

Western Australian Government Response
 Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee – Report no 10
Alcohol: Reducing the Harm and Curbing the Culture of Excess

Recommendations	Response	Comment
<p>Recommendation 1 The State Government adopt a goal of lowering the annual per capita consumption of pure alcohol in Western Australia over the next four years from 12.45 litres to under 10 litres per capita. In its annual report the Drug and Alcohol Office provide details of the State’s annual per capita consumption of alcohol and the progress in reaching this goal.</p>	Not supported	<p>The <i>Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework 2011-15</i> includes the goal to “Prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of alcohol and other drugs in the Western Australian community”.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 The Minister for Police table a report to Parliament by December 2011 on legislative proposals for cost-recovery efforts for providing substantial numbers of Police in areas in Perth where there is a high demand for Police due to alcohol-related violence.</p>	Supported	<p>Amendments to the Police Act 1982 are currently being progressed to enable WA Police to recover costs associated with policing large profit-based events. Deployment of officers is an operational issue.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 By December 2011, the Premier should require all industry associations, such as the Australian Hotels Association, to be registered on the State's lobbyist register.</p>	Not supported	
<p>Recommendation 4 The Director of Liquor Licensing in his annual report should include information on the profitability of the State’s liquor industry to assist the State Government assess the industry’s capacity in paying for alcohol-related harm in Western Australia.</p>	Not Supported	<p>The collection of information on the economy and economic indicators is not an appropriate responsibility or mandate of the licensing authority.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5 The Minister for Mental Health and the Minister for Racing and Gaming provide to Parliament an annual report on the results of the collection and analysis of the previous year’s Western Australian alcohol <u>consumption</u> data.</p>	Not Supported	<p>Contrary to information in the Report, data is <u>not</u> collected by the DRGL in relation to alcohol <u>consumption</u>. Wholesale sales data, (i.e. data relating to the sale of liquor by wholesalers to retailers for on-selling) is collected on an annual basis <u>in relation to WA wholesales only</u>. Because this information is collected from WA wholesalers only, it is only an indicative figure of alcohol wholesale-to-retail sales.</p>

<p>Recommendation 6 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to make ‘protecting and improving public health’ the primary object of the Act.</p>	Not supported	<p>The primary object of the Act -- set out in section 5(1)(b) - to <i>minimise harm or ill-health caused to people, or any group of people, due to the use of liquor</i> is considered to be appropriate in the context of the scope and purpose of the Act. <u>Section 69</u> of the Act then recognises the authority of the Executive Director Public Health and provides that authority with powers to introduce evidence in proceedings, relating to harm or ill-health caused due to the use of liquor.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to allow the Police to more successfully prosecute a drunken person. This could be by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • defining a blood alcohol level for intoxication or amend Section 3A(1)(b) to provide examples of impairment resulting from alcohol; and • the clarification of any other problems related to the failure to effectively prosecute drinkers for being drunk on a licensed premise. 	Noted	<p>Arriving at an enforceable definition of drunkenness is an ongoing issue. However, using blood alcohol content (BAC), as a definitive indicator is not considered practical as BAC relates more to measuring the impairment to motor skills (eg driving skills) than to behaviour or the level of drunkenness. The definition will be re-assessed when next the Liquor Control Act undergoes major consultative review.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 a review of the current exemptions in Section 6 of the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> and remove those which are historical.</p>	Noted	<p>This matter will be considered when next the Liquor Control Act undergoes major consultative review</p>
<p>Recommendation 9 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to clarify the lines of authority and accountability to prevent alcohol-caused harm in licensed premises and in the broader community.</p>	Not Supported	<p>It is considered that the current provisions of the Act (principally part 6 and section 155) provide adequate accountability and lines of authority. This is an operational matter that is currently being addressed by the Director of Liquor Licensing and the Police.</p>

