



Full Government Response to the Western Australian Methamphetamine Taskforce Report

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Mental Health Commission

PO Box X2299
Perth Business Centre WA 6847

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NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY PREMIER



I am pleased to release the Full Government Response (the Response) to the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report (the Taskforce Report). This Response reaffirms the State Government's commitment to addressing issues associated with methamphetamine use in Western Australia.

The Methamphetamine Action Plan and subsequent Taskforce Report align with *Our Priorities for A Safer Community*, promoting the overall aim of reducing illicit drug use in Western Australia. The State Government is committed to achieving *Our Priorities* and continues to work with stakeholders to ensure collective action to establish effective responses to methamphetamine related issues.

Whilst it is pleasing to see a decrease in methamphetamine and illicit drug use in Western Australia, there is no room for complacency. From 2017-18 to 2021-22, the State Government has invested \$171.4 million in the implementation of the Methamphetamine Action Plan and related initiatives to reduce demand, harm and supply.

The development of the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce (the Taskforce) was a commitment of the Methamphetamine Action Plan. The subsequent report acknowledged the State Government's work to combat methamphetamine and made 57 recommendations relating to education, intervention, treatment and support services, reducing harm and use, meeting regional needs, pathways following treatment, cross-sector collaboration and evaluation.

I would like to acknowledge the members of the Taskforce and the work that was undertaken to understand and communicate the complexities of methamphetamine use in such a comprehensive report, and thank the members of the Western Australian community that participated in the consultation process, providing valuable insights to the Taskforce.

Acknowledgement also goes to the Mental Health Commission for leading the development of the Response. I commend the continued commitment from the agencies represented on the Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officers' Working Group, chaired by the Mental Health Commission, to ensure the Response is coordinated, evidence-based and reflects best practice.

The Response represents our ongoing commitment to provide more help for people and their families. We have funded more crisis support, more prevention, education and harm reduction services; and more workers so that people can access the help they need, when and where they need it.

HON ROGER COOK MLA

DEPUTY PREMIER | MINISTER FOR HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH

NOTE FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER



The Full Government Response (the Response) to the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report (the Taskforce Report) adopts an across government approach in addressing methamphetamine related harms.

The complexity of methamphetamine use and the recognition of the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce (the Taskforce) that it must be viewed as a health and community issue has been acknowledged. While law enforcement based initiatives are essential in tackling methamphetamine use, they cannot stand alone. The State Government has committed to implement a range of initiatives across supply, demand and harm reduction in order to minimise the harm to individuals, families and the community caused by methamphetamine use.

These initiatives will see the expansion of treatment for priority groups in the regions (including more beds), the development of safe places and increased support for individuals and families in crisis, an investment in the alcohol and other drug workforce to ensure the maintenance of high quality support services, and a continued focus on education, prevention and harm reduction.

The Response has been developed in line with the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026, the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 and the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022.

The work of the Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officer's Working Group has ensured that the Response is founded on an ongoing commitment across sectors to develop an integrated approach to preventing methamphetamine problems from occurring in the first place, intervening early before problems become entrenched, and providing treatment and support services for those who need it.

I would like to thank those who have contributed to the development of the Response. The Mental Health Commission is committed to working in collaboration with other Government departments and stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes for the community in relation to methamphetamine related harm.

The release of this Response marks a critical step towards the continued development and implementation of initiatives to prevent and reduce methamphetamine related harm in Western Australia.

TIMOTHY MARNEY

*MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER |
CHAIR OF METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN SENIOR OFFICERS WORKING GROUP*

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ACRONYMS LIST

AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
CaLD	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse
DASSOG	Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers' Group
DGIG	Directors General Implementation Group
DoE	Department of Education
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
ERC	Expenditure Review Committee
GDHR	Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex
MAP	Methamphetamine Action Plan
MAP SOWG	Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officer's Working Group
MHC	Mental Health Commission
MHOA	Mental Health Observation Area
NSEP	Needle and Syringe Exchange Program
NSP	Needle and Syringe Programs
SARA	Stabilisation and Referral Areas
THASP	Transitional Housing and Support Program
WAADIS	Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022
WANADA	Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Methamphetamine use continues to be a significant concern within the Western Australian community. Its effects are far-reaching and the impacts are often devastating for the individuals themselves, their families and communities.

The Australian National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2016 shows a significant decrease in the percentage of Western Australians using methamphetamines (from 3.8% in 2013 to 2.7% in 2016). However in Western Australia, methamphetamine use has been consistently higher than national levels (2.7% compared to 1.4% nationally). In 2016, methamphetamine became the drug of most serious concern to the general community, overtaking alcohol and more than doubling the level of concern in 2013 (16.1% to 40%).

In an effort to reduce methamphetamine use and related harms in Western Australia, the State Government invested \$171.4 million in a range of initiatives targeting prevention and early intervention, treatment and support, and law enforcement as part of the Methamphetamine Action Plan.

The Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce (the Taskforce) was created as an across government initiative to gather further information on the impact of methamphetamine use in Western Australia and provide advice to the government on opportunities to improve service delivery, increase cross-sector collaboration and measure performance.

The Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report (the Taskforce Report) was released on 26 November 2018, providing 57 recommendations to government. Given the prior funding of initiatives related to law enforcement and supply reduction, the recommendations of the Taskforce Report primarily focus on harm and demand reduction. The immediate government response to the Taskforce Report outlined six key actions that could be immediately progressed in responding to those in crisis. These actions build on, and complement, the range of alcohol and other drug, mental health programs and services currently being implemented in Western Australia.

The Full Government Response to the Taskforce Report (the Response) has been developed by the Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officer's Working Group agencies, led by the Mental Health Commission. Development was guided by the ultimate aim of providing more help for individuals and families impacted by methamphetamine use. The subsequent investment of \$42.5 million into initiatives funded in the 2019-20 budget process reflect the State Government's commitment to providing more support to individuals and families in crisis, more help when and where it is needed, more workers to provide support and more prevention, education and harm reduction programs. The Response aligns to the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 framework of harm minimisation: supply reduction, demand reduction, and harm reduction; Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022; Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025; and the National Ice Action Strategy 2015.

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2017 election, the Government committed to a state-wide, integrated Methamphetamine Action Plan (MAP) to reduce demand, supply and harm through the coordinated implementation of initiatives across Government. This included the establishment of the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce (the Taskforce) on 26 June 2017. The key responsibilities of the Taskforce were to provide advice to the government on how programs could be best delivered and targeted to the areas of greatest need, to identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, and to advise on the best ways to measure the performance and success of the Government's initiatives. Information regarding the Taskforce appointment and Terms of Reference are provided at **Appendix 1**. On 5 July 2018, the Directors General Implementation Group (DGIG) established the Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officers' Working Group (MAP SOWG) to develop this Full Government Response (the Response) to the recommendations generated by the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report (the Taskforce Report). Further information on the MAP SOWG is provided at **Appendix 2**.

The MAP and the Taskforce Report recommendations align with *Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity*. *Our Priority for A Safer Community* and reaffirms the Government's commitment to prevention, early intervention, and targeted treatment in order to significantly reduce illicit drug use by 2022. Support of MAP related initiatives also strengthens the commitment to reducing youth reoffending as part of the commitment to the development of *A Safer Community* as methamphetamine use can be a motivating factor for other criminal behaviour. A reduction in illicit drug use, including methamphetamine use, will lower the impact of short term risk and ultimately contribute to the prevention of long term health and other related harms in the Western Australian community.

Taskforce Report

In order to explore the impact of methamphetamine use in Western Australia, the Taskforce engaged in both research and broad consultation with individuals, families, communities and service providers, highlighting the complexity of methamphetamine use in our community. The Taskforce acknowledged that law enforcement measures are critical to reducing the supply of methamphetamine but the understanding that there is an indisputable link between disadvantage, ill-health and problematic drug use dictates that methamphetamine use must also be approached as a health and community issue.

Released on 26 November 2018, the Taskforce Report included 57 recommendations to government across nine broad themes: helping people stay away from methamphetamine in the first place, intervening early to prevent entrenched use, providing treatment and support services for those seeking help, reducing the harm associated with methamphetamine use, regional communities, helping groups vulnerable to high rates of methamphetamine use, helping to rebuild a person's life after methamphetamine, cross-sector collaboration and coordination, and measuring performance.

The recommendations in the Taskforce Report represent independent advice to the State Government, with a Taskforce membership constituting individuals with experience across health, justice, Aboriginal¹ health issues, and local government. The Taskforce has "deliberately sought to challenge current thinking and encourage debate about taking a different approach" in their development of the recommendations².

