and the Department for Communities; and • Enabling Centrelink payments to be paid to different client on different days of the week. 	Not supported	<p>Income management is working effectively in the Kimberley without a need for its expansion to the Courts.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Commonwealth Government, the child protection measure of income management and voluntary income management has been implemented across the Perth metropolitan area and in East Kimberley and West Kimberley. Complementing other services, income management is a useful case management tool to address child neglect.</p> <p>The evaluation report on the child protection measure of income management and voluntary income management in Western Australia was released in October 2010. The evaluation found that both are effective measures in assisting clients to meet the priority needs of their children. Longer term risk of welfare dependency is identified by stakeholders for income management clients who do not take responsibility for the management of their own money. Overall, income management trials were found to have been implemented effectively, with take-up rates matching planned levels, effective BasicsCard implementation, and a working relationship between Centrelink and the Department..</p>
<p>Recommendation 36 The State Government should urgently conclude negotiations with the Federal Government for a funding package for the delivery of services by local shires to remote communities.</p>	Noted	<p>The provision of local government services in Aboriginal communities is currently being discussed under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. The State Government is assisting local governments to undertake Scoping and Costing studies. These will inform negotiations between the State and the Commonwealth on new arrangements for service delivery which will require settling funding arrangements, determining service delivery parameters and identifying transitional arrangements. Transitional arrangements will allow a staged take-up of servicing responsibilities as local governments and Aboriginal</p>

		communities become ready and financial assistance is provided.
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<p>Recommendation 37 The Minister for Education seek Federal funding by the end of 2011 to provide Kimberley schools with Pastoral care, chaplaincy or other social support services. If this is not successful, the Minister for Regional Development enable Royalties for Regions funds to be utilised for accommodation and support for these workers.</p>	Supported in principle	<p>This should be considered as part of a suite of improved services to families in the Kimberley community that include drug and alcohol support services, grief and healing counselling, mental health services and community education programs.</p> <p>Commonwealth and State funding has recently been increased for procurement of chaplaincy services. Decisions about whether to engage the services of chaplains are made at the local school level.</p> <p>The State has provided \$13.6 million over four years from 2010 to 2013 for chaplaincy services. There is State funding available for flexible chaplaincy services and remote community visits.</p> <p>While the opportunity to add to a school's student services support team is an effective strategy, sourcing staff with the necessary training and expertise in the Kimberley, as well as sourcing appropriate accommodation for them, is problematic.</p>
<p>Recommendation 38 The Minister for Corrective Services work with the Minister for Mental Health to provide funding in their 2011-12 budgets for the Department of Corrective Services to ensure all Kimberley prisoners with a history of illicit drug use and alcohol problems undertake rehabilitation programs, irrespective of the length of their sentence.</p>	Not supported	<p>The Department of Corrective Services, through its co-morbidity (mental health and addictions) service, offers a range of services to Kimberley prisoners irrespective of length of sentence. These services include Alcohol and Drug assessment, withdrawal management, individual and group based counselling, advice, Alcohol and Drug health education and through care referral and management. Provision of services and treatment programs is voluntary.</p>

<p>Recommendation 39</p> <p>The Minister for Mental Health ensure that by the end of 2011 all education and awareness programs in the Kimberley on the risks of alcohol include the dangers posed by the consumption of illicit drugs. These programs should be based on key performance indicators to assess their effectiveness.</p>	Noted	<p>State-wide, alcohol and illicit drug social marketing campaigns are delivered via the <i>Alcohol. Think Again</i> Campaign and <i>Drug Aware</i> Program respectively. The campaigns are run on an ongoing basis as part of a comprehensive approach to preventing the use and harms associated with alcohol and illicit drugs. Similarly, the School Drug and Road Aware Program provide a dedicated service to all schools in all regions throughout Western Australia, including the Kimberley.</p> <p>The Drug and Alcohol Office has an ongoing partnership with a range of key stakeholder groups (including community organisations) in each of the major communities in the Kimberley. Where there is an identified need (there is evidence relating to the prevalence and incidence of illicit drug use), locally targeted messages regarding the harms associated with alcohol and illicit drug use (appropriate to specific communities or at-risk groups) will be developed in partnership with local stakeholders. These messages will be culturally appropriate and specifically designed to meet Aboriginal communities' needs.</p>
<p>Recommendation 40</p> <p>The Attorney General increase funds in the 2011-12 budget for the Kimberley Juvenile Justice teams. Key performance indicators be used to measure the effectiveness of those teams and the Attorney General report to Parliament annually on the current outstanding Juvenile Justice team matters in the Kimberley region.</p>	Noted	<p>This recommendation appropriately falls within the responsibility of the Minister for Corrective Services. The \$43.86 million expansion of multidisciplinary Regional Youth Justice Services, which was funded by the Royalties for Regions initiatives in the 2010/11 State Budget, included the opening of Regional Youth Justice Centres in the West Kimberley in February 2011 and the East Kimberley in April 2011. It is anticipated that these centres will provide further significant improvement in Juvenile Justice Team service delivery in these areas. The case for further increases in funding of youth justice in the Kimberley will be considered by Government following assessment of the impact of this present dramatic and unprecedented expansion of youth justice service delivery in this area.</p>

<p>Recommendation 41 The Attorney General report to Parliament by December 2011 on alternative forms of punishment for the non-payment of fines in the Kimberley to reduce the number of people losing their driving license.</p>	Noted	<p>The range of enforcement measures available in relation to the non-payment of fines depends on whether it is a court fine or a fine related to an infringement notice.</p> <p>There is flexibility in enforcement. The Registrar may lift or choose not to impose the licence suspension for non-payment of a court fine or infringement notice in certain circumstances. Should the Registrar choose to lift the licence suspension, the person must enter into an agreed time-to-pay arrangement.</p> <p>The Department of the Attorney General is collaborating with other relevant agencies to ensure that Aboriginal people, especially in regional and remote areas, are made aware of fines enforcement procedures and of ways to avoid their imposition, such as the option of time-to-pay.</p>
<p>Recommendation 42 The Attorney General report to Parliament by December 2011 on how a community Aboriginal driving license might be used safely in the State's remote areas.</p>	Noted	<p>The Department of the Attorney General, in concert with other agencies has been working to develop initiatives to overcome barriers to obtaining a driver's licence for people in remote areas. The Senior Officers Group on Drivers' Licensing and Fines Enforcement was convened by the Department of the Attorney General but the lead agency has since become the Department of Transport in recognition of the central role they play in licensing matters. Progressing this initiative remains a high priority for the Government.</p>