<p>Recommendation 10 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> that would raise the level of fines issued by the Police or the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor. These fines to licensees or their managers to be increased from the current level of \$1,000 to a minimum penalty of \$10,000. The fines should be based on the number of patrons and wholesale sales data.</p>	Noted	The appropriateness of penalties is reviewed on each occasion the Act undergoes major review and it is expected that penalties will again be considered when next the Liquor Control Act undergoes major consultative review
<p>Recommendation 11 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> that would ensure that any fines issued by the Police or the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor to licensees or their managers that remain unpaid after three months result in the suspension of the licensee's liquor licence.</p>	Not supported	Offenders are entitled to challenge infringements through the courts which can take several months.
<p>Recommendation 12 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> that ensures if more than three fines or suspensions have been issued for failing to serve alcohol in a responsible manner over the past 12 months, licences can be revoked by the Director of Liquor Licensing.</p>	Not Supported.	Section 95 currently provides that proper cause for disciplinary action exists if a licensee has been issued with an infringement notice. It is currently a matter for the Liquor Commission to determine whether there is sufficient reason to make out that complaint and discipline the licensee. Amongst the powers of discipline are powers to suspend or cancel the operation of the licence.
<p>Recommendation 13 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to allow the Police to conduct 'controlled purchasing operations' to assist in the identification and prosecution of licensees suspected of breaching the Act by selling alcohol to minors.</p>	Not Supported	Government does not support the use of minors in police enforcement operations.

<p>Recommendation 14 The Minister for Racing and Gaming and the Minister for Health table in Parliament by December 2011 draft amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> that would establish a Liquor Control Advisory Council. The Council shall provide an annual report to Parliament on legislative changes to improve the monitoring, effectiveness and compliance with the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> and any other Acts to help decrease alcohol-related harm in Western Australia.</p>	Not Supported	The Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers Group, supported by the Drug and Alcohol Office, is a cross agency group formed to provide a whole-of-government approach to addressing drug and alcohol issues. This Group is able to consult widely with industry and community groups.
<p>Recommendation 15 The new Liquor Control Advisory Council should be chaired by a Ministerial nominee. It should include representatives from the Departments of Health, Mental Health, and Racing, Gaming and Liquor; and representatives from the Police, National Drug Research Institute, the McCusker Centre for Action on Alcohol and Youth, Healthway, the Health Consumers' Council, the Australian Medical Association, the College of Nursing (WA) and a Professor of Public Health.</p>	Not Supported	See Recommendation 14
<p>Recommendation 16 By June 2012, the Minister for Racing and Gaming and the Minister for Police increase the number of staff available to effectively enforce key provisions of the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i>, including whether alcohol is being served responsibly on licensed premises.</p>	Noted	Resourcing (where required to meet legislative or policy objectives) is a matter for the budgetary process. Deployment of police officers is an operational issue.
<p>Recommendation 17 The revenue for licensing administration and inspection tasks should be obtained by increasing fees for licensed premises based on different risk factors, similar to those used in Queensland and Victoria.</p>	Noted	The legislative head of power to set, by regulation, licence fees based on risk parameters has recently been established. Implementing such a strategy is a matter to be considered in future annual fees reviews.
<p>Recommendation 18 The Minister for Mental Health prepare a discussion paper by December 2012 on the social and economic costs of alcohol on the State's youth. The Minister to seek community input on the question of whether Western Australia should raise over a three-</p>	Noted	The development of a research and discussion paper could be commissioned to improve the understanding of the social and economic impacts of alcohol in WA, including a focus on youth.