1 The use of the term 'Aboriginal' within this document refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

2 Government of Western Australia, *Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report (2018)*. Published by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Western Australia, November 2018. Available from www.dpc.wa.gov.au.

Harm Minimisation Framework

The Response to the Taskforce Report is closely aligned to the harm minimisation framework (Figure 1) that underpins the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026. This framework promotes a balanced approach across the three pillars of harm minimisation: demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction, in order to prevent and minimise the health, social and economic consequences of substance use on individuals, families and the community³.



Figure 1 – Harm Minimisation Framework⁴

3 Australian Government. Department of Health. National Drug Strategy 2017-2026. Canberra: The Department; 2017. p 1. [accessed 2019 Jan 30] Available from <https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-drug-strategy-2017-2026>

4 Based on Commonwealth of Australia (Department of Health) material.

GOVERNMENT PROGRESS TO DATE

The State Government has already committed \$171.4 million to the implementation of its MAP and related initiatives to prevent and reduce methamphetamine related harms in Western Australia. These initiatives build on the current and comprehensive range of programs and services delivered including prevention and early intervention, treatment and support, law enforcement, and are supported through coordination, planning and evaluation. These initiatives are aligned to the MAP: Supporting Communities and Families (**Appendix 3**), as well as a range of other cross agency initiatives. Key achievements to date are outlined in **Figure 2**.

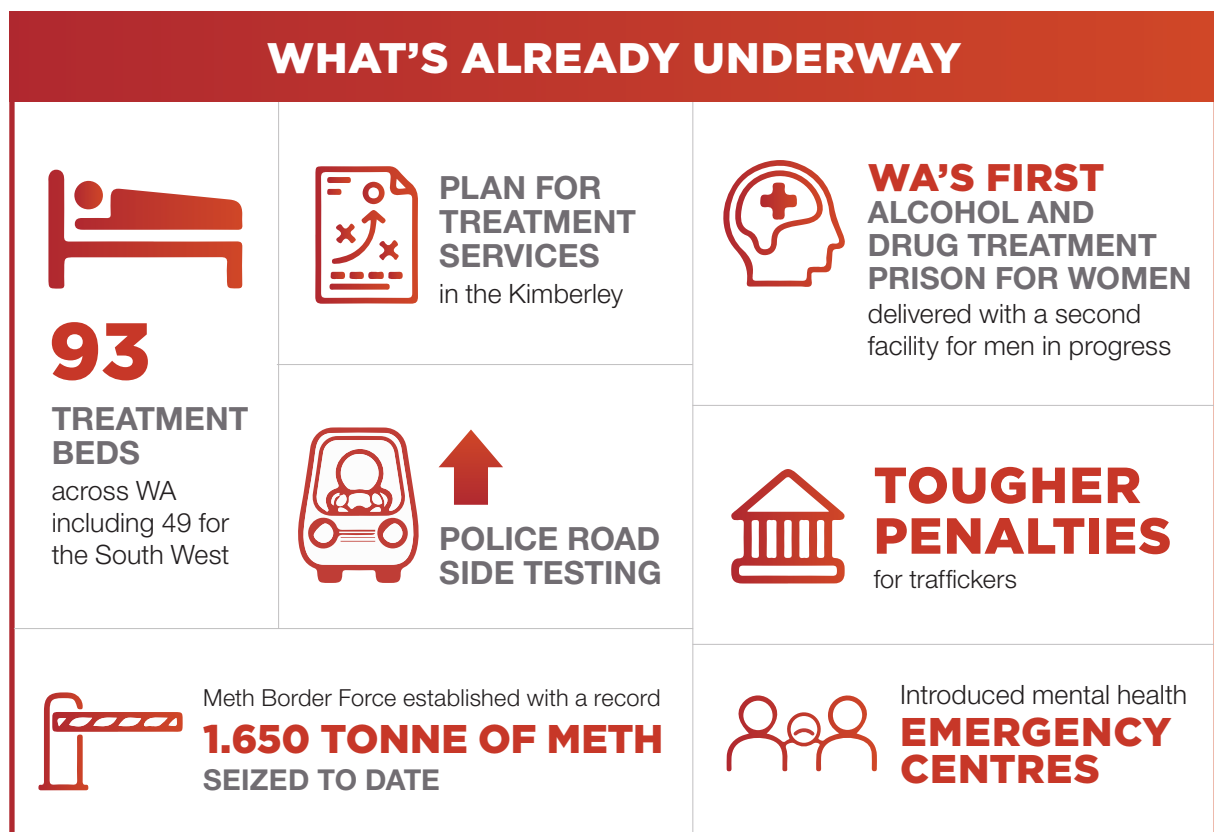


Figure 2 – Methamphetamine Action Plan Existing Government Commitments

On 26 November 2018, the State Government provided an immediate response to the Taskforce Report outlining key actions that could be immediately progressed in responding to those in crisis; highlighted in **Figure 3**. While the immediate response provides important initial actions in addressing key recommendations of the Taskforce Report, it is recognised that methamphetamine use is complex, requiring sustained effort across Government and across sectors including non-government service providers and the community. The Response will include a range of approaches across supply, demand and harm reduction.



Figure 3 – Methamphetamine Action Plan Immediate Government Response

INITIATIVES DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

A range of initiatives related to the Taskforce Report recommendations have been funded through the 2019-20 budget process, extending the state government's commitment to preventing and reducing methamphetamine related harm in Western Australia. These initiatives provide an important step in achieving *Our Priority for A Safer Community*, supporting the reduction of illicit drug use through the implementation of approaches to reduce methamphetamine supply, demand and harm for individuals, families and the community.

These initiatives will provide more help when and where it is needed through access to more prevention, education, harm reduction and quality treatment services for people using methamphetamine and their families.

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

\$42.5M Invested by the McGowan Government to strengthen its **METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN 2019-20**

More Support for Individuals and Families in Crisis



Planning for **SHORT TERM SAFE PLACES** for critical intervention



PLANNING for expansion of the police and mental health joint crisis response program into regional areas and for those experiencing alcohol and other drug related crisis



CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTRE IN MIDLAND

More Help When and Where it's Needed



ADDITIONAL low medical withdrawal beds



EXPANSION OF SERVICES for people in the Kimberley including a comprehensive youth service



Expansion of the **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND SUPPORT PROGRAM**

More Workers to Provide Support



STRONG SPIRIT STRONG MIND



AOD FRONTLINE WORKFORCE TRAINING



PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM

More Education, Prevention and Harm Reduction



SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION AND ROAD AWARENESS PROGRAM



AWARENESS RAISING of prevention strategies



DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION of harm reduction measures in the South West and Great Southern

This builds on the McGowan Government's total investment towards its Methamphetamine Action Plan which already includes enforcement initiatives that disrupt supply.



EXPANSION of police and mental health joint crisis response across all metropolitan areas



68,911 roadside drug tests completed



Meth Border Force established with a record **1.650 TONNE OF METH** seized to date



TOUGHER PENALTIES for traffickers

MORE HELP FOR PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

	Initiatives	What this means for the community
<p>More support for individuals and families in crisis</p> <p>The State Government has committed \$5.2 million to expand and develop safe places for individuals and families in crisis. These initiatives will increase access to alcohol and other drug and co-occurring mental health crisis services to help support families impacted by methamphetamine use.</p>	<p>Crisis Intervention Response</p> <p>Expansion of medical withdrawal services in the community, to provide an appropriate alternative crisis intervention response that provides a short-term place for methamphetamine users when they are in crisis that will keep them, their families and the community safe with the development of up to 10 crisis beds in Midland</p> <p>Police and Mental Health Co-Response Planning</p> <p>Planning and Development of a new model of service for the expansion of the Mental Health Police Co-Response Program into regional centres, and a Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Co-Response trial</p> <p>Stabilisation Assessment and Referral Area (SARA) Planning</p> <p>Planning for the development of SARAs in Western Australia to be undertaken</p> <p>Short Term Safe Places</p> <p>Consultation, analysis and modelling to be undertaken to inform the development of a business case required to address the gaps in AOD short term critical intervention services</p>	<p>Over 280 more people treated in 10 new withdrawal beds, in the East metropolitan area</p> <p>Increase in people helped by Police Co-Response to meet demand, with over 22,000 mental health interventions across all components of the trial since commencement</p> <p>Development of SARAs and short term safe places for individuals and families experiencing mental health and/or AOD-related crisis</p>

