



ABORIGINAL SOBRIETY GROUP INCORPORATED
Annual Report 2006/07





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ANNUAL REPORT 2006/2007

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Front Cover & Throughout:
Nunkuwarn Yunti of South Australia Inc. Artefact Collection
No. 21. Bark Painting, 'Anjura Spears Walaburru the Mullet'.
Artist: Benny Muduruk, Burrara, Upper Blyth River, C. Arnhem Land.

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Polly Sumner Chairperson

As Chairperson, it gives me great pleasure to present the Aboriginal Sobriety Group Inc. (ASG) Annual Report for the 2006/2007 financial year.

Lack of funding support and the absence of a detox/rehabilitation centre for Aboriginal people continue to hamper ASG's ability to make a significant impact on substance misuse issues.

The ASG Board encourages the Adelaide City Council (ACC) to fund a detox/rehabilitation centre for Aboriginal people, particularly considering the dry-zone laws have stretched ASG's resources outside their normal operating area.

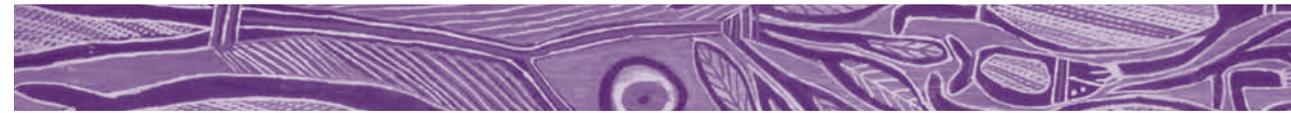
Despite these setbacks, ASG finds other avenues of support, including from within their own funds, for much-needed programs and services. Last year, ASG re-opened Annie Koolmatrie House with limited funding support. This year, ASG funded the establishment of 'The Shed' at Kudla.

The Board of Management congratulates Mr Basil Sumner who continues as Chief Executive Officer of ASG and his team for their dedication, loyalty and commitment to assisting the Aboriginal community.

This year's achievements included:

- Opening 'The Shed' at Kudla in the northern metropolitan area to provide early intervention, prevention and diversion for youth. Men's Group activities and other health and fitness programs also operate there.
- Commencement of the Drug Court Program which works with adult individuals who access the drug court system.
- Two new capital works projects: the upgrade of ASG's building on South Terrace, Adelaide, and the construction of a new building at Berri in the Riverland.

- Invitation by the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) to participate in a three year Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative.
- Relocation of the Mobile Assistance Program (MAP) to the stabilisation office at Woodville, resulting in increased security for hostel clients and staff.
- The development of a 'Therapeutic Discussion Group' by the Assessment, Referral and Counselling (ARC) team to focus on issues such as family/domestic violence, child sexual abuse, relationship issues, and isolation and social exclusion.
- The drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Westcare to work collaboratively to supply services to Westcare clients. An initiative of the Stabilisation Program.
- The University of South Australia funding new machines for the Health and Fitness Centre's (H&FC) cardio room and choosing to conduct health studies at the centre in late 2007.
- Completion of building upgrades at Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal (LTW).
- Development of the foundations for a Native Bush Food/Medicine Propagation Project at LTW in partnership with the Aboriginal Lands Trust.
- 35 people undertaking the four month program at LTW, ten graduating and four gaining employment with health organisations.
- Establishment of the HEARING (Holistic Empowerment Aboriginal Riverland Incorporated Network Gathering) Forum in the Riverland, which brings together various agencies to focus on integrated service provision.
- Promotion of ASG through several events including Drug Action Week and NAIDOC week, various community BBQs and a Toy Run to Copley.



The increasing presentation of clients with mental health disorders remains an issue for which no funding has been allocated despite ASG's requests over a three-year period. As a result, ASG held discussions with various mental health services with a view to working more collaboratively.

Another issue that has become more evident this year is housing. There are limited services that ASG can refer clients to and this is an area which needs to be addressed.

Australia still has a long way to go in providing equitable and accessible services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The reconciliation process strives to encompass the whole of community to unite, act and speak with a united voice.

Recognition of the past colonial history of our country is imperative. We, as Indigenous people acknowledge the past, respect our present and look forward to an enriched future.

I implore leaders within government and private sectors, both non-Indigenous and Indigenous, to listen to the community and provide the services required to give our people the opportunity to enjoy a quality of life equal to other Australians.

In closing, I would like to thank our Board members who continue to support ASG and advocate for improved funding and resources.

I would also like to thank the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (Health and Ageing), Supported Accommodation Services Assistance Program (Health and Services), Aboriginal Hostels Limited, Adelaide City Council and the Department of Human Services for funding ASG's programs and services this year.

Polly Sumner
Chairperson

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Basil Sumner Chief Executive Officer

As Chief Executive Officer, I am pleased to report on the activities of the Aboriginal Sobriety Group Inc. (ASG) for the 2006/2007 financial year.

Our achievements are many and our range of services continues to expand, despite limited funding support. For this, I thank the dedicated ASG Board of Management and staff members who initiate ways to service the needs of our community.

Over the last few years, ASG has expanded from a metropolitan base in Adelaide to Murray Bridge, and more recently to the northern suburbs and the Riverland.

We funded 'The Shed' at Kudla in the northern metropolitan area from our own resources to provide much-needed early intervention, prevention and diversion for youth. This facility is also being used for a Men's Program and Health and Fitness. In addition to clients, people are coming in 'off the street' to utilise 'The Shed'.

