

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee Inquiry into Low Aromatic Fuel Bill 2012

Joint-Government Submission

Attorney-General's Department

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Department of Health and Ageing

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Petrol Sniffing Strategy

The Petrol Sniffing Strategy (PSS) is a whole-of-government initiative operating since 2005 to reduce the incidence and impact of petrol sniffing and other forms of volatile substance misuse where this occurs in relation to Indigenous youth and their communities.

The Australian Government recognises the devastating impact of petrol sniffing on young lives and the importance of action to reduce the incidence of petrol sniffing and its impact on families and communities.

Since its establishment the PSS has achieved a substantial and visual reduction of petrol sniffing and associated issues in targeted communities across remote Australia. The roll out of low aromatic fuel has been a fundamental part of this success. Supporting programs also play a key role in maintaining the reduction of the incidence and impact of petrol sniffing. In particular, these programs ensure that the issue of petrol sniffing is addressed holistically through a combination of approaches as evidence suggests that a holistic strategy is likely to be more effective than actions concentrating on a single aspect of the issue. Working to ensure that low aromatic fuel is supplied throughout the PSS footprint will continue to be a crucial element of the PSS.

The PSS is delivered as a partnership between the Attorney-General's Department (AGD), Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

The eight point plan of the PSS includes the following elements:

1. consistent legislation
2. appropriate levels of policing
3. further rollout of low aromatic fuel
4. alternative activities for young people
5. treatment and respite facilities
6. communication and education strategies
7. strengthening and supporting communities
8. evaluation

Further information on the PSS, including the designated PSS Zones and governance arrangements is detailed below under *PSS Overview*.

Rollout of Low Aromatic Fuel under the Petrol Sniffing Strategy

The third element of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy eight point plan deals with the rollout of low aromatic fuel.

Availability

The rollout of low aromatic fuel is targeted, but not limited to the designated PSS zones, and is also available in the footprint regions that are in close proximity to the designated zones. In addition, low aromatic fuel may be made available to individual sites and regions when petrol sniffing is identified as an issue and appropriate distribution arrangements can be established.

As at 1 July 2012, there are 123 sites receiving low aromatic fuel throughout regional and remote Australia. These sites include 74 communities; 40 service station/roadhouses; and 9 other businesses/supporting organisations. Of the 123 sites, 67 are within the designated zones and 56 are outside the zones.

Number of receiving sites and targeted sites for low aromatic fuel

State / Territory	No. of Sites Receiving	No. of Sites targeted to receive low aromatic fuel (planned)#	Total
Northern Territory	77	47	124
South Australia	14	6	20
Western Australia	26	18	44
Queensland	6	30	36
New South Wales	0	0	0
Total	123	101	224

No. of Sites targeted to receive (planned and potential sites) include sites that are currently refusing to supply low aromatic fuel.

Total funding to support the rollout of low aromatic fuel is \$115.86m over five years from 2011-12.

Evidence Base for Current Low Aromatic Fuel Approach

The executive summary of the *Evaluation of Impact of Opal Fuel* was publicly released on 3 February 2009. The full evaluation report has not been released publicly due to privacy issues.

The evaluation undertook data collection on the prevalence of petrol sniffing in a sample of 20 communities where baseline data had previously been collected.

The findings of the evaluation included:

- a decrease across the sample of 70 per cent (431) in the number of people sniffing between baseline and follow up;
- petrol sniffing had dropped by over 90 per cent in central Australia and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands;
- there had been a fall of 90 per cent in the number of people sniffing at regular heavy levels; and
- a change in the frequency at which the remaining individuals sniffed, with a move towards occasional sniffing in those who previously sniffed at heavier levels.

Low Aromatic Fuel Production

Low aromatic fuel is produced by BP Australia in Kwinana, Western Australia (WA) and transported to storage facilities in Largs North, South Australia (SA) and and Kalgoorlie, WA. Low aromatic fuel is then distributed to retail sites across Australia from these sites.

Government Initiatives that support the rollout of Low Aromatic Fuel

The Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program

Managed by DoHA, the Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program (PSPP) subsidises the rollout of low aromatic fuel. The PSPP is also responsible for petrol sniffing and low aromatic fuel communication and education strategies, advice about treatment and rehabilitation for petrol sniffers and data collection.

Implementation of the PSPP is supported by research, the establishment of clinical guidelines for treatment and some funding for treatment services and diversion activities.