	Initiatives	What this means for the community
<p>More help when and where it's needed</p> <p>The State Government has committed \$32.3 million to provide more services when and where people require them, across all stages of the recovery journey and close to their homes and personal supports. These initiatives include increased support and access through a consistent model of care for substance withdrawal in hospital settings, secure accommodation to assist people exiting rehab achieve their recovery goals, and a more thorough understanding of the needs of specific population groups impacted by methamphetamine use in their community.</p>	<p>Kimberley Alcohol and Other Drug Services</p> <p>Expansion of AOD (and co-occurring mental health) services in the Kimberley, including continuation of the North West Drug and Alcohol Support Program, development of a specialist youth service and increased withdrawal beds</p>	<p>Up to 77* opportunities per year for young people to receive access to comprehensive youth alcohol and other drug services to respond to the complex needs of young people (and their families), including low-medical withdrawal, residential rehab and post residential support through a 10 bed youth service as well as a day program</p> <p>Up to 113 opportunities per year to receive detox through 4 new withdrawal beds</p> <p>Access to counselling and other treatment options for up to 4452 clients (facilitated by 29 FTE across four years) through the North West Drug and Alcohol Program across the Pilbara, Kimberley and Mid-West</p>
	<p>Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) Research</p> <p>Research and consultation on drug use, its impact on CaLD communities and approaches to address issues are to be identified</p>	<p>Development of appropriate and effective models of service for CaLD communities</p>
	<p>Alcohol and Other Drug Withdrawal Policy Review</p> <p>Development of a Model of Care to support consistent implementation of the 'Alcohol and Other Drug Withdrawal Management Policy' across all Health Service Providers</p>	<p>Better access to withdrawal treatment pathways</p>
	<p>Transitional Housing and Support Program (THASP)</p> <p>Expansion of THASP by a further 13 new beds in areas of need to increase access to support</p>	<p>Up to 20 additional opportunities per year for people to access a secure and supportive home base to help them stay on the path to recovery</p>

* This number is subject to change once the model of service has been defined.

	Initiatives	What this means for the community
<p>More workers to provide support</p> <p>The State Government has committed \$2.3 million to provide evidence based training for health professionals working with people impacted by methamphetamine use and their families. This will result in more qualified staff to work with people experiencing substance use issues and access to high quality treatment and support for the Western Australian community.</p>	<p>Strong Spirit Strong Mind Continuation of the MHC Strong Spirit Strong Mind Aboriginal Programs to develop the capacity of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workforce</p> <p>Frontline Worker Training Continuation of workforce training to support frontline workers responding to methamphetamine users when they are in crisis</p> <p>Peer Education Program Continuation of the Methamphetamine Peer Education Program</p> <p>Hepatitis WA nurse-led program Expansion of the Nurse-led program provided by Hepatitis WA to support GPs to provide hepatitis C brief interventions to methamphetamine users</p>	<p>136 qualified Aboriginal Workers across four years providing AOD services to Aboriginal people</p> <p>Almost 3500 workers trained across four years to respond effectively to meth-related harm</p> <p>More trained peer workers delivering harm reduction education and support</p> <p>Increased capacity for GPs to prescribe hepatitis C treatment, with 50 GPs reached in the first six months of the project</p>

	Initiatives	What this means for the community
<p>More education, prevention and harm reduction</p> <p>The State Government has committed \$2.7 million to ensure the continuation of school and public education programs to reduce the uptake of methamphetamine use amongst young people and encourage access to support for people at risk of developing methamphetamine related issues.</p>	<p>School Drug Education Programs</p> <p>Continuation of current school drug prevention, education and early intervention initiatives (through the School Drug Education and Road Aware program), specifically targeted at at-risk groups of non-mainstream students, student support staff and parents</p> <p>Bunbury Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP)</p> <p>Expansion of the Bunbury NSEP service, including cost of consumables</p> <p>Awareness raising of Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP)</p> <p>Targeted promotion of NSPs to promote greater awareness of harm reduction services for people who inject drugs across Western Australia</p> <p>Great Southern NSEP</p> <p>Establish a NSEP at the Great Southern Public Health Unit to increase access to sterile injecting equipment, safe disposal, and brief intervention for people who inject drugs in the Great Southern region of Western Australia</p> <p>NSP System Support Expansion</p> <p>Additional staff resourcing provided to support the planning, development, evaluation and contract management of additional NSP programs in Western Australia</p>	<p>Focus on methamphetamine education in school drug education to at-risk groups of non-mainstream students, student support staff and parents.</p> <p>Reduction in the transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C through providing more than an additional 2,900 consumer interactions across four years through increased awareness raising, promotion of services and development of regional programs.</p>

STATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO ALL TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Taskforce Report outlines 57 recommendations focused on education, intervention, treatment and support services, reducing harm and use, meeting regional needs, pathways following treatment, cross-sector collaboration and evaluation. The State Government supports, supports in principles or notes 56 of the 57 recommendations.



While initiatives to provide more help for people and their families described above are funded for implementation from 2019-20, **Appendix 4** outlines the cross-government response and commitment across all Taskforce Report recommendations.

Responding to Complex Issues in a Comprehensive Way

Addressing the harms relating to methamphetamine use is complex, including a number of interrelated individual and environmental factors. It is recognised that sustained and comprehensive across-government effort is required across the domains of harm minimisation: supply, demand and harm reduction.

Whilst the State Government significantly invests in law enforcement to reduce the supply of methamphetamine in Western Australia, focus continues to be directed towards addressing drug use primarily as a health issue. This is consistent with the approach of the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022 (the WAADIS) that aims to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of alcohol and other drugs in the Western Australian community through the core elements of:

- ♦ **Prevention first:** Through a range of evidence-informed prevention initiatives, prevent illicit drug use and harms, legal substances that are inappropriately used and associated harm, harmful alcohol consumption, and associated impacts; and
- ♦ **Support for those who need it:** Through evidence-based, effective treatment and support strategies, reduce use and associated impacts of illicit drugs, legal substances that are inappropriately used and harmful alcohol consumption.

Due to the complexities of issues, the State Government acknowledges that it is through the combined and comprehensive efforts of government, the non-government sector and the community that significant gains in preventing and reducing alcohol and other drug-related harm may be best achieved.

GOVERNANCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Mental Health Commission (MHC) is the State Government agency responsible for alcohol and other drug strategies and services in Western Australia and is accountable to the Minister for Mental Health. As such, the implementation, monitoring and review of these strategies and services are led by the MHC in collaboration with other government agencies through the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers' Group (DASSOG). The purpose of DASSOG is to provide a whole-of-government approach to addressing drug and alcohol issues within Western Australia in line with the WAADIS.

Members of the DASSOG consist of government representatives with a range of portfolio areas as follows:

- ◆ Department of Communities (child protection and family services; housing; local governments and communities including youth)
- ◆ Department of Education (School Drug Education and Road Aware)
- ◆ Department of Health
- ◆ Department of Justice (Attorney General; corrections)
- ◆ Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (including multi-cultural interests; racing, gaming and liquor)
- ◆ Mental Health Commission (mental health and alcohol and other drugs)
- ◆ Western Australia Police Force (police; road safety)

It is through the combined efforts of the across-agency portfolio responsibilities outlined above and the introduction of whole-of-government targets that outcomes for the community will continue to be improved.

The DASSOG works closely with the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee), which is chaired by the Deputy Premier, the Hon Roger Cook, with membership consisting of the Attorney General, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Education, and Minister for Police. The aim of the Sub-Committee is to direct and oversee integrated across-government policies including the MAP. The Sub-Committee works to identify opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration across policies and to ensure that the policies are being delivered as part of the Government's broader policy goals. The Sub-Committee works closely with the DGIG to oversee the implementation of these policies.

In keeping with the recognised need to engage at the local level, consideration will be given to how best to involve local governments and communities as partners in the implementation of the initiatives aligning with the Response.

Reporting

Agencies represented on the DASSOG are responsible for reporting against the WAADIS performance measures, annual key milestones and achievements through Agency Support Plans that more specifically outline their portfolio activities aligned to the goals of the WAADIS. As the Taskforce Report recommendations and the government responses provided align with both the WAADIS and the *Premier's Priorities*, in addition to other alcohol and other drug related strategy and policy, initiatives developed in response to the Taskforce Report will be integrated into agency reporting through DASSOG. Where an agency is not currently represented on DASSOG and has initiatives to be addressed as part of the Response to the Taskforce Report recommendations, additional relevant reporting consistent with that of other DASSOG agencies will be negotiated.

DASSOG reports will be available on the Mental Health Commission website: www.mhc.wa.gov.au.

APPENDIX 1 - METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN TASKFORCE

Taskforce Appointment

The Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce (the Taskforce) was commissioned by the McGowan Government to provide advice and recommendations on what more could be done to reduce methamphetamine demand, supply and harm in Western Australia.

