

© SHOALHAVEN ABORIGINAL SAFE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN (Work in progress)



July 2003

The Shoalhaven Aboriginal Safe Community Partnership Plan is the result of more than three years of community-driven work on the part of Aboriginal people in the Shoalhaven. It is built on the foundation of our Elders who have gone before us. Local Aboriginal people have been actively involved in the Shoalhaven Aboriginal Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project, the Illawarra/Shoalhaven Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Taskforce (our local Community Drug Action Team) and the Shoalhaven City Council Aboriginal Safe Community Action Team (Living Futures). Together these processes form the basis of a holistic approach to safety for the Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community: an approach which is based on the principles of Aboriginal Self-Determination and Partnership with the broader community.

The Shoalhaven Aboriginal Safe Community Partnership is committed to an inclusive process which involves all members of the Shoalhaven Aboriginal community and our supporters in the broader community who understand the significance of our intent to become the 1st Indigenous Community in Australia designated as a Safe Community with the World Health Organisation. We wish to celebrate our achievements and to realise the true meaning of the right to self-determination as the right to take responsibility. At the same time we seek to support our community to become the healthiest and safest community it can be – for our Ancestors who have gone before us and our children – who are our future Elders.

The reality is that a holistic approach – for Aboriginal people - requires that all of these areas are worked on together: a reduction in family violence cannot be achieved without facing the challenge of breaking the cycle of drug and alcohol abuse in our communities.

We need to acknowledge our long-term sustainable achievements and the work of all who have gone before us: the South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation, Waminda, Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Aboriginal Pre-School Program, Aboriginal Legal Service, Aboriginal Community Development Program, Oolong House (Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Service) ,Rose Mumbler Village; as well as the more recent community initiatives: Aboriginal Interagency; Injury Prevention, Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Taskforce, the Aboriginal SCAT, Circle Sentencing, Family Violence Prevention Programs and the South Coast Aboriginal Holistic Healing Service (Substance Use).

WHO Designated Safe Communities have:

1. An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross-sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community;
2. Long-term, sustainable programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations;
3. Programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups;
4. Programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries;
5. Evaluation measures to assess their programs, processes and the effects of change;
6. Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.

“Our challenge is to rebuild a social, cultural, spiritual and legal intolerance of abuse amongst our people and to rebuild the true Aboriginal care and respect of our Ancestors.”

~ Cape York Partnerships

	Community Challenge	Strategies	Steps Along the Way	Timeframe	Working Together	Goal
1.	Promote Safety: Prevent Family Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge Achievements • Reduce alcohol or other drug abuse in the community • Support cultural strength in being an Aboriginal man or woman • Empowerment of community to tackle family violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Women's Business Gathering • Aboriginal Men's Forum • Strengthen work of Taskforce and Aboriginal Workers in communities • Focused family violence prevention and protection programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 2003 and annually • Ongoing • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong, healthy & safe Aboriginal women • Culturally strong Aboriginal men. • Reduced drug & alcohol abuse • Community ownership of prevention of violence
2.	Promote Safety: Prevent Abuse of Elders, Women and Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge Achievements • Support Elders groups to have a strong voice in the community • Protect children • Empower women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders forums • Enact child protection laws throughout community • Enact apprehended violence orders as necessary • Focused family violence prevention and protection programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Elders, Women and Children who are safe in their communities

	Community Challenge	Strategies	Steps Along the Way	Timeframe	Working Together	Goal
3.	Promote Safety: <i>Focus on Youth:</i> Promote Social and Emotional Well-being and prevent abuse of alcohol and other drugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge our Achievements • Support Shoalhaven Aboriginal Youth Advisory Council • Youth focused activities which promote work, education, healthy lifestyles, cultural strength. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalhaven Aboriginal Youth Alcohol Forum • Shoalhaven Aboriginal Youth Camps • Establish Shoalhaven Aboriginal Youth Advisory Council • Regular Youth Focused activities which promote work, education, healthy lifestyles, cultural strength • Support Aboriginal parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2003 • Bi/Annual • 2003 • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and Culturally Strong Aboriginal Youth • Increased education and employment opportunities for Aboriginal Youth • Increased voice for Aboriginal Youth • Strong Koori Parents
4.	Promote Safety: Prevent Crime and Incarceration and promote alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge our achievements: • Positive Police and Aboriginal Community Relations • Reduce alcohol and other drug abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police/Community liaison group and activities • Intensive anti-alcohol and other drug abuse campaign in communities • Continue Circle Sentencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police • Elders Groups • Aboriginal Legal Service • Merit Program; JJ; Youth groups • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced Crime • Reduced Incarceration • Reduced alcohol and other drug abuse • Positive Role Models

