



**Sisters of St Joseph**

PO Box 435, Coorparoo Qld 4151



May 29, 2003

Ms Louise Gell,  
Acting Secretary  
Legal and Constitutional Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Louise,

Please find enclosed here the following materials which our group was asked to follow up on after the Hearings in March. My apologies for their lateness but I have been waiting on materials from Rockhampton.

Hope these things are helpful to the committee:

Toowoomba Catholic Education Office Program- *A Place At The Table*  
Rockhampton Catholic Education Office Program Outline - *Harmony in Between*  
Warmun Drug and Alcohol Program outline  
Funding for Notre Dame University - Broome Campus

Thanking you

Sr Annette Arnold rsj

# 'Harmony in Between'

## Rockhampton Catholic Education Office Program

The storytellers in this series are local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The language used in the storytelling is functional Creole and therefore a language in its own right. To maintain cultural authenticity, the Creole language is the most appropriate for publication.

The injustices that have occurred in Australia since European settlement cannot be dissolved. However, with factual knowledge, ignorance need no longer exist. The curriculum developers and the reference group sincerely hope that this course will reach for beyond yesterday into tomorrow. Through knowledge will come a vital understanding of the 'lost' Australian culture.

In one sense, the writers of this course look towards a new Dreamtime - place in time that has total harmony, a special 'in-between' place where the values of justice, dignity and equality are welcomed and lived.

### Spiral Themes

- A. ....The Dreaming
- B. ....The history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- C. ....The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- D. ....The physical environment
- E. ....The significant contact periods
- F. ....Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contemporary issues and perspectives.

### Global Objectives

- To help students understand the need for equality and acceptance of different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- To promote knowledge of the history and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their relationships with the physical environment.
- To comprehend the causes and effects of the contact between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal Australians during the period from the 1840's to the present day in Central Queensland.

- To analyse some contemporary issues and perspectives so that students will develop a growing awareness of past history and the need for present day reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians.

**The levels in the series are**

Level 1	Preschool	Teacher Notes and Student Books
Level 2	Infants	Teacher Notes and Student Books
Level 3	Primary	Teacher Notes and Student Books
Level 4	Junior Secondary	Teacher Notes and Student Books
Level 5	Senior Secondary	Teacher Notes and Student Books

The contact for more information is  
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## Warmun Durg and Alcohol Program Program One – August 2000

Sex	Age	Principal Drug or Significant Other	C = completed program NC = Not Completed	Outcome -- Stopped using	Outcome -- Reduced or maintained abstinence for a period of time & made positive change	Outcome -- Returned to same pattern of use immediately after the program
F	17	Gunja	C			✓
F	16	Petrol Sniffing	C	✓		
F	35	Significant other	C			
F	41	Alcohol	C		✓	
F	33	Alcohol	C		✓	
F	27	Alcohol	C		✓	
M	40	Alcohol	C	✓		
M	20	Alcohol & Gunja	C		✓	
M	37	Alcohol	C		✓	
M	22	Alcohol & Gunja	C			✓
M	14	Petrol Sniffing	C	✓		
M	25	Alcohol	C		✓	

12 people participated in the program. 100% participants were self-referrals. 50% were male and 50% were Female.

50% were aged between 14 – 25

33.5% were aged between 26 – 35

16.5% were aged between 36 – 45

27% stopped using and have remained abstinent

54% have reduced their use or maintained abstinence for a period of time and made positive and significant changes in their drug use and their lives.