Expanding the Supply and Uptake of Opal Fuel

In the 2010-11 Budget, the Australian Government announced the new budget measure *Expanding the Supply and Uptake of Opal Fuel* which provides an additional \$38.5 million over four years from 2010-11.

This budget measure will enable the expansion to a further 39 additional retail sites to supply low aromatic fuel to support 11 communities in the Gulf region of Queensland (QLD), the East Kimberley in WA and the Top End of the Northern Territory (NT). The measure also enables new bulk low aromatic fuel storage facilities to be built for these regions, due to be completed in 2012-13.

These actions will address essential fuel storage and distribution issues which were identified by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies as being necessary to enable a full rollout of low aromatic fuel and the enforcement of any future mandated requirements in northern Australia.

Improved arrangements for the production and storage of low aromatic fuel

To support the expanded supply of low aromatic fuel into new regions, DoHA conducted a procurement process to establish improved arrangements for the production and storage of low aromatic fuel from 2012-13 onwards.

The new arrangements commenced on 1 July 2012 and will be progressively rolled out throughout the 2012-13 financial year. For the early stage of 2012-13 BP Australia will continue to supply low aromatic fuel to currently receiving sites.

In addition, DoHA is separately negotiating the establishment of bulk storage for low aromatic fuel in Darwin. It is anticipated that storage of low aromatic fuel in Darwin will be established in 2012-13.

The new arrangements for low aromatic fuel will facilitate the expansion of the rollout in the following regions:

- the Top End of the NT including Katherine, Mataranka and Pine Creek;
- Tennant Creek and Barkly region in the NT;
- East Kimberley in WA;
- the southern area of the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York in QLD; and

- Coober Pedy in SA.

Since the commencement of the 2010-11 budget measure, low aromatic fuel has been successfully rolled out to the Western Australian Goldfields region, and Kakadu National Park.

Initial consultations on the future introduction of low aromatic fuel have commenced in the Katherine and Tennant Creek regions of the Northern Territory.

The national map at [Attachment A*](#) identifies sites targeted to receive low aromatic fuel. [Attachment B*](#) provides an update on the progress of the rollout of low aromatic fuel.

PSPP Data Collection Project

Building on the *Evaluation of Impact of Opal Fuel*, the 2010-11 Budget measure funds the development and use of a data collection tool to monitor the incidence and prevalence of petrol sniffing and transference to other substances.

The Menzies School of Health Research has been engaged until 30 June 2014 to establish and implement the data collection tool in 40 communities. The first phase of the project collecting data from 21 communities was conducted in October 2011. The next phase of data collection is due to commence in August/September 2012.

In tandem with broader PSS evaluation activities, the data collection tool will help to inform whether the PSPP is achieving its objectives, and the evidence base for future petrol sniffing prevention policy.

Issues that Impact the Expanded Roll-out of Low Aromatic Fuel

The usual supply route for regular unleaded fuel does not always correlate with those used for low aromatic fuel, therefore significant changes to existing supply chains are needed at times to supply low aromatic fuel.

Having only two storage points for low aromatic fuel which are located in southern Australia has resulted in delays in the rollout of low aromatic fuel to some sites in northern Australia including the Top End of the NT, the East Kimberley in WA and the southern Gulf region of QLD. The planned expansion of low aromatic fuel seeks to address these issues.

Other Elements of the Petrol Sniffing Strategy Eight Point Plan

1. Consistent Legislation

Given the cross-jurisdictional nature of the PSS zones, consistent legislation in relation to treatment services and the powers to mandate referral of petrol sniffers into treatment is an important component of the PSS.

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies was commissioned by FaHCSIA to undertake research into existing legislation relating to petrol sniffing in the state and territory jurisdictions where the PSS is implemented; WA, SA, NT and QLD. The study, completed in March 2010, sought to examine the effect of different legislative frameworks across jurisdictions. The report found that:

- there are no major adverse impacts from inconsistencies in existing legislation that need to be addressed by the introduction of consistent legislation relating to volatile substance misuse;

- the vast majority of stakeholders are satisfied with the legislative tools currently at their disposal;
- stakeholders recognise that legislative frameworks are fundamental tools in the response to volatile substance misuse; and
- stakeholders identify the following issues as critical to the successful and sustained reduction of levels of volatile substance misuse in Indigenous communities:
 - strategies to reduce the supply of intoxicating substances; and
 - access to good quality services such as rehabilitation and diversionary programs (including youth services).

