

Robust systems of working together key to reducing alcohol use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

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The Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre has released a new publication [Review of alcohol use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: patterns, impacts and community-led responses](#).

Lead authors Teagan Weatherall, Kylie Lee, Annalee Stearne and James Conigrave said “Moving forward, we need multi-pronged strategies that include the broadest group of interest-holders to meaningfully and respectfully address alcohol use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These need to be guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and drawn from evidence-based practices and community strengths to ensure programs can be culturally and trauma-informed”.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Bep Uink said “Using the latest research available, this review provides an overview of alcohol use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It provides a timely and much needed update of the evidence previously published in our 2018 review on this same topic, which was one of our most read reviews. In this comprehensive review, the authors have outlined the historical context and scope of alcohol use, the impacts of use on individuals and communities, relevant national policies and strategies and present an overview of efforts to address alcohol use and suggest future directions”.

The review highlights that efforts to further build capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars and community leaders remains essential to empower individuals, through to entire communities, and foster skills and knowledges that promote resilience and local decision-making powers. It recommends that by coordinating these elements, all those involved can work together to create robust systems that support equity and wellbeing for all communities, while recognising unique local contexts.

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More information: The Knowledge Centre provides online access to a comprehensive collection of relevant, evidence-based, current and culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug (AOD) knowledge-support and decision-support materials and information that can be used in the prevention, identification and management of alcohol and other drug use in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The work of the Knowledge Centre is supported by a collaborative partnership with the three national alcohol and other drug research centres (the National Drug Research Institute, the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre). www.aodknowledgecentre.ecu.edu.au