19% returned to same pattern of use immediately after the program

92% were alcohol/drug users and 8% were significant others

55% principal drug of concern was alcohol

18% were poly drug users namely alcohol and gunja

18% petrol sniffers

9% gunja

**Program Two – May 2001**

Sex	Age	Type of Referral	Principal Drug or Significant Other	C = completed program NC = Not Completed	Outcome – Stopped using	Outcome – Reduced or maintained abstinence for a period of time & made positive change	Outcome – Abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use	Outcome – Returned to same pattern of use immediately after program
F	45	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
F	19	MOJ	Alcohol	C	✓			
F	21	Self	Alcohol	C	✓			
F*	28	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
F*	33	Self	Alcohol	C	✓			
F	31	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
M	21	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
M	30	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
M	49	Self	Alcohol	C			✓	
M*	21	Self	Alcohol	C				✓
M	28	Self	Alcohol & gunja	C				✓
M	21	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	C				✓

12 participants attended this program. 92% were self-referrals and 8% were referred by MOJ. 50% were male and 50% were female. 25% of participants had also attended program one.

50% were aged 14 –25  
 34% were aged 26 – 35  
 8% were aged 36 – 45  
 8% were aged 46/over

100% of participants were Alcohol/Drug Users  
 83% principal drug of concern was alcohol  
 17% were poly drug users namely alcohol and gunja

25% stopped using and have maintained abstinence

42% have reduced their use or maintained abstinence for a period of time and made positive and significant changes in their drug use and their lives  
 8% abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use  
 25% returned to same pattern of use immediately after the program

**Program Three – September 2001**

Sex	Age	Type of Referral	Principal Drug or Significant Other	C = completed program NC = Not Completed	Outcome – Stopped using	Outcome – Reduced or maintained abstinence for a period of time & made positive change	Outcome – Abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use	Outcome – Returned to same pattern of use immediately after program
F**	28	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
F**	33	Self	Significant Other	C		✓		
F	18	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	C		✓		
F*	31	Self	Alcohol	C				✓
F	42	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
F	23	Self	Alcohol	C				✓
F	20	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	NC			✓	
M	43	Self	Alcohol	C			✓	
M	31	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
M**	21	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	C		✓		
M	17	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
M	17	Self	Alcohol	C		✓		
M	29	Self	Alcohol	NC				✓

13 participants attended this program. 100% were self-referrals. 54% were Female and 46% were Male. 23% had attended program one and two. 8% had attended program two.

46% were aged 14 – 25  
 38% were aged 26 – 35  
 16% were aged 36 – 45

8% were significant other and 92% were Alcohol/Drug Users  
 75% principal drug of concern was alcohol  
 25% were poly drug users namely alcohol and gunja

67% have reduced their use or maintained abstinence for a period of time and made positive and significant changes in their drug use and their lives  
 8% abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use  
 25% returned to same pattern of use immediately after the program

**Program Four - May 2002**

Sex	Age	Type of Referral	Principal Drug or Significant Other	C = completed program NC = Not Completed	Outcome - Stopped using	Outcome - Reduced or maintained abstinence for a period of time & made positive change	Outcome - Abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use	Outcome - Returned to same pattern of use immediately after program
F *	22	MOJ	Alcohol & gunja	C				✓
F *	42	MOJ	Alcohol	C				✓
F	27	Self	Significant other	C				
F ***	34	Self	Alcohol	C	✓			
F	21	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	C		✓		
F	28	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	C		✓		
F	39	Self	Alcohol	C			✓	
M	34	Self	Alcohol	C			✓	
M	50	Self	Alcohol	C	✓			
M	14	JJ	Alcohol & Gunja	C		✓		
M *	17	Self	Alcohol & Gunja	NC				✓
M	32	MOJ	Alcohol	C			✓	

12 participants attended this program. 67% were self-referrals, 25% were referred by MOJ and 8% were J.J. 41% were male and 59% were female. 8% of participants had attended program one, two and three. 25% of participants had attended one other program.

42% were aged 14 - 25  
 34% were aged 26 - 35  
 16% were aged 36 - 45  
 8% were aged 46/over

92% of participants were Alcohol/Drug Users and 8% were significant others  
 55% principal drug of concern was alcohol  
 45% were poly drug users namely alcohol and gunja

19% stopped using and have maintained abstinence

27% have reduced their use or maintained abstinence for a period of time and made positive and significant changes in their drug use and their lives  
27% abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use  
27% returned to same pattern of use immediately after the program

#### **Evaluation of all Programs**

A total of 38 clients have participated in this program since it commenced in August 2000 – May 2002. Of the 38 clients 29% have re-entered the program and 71% were new clients. 13% of all clients were referred by MOJ/JJ and 87% of clients were self-referrals.