These findings demonstrated that existing state and territory legislation can contribute to the management of volatile substances and petrol sniffing. However, this study did not investigate mechanisms to control access to intoxicating volatile substances. The PSS partner agencies understand that the NT Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act is the only state/territory legislation that currently includes provisions for communities to ban volatile substances in designated management areas. It should be noted that two recent coronial inquests, reporting on October 2011, one completed in WA and another in SA, recommended the implementation of a law similar to the NT Volatile Substance Abuse Prevention Act in their respective jurisdictions.

Mechanisms are in place through PSS governance structures such as the cross jurisdictional forum or other whole of government forums such as the Council of Australian Governments for PSS partner agencies to work with the relevant state and territory jurisdictions to discuss the concept of how existing state and territory legislation can achieve nationally agreed goals and the potential for national legislation. If appropriate a national forum to discuss this objective will be convened. The Minister for Indigenous Health has approached the relevant state and territory governments seeking their views on these matters.

2. Appropriate levels of policing

Substance Abuse Intelligence Desks (SAID) and Dog Operations Units

The SAIDs coordinate a multi-jurisdictional partnership involving police in the NT, SA and WA to reduce the supply of licit and illicit substances. The role of the SAIDs is to:

- gather intelligence on suppliers and criminal networks;
- coordinate policing operations in the tri-state region of NT, SA, WA and the Top End targeting traffickers of drugs, alcohol, petrol, kava and other illicit substances;
- conduct covert and overt enforcement and disruption activities;
- pursue traffickers under proceeds of crime legislation to strip them of their money and assets;
- work with partner agencies including health, youth workers, women's councils, communities about the role of the SAID and dangers of alcohol and substance abuse; and
- promote the Indigenous Family Safety Agenda and youth initiatives.

The work of the SAID is supported by the dog operations units which play an important role in detecting illicit substances.

Funding to establish the SAID was provided to FaHCSIA through the PSS in 2005. Further funding was provided in 2006 for two additional drug detection dog teams through a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) measure following the Inter-governmental summit on violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. In addition, this COAG measure provided funding over four years for police infrastructure in remote communities in NT, WA, SA and QLD through the Improved Policing in

Very Remote Areas initiative. The Australian Government has committed to fund the SAID for a further 10 years from July 2012 as a part of the Northern Territory Stronger Futures Package.

4. Alternative activities for young people

Recent Government Initiatives

The Youth in Communities (NT) measure, managed by FaHCSIA in consultation with relevant Australian and NT Government departments, Shire Councils and peak service representative bodies, provides:

- recreational infrastructure development;
- salaries, administration, training and infrastructure support to increase the number of youth workers employed in target priority communities; and
- diversionary programs, aimed at supporting the increased participation of young people in family, social and community life.

The AGD funds youth prevention and diversion activities in the PSS zones of the East Kimberley and Ngaanyatjarra Lands of WA, and in the APY Lands of SA. These activities are funded under the Indigenous Justice Program with the objective of providing alternative activities for youth and supporting safer communities.

Activities are implemented in conjunction with locally developed strategies including the East Kimberley Volatile Substance Use Plan. Developed as part of the PSS in 2007, the plan has been implemented in partnership with community organisations, Indigenous councils and governments at all levels to address petrol sniffing, volatile substance misuse and more broadly youth wellbeing.

The East Kimberley Youth Services Network was established in 2008 as a joint initiative between Commonwealth, State and Local governments to support the East Kimberley Volatile Substance Use plan and provide a coordinated approach to youth services in the East Kimberley Region.

In 2012-13 AGD is providing a total of \$2.3 million for nine initiatives.

Overall since 2006-07:

- \$7.0 million has been provided for a range of initiatives in the NT which support providing alternative activities for youth and supporting safer communities;
- \$9.1 million has been provided in the East Kimberley with six active projects supporting 17 youth workers in the three towns and six major communities in the East Kimberley;
- \$3.1 million has been made available in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands with two active projects supporting three youth workers in Warburton and Kiwirrkurra;
- \$1.8 million has been made available in SA including \$1.3 million to the South Australian National Football League for the Far North West Sports League which provides football and softball leagues for youth and adults from nine communities in the APY Lands; and
- \$2.1 million has been provided for a range of initiatives in Mornington Island and Doomadgee for alternative activities for youth and supporting safer communities.