<p>4.</p>	<p>Promote Safety: Prevent Crime and Incarceration and promote alternatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and awareness of Aboriginal community in relation to crime prevention • Diversion from criminal justice system • Strengthen Aboriginal Culture • Ensure access to education and employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group • Increase number of traineeships available to Aboriginal people • Promote Aboriginal cultural values and practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taskforce and Network of Aboriginal AOD Workers • Circle Sentencing • Oolong House • Aboriginal Medical Service • Aboriginal Holistic Healing Service (Substance Use) • TAFE • Night patrol/CDEP • Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of Aboriginal culture and identity in Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community • Circle Sentencing and Aboriginal Justice Advisory Group functioning within community
<p>5.</p>	<p>Promote Safety: Educate and employ Aboriginal people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase numbers of Aboriginal people participating in education system • Engage broader community in employment of Aboriginal people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase numbers and support for Aboriginal people in all areas of education system: Pre-School, School, TAFE, Adult Education, Traineeships, University • Specific campaign to employ Aboriginal people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partners • TAFE • CDEP • SACC • Education Dept. • Chamber of Commerce • Council • AMS/AHHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educated and employed Aboriginal people • Decreased welfare dependency in the Aboriginal community

	Community Challenge	Strategies	Steps Along the Way	Timeframe	Working Together	Goal
6.	Promote Safety: Promote Aboriginal Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of Aboriginal Business initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Business Forum Aboriginal Advisory Shoalhaven City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2004 and ongoing Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATSIC SACC AMS CDEP Chamber of Commerce Lands Council AHHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased numbers of Aboriginal business functioning well in community Increased support from the business sector.
7.	Promote Safety: Self-Determination, Housing, Land, Health and Social Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate all community about the principles of Aboriginal Self-determination and Self-management Increased safety in access to housing, land, health and social services Campaign to address issues of racism and educate whole community on history in relation to Aboriginal community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community education programs Increased funding for housing, land access and health services Cross-cultural education programs facilitated by Aboriginal people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Partners Land Council Aboriginal Medical Service Illawarra Health Aboriginal Community Control Community Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-Determination in practice – with support from broader community Healthy and Safe Aboriginal Communities Implemented Native Title Reconciliation

	Community Challenge	Strategies	Steps Along the Way	Timeframe	Working Together	Goal
8.	<p>Promote Safety: Meet the Six Indicators to become a Designated Safe Community with the World Health Organisation</p>	<p>1. An infrastructure based on partnership and collaborations, governed by a cross-sectional group that is responsible for safety promotion in their community.</p> <p>2. Long-term, sustainable programs covering both genders and all ages, environments, and situations.</p> <p>3. Programs that target high-risk groups and environments, and programs that promote safety for vulnerable groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalhaven Aboriginal Injury Prevention Project • Illawarra/Shoalhaven Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Taskforce • Aboriginal SCAT <p>Shoalhaven Aboriginal Safe Community Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalhaven Aboriginal Safe Community Partnership Conference • Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Program • Maintain current long-term programs eg Cultural Centre, Aboriginal Medical Service, Rose Mumbler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1999 • 1999 - Ongoing • 2001 • 2002 – Ongoing • Nov. 2003 • Ongoing <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • October 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and Safe Shoalhaven Aboriginal Community - working in Partnership with the broader community • Maintenance of long-term sustainable programs and development of new initiatives as appropriate • Safety for vulnerable groups in the community

	Community Challenge	Strategies	Steps Along the Way	Timeframe	Working Together	Goal
8.	<p>Promote Safety: Meet the Six Indicators to become a Designated Safe Community with the World Health Organisation</p>	<p>4. Programs that document the frequency and causes of injuries.</p> <hr/> <p>5. Evaluation measures to assess their programs, processes and the effects of change.</p> <hr/> <p>6. Ongoing participation in national and international Safe Communities networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoalhaven Aboriginal Youth Advisory Group • Aboriginal Women's Business Gathering • Youth programs in each community • Aboriginal Men's Forum • Shoalhaven Aboriginal Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project Report • Regular collection of data • Evaluation built into development of every program • Quality management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001 and ongoing (Documented at least annually) • Documented at least annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-documented reduction of all forms of injury in the community. (At least annually) • Aboriginal understanding and ownership of achievements of safety in the community • Aboriginal participation in International & National Safe Communities Networks