

Psychoactive substances use by Indigenous Australians

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Early drug use

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Watson, P. (1983) *This Precious Foliage*. A study of the Aboriginal psycho- active drug pituri. *Oceania Monograph* 26, University of Sydney (Department of Anthropology), Sydney

Recent medical research on petrol (gasoline) inhalation

Brady, M and P. Torzillo (eds) (1995) Workshop on lead and hydrocarbon toxicity from chronic petrol inhalation. Proceedings of a workshop in Alice Springs May 1994. National Drug Strategy, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra [available from Drugs of Dependence Branch, Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services, GPO Box 9848 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia. Phone 06 289 8310; fax 06 289 8456]

Burns, C.B. and B.J. Currie (1995) The efficacy of chelation therapy and factors influencing mortality in lead intoxicated petrol sniffers. *Aust.NZ J.Med.* 25:197-203

Chalmers, E.M. (1991) Volatile substance abuse. *Med.J.Aust.* 154, February 18:269-274

Goodheart, R.S. and J.W. Dunne (1993) Petrol sniffer's encephalopathy. A study of 25 patients. *Med.J. Aust.* 160, 21 February:178-181

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Social science studies on petrol (gasoline) inhalation

Brady, M. (1992) *Heavy Metal. The Social Meaning of Petrol Sniffing in Australia* Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra [available from Aboriginal Studies Press, GPO Box 553, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia. Phone 06 246 1111, fax 06 249 7310]

Brady, M. (1993) Health issues for Aboriginal youth: social and cultural factors associated with resilience. *Journal of Paediatric Child Health* 29, Suppl.1:S56-S59

Bryce, S., T. Rowse and D. Scrimgeour (1992) Evaluating the petrol-sniffing prevention programs of the Health Aboriginal Life Team (HALT). *Aust.J.Pub.Health* 16(4):387-396 [see also letter in reply from R. Mobbs (1993) *Aust.J.Pub.Health* 17(1):79-80]

Burns, C.B., P.D'Abbs, and B.J. Currie (1995) Patterns of petrol sniffing and other drug use in young men from an Australian Aboriginal community in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. *Drug and Alcohol Review* 14:159-169

Burns, C.B. B.J. Currie, A.B. Clough and R. Wuridjal (1995) Evaluation of strategies used by a remote Aboriginal community to eliminate petrol sniffing. *Med.J. Aust.* 163, 17 July:82-86

Franks, C. (1989) Preventing petrol sniffing in Aboriginal communities. *Community Health Studies* 13(1):14-22

Robbins, J. (1993) Volatile substances: coordinating petrol-sniffing programs for Aboriginal communities in a Federal system. *Aust.J.of Pub.Admin.*52(1) March:65-74

A note on the media and solvent use (petrol sniffing)

Media coverage of Aboriginal petrol sniffing is rarely sensitive and is highly problematic for a number of reasons. A recent (November 1996) coronial enquiry in Alice Springs into a death related to petrol sniffing has spawned a new outbreak of media coverage. If you are asked to speak on this topic by the media, contact the Volatile Substance Team in Western Australia for information and media guidelines on solvent sniffing:

+61 2 9370 0333

or Alcohol and Drug Information Service (008) 198 024

Fax (09) 272 6605

Read 'Media reporting of glue sniffing: traps for the naive expert' by Jon Rose and Richard Midford in *PRO-ED* 10(1) January-June 1994

Research on alcohol use

Brady, M. (1988) Where the beer truck stopped. Drinking in a Northern Australian Town. North Australia Research Unit of the Australian National University, Darwin.

Brady, M. (1990) Indigenous and government attempts to control alcohol use among Australian Aborigines. *Contemporary Drug Problems* 17(2):195-220

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D'Abbs, P., E. Hunter, J. Reser and D. Martin (1994) Alcohol-related violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: a literature review. Report 8 of the National Alcohol Misuse and Violence symposium, Department of Human Services and Health, Canberra.

Hunter, E. (1992) Aboriginal alcohol use - a review of quantitative studies *Journal of Drug Issues* 22(3):713-731

Hunter, E. (1993) *Aboriginal Health and History. Power and prejudice in remote Australia.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, New York, Melbourne

Langton, M. (1991) 'Too much sorry business'. The report of the Aboriginal issues unit of the NT. In E. Johnston, Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody National Report. Volume 5, Appendix D(1):275-511. Canberra, AGPS

Mosey, A. (1994) Remote Area Aboriginal Night Patrols. A review for Drug and Alcohol Services Association, Alice Springs. (Available from DASA, PO Box 3009, Alice Springs, NT 0871)

Rowse, T. (1993) The relevance of ethnographic understanding to Aboriginal anti-grog initiatives *Drug and Alcohol Review* 12(4):393-400

News on licensing laws

See the new report on Tennant Creek's radical changes preventing sales of takeaway liquor and front-bar drinking every pay-day - D'Abbs, P., S. Togni and I. Crundall (1996) The Tennant Creek Liquor Licensing Trial, August 1995-February 1996: an Evaluation. Menzies School of Health Research Occasional Paper. (Available from Menzies School, PO Box 41097, Casuarina, NT 0811)

And news on server liability - that is whether the licensees who sell liquor to intoxicated people, who then have accidents or injuries, can be sued - a new report has just come out suggesting that the existing legal principles in Australia make it possible (likely?) that server liability could become a reality in this country:

Solomon, R. and J. Payne (1996) Alcohol liability in Canada and Australia: Sell, Serve and be Sued. National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse, Curtin University of Technology, Perth. (Available from NCRPDA, GPO Box U1987, Perth, WA 6001)

Injecting drug use

Larson, A and D. Currie(1995) Injecting drug use by indigenous people in Brisbane: perspectives of service providers and the community. Australian Centre for International and Tropical Health and Nutrition, University of Queensland. IDU project working paper no. 1

Larson, A. (1996) What injectors say about drug use: preliminary findings from a survey of indigenous injecting drug users. ACITHN, University of Queensland, IDU Project working paper no 2.

Surveys of use

Commonwealth Department of Human Services and Health (1994) National Drug Strategy Household Survey. Urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Supplement. AGPS Canberra (available from Drugs of Dependence Branch, H&FS)

Hunter, E., W. Hall and R. Spargo (1991) Patterns and correlates of Alcohol use among Aborigines of the Kimberley. National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre Monograph, University of New South Wales, Sydney

Lake, P. (1989) Alcohol and cigarette use by urban Aboriginal people. Aboriginal Health Information Bulletin 11:20-22

Perkins, J.J., R.W. Sansom-Fisher, S. Blunden, D. Lunnay, S. Redman and M.J. Hensley (1994) The prevalence of drug use in urban Aboriginal communities. *Addiction* 89:1319-1331

Watson, C., J. Fleming and K. Alexander (1988) A survey of drug use patterns in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities: 1986-1987. Darwin, NT Dept of Health and Community Services.

Policy Issues

Edwards, G. and 17 other authors (1995) Alcohol Policy and the Public Good. WHO Europe. Oxford, Oxford Medical Publications

Race Discrimination Commissioner (1995) Alcohol Report. Race Discrimination, Human Rights and the Distribution of Alcohol. Canberra, AGPS (This provides details of how to request 'special measures' to restrict alcohol sales without incurring discrimination objections).

Prepared by Maggie Brady.