

KIMBERLEY REGION — ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PLAN

102. Hon SHELLEY ARCHER to the minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

I refer to the previous government's response to the coroner's findings in the 22 alcohol and drug-related deaths of Indigenous people in the Kimberley and the outcomes of further investigation into the five alcohol and drug-related deaths of Indigenous people in Oombulgurri.

- (1) Will the current government also commit to the development of an alcohol management plan for the Kimberley, as identified in the Western Australian government's response to the Hope report?
- (2) If yes to (1), what progress has been made to develop the alcohol management plan?
- (3) Given the high rate of suicide in the region, what resources have been allocated to ensure that this initiative is completed and implemented as soon as possible?
- (4) What time lines have been placed on this plan?
- (5) If no to (1), what will this government do to address the high rate of alcohol and drug-related deaths in the region?

Hon HELEN MORTON replied:

I respond on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

- (1) To the best of my knowledge, the previous government made no commitment to the development of a Kimberley alcohol management plan. This government recognises the importance of a coherent and integrated approach to alcohol management across the Kimberley region and is working towards the development of a Kimberley alcohol management plan.
- (2) A number of initiatives have been put in place to better manage alcohol in locations across the Kimberley region, such as the Oombulgurri and Fitzroy valley communities. An alcohol management committee has been established to oversee initiatives across the Fitzroy valley. These include awareness-raising activities to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm and the provision of alcohol treatment resources. Recently, the Minister for Racing, Gaming and Liquor introduced restrictions on the presence of alcohol in the Oombulgurri community. Other supporting initiatives to complement this initiative are in development. A progressive plan is required to provide a more coherent and integrated approach to alcohol management across the Kimberley region. A comprehensive draft alcohol management plan for the Kimberley region has been developed and is being considered by the Minister for Mental Health, who now has carriage of the Drug and Alcohol Office.
- (3) Appropriate resourcing will be considered as part of the government's decision-making process and in the context of a broader program of strategies to address social health issues in the Kimberley region. The Australian government's collaboration will be sought in resourcing this initiative as appropriate.
- (4) Action on the better management of alcohol-related problems has commenced in communities such as the Fitzroy valley and Oombulgurri. Definitive timelines are yet to be decided because the draft Kimberley alcohol management plan will be considered in collaboration with Kimberley communities and the Australian government. The timeline will be dependent on these negotiations.
- (5) Not applicable.

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.