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PREVENTING THE MISUSE OF VOLATILE SUBSTANCES

In Western Australia, there is continuing concern about the misuse of volatile substances, particularly when they are used by young people. Sniffing volatile substances is a dangerous practice and can be fatal.

As a business consumer of volatile substance products, you may be an unintended source of supply for people who use such products for the purposes of intoxication. You can provide a great service and reduce harm to your community by limiting opportunities for volatile substances to be obtained for this purpose.

Volatile substances used for the purpose of inhaling are often stolen from worksites, vehicles and disposal sites, so it is important that these substances are stored and transported securely and disposed of in a responsible manner.

A Code of Conduct related to the use, storage, transport and disposal of volatile substances has been developed by the Drug and Alcohol Office and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) in collaboration with the East Pilbara Volatile Substance Use Working Group. The Code of Conduct has been endorsed by Western Australia Police.

The accompanying Industry Information Kit has been developed to help you implement the Code of Conduct. The Industry Information Kit contains:

- a Code of Conduct
- an information booklet
- signs to be displayed on your premises, and
- an information page for staff and contractors.

I commend those within industry who are already tackling this issue and hope that the Kit and Code of Conduct will provide further assistance and guidance. A collaborative approach between government and industry can help prevent volatile substance use.

To obtain additional copies of the Industry Information Kit, please contact FaHCSIA, South Hedland: Regional Coordinator Petrol Sniffing Strategy, (08)9138 3114.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil Guard'.

Neil Guard
Executive Director
Drug & Alcohol Office