Through the Indigenous Education (Targeted Assistance) (IETA) Act 2000, DEEWR provided the Reducing Substance Abuse Program (2009-12) which aimed to increase pathways for Indigenous youth aged 10 to 25 years at risk of, or engaged in substance use, to re-engage with education, training or employment.

Between 2011-12 three diversionary pilot projects were delivered across three petrol sniffing zones. They aimed to support over 300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to achieve outcomes over the period.

- *STEPS Disability QLD Inc Central Desert, NT* included a rapid response team, who would be first to attend to an 'incident' or 'outbreak' in a community – usually within 24 hours to contain the 'outbreak'. The approach included a strong focus on family mediation and community involvement and is focused on individual support services. The provider was based in Tennant Creek.
- *Uniting Care Wesley Port Pirie Inc APY Lands, SA* delivered a project centered on the renovation of a Youth Shed in the Iwantja community in the APY Lands from where activities could be offered. A Youth Worker and two trainee Anangu Youth Workers delivered the project. The Project Co-ordinator was based in Port Pirie and the youth worker based in Marla.
- *Regional Training Services – East Kimberley, WA* employed a Skill Development and Support Officer who worked across the region, with 19 other youth workers, to 'up-skill' them to address the needs of volatile substance users in their region. The project focused on Balgo, Billiluna and to a lesser extent Halls Creek. The Youth Worker worked in Wyndham and Kununurra.

As set out in the 2012 budget the Australian Government has decided that its urgent education priorities in the NT require a redistribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-focused education resources. The NT has the largest gap in educational achievement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in Australia and significantly lower rates of school attendance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Over the next six months providers will work with youth, community members and stakeholders in relevant communities to endeavour to ensure the current activities and effort from the pilot projects are sustainable into 2013. Following the cessation of the Reducing Substance Abuse Program, if appropriate, they would be able to transfer Reducing Substance Abuse participants to their existing Youth Connections services.

Five diversionary education projects were funded within the designated zones across 2009-10:

- *Mornington Island State School QLD* delivered *Parents as First Teachers* project to provide basic literacy and numeracy skills, build self-confidence and allow young parents to engage in the education of their children. As of December 2009, 13 parents had been assisted;
- *Halls Creek District High School WA* delivered the *Young Women's Reengagement and Enterprise* project to disengaged school-aged females in a non-school environment, providing them with skills, education, and self-confidence. As at December 2009, 21 young women had been assisted, with an average attendance rate of 60 per cent. Five girls returned to formal education, six gained accreditation towards Certificate I and two gained accreditation towards Certificate III;
- *Ngaanyatjarra Council in the NPY Lands WA* delivered the *Youth Education Extension* project to young people living in Warburton, Jameson, Blackstone, Warakurn and Wanarn. The project linked into holistic care for at risk youth through a network of youth workers across the Lands and delivered training in high interest areas including hair dressing, mechanics, hospitality and design. As at April 2010, 93 participants were engaged with an average attendance rate of 74 per cent. Eight participants gained accreditation towards Certificate I and four participants secured employment;
- *Mission Australia* delivered the *Northern Territory Integrated Youth Services* which operated as a whole of government project in the communities of Aputula, Imanpa, Mutitjulu and Kaltukatjara. The project provided an Education Outreach Coordinator to engage youth aged 10–25 in youth diversion activities. The project reached over 300 young people; and

- *Gateways for Youth SA*, delivered the *Youth Engagement Strategy* project in the APY Lands targeting up to 70 Indigenous youth. This project provided a holistic support program for Indigenous youth affected by substance abuse including exposure to vocational education and training courses such as pastoral care and land management. A total of 136 at risk males and 101 at risk females participated in the project.

DEEWR partnered with FaHCSIA and AGD to contract Mission Australia to deliver the Northern Territory Integrated Youth Services (NTIYS) project in 2007-10. The DEEWR component of the NTIYS provided diversionary educational activities, including accredited education and training in non-school settings for those young people at risk of or caught up in substance abuse. This holistic project targeted all young people in the NT communities of Imanpa, Finke, Mutitjulu and Docker River.

