

What are the essential components of a drink and drug driving program among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in South Australia: An exploratory qualitative study

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Introduction and Aims:

Alcohol is a leading cause of road trauma in Australia, including among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Strategies to reduce likelihood of drink and/or drug driving were recommended in a series of forums with services and community members in South Australia (between 2005 and 2007). More than 15 years since this report was published, there has been little research to help us understand ideal components of drink and/or drug driving treatment programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This study aims to identify key elements and delivery approaches of drink and/or drug driving programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in South Australia.

Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 23 participants with a range of expertise (e.g. community, cultural, corrections, justice, legal, alcohol and other drug treatment, primary care and road safety program providers). More than three-quarters of participants were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. A thematic qualitative analysis was performed.

Key Findings: A holistic model to help individuals develop skills to separate substance use from drink and/or drug driving, to overcome peer and kinship pressure, and understand effects of alcohol and/or drugs on driving were critical. Aboriginal leadership, and visual and interactive delivery across multiple settings (e.g. prison, community) were also discussed.

Conclusions: This study identified much-needed elements and suggestions to implement culturally appropriate drink and/or drug driving programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in South Australia.