The Taskforce was chaired by Mr Ron Alexander and included experts in the field of alcohol and other drug use, Aboriginal health, policing and regional development.

Terms of Reference

Members

The Taskforce members and Chair will be endorsed by the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub Committee (the Sub-Committee) and approved by State Cabinet.

Function

The Sub-Committee will direct the Taskforce to provide advice and recommendations on specific issues relating to the implementation of the Methamphetamine Action Plan.

The Taskforce will respond to Sub-Committee requests for advice, identify opportunities for improvement, identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, and advise on the development of measurable performance indicators.

The Taskforce may be required to establish time-limited advisory groups in order to obtain advice on specific issues or priority population groups. Advisory group members who identify as consumers, family members and/or carers will be offered participation payments and reimbursement for out of pocket expenses.

The Taskforce will operate for the life of the Sub-Committee (unless directed otherwise) and will meet quarterly. Taskforce members are invited as individuals, rather than as representatives of their organisation and will keep in confidence all information related to confidential Cabinet deliberations. The Taskforce will receive direction from, and report to, the Sub-Committee.

Secretariat support for the Taskforce will be provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Mental Health Commission.

APPENDIX 2 - METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN SENIOR OFFICER'S WORKING GROUP

The Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officer's Working Group (MAP SOWG) was established by the Directors General Implementation Group (DGIG) to develop an immediate and subsequent full government response to the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report (the Report).

Reducing the supply, demand and harm arising from methamphetamine is a complex issue requiring multi-agency and coordinated joint agency action. The MAP SOWG is Chaired by the Mental Health Commissioner and consists of representatives from:

- ◆ Department of Communities
- ◆ Department of Education
- ◆ Department of Health
- ◆ Department of Justice
- ◆ Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- ◆ Department of Treasury
- ◆ Mental Health Commission
- ◆ Office of Multicultural Interests
- ◆ School Curriculum and Standards Authority
- ◆ WA Police Force
- ◆ Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Through the Chair, the MAP SOWG reports to and through the DGIG to the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee.

The Department of Treasury is represented on the MAP SOWG to support the development of initiatives and to provide advice on managing the financial implications arising, including Expenditure Review Committee (ERC) consideration.

In reviewing the Taskforce's recommendations, the MAP SOWG have given due consideration to key areas such as prevention and anti-stigma, harm reduction, the specific needs of those in regional and remote locations, the requirement for culturally appropriate service provision, overall access to treatment, support and accommodation, system navigation and other crisis response options. Critical issues such as addressing the needs of those with co-occurring alcohol and other drug, and mental health issues have also been considered.

APPENDIX 3 – WESTERN AUSTRALIAN METHAMPHETAMINE ACTION PLAN 2017: SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES

State Government Commitment	Status
Invest an additional \$2 million per annum into treatment facilities to respond to early intervention and severe methamphetamine dependence.	\$16 million over four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) has been allocated to the Mental Health Commission (MHC) for the continuation of 60 existing treatment beds for residential rehabilitation and withdrawal services. MHC has negotiated contract extensions with existing service providers.
Expand specialist drug services into rural and regional areas of need and open two specialised rehabilitation centres, one in the South West to cater for the long withdrawal and recovery period and high relapse rates associated with methamphetamine use. Services will be flexible and holistic.	\$9.31 million over four years (2018-19 to 2021-22) has been allocated from the Royalties for Regions Program to the Mental Health Commission to establish up to 33 beds for alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation and low medical withdrawal services in the South West. Nineteen of these beds opened in January 2019, with the provision of the remaining beds currently being negotiated.
Expand specialist drug services into rural and regional areas of need and open two specialised rehabilitation centres one in the Kimberley to cater for the long withdrawal and recovery period and high relapse rates associated with methamphetamine use. Services will be flexible and holistic.	\$200,000 from the Royalties for Regions Program was allocated to the Mental Health Commission to identify and undertake planning and consultation required to address the gaps in alcohol and other drug treatment services in the Kimberley in 2017-18. Consultation has been undertaken and release of the subsequent report is planned for mid-2019.
Introduce a Mental Health Observation Area (MHOA) at Royal Perth Hospital emergency department for those that require assistance and close supervision for up to 72 hours.	<p>The State Government has provided \$11.8 million from 2017-18 to 2019-20 to the Department of Health for a Mental Health Observation Area (MHOA) and an authorised Mental Health Unit at Royal Perth Hospital.</p> <p>These facilities will provide dedicated areas for mental health consumers with more complex issues who present to the Emergency Department, and will improve the patient flow by fast-tracking individuals to the right therapeutic setting.</p> <p>The designs for both services have been developed and construction of the MHOA is on track to commence mid-2019.</p>

State Government Commitment	Status
<p>Work with drug and alcohol education agencies to ensure WA schools have the most up to date programs to better inform our young people.</p>	<p>Additional funding of \$660,000 (from 2017-18 to 2018-19) was provided to the Mental Health Commission to expand school drug education programs through those provided by the School Drug Education and Road Aware program. A continuation of funding for four years (2019-20 to 2022-23) has been sought via the 2019-20 budget process.</p>
<p>Ice Breakers Program.</p>	<p>Funding of \$360,000 was provided for a two-year trial of the Ice Breakers Program with Albany Police and Citizens Youth Club to support people moving from methamphetamine dependence into recovery. The program will be evaluated at the conclusion of the trial.</p>
<p>Two dedicated drug and alcohol rehabilitation prisons from partitioning existing facilities, with increased drug dog detection and urinalysis and greater post release supervision of short term prisoners.</p>	<p>The State Government has approved the Department of Justice to establish of two dedicated alcohol and other drug rehabilitation prisons (one for women at Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison, and one for men) to assist in breaking the cycle of alcohol and other drug-related crime with \$9.6 million in capital funding.</p> <p>The women's Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison commenced operation in 2018, with the men's rehabilitation prison to be established as a part of the project to build four new units (512 beds) at Casuarina Prison (currently underway).</p> <p>An additional \$2.1 million for dedicated drug testing capabilities was allocated from 2017-18 to 2021-22.</p>
<p>Establish a Prisoner Triage Unit in courts, staffed by 10 people to assess short term, non-violent prisoners for suitability to enter Rehab Prisons.</p>	<p>The prisoner triage unit operates from Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison as a mobile outreach unit based on an individual assessment model with \$3.0 million in funding from 2017-18 to 2021-22. The triage unit for Casuarina will be developed as part of the service model for the Casuarina Expansion project which is underway.</p>
<p>Investigate ways to 'fast-track' guardianship and administration applications for methamphetamine users who are not able to make their own decisions and need help managing their affairs and rehabilitation.</p>	<p>A robust assessment of all guardianship and administration applications is undertaken by the State Administrative Tribunal on a case-by-case basis to determine the need to fast track applications. This equally applies to guardianship and administration applications for methamphetamine users.</p> <p>If the assessment determines a need to expedite a guardianship and administration application for methamphetamine users based on risks to the person or their estate, the application is fast-tracked.</p>

State Government Commitment	Status
<p>Establish a Meth Border Force within WA Police of 100 officers to stop methamphetamine coming into Western Australia, with an additional 100 sworn officers.</p>	<p>\$104.1 million has been allocated across five years (2017-18 to 2021-22) for an additional 100 sworn officers to establish a Meth Border Force within WA Police, to stop meth coming into Western Australia. Delivery is well underway with 100 police officer positions and 20 unsworn officer positions created.</p>
<p>Increase the maximum penalty for meth traffickers to life imprisonment.</p>	<p>The Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Methylamphetamine Offences) Bill 2017 was introduced into Parliament on 16 May 2016. The Methylamphetamine Offences Bill 2017 was passed in Parliament on 16 August 2017.</p>
<p>Ensure WA Police have the resources to significantly increase the volume of roadside alcohol and drug testing of WA drivers.</p>	<p>Police resources of \$4.8 million has been allocated to increase the volume of roadside alcohol and other drug testing, to conduct 40,000 roadside drug tests from 2017-18 to 2021-22. WA Police Force achieved the target number of tests for 2017-18 and is on track to achieve the 2018-19 targets.</p>
<p>Establish the MAP Taskforce to provide advice to the Sub-Committee on the implementation of the MAP.</p>	<p>The Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce was announced on 26 June 2017.</p> <p>The Taskforce's Report has been completed and presented to the State Government. This report was released on 26 November 2018.</p>

APPENDIX 4 – STATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO ALL TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

With the ultimate aim of preventing and reducing the adverse impacts of methamphetamine use in the Western Australian community, agency responses to the recommendations will be implemented, subject to Government fiscal capacity and regular budgetary processes, as part of an across-government approach.