year period the legal drinking age for purchasing and consuming alcohol to 20 or 21 years.		
<p>Recommendation 19</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to insert a clause that a person must not supply alcohol to a minor or a juvenile unless that person has obtained the consent of their parent or legal guardian.</p>	Not Supported	Legislative reform of this nature should only be considered as part of a major consultative review of the Liquor Control Act.
<p>Recommendation 20</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming, as part of the preparation of a discussion paper on the social and economic costs of alcohol on the State's youth, assess the benefits of having a split age limit that would bar alcohol being purchased from an off-license venue until drinkers are 20 years of age, and report to Parliament by December 2012 on its usefulness in lowering rates of under-age drinking in Western Australia.</p>	Not supported	Current Government policy is not to vary the existing age restriction on purchasing or consuming alcohol.
<p>Recommendation 21</p> <p>The Minister for Road Safety table in Parliament by June 2012 a discussion paper on the benefits and costs of lowering the maximum blood alcohol level for drivers to 0.04 grams per 100 millilitres.</p>	Not Supported.	<p>The Minister for Road Safety does not support the tabling of a discussion paper solely on lowering the BAC to 0.04 grams per 100 millilitres by June 2012 as a review of a range of options is underway.</p> <p>There is evidence that lower blood alcohol concentrations will reduce crash rates. In light of this evidence, the Office of Road Safety (ORS) has commenced a review of a range of options for lower BAC, including but not limited to 0.04 grams per 100 millilitres. As part of this investigation, a research project to gauge the prevalence of alcohol among WA drivers and riders at all BAC levels is planned. This research and the wider review are not likely to be completed by the June 2012 timeframe recommended by the Report.</p> <p>Once complete, the ORS review will be considered by the Road Safety Council and recommendations presented to the Minister for Road Safety and ultimately Parliament for consideration.</p>
<p>Recommendation 22</p> <p>The Minister for Police make a matter of extreme urgency the introduction of car alcohol ignition interlock devices to stop people</p>	Supported	The introduction of alcohol ignition interlock devices is a component of the Government's Repeat Drink Driving Strategy that is being progressed by the Office of Road Safety.

with a high blood alcohol concentration from driving, especially repeat drink-driving offenders.		
<p>Recommendation 23</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming and the Minister for Planning table in Parliament by December 2011 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> which consider the public health impact of any further increase in liquor outlets, and include a codification system for future outlet density requirements for the planning policies of the State's local government authorities.</p>	Noted.	Legislative reform of this nature should only be considered as part of a major consultative review of the Liquor Control Act.
<p>Recommendation 24</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming investigate and report to Parliament by December 2011 on the effectiveness of programs used in other jurisdictions, such as 'Safer Bars', as a way of lowering violent incidents in and around Western Australian licensed outlets.</p>	Noted.	Programs in other jurisdictions are monitored constantly and State government liquor licensing authorities meet regularly to share information. Successful initiatives are considered for implementation and this is evidenced in the many legislative reforms to the State's liquor laws in recent years
<p>Recommendation 25</p> <p>The Minister for Health bring to Parliament by December 2011 amendments to the <i>Health (Public Building) Regulations 1992</i> to repeal regulations 7(4) and 7A(2) so that the existing exemptions are removed for the four very large hotels (Cottesloe Beach Hotel, Ocean Beach Hotel, Aberdeen Hotel and Metro City). The commencement date for the amendment should be 12 months after its adoption by Parliament.</p>	Not supported.	The Liquor Licensing Authority is authorised to place limits on the number of persons that may be accommodated in a licensed premises on a case by case basis. These limits may be more restrictive than the limits included in the Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992.
<p>Recommendation 26</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 amendments to Section 97 of the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to facilitate the reduction of the permitted hours of trading where data shows that there is a problem with violence and breaches of the Act by licensees.</p>	Not Supported	There is currently sufficient authority in the Liquor Control Act for this to occur
<p>Recommendation 27</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> that delete Section 5(1)(c) "to cater for the requirements of consumers for liquor and related services, with regard to the proper development of the liquor industry, the tourism industry and other</p>	Not Supported	

