

Targeting Drug Abuse in the City of Wanneroo

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| <i>Policy Owner:</i> | Community Development Directorate |
| <i>Distribution:</i> | All Staff |
| <i>Implementation:</i> | 5 February 2003; Review date extended Council Meeting 26 April 2005 Item GS04-04/05 |
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Introduction

The City of Wanneroo is committed to creating a vibrant and diverse City, based on the development of healthy communities and a sustainable environment.

This strategic intent requires the City to lead and participate in community activities and development, as well as address specific social and legal issues that arise in our community.

The development and support of a drug free community is one of the methods that can be utilised by the City to recognise issues associated with drug use in the community and encourage responsible and healthy behaviours from City of Wanneroo staff, elected members and the wider community.

Support of the City's 'Targeting Drug Abuse in the City of Wanneroo – Policy Statement' can also assist to establish the City's identity, values and corporate citizenship at a wider level, linking it with causes and concerns at local, State and National levels that contribute to the development of local healthy communities.

Objective

In order to pursue the City's wider objectives in an open and socially responsible manner, this policy provides a statement outlining the City's commitment to addressing drug-related issues in our local community.

Whilst the policy statement does not necessarily provide solutions to problems, it outlines the City's position and values in regard to this matter.

Statement

Under this policy, the City of Wanneroo will establish an approach to drug-related issues within the local community.

This approach is centred upon four main strategies, identified as follows:

Developing Partnerships – Developing networks, relationships and avenues of communication with key stakeholders, including service providers, community groups and residents;

Advocacy – Developing a proactive approach to drug-related issues in our community through lobbying for legislative improvements, the provision of related services and bringing the concerns of our residents into the public arena;

Operations – Providing support and education within the community through the City’s operational processes, such as the Safer Citizens Program, allocation of specific resources (e.g. waiver of venue hire) and community development role;

Leadership in the community – Endeavouring to actively support the City’s policy statement through the behaviour of the City’s staff and elected members, as well as the strategic direction of the organisation.

Detail

Given that Federal Government policies concentrate on education and law reforms associated with international drug trafficking, and the State Government is principally focussed on a centralised process that provides treatment services for drug addiction, the City’s ‘Targeting Drug Abuse in the City of Wanneroo – Policy Statement’ is based upon seven (7) Supporting Statements that address drug-related issues on a local level.

These Supporting Statements are outlined below:

Establishing the City’s position in relation to illicit drug use:

The City of Wanneroo does not support or condone the use of illegal drugs or the abuse of legally obtained drugs, such as prescription drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The City is committed to reducing illicit drug use and related criminal behaviours within our local government area.

Outlining City operations supporting this position, (present operations included):

The City of Wanneroo will perform tasks that contribute to harm minimisation for residents, such as the improvement of environmental planning and supporting various agencies involved in crime prevention. These tasks may include areas such as urban design safety strategies, components of the Safer Citizens Program and syringe disposal units in public toilets.

Developing relationships with other agencies involved in addressing illicit drug use and addiction:

The City of Wanneroo will develop networks, relationships and avenues of communication with key stakeholders and service providers involved in the provision of services to treat and prevent illegal and antisocial drug use in the community.

Acknowledging the importance of State and Federally funded services in this area:

The City of Wanneroo acknowledges the important roles played by State and Federal Government drug initiatives and services in our local area. The City does not intend to reproduce, become responsible for or overlap with any of these initiatives or services.

Actively promoting the health and wellbeing of our young people:

The City of Wanneroo will provide services and drug free recreation alternatives for young people with the aim of encouraging them to reach their full potential as members of the community.

Demonstrate the City's commitment to prevention programs and the education of the community in regard to issues associated with illicit drug use (such as collection and disposal of syringes, needle disposal bins, blue light installation in public toilets):

The City of Wanneroo will provide support and education within the community through the City's existing operational processes and the ongoing development of anti-drug strategies for implementation within the community.

Acknowledge, support and advocate for community consultation regarding decisions related to the provision of drug treatment services, including services such as drug injecting rooms:

The City of Wanneroo is committed to establishing community needs and standards through consultation with community members, as well as lobbying for legislative improvements, the provision of related services and bringing the concerns of our residents into the public arena.

Responsibility for Implementation

Director Community Development