



Learning from 50 years of Aboriginal alcohol programs



Community-led approaches

There are valuable lessons to be learned from community-led approaches to **preventing and managing harms from alcohol use**.

Prevention

Common elements of **successful community primary prevention programs**:

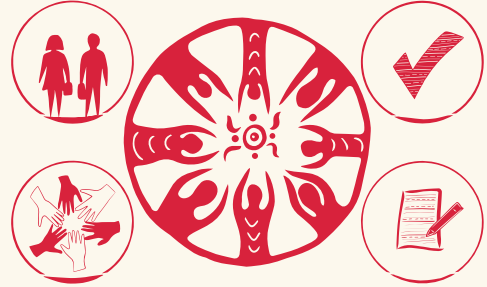
- strong community leadership
- strategic partnerships
- clearly defined objectives
- pathways to achieve objectives



Treatment and support services

Aboriginal alcohol and drug treatment services have sometimes been **limited by a narrow range of options**.

Increasingly alcohol and drug treatment services have begun to **value and centre on culture** to heal the effects of intergenerational and ongoing trauma.



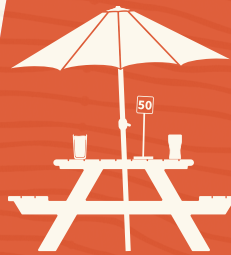
Evaluation

There is an ongoing need to assess alcohol programs in a way that is both robust and culturally informed.



Alcohol restrictions

Alcohol restrictions work best when supported by community and the law.



Licensed clubs

Community-controlled licensed clubs are another approach to managing alcohol use. While some licensed clubs have succeeded in promoting sociable drinking, many have found it difficult to combine moderate drinking with being commercially viable. Licensed clubs also make heavy administrative demands on the community.

Community patrols

Community patrols (also known as night patrols) **can help to keep people safe** and deal with disputes in a way that respects local cultural values.

To work well, they need community control and involvement, and clearly defined roles with respect to police



Reducing harms from alcohol use in pregnancy

Community-led responses to **reducing alcohol use during pregnancy** have demonstrated how changes initiated by the community can bring about holistic, positive reforms to reduce harms from alcohol use.



Addressing alcohol-related harms

In addressing alcohol-related harms it is important to create responses that:

- are collaborative
- recognise the importance of community control
- privilege Aboriginal perspectives and priorities
- supported by evidence