This year, ASG completed capital works at Lakalineri Tumbetin Waal (LTW) and next year will build a new office at Berri as well as upgrade the existing building on South Terrace.

We have also developed new programs including the Drug Court Program, Therapeutic Discussion Group, and Native Bush Food/Medicine Propagation Project. A draft MOU has been developed with Westcare and we are working collaboratively with a range of agencies to bridge the gap in service provision.

ASG remains a model of service and achievement which continues to command respect from overseas and interstate in addition to our own state organisations. The University of South Australia has chosen to conduct health studies at our Health and Fitness Centre in late 2007 and the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health has invited ASG to participate in a Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative.

I wish to congratulate all those clients who graduated from LTW this year to independent lifestyles, education and employment. This is why ASG exists and we are proud to have been involved in helping these people turn their lives around. The long-term fight remains theirs and ASG is here to provide ongoing support.

Aboriginal people continue to be given a 'raw deal' in this country despite numerous reports from the United Nations condemning Australia's treatment of its Indigenous people, the Oxfam/National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Close the Gap Report and other similar reports highlighting inequality of access to services.

The World Health Organisation report, presented in April 2007, found that Aboriginal health lags almost 100 years behind other Australians and we are the sickest Indigenous people of all the wealthy nations. The report concluded that progress cannot be made until government publicly acknowledge the role of Aboriginal peoples stress, alienation, discrimination and lack of control in creating poor Indigenous health.

The Australian Medical Association believes that governments under-fund Aboriginal health by at least \$460 million per year; funding for services and programs that would close the 17 year gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

Our own SA Strategic Plan contained a limited response to the many influencing issues associated with Aboriginal peoples' health including lack of acknowledgement, social and emotional wellbeing, education, employment, racism etc.

Whilst the SA government identified objectives for Aboriginal children, there also needs to be a focus on programs for youth to help break the cycle of crime. There has been much media attention given to the Gang of 49 in Adelaide but no intervention support provided. This media attention perpetuates racism which affects Aboriginal youth's ability to secure employment which in turn creates boredom and leads to crime. It's a vicious cycle caused by government neglect to fund appropriate programs and services. Enmeshed in this is the lack of education facilities in various areas of the state such as the AP Lands where there is little for youth to do after grade 7. Establishing a secondary school at Umoona would go a long way to assist with youth issues in this area.

While racism continues, Aboriginal people have difficulty in accessing mainstream health services and without the appropriate level of funding support, our organisations are unable to fully respond to the health needs of the community. It would seem that the State Budget has not addressed access and equity issues for Aboriginal people but instead focuses on upgrading health facilities.

I join the Chairperson of the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Inc. (AHCSA) in urging governments to consult with and involve members of the Aboriginal community in planning and delivering services and programs. Without informed research and consultation, government programs simply won't work.

The recent 'march' into the Northern Territory is a typical example of lack of consultation. It's a short-term measure that will result in long-term disaster. Whilst the community acknowledge that intervention is required, we should have been consulted on the consequences of such action and the services and programs required to deal with the resulting issues such as Aboriginal deaths in custody. Australia caters for the diversity of other cultures living amongst us, but what about our own Aboriginal people. The cultural impacts of interventions such as those in Northern Territory need consideration.

Without justice, there can be no equity. There was certainly no justice with the Palm Island death in custody. Aboriginal people should be treated as equal citizens of Australia, be given the same respect, and be acknowledged as the first people on this land, and the government's laws and policies need to be upheld regardless of race.

Australia-wide, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are taking action themselves to improve the health of our people because governments are under-funding programs and services, and not upholding promises. To add strength to this movement, Aboriginal people need to reconcile between each other to ensure we survive.

In closing, I would like to thank ASG's funding organisations, especially the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (Health and Ageing) as they have been very supportive of our programs as well as strong advocates for ASG. I'd also like to thank the Supported Accommodation Services Assistance Program (Health and Services), Aboriginal Hostels Limited, Adelaide City Council and the Department of Human Services. I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing organisational support provided by Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc. and the guidance from the Board of Management.