<i>hospitality industries in the State” from its objects.</i>		
<p>Recommendation 28</p> <p>The Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health write to their counterparts in other States recommending that the Federal Government implement the 2009 Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy recommendations relating to the phasing out of alcohol promotions from times and placements with high exposure to young people up to 25 years of age.</p>	Noted	
<p>Recommendation 29</p> <p>The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to further limit alcohol advertising in Western Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outside and inside liquor outlets; • through printed material distributed in letter boxes; • through outdoor advertisements; • inside sporting venues; and • through newspapers and other publications printed and distributed in Western Australia. 	Not Supported	It is considered that, in the absence of Federal controls, such an ad hoc approach to controlling alcohol advertising would be impractical and ineffective.
<p>Recommendation 30</p> <p>The Director General, Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor use Section 65B of the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to prohibit discounting of alcohol products such as when they are bought in a package of six, a dozen or a carton.</p>	Not supported	Section 65B is a regulation making power that relates to promotion activity on licensed premises – not advertising per sé. It is considered that in the absence of Federal controls such an ad hoc approach to controlling alcohol pricing would be impractical and ineffective.
<p>Recommendation 31</p> <p>The Premier report to Parliament by December 2011 on the efforts of the State Government’s lobbying of the Federal Government to fund and implement a national approach to replace the sponsorship of sporting bodies by alcohol companies.</p>	Not supported	The State Government believes that the vast sporting club network is an ideal vehicle to deliver messages promoting more responsible alcohol consumption and to ban alcohol advertising and sponsorship through this network may mean an ideal opportunity is lost.
<p>Recommendation 32</p> <p>The Minister for Health write to the Federal Minister for the Department of Health and Ageing requesting that Western Australia’s proportion of the new Federal funding over four years for community sponsorship funds (to provide an alternative to alcohol sponsorship for community sporting and cultural organisations) be awarded to Healthway to administer.</p>	Noted	Action already underway.

<p>Recommendation 33 In the absence of Federal Government action, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by June 2012 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to phase out the sponsorship of sporting bodies in Western Australia by alcohol companies.</p>	Not Supported	See recommendation 31
<p>Recommendation 34 The Minister for Health by June 2012 increase the annual funding to Healthway to allow it to compensate sporting organisations which lose alcohol sponsorship due to the proposed amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to phase out the sponsorship of sporting bodies.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities
<p>Recommendation 35 The Premier report to Parliament by December 2011 on the efforts of the State Government's lobbying of the Federal Government to implement the recommendations of the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council's review relating to the national introduction of a health message warning on the labels of all alcohol products.</p>	Noted	The Minister for Health is on the Australia New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council (ANZFRMC) and is currently developing a response to this review (the Blewett Report). ANZFRMC meets in December 2011 to formulate a policy response to the Blewett report.
<p>Recommendation 36 In the absence of Federal Government regulation, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by June 2012 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> to introduce a system of health message labelling on alcohol products produced in Western Australia.</p>	Not Supported	Food labelling is not the domain of the Liquor Control Act. The Australia and New Zealand Standards Code, which includes labelling requirements, is administered by the federal regulatory body Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.
<p>Recommendation 37 The Minister for Racing and Gaming table in Parliament by December 2011 amendments to the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> making it a condition of liquor licences for drinking glasses to include an indication of the number of standard drinks.</p>	Not supported	Given the wide range of alcoholic beverages and alcohol content this is not considered a practical option.

<p>Recommendation 38 As a matter of urgency, the Drug and Alcohol Office or the National Research Drug Institute at Curtin University be provided with funding by the Minister for Mental Health or the Minister for Health to collaborate with Sheffield University to ascertain the appropriate minimum price for alcohol in Western Australia. This outcome of this research be presented as a report to Parliament by April 2012.</p>	Not supported	See recommendation 39. Taxation/pricing policy is primarily a Federal Government responsibility.
<p>Recommendation 39 The Minister for Health direct the Department of Health to work with Parliamentary Counsel by December 2011 to enable an amendment to the <i>Public Health Act 1911</i> to introduce a minimum floor price to prevent the sale in Western Australia of the cheapest forms of alcohol.</p>	Not supported	The Government believes that the only practical way to effectively control the availability of cheap 'bulk' alcohol is to change the taxation method – see response to recommendation 40.
<p>Recommendation 40 The Premier urgently negotiate with the Federal Government to increase taxes on alcohol products by introducing a tiered volumetric tax in addition to a minimum retail price per standard drink.</p>	Noted	The issue of replacing the current ad valorem method of taxing alcohol with a volumetric method has been supported by the Western Australian Government at a Federal level on a number of occasions and the State will continue to pursue this issue when the opportunity presents.
<p>Recommendation 41 By December 2011 the Director of Liquor Licensing extend the current Section 64 restrictions in the Kimberley and Pilbara limiting the sale of particular alcohol products to all other regions of the State where the annual litres per capita consumption of alcohol is greater than the Western Australian average.</p>	Noted	The Director of Liquor Licensing is required by law to exercise jurisdiction impartially and is not subject to influence or direction. It is for the Director to determine the appropriateness or otherwise of section 64 liquor restrictions. The imposition of restrictions must be based on evidence that is consistent with the scope and subject of the <i>Liquor Licensing Act 1988</i> .
<p>Recommendation 42 The Minister for Education ensure that drug and alcohol education becomes a mandatory part of the curriculum in all schools, and that schools are encouraged to engage with the School Drug Education and Road Aware program.</p>	Supported in principle	The Department of Education in collaboration with the Catholic Education Office, the Association of Independent Schools, the Drug and Alcohol Office and the Office of Road Safety is committed to ensuring that young people receive the best possible education related to the dangers of alcohol use through the auspices of School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA). The SDERA provides best practice curriculum support materials, professional development, and a statewide consultancy service for all Western Australian schools (in all systems and sectors).