8% of total clients were significant others and attended the program because of their concern for a family members AOD use.  
92% of clients attended to address their own alcohol/drug use.

21% of clients who attended were partners and attended the program with their partner.  
79% of clients attended on their own or with their children.

Of the 38 clients, one client presented at one program as a significant other and attended other programs as an alcohol/drug user and one client who attended all programs had a change of principal drug. Therefore the following calculations indicate overall of all clients who attended:

- 6% principal drug was sniffing petrol
- 2% principal drug was gunja
- 62% principal drug was alcohol
- 23% were poly drug user namely alcohol and gunja
- 7% were significant others

Overall of all clients who attended the following outcomes were made:

- 18% stopped using and have maintained abstinence
- 48% have reduced their use or maintained abstinence for a period of time and made positive and significant changes in their drug use and their lives
- 11% abstained or reduced for short period of time and then went back to previous pattern of use
- 23% returned to same pattern of use immediately after the program



## **Data regarding the University of Notre Dame Australia, Broome Campus.**

### **Information supplied by Sister Jennifer Ihleen rsj on staff Notre Dame**

We are currently in a difficult situation with regards to assistance for Aboriginal students here. We receive Commonwealth Government funding as a Contracted Tertiary Institution through DEST. We are the sole provider of Tertiary Education in the Kimberley/Pilbara Region of W.A.

The Funding is distributed "to equitably allocate the available funding nationally. They are not intended to reflect the actual usage by an individual institution." (Aboriginal Tutorial Assistance Scheme for Tertiary Students 2003 Bulk Funding Guidelines . For Contracted Institutions Only p. 27).

Funding bases assume:

1. A 20% take up rate with only 30% requiring individual tuition for VET
2. A 50% take up rate with only 70% requiring individual tuition for Higher Education students

For the Broome Campus of The Notre Dame University of Australia these funding bases seem to be inadequate. This is due to the following factors:

Most students accessing ATAS are in situations that necessitate individual tuition. For example, only one student at that level in that particular location.

Of the 37 students registered for ATAS there are only three possibilities for group tuition. They are:

1. At Balgo there are 5 students enrolled in the VET Business Studies course: 4 are in Certificate II and 1 in Certificate III. They are receiving group tuition.
2. In Derby there are 2 groups for group tuition: 4 students are studying in VET Education so they form one group
3. The other group consists of 2 Higher Education students studying a core unit in Communications. The other 26 students are all studying different units at varying levels in different locations. The students are spread over varying levels and courses of study.

b. The take up rate of students is higher than the assumptions of the funding bases. We believe this higher take up rate to be due to less access to educational resources for the Indigenous students we service. The students may have little exposure and access to technology, less formal schooling and may be studying in a language, which is not their first language. The profile of the population, which this university serves, varies from the norm.

In Semester 1, 2003 there are 37 students registered and approved to receive ATAS.

#### **Higher Education**

15 weeks x 3 hours x 21 x \$40 = \$37 800

#### **VET**

15 weeks x 1 hour x 16 x \$40 = \$9 600

For Semester 1 2003 we need at least \$47 400 in order to address basic needs.

We have received \$30 681.49 for Semester 1 ATAS.

We need at least an extra \$35 000 for 2003, with \$17 500 being for Semester 1 and \$17 500 for Semester

2. 23% of the students at Notre Dame University Broome are Indigenous and it contributes Indigenous Teachers, Nurses and people with Business/Management degrees to the nation.

Reconciliation in practise, is most definitely the empowerment given by education. And by the empowerment of Indigenous people Indigenous children could be provided with more Indigenous teachers, nurses and leaders in their communities

There is currently an inquiry by the Department of Education, Science and Training into these funding arrangements