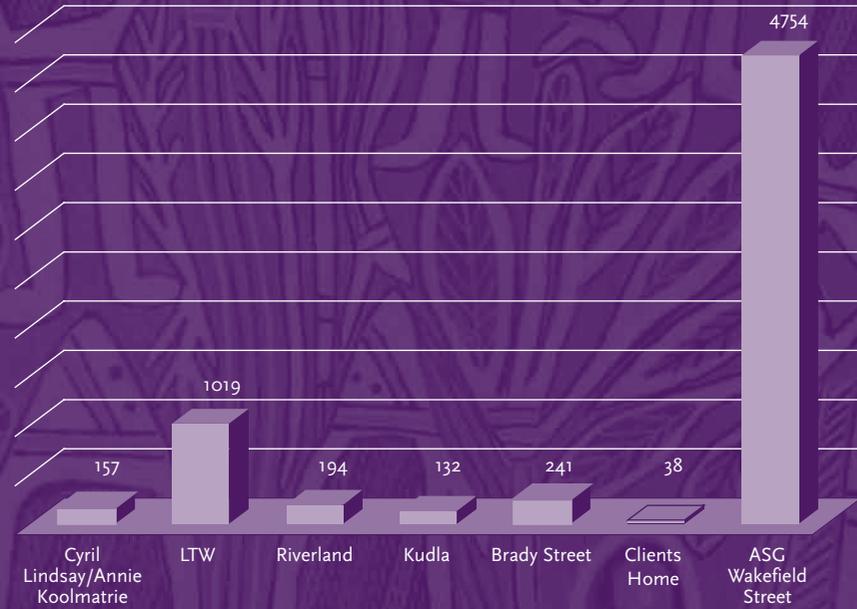
Basil Sumner
Chief Executive Officer

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

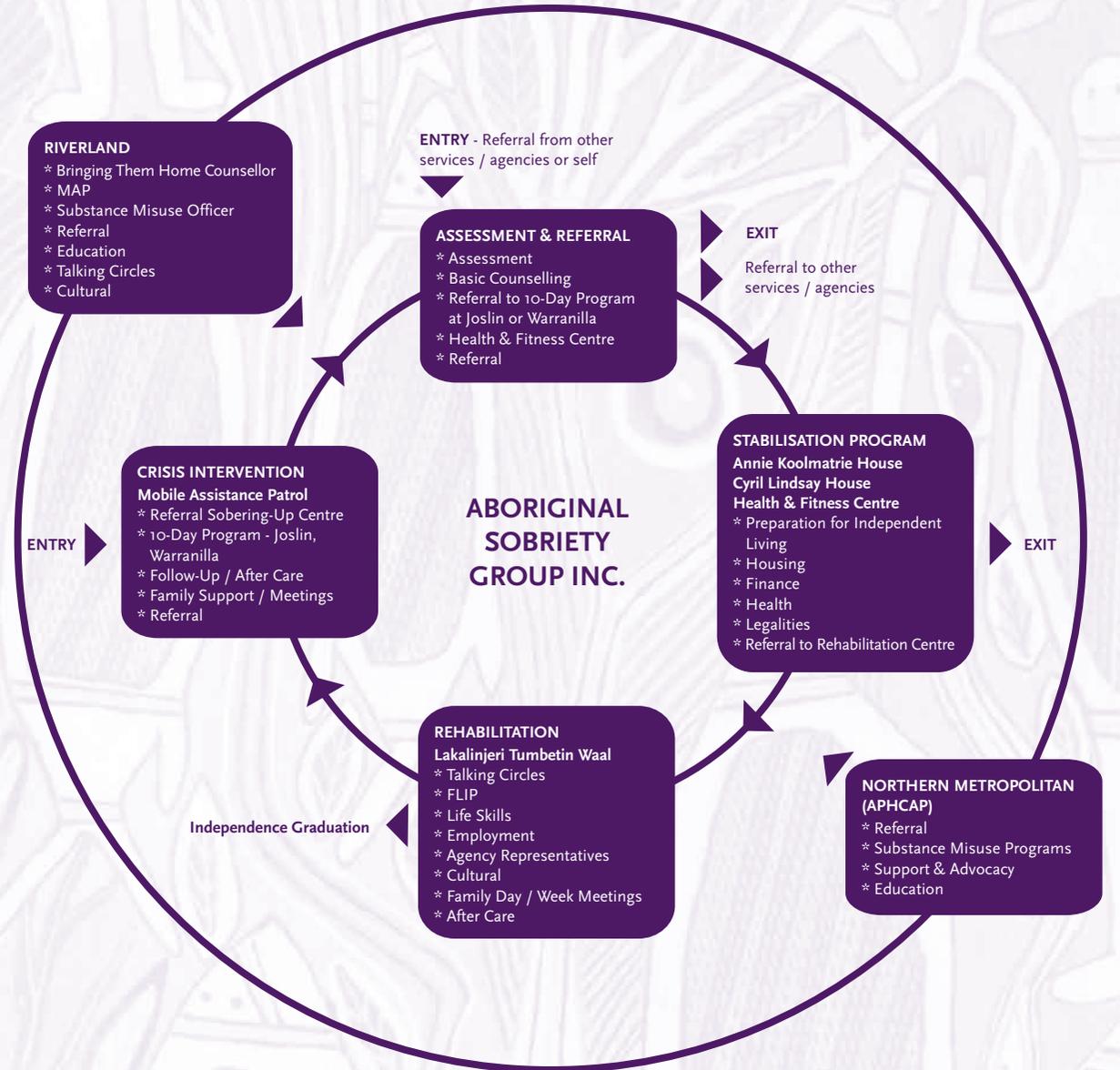
The following graph shows the number of services provided by each program area.

ASG's statistical database shows that of the many conditions that clients presented with this year, 56 have a drug/amphetamine issue, 22 have drugs dependence, and 516 have alcohol dependence. The most interesting statistic is that 229 presented with lack of confidence.

Services by Encounter Place 2006-2007



SUBSTANCE MISUSE RECOVERY PATHWAY



ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE



Donna Ngulbiltjik Robb Program Director

This year saw several changes for ASG. We increased the capacity of our administration team with the appointment of an Executive Assistant and a Finance Officer. Two new programs also commenced: the Drug Court Program which works with adult individuals who access the drug court system and The Shed which deals with early intervention, prevention and diversion for youth.

The Shed's premises at Kudla is also the venue for ASG's Men's Group activities and other health and fitness programs. We hope to expand this program to offer services and programs that open pathways for training, education and employment.

Two capital works projects are currently underway. One is the upgrade of ASG's building on South Terrace, Adelaide (formerly Cyril Lindsay House) and the other is the construction of a new building at Berri in the Riverland.

