

Alcohol Summit Outcomes

MHCC made a submission to last year's NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse which brought together parliamentarians, experts, industry and the broader community to exchange ideas on how to prevent alcohol abuse.

The Government has since developed an alcohol abuse plan, titled Outcomes of the NSW Summit on Alcohol Abuse 2003: Changing the Culture of Alcohol Use in New South Wales, along with the accompanying Key Initiatives document, outlines the Government response to the Summit's recommendations.

MHCC is pleased that the plan acknowledges the importance of strengthening dual diagnosis services and cooperative interagency approaches combined with better case management and links with non-government and private sector providers.

The plan also addresses the need for better training for health workers tackling complex presentations of drug, alcohol and mental health. It refers to the joint MHCC and Department of Community Services project which will assist frontline workers and staff in non-government organisations to work with families affected by dual diagnosis (to be completed in early 2005).

The Government's overall response focuses on the long term goal of changing the way the community uses and thinks about alcohol. It believes change will come through greater awareness and responsibility which requires cooperative partnerships.

One of the initiatives to come out of the response is the establishment of a new Government alcohol website www.alcoholinfo.nsw.gov.au which will be developed over the coming months. A copy of the response and the Key Initiatives document is available at that website.

MHCC has developed a Mental Illness and Substance Abuse (MISA) Working Group which aims to explore training and workforce development for NGOs in the MISA area and promote current intentions. Membership of the group is open to NGO and AHS staff, consumers and carers. **If you are interested in attending a Working Group contact Corinne@mhcc.org.au**