Review of Alcohol Mandatory Treatment Act

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Northern Territory Government (NTG), in keeping with its commitments made in relation to the introduction of the Alcohol Mandatory Treatment (AMT) Act, will commission a review of the legislation undertaken by the Northern Territory (NT) Alcohol and Other Drugs Service (AODS), Department of Health.

Objective

To assess to what degree the AMT Act meets its function of providing mandated assessment and treatment for people who repeatedly misuse alcohol. It will also take submissions on instances of serious misuse of alcohol which do not currently fall within the ambit of the Act.

Scope

The review will conduct an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the AMT Act and the manner in which the Act facilitates or otherwise access to treatment by people who repeatedly misuse alcohol.

It is not the intent of this review to evaluate the alcohol mandatory treatment program or client outcomes; rather the review will focus on the legislation and its practical application. An evaluation of the AMT program which will consider broader client outcomes will be undertaken in 2014.

The review of the AMT Act will seek comment from a broad array of stakeholders and interested members of the public. A public consultation process will open for 4 to 6 weeks. An analysis of data collected during the consultation process will occur, leading to the provision of recommendations for amendments to the Act to Government.

Where available the recommendations will be consistent with national best practice.

CONSULTATION

The review will source information through a process of public consultation and invite comment from interested parties including, but not limited to:

- preliminary survey to seek feedback on the program from AMT staff in the Department and non-government services and AMT Tribunal
- Public call for submissions including semi-structured questions on key legislative issues to guide submissions.
- Face to face or telephone interviews with key AMT stakeholders.
- Interviews with consumers and their families.
STEERING COMMITTEE

The project will be governed by a steering committee comprising:

- Executive Director Strategy and Reform - Chair
- AODS Policy
- AODS Service delivery
- Department of Attorney General and Justice (responsible for AMT Tribunal)
- NT Police
- Association of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies NT (AADANT) – delegate from the peak body involved in providing AMT treatment services.

SCOPE RESTRICTIONS

Nil.

LOCATION
Northern Territory Wide.

RESOURCES
Funded within current AODS resources.

SCHEDULING
Review to be completed for submission to Cabinet by April 2014.

REPORT FORMAT
The results of the consultation will be analysed and a preliminary report including draft recommendations for legislative amendments disseminated to Steering Committee members for comment.

The final report will include recommendations for legislative amendments of the AMT Act designed to improve mandated assessment and treatment for people who misuse alcohol.

REVIEW OUTPUTS
A draft report for consideration and feedback before the final report.

A final review report will be prepared submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

REVIEW OUTCOMES
The review will be an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the AMT Act, as well as providing any recommendations for any potential amendments to the Act.