ASG is also participating in a three year Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative by OATSIH and initial consultations commenced in early 2007.

Substance Misuse Programs

Mobile Assistance Patrol

The Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP) continues to work closely with many agencies including SA Police, public hospitals, detox and rehabilitation centres, hostels, city councils, as well as welfare and health agencies. The program looks forward to maintaining these positive links and to developing new relationships in an effort to serve the community even more effectively.

Feedback from clients and other services about MAP remains positive. The collaboration between MAP and Nunkuwarrin Yunti's No Pulgi program is also working well.

During the year, the MAP office was relocated from ASG's main building in Adelaide to the stabilisation program office at Woodville to enhance security for the hostels and to alleviate a space issue in our Adelaide office.

Assessment, Referral & Counselling

The Assessment, Referral & Counselling team (ARC) continues to see a steady increase in the number of clients presenting with acute mental health disorders. While referral to adequate services remains difficult, discussions have commenced with various mental health services with a view to working more collaboratively. Another issue that has become more evident is the difficulty to assist clients with housing and this is an area which needs to be addressed.

Owing to identified needs and consultation with clients, the ARC team began development of a 'Therapeutic Discussion Group'. The group focuses on issues that face both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities such as family/domestic violence, child sexual abuse, relationship issues, and isolation and social exclusion to name a few.

Throughout the year, the team promoted the ARC service via information networks and promotional activities such as Drug Action Week and NAIDOC. They also continued to support many clients through ASG's recovery pathway and were pleased to see some clients graduate from ASG's rehabilitation farm, Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal.

Stabilisation

With the reopening of Annie Koolmatrie House (AKH) in 2006, the women's hostel has consistently held high occupancy levels. However, due to the small amount of funding received for this service, ASG can only cater for a few clients at any one time, which clearly isn't adequate. Further funding for this much-needed service will be sought in the future.

Both AKH and Cyril Lindsay House (CLH) continue to cater for clients presenting with drug, alcohol and homeless issues. This year, a draft MOU was developed between Westcare and ASG to work collaboratively to supply services to Westcare clients.

Hostel clients again participated in ASG's health and fitness program with swimming sessions at North Adelaide being a popular activity. It was pleasing to see many clients go on to training and employment opportunities.

Rehabilitation

Upgrading of the main buildings at Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal (LTW) including the men's and women's dormitories, construction of a disabled toilet and development of access ramps was completed this year.

LTW clients accessed various workshops and information sessions offered by external agencies such as gambling and Hep C, as well as ASG's counselling service, Talking Circles, health and fitness program with swimming sessions on Tuesdays, Men's Group on Thursdays at the Shed, and the Women's Group through Nunkuwarrin Yunti.

This year, the foundations for a Native Bush Food/Medicine Propagation Project were developed in partnership with the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The program should commence next year.

Northern Metropolitan (APHCAP)

The Northern Metropolitan team provided various services to clients this year and worked closely with Families SA to provide advocacy and support with drug and alcohol issues, housing and accommodation, family violence, etc.

The team also participated in education and promotion programs including Drug Action Week which again attracted a large community attendance. At the event, the team provided entertainment, interactive informative activities and distributed promotional materials.

The Men's Group was also very popular with two client camps held in addition to weekly workshops.

Riverland

The Riverland Program is progressing well with commencement of a capital works project to construct a purpose built facility. A site was purchased on Wilson Street in Berri and the existing building will be demolished to make way for construction of the new premise. Demolition will start at the end of 2007.

Several programs are operating from the Riverland office including the Art of Change project which is well attended by clients. The men's and women's groups are popular and Talking Circles occur on a regular basis. Drug Action Week and the NAIDOC event were organised in conjunction with other service providers and both events enjoyed a high community attendance.

The program has also contributed to the establishment and operation of the HEARING (Holistic Empowerment Aboriginal Riverland Incorporated Network Gathering) Forum, which is bringing many service providers in the region together to focus on integrated service provision.

Administration

Throughout the year, ASG promoted its services and programs through several events including Drug Action Week and NAIDOC week, various community BBQs and a very successful Toy Run to Copley. These events were not only important for ASG as an organisation but were well received and attended by the community.

ASG met regularly with key agencies regarding issues of homelessness, dry zones, social and emotional wellbeing, substance misuse, policing and legal issues.

We remain involved in several committees and groups including:

- NACCHO
- AHCSA
- HEARING Forum - Riverland
- Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Service (APOSS) Board of Management
- Dry Zone Steering Committee
- Inner City Homeless Services Integrated Network
- Prevention of Aboriginal Deaths In Custody
- West End Reference Group
- APHCAP Advisory Group
- Healthy for Life
- Nunkuwarrin Yunti's Course Advisory Group
- Magistrates Court Diversion Program Service Providers Meeting
- Aboriginal Police Liaison Committee

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAMS

Crisis Intervention

Mobile Assistance Patrol

The Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAP) continues to be the frontline program intervening drug and alcohol misuse in the community.

The community-based crisis intervention program is funded by the Department of Health (Aboriginal Health Division) and the Adelaide City Council. The service operates a day shift of five days per week, and an afternoon/night shift, seven days a week.

MAP maintains a very high standard of service delivery to the Aboriginal and wider communities, and aims to reduce incarceration and deaths in custody by eliminating police intervention.

The highly effective program is supported by experienced and compassionate staff who deliver a quality service within difficult environments.