The across-agency agreed responses, which have been applied to each recommendation noted in the Taskforce Report, are as below.

Response	Definition
Supported	All elements of the recommendation are supported by the State Government.
Supported in Principle	The State Government generally supports the intent or merit of the recommendation, but does not necessarily support the method for achieving the recommendation; and/or additional funding will be required to implement the recommendation.
Not Supported	This recommendation is not supported by the State Government.
Noted	The State Government notes the recommendation.

The following table provides the State Government’s response to each of the Taskforce Report recommendations. Recommendations have been listed by lead agency, in order of most recommendations to least.

Lead Agency: Mental Health Commission

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
7	<p>The Mental Health Commission working with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, liaison with other governments to ensure any future public information and education campaigns run in WA are targeted to meet the needs of specific audiences, at risk groups, and/or local needs, and that campaigns focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ seeing methamphetamine use as a health issue first and foremost; ◆ including the objective to encourage help seeking behaviour and support for those directly affected; ◆ supporting the de-stigmatisation of methamphetamine use; and ◆ ensuring all future public information campaigns are evaluated for their effectiveness against their objectives. 	Supported in Principle	<p>The Government supports this recommendation in principle, acknowledging the need for public information and education campaigns to focus on methamphetamine use as a health issue, encourage help seeking behaviour from those directly affected, support the de-stigmatisation of methamphetamine use, and ensure campaigns are evaluated for effectiveness objectives. The Mental Health Commission will work to ensure the continuation of methamphetamine specific campaigns and supports for individuals, families and the community. With the objective of encouraging help seeking behaviour, these campaigns and programs will be evaluated for their effectiveness.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
8	<p>The Mental Health Commission should work to reduce the stigma associated with methamphetamine use, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ developing specific guidelines on the use of appropriate objective and non-judgmental language regarding substance use disorders, addictions and those who use drugs for health care professionals, law enforcement agencies and public policy makers; ◆ consulting with appropriate agencies to ensure the guidelines are implemented throughout the working practices of these identified groups; ◆ conveying these guidelines to the media; and ◆ involving people who have or have had lived experience of methamphetamine and their families in frontline workforce education and training. 	Supported	<p>The Government is supportive of this recommendation and the stigma associated with alcohol and other drugs including methamphetamine use can be addressed through a mixture of both new and existing initiatives. The government recognises the importance of the reduction of stigma associated with methamphetamine use be addressed across the services spectrum, and broader than just the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors.</p> <p>The draft Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2019-2025 acknowledges the importance of addressing stigma and discrimination within the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors, as well as towards consumer, families and carers accessing services and support and has a cross-agency governance and reporting structure.</p> <p>This recommendation will also be addressed through the provision of workforce training, and through the development of specific guidelines associated with the media coverage of alcohol and other drug related issues.</p>
9	<p>The Mental Health Commission promotes positive personal stories of successful treatment to the general public and to those experiencing problematic or dependent use of methamphetamine to address both social and self-stigma and promote help seeking behaviour.</p>	Supported	<p>Positive stories of successful experiences with treatment and support services has the potential to not only promote the service being provided, but can also reduce both social and self-stigma regarding methamphetamine use and recovery. The Government is supportive of this recommendation and will continue to encourage help-seeking behaviours and share positive stories amongst the Western Australian community.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
10	<p>The Mental Health Commission to work with the Department of Health, the WA Primary Health Alliance and the Australian Medical Association (Council of General Practitioners) WA to better promote the use of the Next Steps Clinical Advisory Service to primary health and allied health care professionals.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The Mental Health Commission and WA Department of Health will work in collaboration to develop initiatives to increase access to methamphetamine related information for primary and allied health care professionals, and develop targeted pathways to support early intervention in primary, secondary and acute care settings, in order to better support individuals and families impacted by methamphetamine use.</p>
11	<p>The Mental Health Commission to work with other relevant agencies to promote increased screening for alcohol and other drug conditions for people presenting to primary health care professionals, and workers in child protection and community health; including increasing awareness and use of alcohol and other drug screening tools and referrals to appropriate services.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports the recommendation to promote increased awareness and utilisation of alcohol and other drug screening tools and effective referral to appropriate services across primary health, child protection and community health settings. The Mental Health Commission and WA Department of Health will collaborate to address this recommendation, including consideration of appropriate screening tools and providing targeted communication, education and training to relevant organisations and health professionals.</p>
15	<p>Once the outcome of the Office of the Auditor General audit on The Availability, Accessibility and Effectiveness of Treatment for Methamphetamine is available, the Mental Health Commission work with the Department of Treasury and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to develop recommendations for Government to prioritise funding of alcohol and other drug treatment services to address immediate and unmet demand.</p>	Noted	<p>The Government notes this recommendation. Relevant government agencies are reviewing the Office of the Auditor General audit on The Availability, Accessibility and Effectiveness of Treatment for Methamphetamine and will assess any resulting initiatives. Any future alcohol and other drug service expansion should be aligned with the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025, which is underpinned by evidence-based, nationally approved modelling tools, the Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022 and input from the Western Australian community.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
16	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with alcohol and other drug service providers to establish a centralised waitlist database in order to better identify and utilise existing treatment capacity.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The Mental Health Commission, in partnership with the peak body for the alcohol and other drug sector, has already established a system for waitlist monitoring. The Department of Health and the Mental Health Commission will collaborate to explore ways to more effectively utilise waitlist data and develop targeted pathways to support early intervention and appropriate referral in order to provide better access to treatment for individuals and families impacted by methamphetamine use.</p>
17	<p>The Mental Health Commission, in consultation with service providers, prioritise additional strategies to further improve the responsiveness to users who wish to prepare for and undertake treatment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ increasing the use of peer workers to 'bridge the gap' between when users decide to seek treatment and then commence treatment; ◆ introducing walk-in or no-wait services, based on models in other jurisdictions, for incorporation into existing services; and ◆ use of e-Health and other strategies that enable an immediate response to users during the small window in which users decide they want to change. 	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. There a number of strategies that can be implemented to improve responsiveness of individuals seeking treatment for alcohol and other drug related issues. This can include strategies to improve system navigation, ensuring people are aware of and can access appropriate services; strengthening and building the capacity of the mental health and alcohol and other drug workforce enabling the provision of individualised, high quality mental health and alcohol and other drug services and programs; and the promotion of relevant resources and online tools to support individuals considering and/or undergoing treatment.</p> <p>Any additional strategies to further improve responsiveness for users who wish to undertake treatment should be aligned with the draft Western Australia Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2018-2025, which is due for release in the first half of 2019. This strategic framework provides evidence-informed strategies and actions that may be implemented by a range of organisations, including government agencies and non-government organisations.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
18	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with the alcohol and other drug sector to improve consumers' (including users and families) understanding of what the rehabilitation process involves, and rehabilitation options available for consumers and families beyond residential rehabilitation, including clarifying what is involved in planned detox, residential services, and community based services.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging the importance of the availability of clear and accurate information about the range of treatment options available to support individuals and families impacted by methamphetamine use. The Mental Health Commission will continue to work with the alcohol and other drug sector to increase access to and availability of this information.</p>
19	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with alcohol and other drug service providers to ensure that service users, families and significant others are involved in the design and delivery of services, including training and professional development of service staff.</p> <p>The Mental Health Commission to work with alcohol and other drug service providers in consultation with families and other support people expand services to support their specific needs.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The Mental Health Commission has a strong commitment to best practice principles and practices in relation to consumer, family and carer involvement, co-design and co-production. The Mental Health Commission has finalised the Working Together: Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Engagement Framework and Toolkit 2018-2025, is implementing the Framework internally, and will support effective implementation across the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors as appropriate.</p>
20	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with alcohol and other drug service providers to ensure the outcomes of services referred to in Recommendation 19 specifically support and assist families and others who support methamphetamine users.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government is supportive of this recommendation, which will be addressed through a continued commitment to supporting and encouraging the views of and input from consumers, families and carers.</p> <p>It is essential that services are designed and developed with the preferences of consumers at the centre of all decisions. Supporting consumers, families, carers and communities to actively partner in decision making including coproduction and co design of policy, planning, service delivery, evaluation and research is important.</p> <p>Conversely, service staff also need support to be able to effectively promote and reflect the preferences of consumers, families, carers and communities.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
21	<p>The Mental Health Commission expands the Parent Peer Support volunteer service beyond the current level of service provision to provide more assertive outreach into, and presence in the community, and provide greater support for families of methamphetamine users.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The Mental Health Commission will explore the expansion of the Parent and Family Drug Support Service to ensure greater access to peer support for families of methamphetamine users.</p>
22	<p>The Mental Health Commission collaborates with the peak bodies in mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors to ensure co-morbidity guidelines (set out in the Co-morbidity of mental disorders and substance use: A brief guide for the primary care clinicians and Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions) are implemented, monitored and reported on in WA.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports the recommendation and acknowledges the importance of service providers ensuring that staff have appropriate knowledge and skills to identify and respond to individuals with co-occurring related issues, in particular mental health and alcohol and other drug issues. The Mental Health Commission will collaborate with the peak bodies in the mental health and alcohol and other drug sectors to explore both the application of these guidelines and appropriate mechanisms for monitoring and reporting.</p>
23	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with the Department of Health and other key stakeholders to ensure a 'no wrong door' approach by making sure that service providers are applying the nationally developed and validated tools to assess and evaluate service capability to deliver integrated services (as set out in Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment Toolkit, Dual Diagnosis Capability in Mental Health Treatment Toolkit, and Integrated Treatment for Co-occurring Disorders Evidence-based Practices Kit.)</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation and acknowledges the importance of delivering integrated services for people with co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health issues. The Mental Health Commission and Department of Health will continue to deliver services that provide treatment and support to people experiencing co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health issues, and seek to identify and implement strategies, including the development of pathways for early intervention, for co-occurring issues to be better addressed in existing and future services. The Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 outlines the importance of reducing the fragmentation of supports provided to individuals and families through improved service collaboration and integration across alcohol and other drug and mental health (where required).</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
24	<p>The Mental Health Commission ensures that its commissioning policies, process and practices support and reinforce the application of the guidelines and tools referred to at Recommendations 22 and 23.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. As part of the planning and review process for alcohol and other drug treatment services, the Mental Health Commission will explore ways in which this recommendation can be implemented across commissioning policies, process and practices.</p>
25	<p>The Mental Health Commission should promote the application of evidence based e-Health treatment programs or integrate e-Health treatment programs into established face-to-face models of care as a solution that may assist in: improving access to treatment for more people in general; the lack of available services in regional and rural WA; and concerns about privacy in smaller communities.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation and acknowledges the importance of treatment accessibility for individuals and families living in regional and rural Western Australia. A number of alcohol and other drug (and other health) service providers currently utilise tele-health options to increase the treatment reach of services. Previous consultation in rural, regional and remote Western Australia shows that some communities do not regard tele-health as a solution to service expansion/reach, but rather a complementary service and also stated that it should not be used in lieu of face-to-face services. Future expansion into e-health for alcohol and other drug treatment will be explored with these considerations in mind.</p>
29	<p>Within 12 months, the Mental Health Commission, Western Australia Police Force and Department of Health establish an appropriate alternative crisis intervention response that would provide a short-term place for methamphetamine users when they are in crisis that will keep them, their families and the community safe, including in the regions.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation and acknowledges the concerns within the Taskforce Report regarding a need for appropriate service responses in times of crisis, and that these are provided free from stigma. Despite the number of challenges related to the management of those affected by methamphetamines, it is important that service responses recognise the complexities related to use to promote de-stigmatisation and engagement. It is also important that there is appropriate support for families impacted by another's methamphetamine use, and genuine alcohol and other drug, and mental health co-occurring responses. In addressing this recommendation planning for, and development of new initiatives, as well as the expansion of existing services will be considered to ensure there are appropriate intervention responses to meet the needs of people with alcohol and other drug-related problems, their families and the broader community during a crisis.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
30	In order to better meet regional needs, within 12 months the Mental Health Commission develops regional alcohol and other drug plans in consultation with the community and other key stakeholders to promulgate a place-based approach to planning, investment, delivery and evaluation of services.	Supported	Prioritisation of the planning, investment, delivery and evaluation of services within regional and remote areas remains a priority across government and in responding to the needs of regional and remote communities, their continued involvement in developing and implementing alcohol and other drug plans is central to ensuring the provision of appropriate services, programs and support.
33	Mental Health Commission works with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Organisations to develop and deliver culturally appropriate models of residential rehabilitation.	Supported	This recommendation is supported by the Government and can be addressed through the continuation of existing and current practices and models of residential rehabilitation. The Mental Health Commission will continue to ensure services are culturally competent, as is a requirement in Mental Health Commission service agreements. The Mental Health Commission will progress the accreditation of Mental Health Commission funded alcohol and other drug service providers against an approved accreditation standard within three years of the Service Agreement commencement date.
34	The Mental Health Commission works with Aboriginal community leaders, peak bodies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to incorporate the alcohol and other drug treatment needs of Aboriginal people in the regional alcohol and other drug plans in Recommendation 30.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation and acknowledges that input from Aboriginal community leaders, peak bodies, and relevant local health and other organisations working with Aboriginal people is crucial to developing culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug plans to address methamphetamine use in the regions. The Mental Health Commission will continue to provide and expand existing mechanisms to ensure place based cultural security of services and supports provided.

