

# A New Approach to Managing Alcohol

## Background

- The Queensland Government finalised a review of Alcohol Management Plans (AMPs) in mid-2019, and found that although AMPs are an effective tool to reduce alcohol-related harm, further work can be done to improve community safety and wellbeing outcomes.
- A renewed approach to alcohol management has been developed which builds on the Review's findings. It prioritises community safety, particularly for women and children, and emphasises a need for AMPs that are community-led and driven and developed and implemented in partnership with communities.

## What is the renewed approach to alcohol management?

- The objective of the renewed approach is to ensure communities and individuals are safe, thriving and self-empowered to manage and reduce alcohol-related harm.
- The renewed approach retains carriage limits and is based on a partnership between the Queensland Government and communities to:
  - Co-design new Community Safety Plans and other coordinated initiatives and strategies that reduce demand; target illicit alcohol (sly grog and homebrew); build community capacity and readiness; and promote a healthy culture and attitude towards alcohol including through legal liquor licensing options
  - Explore minor changes to carriage limits on a case-by-case basis, pending community and Government agreement, and provided that a Community Safety Plan is in place
  - Revise AMPs to reflect the outcomes and results of co-design and community engagement.
- The Queensland Government has committed \$2.4 million over four years from 2019-20 to support implementation of supply, demand and harm reduction services determined as part of the co-design process with communities.

## Who is involved?

| Key stakeholders   | Role  |
|--|---|
| <b>Councils, Community Justice Groups, community members and community organisations</b>                           | Identify and oversee the achievement of community aspirations and priorities to inform AMPs, Community Safety Plans and service delivery.                 |
| <b>Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) and other key government agencies</b> | Support communities to identify local aspirations and priorities, enable community to turn their vision into a reality and help build community capacity. |
| <b>Ministerial and Government Champions</b>  | Discuss the approach, engage in community planning activities and advocate for the delivery of community priorities.                                      |

## What does the new approach include?

| Key features   | Purpose   |
|--|---|
| <b>Revised Alcohol Management Plans</b>              | Develop a revised AMP, including minor modifications to alcohol restrictions, based on the aspirations and readiness of each community.   |
| <b>Co-designed Community Safety Plans</b>            | Guide identification of key action areas, community priorities and responsibilities to improve safety and wellbeing.                      |
| <b>Targeted strategies to reduce illicit alcohol</b> | Develop strategies to improve the effectiveness of alcohol management by targeting homebrew and sly grog.                                 |
| <b>A positive alcohol culture</b>                    | Explore current liquor licensing options that provide for regulated supply of alcohol and reduce demand for alcohol and its related harm. |
| <b>Community leadership</b>                          | Improve locally led alcohol management through community leadership and decisions based on community values.                              |
| <b>Local Thriving Communities</b>                    | Ensure the approach aligns with the shared principles of Local Thriving Communities and is taken forward as part of this reform agenda.   |

## What is Local Thriving Communities?

Local Thriving Communities (LTC) is a key element of the Queensland Government's commitment to reframe the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and delivers on the Government's response to the Queensland Productivity Commission's inquiry into service delivery in remote and discrete Indigenous communities.

The Government is working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to co-design and implement this significant long-term reform agenda. This will include establishing local decision-making bodies, through engagement with government and key stakeholders, to provide for greater local authority in service delivery and economic development. LTC will not replace existing decision-making structures.

The LTC reform and the renewed approach both support improved wellbeing outcomes informed by community knowledge, research and evidence and are underpinned by the same principles of self-determination and co-designed local initiatives. For more information about Local Thriving Communities visit [www.datsip.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/tracks-treaty/local-thriving-communities](http://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/programs-initiatives/tracks-treaty/local-thriving-communities)

## Next steps

Councils and Community Justice Groups have been contacted about how we will work together to implement the renewed approach. The next step is for DATSIP Regional Directors to contact communities to start the collaborative process required to develop and implement a refreshed AMP based on local values and aspirations.

As part of this, DATSIP and key agencies will partner with communities to:

- co-design their community safety plan
- implement strategies to improve safety and wellbeing
- address access to sly grog and homebrew
- promote healthy attitudes towards alcohol.

Minor amendments to carriage limits and demonstrated ability to manage the changes, will also be considered as part of this process. The Queensland Government will support and enable communities to design and implement the changes they would like to see. The timing for implementing the approach, including potential amendments to alcohol carriage limits, will be guided by each community.

For more information, please visit the DATSIP website <https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/publications-governance-resources/policy-governance/alcohol-management-plan> or send an email to [ltc@datsip.qld.gov.au](mailto:ltc@datsip.qld.gov.au).