Service Delivery

This year, MAP provided 12,215 instances of transport. People were transported from public places to their homes or agencies. Of this number, 560 were children accompanying parents or family members. While the number of children has steadily declined over the years through MAP's intervention, it is still a concern that is being addressed through education and awareness.

MAP Transport with Accompanying Children 2006-2007



Kaz Awad MAP Program Manager

MAP operated with a manager, eight full time staff and two casuals this year. A new bus significantly contributed to the effectiveness of the service.

The relocation of the MAP base to CLH to increase security for the hostels also resulted in a change to the MAP management which produced good outcomes.

Education Programs

MAP continued to engage in various Aboriginal community events such as Hep C, NAIDOC Week, BBQs and Drug Action Week.

These activities were welcomed by the Adelaide City Council who keep a watchful eye on the city limits in accordance with the dry zone laws that seem only to produce other problem spots in the parklands.

These problems would greatly diminish if the Adelaide City Council met their agreement to fund a detox/rehabilitation centre for Aboriginal people.

Networking

In an effort to provide a comprehensive service, MAP continues to work with many agencies including SAPol, hospitals, drug and alcohol agencies, and detox and rehabilitation centres.



Viola and Nermin MAP Program Team

Assessment, Referral & Counselling

There were many changes to the Assessment Referral and Counselling (ARC) program this year to provide for continuous improvement. Team members were assisted to adapt accordingly so that core directives could continue to be delivered to clients.



David Zarkovic Program Manager
Assessment, Referral & Counselling

Service Delivery

The ARC team continue to seek and develop programs that provide clients with the opportunity to challenge ideas, beliefs and behaviours around substance misuse and socio-economic issues which contribute to the deterioration of communities and members. This year, the ARC team saw 234 clients and provided 324 episodes of care.

The following external programs aimed at addressing issues common to clients were identified:

- Men's and women's groups held by community managed agencies with a focus on social interaction and inclusion.
- Interactive cooking/nutritional programs to teach culinary skills and highlight the importance of choosing foods that contribute to a healthier lifestyle.
- Intensive case-management/planning individually catered for clients to address housing, employment and education opportunities, health matters, etc.
- Support for clients who possess 'co-morbid' wellbeing issues and ensuring that the appropriate agencies are involved in addressing their complex, individual needs (Community Mental Health Services and associated programs).

- Other group therapies that explore issues such as gambling, family/domestic violence etc.

While the ARC team would prefer to develop the above programs inhouse, further funding would be required to ensure they are sustainable and that adequate education and training could be provided to staff on appropriate and effective delivery models and frameworks.

A highlight of the year was the number of clients who progressed into independent living with full time employment, further studies and a clearer focus on what direction their lives are taking. Credit is owed to these clients who were shown a path but progressed themselves to where they wanted to be. All are very well aware though that the recovery process is 'work in progress' and acknowledge that it is not just a change in scenery that contributes to recovery but a change in attitudes and behaviours.

Discussions were also held around forming a 'Therapeutic Discussion Group' to discuss issues facing both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities such as family/domestic violence, child sexual abuse, relationship issues, isolation and social exclusion. The aim of the group is to provide a framework that identifies and acknowledges how culture can help heal the pain of individuals and whole communities by encouraging them to speak out and recognise skills and knowledges already present within their surroundings. A group of key workers who will ensure that it is a safe and respectful process and that the appropriate supports are present has recently been formed.

Education Programs

The ARC team was involved in various events including Drug Action Week and NAIDOC Week to raise awareness about the support available for substance misuse issues. Promotional materials were given to community members and referrals received.

Networking

In response to an identified need last year, the ARC team formed relationships with various external agencies committed to assisting Aboriginal people through the recovery process. These relationships will be maintained and extended in the new year.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAMS

Stabilisation

Annie Koolmatrerie & Cyril Lindsay Houses

The co-location of Cyril Lindsay House (CLH) and Annie Koolmatrerie House (AKH) continues to operate well with shared staff resources maintaining effectiveness, albeit limited funding. With MAP also now operating from the same premises, there is increased security for residents and staff.

The hostels are stabilisation units for Aboriginal people who have been through detox and are undertaking steps to stay sober. Various programs are available in addition to case management to assist residents to lead a substance free lifestyle.

Service Delivery

CLH houses up to 11 men and AKH provides for three women and their dependents. Combined, the hostels provided 157 instances of care this year.

From the time of entering the program, all clients are required to remain sober throughout their rehabilitation.

Various programs and services are provided including:

- Counselling
- Health and Fitness
- Medical
- Employment and Training
- Transport

Clients who successfully complete the stabilisation program are offered the opportunity to go to LTW to graduate to independent living.

Education Programs

Staff and clients participate in the various activities organised by ASG including Drug Action Week and NAIDOC Week to promote the service and the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.

Health & Fitness Centre

ASG's Health and Fitness Centre (H&FC) is a unique gym, designed to be a community-friendly place that encourages anyone to walk in and train.

A multi-cultural environment, men, women and youth from diverse backgrounds are able to meet in a relaxed and social atmosphere, and improve their understanding of cultural differences.