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
35	<p>The Mental Health Commission to work closely with the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies to establish regular opportunities for both mainstream alcohol and other drug service providers and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to share information and lessons learned about how best to meet the needs of Aboriginal people. This could include enabling inter-organisational staff mobility and training opportunities.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation and acknowledges the importance of the culturally secure delivery of services and supports to Aboriginal people. The Mental Health Commission will continue to provide training and support options to build the capacity of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workers in the alcohol and other drug and broader health services sector to better understand and work in culturally secure ways with Aboriginal people. The Mental Health Commission through the Strong Spirit Strong Mind Program have representatives on the Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Worker Reference Group engaging Aboriginal workers from alcohol and other drug agencies and organisations across WA. Strategies to increase and develop the Aboriginal alcohol and other drug and mental health workforce are provided in the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Workforce Strategic Framework 2019-2025.</p>
36	<p>The Mental Health Commission to work with Aboriginal community leaders, and peak bodies for Aboriginal health services and the alcohol and other drug sector to develop and implement a strategy to recruit, train and retain Aboriginal staff in both mainstream and Aboriginal-specific alcohol and other drug services.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The recruitment, training and retention of Aboriginal staff in both mainstream and Aboriginal-specific alcohol and other drug services will enhance the cultural competence of services delivered across Western Australia. The Mental Health Commission supports the development of a skilled Aboriginal workforce to respond to the needs of Aboriginal individuals, families and communities experiencing alcohol and other drug and social and emotional wellbeing related harm by continuing to provide the opportunity for Aboriginal workers to gain nationally recognised qualifications.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
43	The Mental Health Commission in consultation with the Office of Multicultural Interests and Culturally and Linguistically (CaLD) communities, within 12 months, undertake and report on further research and consultation on drug use, its impact on CaLD communities and approaches to address issues identified.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging the gaps in current knowledge of the level of use of illicit drugs amongst the CaLD population and the impact of drug use on CaLD communities. People from CaLD communities have been highlighted as one of seven priority populations under the Commonwealth's National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 ⁵ . Further research and consultation will be supported by the Mental Health Commission in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Interests, utilising appropriate consultation approaches to impact on future consideration on potential approaches to the issues identified.
44	The Mental Health Commission, working with the Department of Communities, continues to be funded for transitional housing and support for people exiting treatment for alcohol and other drug dependency, including treatment in prisons.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging the importance of stable accommodation in the process of recovery from methamphetamine use, especially for people exiting alcohol and other drug treatment services and prisons. Recurrent funding for the continuation of existing Transitional Housing and Support Programs beds was provided through the 2018-19 mid-year review budget process. The expansion of current Transitional Housing and Support Programs will be explored and is supported by both the Department of Communities and the Mental Health Commission.