5. Treatment and Respite Facilities

Volatile Substance Use Clinical Guidelines

DoHA has worked with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to develop the Volatile Substance Use Clinical Guidelines. The Guidelines provide practical, evidence-based recommendations and practice points to assist health practitioners to identify, assess and treat people who use volatile substances in metropolitan, rural and remote communities.

The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Mental Health and Aged Care and the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Indigenous Health launched the Guidelines in October 2011.

DoHA is developing a range of complementary implementation activities to raise awareness of the Guidelines amongst health practitioners and assist them to effectively use the Guidelines, including an information package.

As part of the information package, the NHMRC is developing a slide-set that steps health practitioners through the key concepts of the Guidelines and quick reference guide and helps to train health practitioners in use of the Guidelines.

The slide-set was piloted at the NIDAC (National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee) Conference on 7 June 2012 in an interactive workshop and is being finalised using feedback gathered at the Conference.

A strategy is also being developed to evaluate the uptake of the Guidelines.

CAYLUS (auspiced by Tangentyere Council) - The Youth Wellbeing Program

The Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) Youth Wellbeing Program provides education, prevention, diversionary and treatment activities to Indigenous communities with a focus on inhalant misuse including petrol sniffing.

Two independent evaluations (2004 and 2007) have been conducted on the program delivered by CAYLUS. Both evaluations found that the program has achieved its objectives and has considerable support from Indigenous communities for services delivered.

As a result of the 2007 evaluation, DoHA committed to fund the Program for three years between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2012. In addition DoHA is close to finalising an agreement with CAYLUS to provide funding for a further two years from 2012-14 to 2013-14.

Substance Misuse and Service Delivery Grants Fund

As part of the 2011-12 Budget, the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants Fund was established as an Australian Government initiative and is managed through DoHA.

A number of drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation services target youth and of these some have a specific focus on addressing volatile substance use.

6. Communications and Education Strategies

Communication strategy for the rollout of low aromatic fuel

DoHA currently funds a number of communication activities to promote the benefits of low aromatic fuel for communities and vehicles. DoHA works closely with BP Australia, the producer of low aromatic fuel, to deliver communication activities across both new and existing rollout regions.

Communication activities to date have included:

- local print and radio announcements (in both English and local language);
- direct mail;
- targeted editorials;
- sponsorships of local events;
- Low aromatic fuel technical briefing sessions for key fuel industry stakeholders including retailers, distributors, mining industry and mechanics; and
- Low aromatic fuel community information sessions targeting residents in rollout regions including the local Aboriginal communities as well as key community stakeholders such as Aboriginal Medical Services, community organisations and government agencies.

Communication activities are scheduled to support the rollout of low aromatic fuel to a new region, and to maintain awareness through local community events, e.g. Alice Springs Show and Kakadu Klash in NT; Leonora Gift and St Barbara's festival in WA; and the Opal festival in Coober Pedy SA.

7. Strengthening and Supporting Communities

PSS Targeted Funding Scheme

FaHCSIA funded the PSS Targeted Funding Scheme (the Scheme) to support and build the capacity of communities to actively respond to petrol sniffing and, where applicable, other forms of volatile substance use. The Scheme commenced in 2010 and is funded until 30 June 2014.

The Scheme provides an avenue for communities to work with local and federal government to address local needs in designated zones or in a 'footprint' area where low aromatic fuel has been rolled out or is intended to be available for rollout in the future.

Examples of projects include:

- delivering a diversionary multi-media program and community access computer room project, developed with the aim of youth diversion through developing skills that may later translate into employment or training opportunities;
- employing a coordinator for six months to provide culturally appropriate preventative health education programs for young people at risk of petrol sniffing or other inhalant misuse;
- short-term training course to increase community capacity to deal with persons under the effects of petrol sniffing and other substances misuse;
- developing incentive programs to build capacity of individuals and groups 'at risk' of volatile substance misuse; and

- providing training to participating students to gain accredited industry courses, providing opportunities for employment in the music industry of Australia.

8. Evaluation

Monitoring and data collection activities on the prevalence of petrol sniffing will inform future decisions on petrol sniffing policy.

Whole of Strategy Evaluation

FaHCSIA is presently coordinating on behalf of the partner agencies an evaluation of the PSS and its eight point plan components.

The objective is to evaluate the:

- effectiveness, impact and continuing relevance of the PSS as a method of coordinating government effort on petrol sniffing; and
- the extent to which the strategy and the whole-of-government partnership has added value and achieved a greater impact than would have been achieved without its existence.