		<p>The Department of Education is also working closely with the Drug and Alcohol Office, and other government and non-government agencies in the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2010 – 2015. That the SDERA project has continued to evolve into arguably the nation’s leading school drug education provider. The SDERA is and will remain the Western Australian Government’s primary strategy for support and delivery of school-based drug education in Western Australia.</p> <p>Drug and alcohol education is generally provided in all schools through the Health and Physical Education learning area. In addition to providing students with facts and knowledge, studies in the health and physical education learning area also aim to empower students to critically evaluate the opportunities and challenges associated with living in modern society, and teach them how to take action to reduce threats to their health and wellbeing. Students who are able to identify and develop their own attitudes and values are better equipped to make personal and socially responsible decisions related to issues such as alcohol use.</p> <p>Through its support services for educators, SDERA encourages schools to take a holistic approach to prevention and early intervention by considering a whole school community response to alcohol and drug education; providing a balanced approach to alcohol and drug issues by addressing risk factors and protective factors; and providing an early intervention program for those students whose lives may be touched by drug use. School drug education aims to address potential causes of student alcohol use, as well as seeking to address the consequences in order to promote physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing. Abstinence from illegally using drugs and alcohol underpins all programs.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 43 The Minister for Education encourage the State’s universities to develop a more comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate teacher training curriculum in alcohol and drug issues.</p>	Supported	Teacher preparation is imperative to support the delivery of effective drug and alcohol education in our schools. The Department of Education representative on the SDERA Steering Committee will strongly advocate for the SDERA project team to increase its (already established) engagement with undergraduate and postgraduate teacher training institutions. At present, SDERA provides services to students at the Joondalup campus of Edith Cowan University. SDERA also offers the Challenges and Choices program online and through open professional development opportunities, which are readily accessible to all students across all universities.
<p>Recommendation 44 The Minister for Child Protection substantially increase funding to youth service organisations in the 2012-13 budget to increase the provision of diversionary, early intervention and positive lifestyle strategies targeted at young people at risk of drug and alcohol problems.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 45 The Minister for Mental Health provide annual funding in the 2012-13 budget to expand webbased intervention programs (such as TAP and THRIVE) to all tertiary institutions in Western Australia. This funding is to be used for the ongoing research, promotion, management and evaluations of these programs. The Drug and Alcohol Office should report on the outcomes of these programs in its annual reports.</p>	Noted	<p>Early intervention and positive lifestyle programs specifically targeted at young people to reduce hazardous and harmful drinking by university students are currently being conducted.</p> <p>The Drug and Alcohol Office will consider the evaluation results of these intervention programs. Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities</p>
<p>Recommendation 46 The Minister for Mental Health ensure in the 2012-13 budget that there are funds for a comprehensive education campaign for parents to make them aware of the dangers of supplying their children with alcohol, and the provisions and penalties within the <i>Liquor Control Act 1988</i> as it applies to the purchase and supply of alcohol to minors.</p>	Noted	<p>The Drug and Alcohol Office continues to aim to increase parents’ awareness of the risks of supplying their children with alcohol as part of the Alcohol. Think Again campaigns. See also Recommendation 42</p> <p>Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities</p>