The H&FC has free and machine weights, boxing apparatus and a ring. The University of South Australia has provided funding to refurbish



Health & Fitness Centre, Wakefield Street



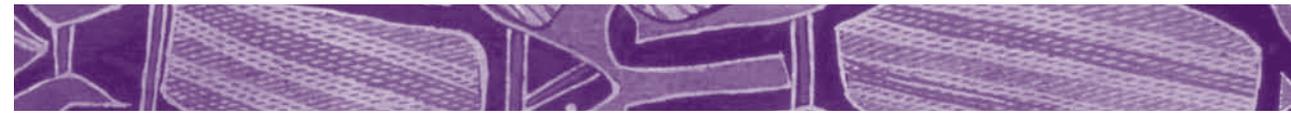
Drug Court worker

the cardio room with new machines and has chosen to conduct health studies at the H&FC, commencing in late 2007.

Service Delivery

The H&FC is used as a rehabilitation program to stabilise drug and alcohol clients, and to promote health and wellbeing through physical exercise. This year, the H&FC saw 217 clients and provided 870 episodes of care.

Three schools currently use the group training program that improves fitness and team work and the ASG Boxing Club caters for professional training.



The Shed



Fitness equipment at The Shed

Employees from ASG, Nunkuwarrin Yunti and APOSS are encouraged to use and refer clients to the H&FC.

In 2007, ASG began another fitness centre at 'The Shed' which caters for Aboriginal people who live in the northern suburbs. This project was funded entirely by ASG.

The Shed includes a Men's Group that engages in Aboriginal arts and crafts, and there are plans to expand the facility to cater for youth traineeships to improve their employment prospects.

Currently, H&FC staff at The Shed work with Parafield Gardens High School students on Mondays, the Dare to Dream youth program on Fridays, and the Grannies Group, 'The Emu's'. The Men's Group is held on Thursdays. In addition, many young to older people come off the street to use The Shed to improve their health and may be referred to other agencies for further assistance as required.

Education Programs

The H&FC promotes the various activities organised by ASG including Drug Action Week and NAIDOC Week.

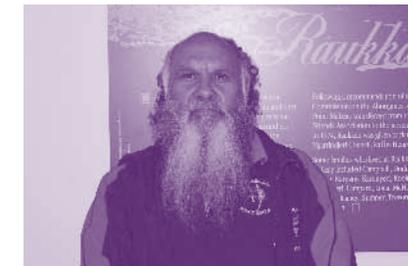
Various information is also available to explain the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse and to promote the facets of a healthy lifestyle.

Networking

The H&FC maintains working relationships with Boxing SA, the Australian Institute of Fitness and the South Australian Institute of Sport, along with other social welfare groups, schools, community groups and agencies.

Cultural

The Cultural Advisor continued to work with clients to revitalise their culture and spirituality to encourage self-belief and self-determination. The program also worked with other organisations to engender a wider understanding of Aboriginal culture.



Major Sumner Cultural Advisor

Service Delivery

ASG clients continue to benefit from the Cultural Program. Talking Circles were provided on a regular basis to hostel and rehabilitation clients including those in the Riverland.

A new program which involves working with youth in detention centres is currently being established. The Cultural Advisor will take youth to the Coorong, spend three days with them doing cultural programs and then take them to LTW for two days. The program will run over a minimum period of three months. Youth will undertake programs including building and learning about it. They will restore the shearing shed and the house at LTW and will be working on a cultural project.

Education Programs

This year, the Cultural Advisor conducted Smoking Ceremonies in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, government and non-government organisations, and in individuals' private homes.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAMS

The request for Cultural Ceremonies by people of all nationalities is growing as is the work and interest in public, private and christian schools. The request for Talking Circle in jails and detention centres is also increasing.

Overall, a cultural position is needed in all areas of work. This requires training people as cultural workers so they can take their knowledge back out into the community.

Networking

The Cultural Advisor continued to be involved with the Repatriation of Aboriginal remains, assisting with 'bringing them home' to the Coorong from Victoria and in the reburial of ancestral remains.

Rehabilitation

Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal

Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal (LTW) has now been operating for five years as a healing centre.

The programs combined with the solitude of the farm which allows for reflective thinking, results in a high success rate.



Douglas Longmore Program Manager
Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal

Service Delivery

LTW continued to operate on a 24 hour, seven day a week basis to maintain the safety and security of clients and staff.

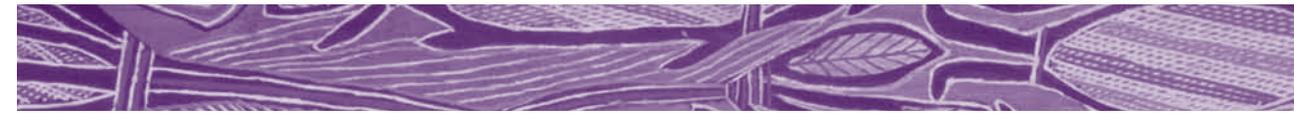
This year, LTW saw 112 clients and provided 1,892 episodes of care. 35 people undertook the four month program and of these, ten went on to graduate and take residence in their respective communities. Four of these graduates have since gained employment with health organisations.



Tal Kin Jeri Dancers

This year's achievements were highlighted by:

- Completion of extensive renovations to the dormitories and kitchen.
- Visits from the Parole board and Francis Nelson.
- Visit by Magistrate Clinton Johansson who also bought three paintings from residents and hung them in the courtroom at the Murray Bridge Court House.
- Full operation of the Family Life Improvement program, a joint collaboration between Canadian and Indigenous Australian programs.
- Appointment of a worker to develop the weekend program.
- A part-time student psychologist placement to work with residents as required.
- Two new vehicles; a 12 seated minivan and a Ute.
- Staff and residents undertaking a tour of historic Point Pearce with Kevin 'Dukie' O'Loughlin, a local historian, Elder and guide.
- Greenhouse propagation of bush medicine. Tucker plants have been planted and construction of the greenhouse facility begins in the new year. The Aboriginal Lands Trust is providing water, greenhouse and irrigation systems.
- Staff and residents attending many cultural activities in and around South Australia with the Cultural Advisor including Warrnambool, the Coorong and Walker Flats.
- Development of a Domestic Violence program.