5 Australian Government. Department of Health. National Drug Strategy 2017-2026. Canberra: The Department; 2017. p 29. [accessed 2018 Nov 7]
Available from <https://beta.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-drug-strategy-2017-2026>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
45	<p>The Mental Health Commission in consultation with Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies and peak employer bodies broker a partnership between a willing and capable treatment provider and employer to establish a suitable pilot structured return to employment program in WA.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle</p>	<p>This recommendation is supported by the Government. It is noted that the provision of employment and/or return to employment type-programs are not the core business of the Mental Health Commission. However, in liaison with the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies the exploration of potential options to address this recommendation and its underlying themes would be supported. Alcohol and other drug providers contracted by the Mental Health Commission through residential rehabilitation programs and Community Alcohol and Drug Service teams, assist clients with pre and post treatment, support and case management. This may include assistance with improving the client's personal circumstances including education and training opportunities and re-entry into employment.</p>
46	<p>The Mental Health Commission to work with WANADA and consumer groups to introduce a system and practices that support post-treatment transition planning and after care interventions for people exiting treatment, particularly for those in outpatient treatment.</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging the importance of post-treatment transition planning and after care interventions for people engaged in treatment for methamphetamine use. The Mental Health Commission will continue to support the current systems in place within the alcohol and other drug sector that provide services to people exiting treatment.</p>
47	<p>The Mental Health Commission to specifically fund specialist alcohol and other drug services to develop and promote interventions and pathways to aftercare for clients.</p>	<p>Supported</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. Specialist alcohol and other drug services are currently funded to provide interventions and pathways to aftercare for clients exiting treatment. These pathways to aftercare must continue to be utilised and promoted to individuals completing methamphetamine related treatment. Consideration for the expansion of Transitional Housing and Support Programs, and the continuation of community treatment employees in Community Alcohol and Drug Services to support individuals pre and post residential rehabilitation, retain people in treatment and prevent relapse in priority locations align with this recommendation.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
49	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with other government agencies and the alcohol and other drug sector to integrate a case-management approach, which meets the multiple and complex needs of individuals and families, into its service delivery model.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The complexity of methamphetamine use has been acknowledged. In addressing this recommendation, the Department of Health and Mental Health Commission will continue to ensure funded services adopt a case management approach to address the multiple needs of individuals and families accessing treatment, and identify areas of need in priority populations.</p>
51	<p>The Mental Health Commission, in consultation with the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, target service consumers and evaluate the effectiveness of information services, including: awareness of services; reach of services, including to regional areas; suitability of current delivery modes; and optimal levels and mix of service provision, within 12 months.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging the importance of the promotion and availability of information and support for individuals, families and communities impacted by methamphetamine use. The Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 will be consulted in support of this recommendation as it outlines the optimal mix and level of services for alcohol and other drug services across the State, including by region, and is underpinned by evidence-based, nationally approved modelling tools and input from the Western Australian community.</p>
55	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies to review the current data collection and analysis system, warehoused through the Service Information Management System to identify and implement improvements that enable the capture and demonstration of outcomes and support improved quality of specialist alcohol and other drug services.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. The Mental Health Commission will work with the peak body for the alcohol and other drug service sector to explore the most effective ways to improve and standardise the capture and demonstration of outcomes and improved service quality. This may involve the review of nationally recognised outcome measures to align with national directions.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
56	<p>The Mental Health Commission and the Department of Health consult with relevant stakeholders to identify the appropriate mechanism for regulating alcohol and other drug specialist service providers, particularly those that are not government funded, to ensure that the community, vulnerable individuals, and potentially referring services can be confident in the quality of these services.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging that there should be a minimum standard of evidence based care for all alcohol and other drug services provided to the community, whether funded by the government or not. Alcohol and other drug services funded by the government are contractually required to be accredited against a recognised quality standard; a base level of quality regulation should apply to all services providing specialist alcohol and other drug treatment. The development of the National Quality Framework for the alcohol and other drug sector will support this recommendation.</p>
57	<p>The Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee establish a Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officer Working Group reporting to the Directors General Implementation Group. The purpose of which will include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ develop a plan to implement recommendations of this report supported by government; ◆ develop and finalise an accountability framework for measuring whole-of-government performance, including development of performance indicators (wherever possible drawing on existing preferably national data sets) and targets. 	Supported	<p>This recommendation is supported by the Government. The Methamphetamine Action Plan Senior Officers' Working Group have worked to develop the Full Government Response to the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Report, including considerations for implementation and monitoring.</p>

Lead Agency: Department of Health

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
14	Department of Health and WA Country Health Service ensure that it's agreed State-wide detox policy, the 'Alcohol and other Drug Withdrawal Policy', is implemented by its health services as a priority.	Supported	The Government supports the recommendation for the Department of Health to prioritise the development of a Model of Care to support consistent implementation of the 'Alcohol and Other Drug Withdrawal Policy' across the state of Western Australia, acknowledging that engagement with specific populations and pathways for metropolitan and regional communities to access withdrawal services will need to be explored.
26	The Department of Health promotes greater awareness of Needle Syringe Programs and Needle Syringe Exchange Programs in WA to people who need these services.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation. Needle and Syringe/Exchange Programs are important to achieving a reduction in harm related to methamphetamine use and providing opportunity for referral to other health and welfare services as required. The Department of Health will work with its partners to increase availability and targeted promotion of Needle and Syringe/Exchange Programs in Western Australia.
27	<p>The Department of Health in consultation with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and the WA Country Health Service to implement strategies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ provide a more culturally appropriate service for Aboriginal people delivered by Aboriginal people; and ♦ improve access to and the availability of Needle Syringe Exchange Programs particularly in regional areas. 	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation and acknowledges that it is essential for alcohol and other drug services to understand the role of culture, provide non-discriminatory care and respond to the cultural requirements of Aboriginal people. In addressing this recommendation it is important to build upon and strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, as well as the broader workforce to provide appropriate services and support for Aboriginal people and communities.

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
28	Department of Health to examine opportunities for Needle Syringe Program providers to expand their role beyond supplying clean needles and syringes to consumers of their services to include other harm reduction strategies including brief interventions.	Supported	This recommendation is supported by the Government. This recommendation will be addressed through the expansion of existing and creation of new programs/services to create opportunities for the Needle and Syringe Program and enable the continuation of the provision of harm reduction strategies.
42	The Department of Health in consultation with the Mental Health Commission and representatives from the LGBTIQ community, include in the development of the WA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) Health Strategy – the impact of illicit drug use on the LGBTI community (including methamphetamine); relevant approaches to addressing illicit drug use, and consideration of the Rainbow Tick Accreditation Program.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging the importance of providing tailored and appropriate interventions and support to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) population who have been identified as a group at high risk of methamphetamine related harm. The Department of Health and Mental Health Commission will continue to provide peer based and other related support services to LGBTI people using methamphetamine and explore the development of targeted outreach programs and resources. The continued development of the LGBTI Health Strategy will also support this recommendation.
52	Department of Health works with key stakeholders to identify sources of support for specific alcohol and other drug research to make this a stated research priority.	Supported	This recommendation is supported by the Government. It is noted that in addressing this recommendation, the Department of Health will explore the development of a research and innovation strategy to help guide investments made by the Government's new Future Health Research and Innovation Fund with consideration of how to prioritise alcohol and other drug research.
53	Department of Health continues the WA Illicit Substance Evaluation Study as an ongoing valuable early warning system for rapid identification and reporting of conventional and novel psychoactive drugs causing toxicity in patients.	Supported	This recommendation is supported by the Government, however it is acknowledged that legislative changes to the <i>Guardianship and Administration Act 1990</i> will be required in order to achieve this.

Lead Agency: Department of Education

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
1	<p>The Department of Education and the Mental Health Commission liaise with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority to mandate a minimum level of alcohol and other drug education in all schools.</p>	<p>Supported in Principle – noting that there is an existing mandated Health syllabus that includes alcohol and drug education related curriculum content.</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation in principle, acknowledging the importance of alcohol and drug education in schools. The Department of Education will work in partnership with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority, Catholic Education Western Australia and the Association of Independent Schools Western Australia to develop a comprehensive professional learning package to support the delivery of mandated curriculum content across all Western Australian schools. This package will also further assist schools to effectively embed evidence-based and evidence-informed resources and programs for alcohol and other drug prevention, through the School Drug Education and Road Aware program. The WA Department of Health will also assist in addressing this recommendation in reviewing the Growing and Developing Healthy Relationships (GDHR) website and the provision of teacher professional learning via expansion of the current Curtin Teacher Training Program.</p>
2	<p>The Department of Education gives greater prominence to alcohol and other drug education in schools by including statements in future strategic documents and directions to schools that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ positions the issue in the context of student health and well-being; ♦ addresses the impacts of not just students' own use, but also use of alcohol and other drugs by others; ♦ requires alcohol and other drug education programs to be based on best practice; ♦ takes a whole-of-school approach; and ♦ provides for both universal and targeted programs to meet the needs of individuals and/or groups of students at greater risk. 	<p>Supported</p>	<p>The Government supports this recommendation noting that schools are a unique setting to foster social, cultural and formal learning for children, and to protect and educate them. This recommendation will be addressed through the development, delivery and expansion of evidence-based and evidence-informed school programs. These programs aim to prevent and reduce young people's drug and alcohol use and the associated harms amongst at-risk groups as well as provide whole-of-school drug education and early intervention initiatives. The Department of Education and the Mental Health Commission will work in collaboration to address this recommendation, ensuring alcohol and other drug education is prioritised, aligned with student mental health and well-being included within future strategic documents.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
3	<p>Recognising that schools are required to comply with a large number of policies, the Department of Education should highlight alcohol and other drug education as a priority through existing systems and communications that set directions and expectations for schools and school services (such as through the Director General's Focus document).</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation. In addressing this recommendation, the inclusion of statements within strategic documents to prioritise alcohol and drug education will impact directly on Western Australian public schools providing the opportunity to immediately and responsively direct operations of schools and support services. In addition, state-wide initiatives to provide targeted alcohol and other drug education will also be developed to promote the value of alcohol and other drug education in the context of children and young people's health and wellbeing.</p>
4	<p>The Department of Education monitor and publicly report alcohol and other drug program delivery in public schools to ensure alignment with best practice and effective targeting of individuals and/or groups of students at greater risk.</p>	Supported	<p>This recommendation is supported, and will be responded to through continued monitoring and reporting on alcohol and other drug education programs in Western Australian public schools.</p>
5	<p>The Department of Education undertake and publicly report on an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of its current school-based alcohol and other drug education programs and resources. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform improvements to alcohol and other drug education programs and resources.</p>	Supported	<p>In response to this recommendation an independent review of alcohol and other drug school education programs can foster ongoing improvements to alcohol and other drug programs and resources; promote alignment with evidence-based and evidence-informed practice; and identify opportunities for stronger partnerships and collaborative approaches.</p>