<p>Recommendation 47 The Minister for Mental Health increase the resources of the Drug and Alcohol Office for a large-scale alcohol-related public health media campaign, funded in part by an increase in the annual liquor licence fees.</p>	<p>Not supported</p>	<p>The Drug and Alcohol Office continues to educate Western Australians on the risks of harmful alcohol use as part of the Alcohol. Think Again campaigns.</p> <p>Provisions of the Act do not allow for the calculation of fees on such a basis. Further, the collection of fees is intended to <u>recover the costs for delivering services</u> in relation to the regulation of liquor in WA (ie licensing, compliance and enforcement).</p> <p>Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities .</p>
<p>Recommendation 48 The Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health provide funds in the 2012-13 budget so that the Drug and Alcohol Office can coordinate, in conjunction with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and public health social marketing experts, a media campaign on the dangers of consuming alcohol while pregnant.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 49 The Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health should engage with the university medical schools in Western Australia to ensure that funding is provided by 2013 for a coordinator to ensure that alcohol, drugs and mental health are included in their medical program curricula.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>The Drug and Alcohol Office is currently developing a workforce development strategy with the tertiary education sector to assist in the coordination of evidence based alcohol and other drug education and training into relevant undergraduate courses.</p> <p>Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 50 The Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health fund in the 2012-13 budget an additional seven FTE of addiction medicine specialists to cover the State’s metropolitan tertiary and secondary hospitals.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 51 The Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health fund in the 2012-13 budget three additional training positions for addiction medicine specialists.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities</p>

<p>Recommendation 52 The Minister for Health by June 2012 either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fund and create a four-bed dedicated unit at each tertiary hospital and three • secondary hospitals in the Perth metropolitan area for patients admitted with • alcohol or drug related problems; or • fund an additional 24 beds for patients requiring treatment of drug and alcohol • problems in the Perth metropolitan area. 	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 53 That by June 2012 the Minister for Regional Development fund and create additional dedicated beds for patients requiring drug and alcohol treatment at major regional hospitals.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 54 The Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health should provide funds for the development of a training package for all health practitioners on the effectiveness and implementation of brief interventions to decrease alcohol consumption for those drinking above NHMRC recommended guidelines. The Ministers should encourage the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing Federation and other relevant health care organisations and practitioners to advocate for this practice with their members.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 55 The Minister for Mental Health monitor the effectiveness of the increased funding in the 2011- 12 State Budget to non-government organisations offering alcohol treatment programs, and ensure that funding agreements are for periods longer than three years to reduce the uncertainty within that sector.</p>	Noted	
<p>Recommendation 56 The Minister for Regional Development fund by June 2012 at least one drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, and associated services, in each WA Country Health Service region.</p>	Noted	

<p>Recommendation 57 The Minister for Mental Health and the Minister for Corrective Services should, as a matter of urgency, fund in the 2012-13 budget the development of a State-wide alcohol diversion program. This program should be offered during the pre-sentence process to all offenders convicted of an offence where alcohol is a contributing factor. Where these offenders are sentenced to prison, it should be a mandatory program.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 58 The Minister of Corrective Services and the Minister for Mental Health increase funding in the 2012-13 budget to ensure that every prisoner who is identified and assessed as needing an alcohol or drug treatment program is able to receive one, irrespective of which prison they are held in.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 59 The Minister of Corrective Services and the Minister for Mental Health allocate funding in the 2012-13 budget to ensure that every prisoner counselled or treated in prisons for alcohol or drug problems continues to be treated on discharge from prison. This counselling or treatment to be part of any parole or release conditions for prisoners and, wherever possible, be delivered by the same health care professional on a monthly basis for a minimum of three months.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.
<p>Recommendation 60 The Minister for Mental Health significantly increase funding in the 2012-13 budget to the alcohol and drug community treatment sector to increase its capacity and expand the number of places for clients referred by the Department of Corrective Services.</p>	Noted	Funding to be considered through the Budget process in the context of competing priorities.