In the future, LTW hopes to deliver its programs on a larger scale, so more people can use LTW as the entry point to beginning a fulfilled life without drugs or alcohol. More specific techniques and inservice courses will be developed to use in other ASG programs.

Education Programs

LTW promoted its programs and services through presentations, seminars, Talking Circles, testimonials and community events.

This year, LTW's participation in Drug Action week was successful with people coming to an open-house event from Murray Mallee Health, Corrections and the Nunga Club of Murray Bridge. Staff and residents also participated in Reconciliation Week.

The LTW Program Manager and Cultural Advisor gave talks and demonstrated dance to various groups throughout the year including the Victoria Mental Health Conference and groups at the Coorong and Riverland. The Program Manager also provided a talk to the Drug Action Committee at ASG's Berri office and was interviewed by Win TV.



Major Sumner
Cultural Advisor demonstrating dance

Networking

During the year, an agreement/partnership was formed with the Nunga Club of Murray Bridge and Murray Mallee Health to work together to benefit the Aboriginal Men's Group.

Training & Development

LTW's Program Manager and staff commenced and some completed studies in various courses including Narrative Therapy, Associate Degree in Management, and Motivational Interviewing.

OUTREACH SERVICES

Northern Metropolitan

The Northern Metropolitan Substance Misuse Program, funded by the Aboriginal Primary Health Care Access Program, continues to operate successfully from the Brady Street building at Elizabeth Downs.

In February, the program farewelled Alban Kartinyeri. Allan Sumner commenced employment on 5 March 2007 and continued in Alban's position. Northern Metropolitan also welcomed Merritt Sumner who provides support to the Aboriginal Men's Group that is now established at the northern Shed site.

Service Delivery

This year, Northern Metropolitan saw 92 clients and provided 324 episodes of care.

The program became more involved with clients who are dealing with Family SA. This involved attending Family Courts, conducting Family Case Planning, and providing advocacy and support.

A range of different services were also provided including transport for clients, writing support letters, and advocacy between clients and agencies.

A new Men's Group was established in April at 'The Shed' to offer a holistic approach to the health of Aboriginal men with a particular focus on alcohol and drug issues, family violence, parenting and living skills. The program operates on Thursdays and offers an Aboriginal art component which allows participants to maintain cultural links to their heritage and offers opportunities for younger men to learn traditional art.

The Aboriginal art component allows participants to talk informally. This method of group work is quite effective as it is non-threatening and supportive. Most of the woodwork and carving is done using hand tools such as hatchets, files, planes, sand paper, etc. Wood burning is also another aspect to the craft where the wood is burned by a hot iron (similar to a solder iron). Participants in the Men's Group also have a place to paint pieces of artwork including traditional and contemporary style paintings as well as their woodwork including didgeridoos and boomerangs.

Since April, two camps have been run at Long Point on the Coorong. The camps are aimed

at educating young people about the risks associated with alcohol and other drugs. They have helped participants realise there is more to life than just sitting around waiting for things to happen. Mentors were a priority for the camps as they shared stories and sang songs around the camp fire.

Education Programs

Various programs and events were established and attended to further promote the Northern Metropolitan service this year. Included in these was Drug Action Week for which the team organised a BBQ in Pittman Park, Salisbury in collaboration with Muna Paeindi and Centacare Wodlotinattoai. Around 70 Aboriginal community members attended and some gave talks and sang. The organisations involved promoted their services with bags and gifts. ASG conducted a quiz game for community members to win promotional bags and gifts.

Networking

Northern Metropolitan has expanded its networks and continued to work with agencies to better meet the needs of the Aboriginal community living in the north.

Training & Development

In August, Allan Sumner attended the Healing our Spirits World Wide Conference in Edmonton, Canada. Many of the ideas and strategies gained from the conference have been useful in planning programs and groups.

Northern Metropolitan have since initiated community development programs aimed at restoring resilience, self-determination, management and empowerment. Other programs are being developed focusing on culturally appropriate solutions for at risk families and youth who misuse alcohol and other drugs.

Riverland

The Riverland ASG branch is now in its third year of operation and during 2006/07 saw 216 clients and provided 917 episodes of care, in addition to 1,910 MAP services.

The need for new premises was further highlighted this year with the stairs making

access difficult for elderly people. The new premises to be built in Wilson Street, Berri, during 2007/08 will improve service delivery significantly.

Service Delivery

The Riverland office provides a Mobile Assistance Patrol, Bringing Them Home Counsellor, and Drug and Alcohol Field Officer.

This year, the following programs were also provided to clients:

- Women's empowerment group, Art of Change, which included a fashion parade and visits by the Leigh Creek women's group and the Murray Bridge men's group.
- Men's Group Talking Circle visits to Cadell prison including playing a football match and sharing a meal for NAIDOC Week.

A small grant made available through the Grannies Group provides an opportunity for Elders to meet fortnightly to discuss local substance misuse issues and develop strategies. The group will form part of a state strategy to address the negative impact of substance misuse on the state and communities.

