

Step 5

If the participant chooses to participate in IDP, prior to the return date in the court the IDP project officer will collate a report on the progress of the participant. This report will include information obtained from the treatment agency such as how many times they attended and if they intend to continue with the program. This report will also be provided to the Magistrate.

The participant is welcome to discuss this report with the IDP project officer or treatment agency before it is provided to the Magistrate.

Step 6

The Magistrate, considering the involvement of the participant with IDP, will finalise sentencing.

Future of IDP

IDP is a pilot project funded through the COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative and is not available in all locations of WA. The day to day running of the pilot is overseen by a local management committee of key stakeholders.

Evaluation of the pilot project will include, but is not limited to:

- data collection;
- participant and responsible adult/family feedback; and
- stakeholder feedback.

Pending the outcomes of the pilot, the program may be further expanded.

Other contacts:

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)

Phone: (08) 9442 5000

Country callers only: 1800 198 024

Email: adis@health.wa.gov.au

Parent Drug Information Service (PDIS)

Phone: (08) 9442 5050

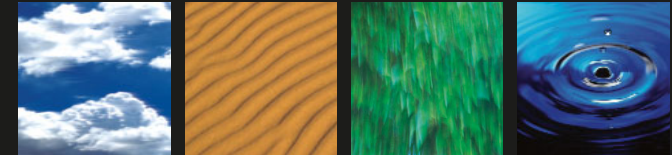
Country callers only: 1800 653 203



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IDP

Indigenous Diversion Program



General information

WA Comprehensive Drug Diversion Program

Aim

The Indigenous Diversion Program (IDP) is an early intervention court diversion program that specifically targets Indigenous people who have committed relatively minor offences and who have an alcohol and/or other drug problem.

Participation in the IDP is voluntary.

How can IDP help indigenous people?

For many people, appearing in court can be a strong signal that some things in their life need to change. Some of these things may have to do with alcohol and/or drug use. However, in many cases Indigenous people do not participate in alcohol and drug treatment and support programs for a range of reasons. Some of these relate to access and cultural issues. The IDP aims to better meet the needs of Indigenous people by employing Indigenous staff to assess clients and, where appropriate, assist them to access services which provide culturally secure programs for the participants, their families and communities.

If the participant undertakes a treatment program and returns to court for sentencing, the Magistrate may take this into account. For example, if the participant has found a service very helpful in starting to change his/her alcohol and/or drug use, the Magistrate may deal with that person in a way which supports them to continue that process.

Who can participate in IDP?

There are a number of criteria that need to be met for an Indigenous person to be eligible for the IDP. These include but are not limited to:

- having problems relating to their alcohol and/or drug use;
- not having an extensive record for serious criminal offences;
- normally expecting to receive a fine or Community Based Order on a plea of guilty;
- being prepared to access treatment for their alcohol and/or drug related problems; and
- being on bail.

The referral to IDP will be at the Magistrate's discretion at all times.

What does IDP require a participant to do?

- Be interviewed by an officer of a drug treatment service, called here the IDP project officer.
- Participate in an alcohol and/or drug treatment program if assessed as suitable and agreeing to do so.
- Sign a consent form to permit information to be shared with the IDP project officer, the treatment agency and Magistrate. This information will relate only to attendance and participation while in treatment.

How does IDP work?

Step 1

The Magistrate stands down the participant to discuss drug related problems with the IDP project officer.

Step 2

The IDP project officer assesses the alcohol and drug use of the participant and, if they agree, refers them to a treatment agency or develops a treatment plan. This may include a range of treatment options within the limitations of what is available locally (eg brief interventions, information and education, counselling, residential programs, pharmacotherapies and/or medical treatment).

Step 3

The IDP project officer reports back to the Magistrate on the outcome of the assessment. If the participant agrees to participate in the program, the Magistrate will defer sentencing for 4-8 weeks or longer depending on the circumstances. If the participant chooses not to access further help at this point, the Magistrate will proceed with sentencing there and then.

Step 4

The participant engages in alcohol and drug treatment or education in accordance with the recommendations of the IDP project officer and for the period of the remand.