Lead Agency: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
12	<p>The Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Mental Health Commission, with the WA Primary Health Alliance and alcohol and other drug sector, to consult with the Commonwealth Government on measures to improve referral to alcohol and other drug specialist treatment services by GPs.</p>	Supported	<p>The Government supports this recommendation, acknowledging that GP's are often a first point of contact for many people impacted by methamphetamine use. The Mental Health Commission will work in collaboration with the WA Primary Health Alliance and alcohol and other drug sector, to develop initiatives to support awareness of and improve referral to alcohol and other drug specialist treatment services by GP's and other health professionals. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet will assist with Commonwealth Government consultation to support this recommendation.</p>
31	<p>The Mental Health Commission works with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to propose to the Ministerial Forum on Alcohol and Drugs that future Commonwealth Government resources allocated to address methamphetamine use should be apportioned based on the most recent census data and the relative 'need' or magnitude of the problem in each state, to enable appropriate levels of funding support to be provided to address use in regional WA.</p>	Supported	<p>This recommendation is supported in line with the Government's role in advocating for WA's fair share of Commonwealth funding and is consistent with Commonwealth's joint parliamentary committee recommendation. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, in consultation with the Mental Health Commission and other relevant stakeholders, will lead the development of an engagement strategy to support this recommendation.</p>
32	<p>Minister for Mental Health, through the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum, proposes that a place-based planning and investment program be piloted in WA within 12 months, supported by the Integrated Atlas of Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs – Western Australia, when finalised.</p>	Supported	<p>Whilst this recommendation is supported by the Government, liaison between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Mental Health Commission will be required to identify an appropriate consultation strategy in addressing this recommendation.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
48	<p>A Parliamentary Committee inquiry into and report on alternative models for drug regulation, regulatory systems and controls in other jurisdictions, including both prohibition and non-prohibition models, their effectiveness in addressing the costs and harms to individuals, families and the community and their suitability for introduction into Western Australia. This inquiry should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ be bipartisan in structure and composition; ◆ be subject to specific reporting time-frames; ◆ involve consultation across the alcohol and other drug sector; ◆ be open to and engage with the public; and ◆ be required to report to the Parliament of Western Australia on the outcomes of the inquiry. 	Noted	<p>On 17 October 2018 a bipartisan Legislative Council Parliamentary Select Committee, Chaired by Hon. Alison Xamon MLC was established to conduct an Inquiry into alternate approaches to reducing illicit drug use and its effects on the community. The Select Committee is due to report its findings to the Parliament within 12 months of its establishment. The Terms of Reference and processes of the Select Committee address this recommendation.</p>
50	<p>The Government, as part of the Machinery of Government changes, consider how the State's alcohol and other drug response can be given greater priority across all portfolios and how it can be most effectively positioned within the public sector to maximise efficiency, effectiveness and engagement with the community. In particular, the Government should commission an independent body/investigator to determine the extent to which the objectives of the amalgamation of the Mental Health Commission and the Drug and Alcohol Office in 2015 have been achieved with the view to improving accountability and transparency of service delivery.</p>	Supported	<p>This recommendation is supported by the Government. It is noted that in addressing this recommendation, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will consult with the Mental Health Commission to consider the potential review of the current arrangements to examine to what extent services are delivering, or have the capability and capacity to deliver the identified best practices, recognising that recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General review into treatment services for people with methamphetamine dependence may be relevant and noting the broader context of previous Machinery of Government changes.</p>

Lead Agency: Department of Justice

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
37	The Department of Justice and other relevant agencies introduce integrated approaches to the assessment and treatment of alleged offenders that provide a holistic, case-managed approach to treatment and support.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation. Activity is being investigated for future integration of services across courts. The models being considered are team based and are aimed at diverting accused persons to appropriate programs and services that are based on their level of risk of re-offending and service needs.
38	The Department of Justice expands drug and alcohol through-care services to ensure that prisoners on remand who are released from custody are effectively connected to support and treatment services in the community.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation which can be addressed by the expansion of the existing model of alcohol and other drug through-care for prisoners on remand and those who have been released from custody. The Department of Justice will engage with alcohol and other drug service providers to ensure the treatment needs of offenders transitioning into community care are taken into account in the further development of community-based services.
39	The Department of Justice ensures that all persons in custody, including remanded and sentenced offenders, are assessed for alcohol and other drug use, including methamphetamine, and are provided with intervention and treatment to meet the needs identified.	Supported	The Government supports this recommendation which is addressed by all prisoners being assessed by a nurse within 24 hours and medical care provided equivalent to that in the community. The Department of Justice will also work with key stakeholders to better link prisoners with community based services they can access upon release.
40	The Department of Justice expands drug and alcohol through-care services to sentenced prisoners in regional prisons.	Supported	The Government supports the requirement for an expansion of drug and alcohol through care services for regional prisoners. Within the newly awarded Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services contracts, the Department of Justice has ensured that non-government organisations will provide access for prisoners post-release to alcohol and other drug services in the community to ensure a through care of service when transitioning back into the community.
41	The Department of Health and the Department of Justice introduce needle-syringe exchange programs in WA prisons, as part of the response to the Auditor General recommendation that “The Department of Justice review current treatment approaches to demand and harm reduction, to ensure they are up-to-date and able to meet the diverse needs of prisoners”.	Not Supported	The Government does not support this recommendation. Whilst the government is not considering the introduction of needle and syringe exchange in the prison setting, alternative harm minimisation strategies involving the expansion and continuation of existing programs will be progressed to reduce the harms associated with illicit drug use and to meet the diverse needs of prisoners.

Lead Agency: Department of Communities

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
6	In order to strengthen community level protective factors aimed at young people and their families, the Department of Communities ensures existing evidence-based, best practice models for adolescent leisure or extracurricular activities are implemented more broadly in WA.	Supported	Young people and youth are a key priority area across government, especially in relation to the prevention of alcohol and other drug use and related harm. Structured youth development opportunities and activities have the potential to encourage and support their participation in the community, and build their confidence and resilience. All of these are important protective factors against alcohol and other drug use.

Lead Agency: WorkSafe (Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety)

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
13	WorkSafe in collaboration with the Mental Health Commission to work with employer and employee peak bodies to develop a strategy to build the capacity of (particularly small business) employers to better manage and support employees with drug and alcohol conditions including the management of occupational health and safety risks.	Supported	The Government is supportive of this recommendation and acknowledges the importance of strengthening the capacity of the workforce to support employees with drug and alcohol-related problems. This recommendation will be achieved through the review of existing and development of new appropriate resources to build the capacity of workplaces. Collaboration between WorkSafe and the Mental Health Commission will be important to ensure resources and initiatives are based on existing and emerging evidence-based practice about effective responses to alcohol and other drug issues as they present in workplaces.

Lead Agency: Department of Treasury

No.	Recommendation	Response	Status
54	<p>The Department of Treasury and the Mental Health Commission establish a working group to define a strategy for the adoption of a social impact investment approach, including identifying potential areas in which a social impact bond could be created, for the Government's consideration.</p>	Supported	<p>This recommendation is supported by the Government and it is noted that in addressing the recommendation, the Department of Treasury will consider the development of a whole-of-government approach for the application of social impact investment. It is acknowledged that social impact investments have not yet been ventured into by the State and as such, a systematic, whole-of-government approach would be important in determining areas of need and potential benefit.</p>



Full Government Response to the Western Australian
Methamphetamine Taskforce Report
2019