Origin Consultants has been engaged to conduct the evaluation. The consultant will conduct interviews both in phone and in person with Commonwealth, State and Territory and local government representatives, communities, businesses and non-government organisations as well as visit sites in the PSS Zones. The evaluation will be completed towards the end of 2012 with an expectation that the final report will be completed in early to mid-2013.

Using the East Kimberley and the Ngaanyatjarra Lands as case studies, the evaluation will focus on how well components of the PSS interact at a specific location, whether it is effective and sustainable at the regional level and how effective the partnership approach is at the whole-of-government level.

Petrol Sniffing Strategy Overview

Designated PSS Zones

The PSS aims to reduce the incidence and impact of petrol sniffing and other forms of substance abuse amongst Indigenous youth and communities in the designated PSS zones of:

- the *Central Desert Region* which covers the tri-state cross-border area that includes the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands;
- the *Expanded Central Desert Region* which extends the Central Desert Region to include up to Kintore, Alice Springs and Ti Tree in the Northern Territory (NT). There are eight major remote communities and Alice Springs in the expanded NT region: Papunya, Mt Liebig, Kintore, Yuendumu, Willowra, Hermannsburg, Areyonga, Haasts Bluff and associated outstations;
- the *East Kimberley Region* in Western Australia (WA) which extends from Kalumburu to Balgo and along the WA/NT Border; and
- the *Queensland Region* which covers a small area around Mornington Island and Doomadgee in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In March 2011 the petrol sniffing zones were expanded to include communities surrounding the designated zones where there is value in making low aromatic fuel available to stem the flow of regular unleaded fuel into designated zones. These areas are referred to as footprints.

Designated PSS zones and footprints are displayed on the national map at [Attachment A*](#).

Petrol Sniffing Strategy Governance

The PSS is implemented in partnership by four Australian Government agencies.

FaHCSIA: youth diversionary activities, strengthening and supporting communities, consistent legislation, appropriate levels of policing and evaluation of the overall Strategy;

DoHA: rollout of low aromatic fuel, communication and education strategies, treatment and respite facilities;

DEEWR: alternative youth activities (with FaHCSIA and AGD); and

AGD: alternative youth activities (with FaHCSIA and DEEWR).

FaHCSIA is responsible for overall coordination of the PSS, but implementation is achieved through a partnership approach across government agencies, working with state and territory governments, local governments, community councils and the fuel industry. The PSS agencies and key partners work together to review existing strategies, assess the success of current approaches and develop new innovative approaches to addressing petrol sniffing.

Regional Coordinator Network

The PSS Regional Coordinator Network was established to build collaborative and productive working relationships on the ground. The state and territory FaHCSIA Network has responsibility for the Regional Coordinators and their day to day supervision.

PSS Regional Coordinators are located at:

- NT: Darwin and Alice Springs Indigenous Coordination Centres;
- WA: Kununurra and Kalgoorlie Indigenous Coordination Centres;
- SA: Adelaide Regional Operations Centre (position is state wide); and
- QLD: Cairns and Mt Isa Indigenous Coordination Centres.

The role of the Regional Coordinators is to:

- support the implementation of 'place-based' responses to issues of petrol sniffing and other volatile substance misuse in communities and regions;
- identify and work with key stakeholders in their region to facilitate a coordinated response to volatile substance misuse including petrol sniffing;
- advise of implementation issues and incidents of volatile substance misuse in communities and record that information in the appropriate format; and
- create a regional network of relevant agencies including local service providers to develop a regional response to volatile substance misuse issues, identifying and implementing strategies to assist communities and regions to:
 - re-engage youth with community values and culture;
 - divert youth from risky behaviours;
 - strengthen community capacity to develop and implement local responses to volatile substance misuse; and
 - provide information and education to community members to better inform their decisions to develop and implement local responses to volatile substance misuse.

Cross Jurisdictional Forum

The Cross Jurisdictional Forum comprises representatives from the four partner agencies, representatives from state and territory Indigenous and alcohol and other drugs agencies and local government representatives. The first meeting of this group was 30 August 2011 and the aim of the Forum is to ensure closer alignment at a program and policy level. The Forum works on-the-ground planning, coordination, implementation and creating shared objectives across the PSS.