In addition, the HEARING (Holistic Empowerment Aboriginal Riverland Incorporated Network Gathering) Forum provided support to develop an art project for Riverland Regional Health which will employ local artists to do a mosaic of Ngarrindjeri Dreaming stories on two walls, one at Berri Hospital and the other part at Barmera Hospital.

Other activities taking place next year include:

- Group of artists working with Nunkuwarrin Yunti.
- Men's Group including outings, craft making, art and fishing.
- Elders Group involving meetings and sharing a meal on alternate week days.

Education Programs

Around 300 people attended the NAIDOC BBQ and March in Berri where highlights included raising the flag and guest dancer, Douglas Longmore. A NAIDOC BBQ was also held in Waikerie with support from the local council and a flag raising ceremony.

During Drug Action Week, a BBQ was held at Glassy Park and about 80 people attended

including service providers and community members. The Grannies Group showed their new DVD and attendees supported further training in this area.

A stall was set up in the main street during Family Law Week and staff provided information to attendees.

Various conferences and seminars were also attended including Rethinking Drinking in Melbourne, Mental Health Conference in Melbourne, two day healing camp at Nunyara, and a trip to Melbourne with the Men's Group.

Networking

During the year, Aboriginal service providers formed the HEARING Forum. Eight meetings were held and nine guest speakers provided the community with access to programs they were unaware about. HEARING also planned this year's NAIDOC celebrations.

There has been a lot of positive interest created by HEARING. Members are focused and enthused about future possibilities. Angli Care, under Riverland ASG's direction, applied for three years funding through Mental Health and this was supported by key stakeholders.

The community are also looking forward to future prospects. HEARING is investigating tourism opportunities including a joint partnership with the Murray River Queen stopping at Red Banks, and Gerard providing cultural activities, food and dance. These activities will provide education and employment opportunities through apprenticeships and small business enterprises. HEARING is currently going through incorporation.

In addition to HEARING, Riverland staff attended a number of monthly committee meetings including APHCAP, AHAG, PAL, Riverland Drug Diversion, Homeless Forum, and Drug and Alcohol Working Group.

The team was also involved in planning and organising the Bike Runs to Gerard and Copley which resulted in wonderful experiences for all.

Training & Development

Staff continue to undertake further education to develop their knowledge and this year one staff member attended a Family Wellbeing Course, while others undertook the First Aid Certificate and Mental Health First Aid course.



ABORIGINAL SOBRIETY GROUP INC.
FINANCIAL REPORT 2006/2007

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Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
Recurrent Income			
Operational Grants		2,465,952	2,520,004
Interest Received		27,413	21,026
Rent Received		31,407	38,857
Sundry Income		45,089	7,257
Total Recurrent Income		2,569,862	2,587,144
Recurrent Expenditure			
Administration & Data Processing Charges		45,151	54,477
Advertising, Sponsorship & Promotions		11,538	5,198
Audit Fees		15,695	27,400
Bank Charges		83	50
Catering		-	15,817
Cleaning & Rubbish Removal		10,996	8,549
Client Participation Groups		1,322	-
Computer Costs		39,131	36,557
Conference & Courses		1,478	455
Consultancy Fees		12,115	20,191
Donations		209	800
Dreamtime Publication Relations		-	2,400
EAP Expenses		1,686	600
Electricity & Gas		20,650	16,354
Food		31,492	14,397
Fringe Benefits Tax		16,406	13,445
General Expenses & Supplies		6,447	19,871
Grant Funds repaid		-	46,291
Gymnasium Expenses		9,787	-
Insurance		49,322	42,911
Legal Costs		25,900	63,583
Medical Prescriptions & Supplies		-	417
Minor Equipment & Consumables		3,105	848
Motor Vehicle Expenses		157,672	117,016
Postage		468	909
Printing, Stationery & Office Requisites		25,023	17,708
Program Expenses:			
- Canada Travel		22,851	-
- Diversional Therapy		1,015	-
- Drug Action Week		3,559	8,730
- Forsyth Foundation		4,318	-

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Income Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
Recurrent Expenditure (cont'd)			
Program Expenses (cont'd):			
- Grannies Group Berri		200	-
- IMEC		145	205
- QIP		-	4,321
- Riverland		48	59,088
- Sundry Community Programs		1,676	-
- The Shed		26,944	-
Provisions for:			
- Annual Leave		32,242	12,640
- Computer & IT Replacement		28,852	-
- Long Service Leave		(13,392)	(2,977)
- Vehicle Replacement		-	30,062
Rates & Taxes		28,669	14,794
Rent		65,774	39,474
Repairs & Maintenance		39,670	13,720
Resources		-	1,378
Salaries & Wages		1,612,103	1,582,790
Security		736	1,058
Staff Expenses		5,125	-
Subscriptions & Licence Fees		1,315	1,313
Superannuation Contributions		146,183	132,387
Telephone		58,297	53,035
Training		3,574	7,200
Travel Allowances & Fares		5,900	7,737
Workcover		48,736	54,716
Total Recurrent Expenditure		2,610,213	2,547,915
Operating Recurrent Surplus (Deficit) Before Unfunded Charges		(40,351)	39,229
Less Unfunded Charges			
Depreciation & Amortisation		103,849	42,988
(Profit) Loss on Sale of Non Current Assets		2,535	(139,543)
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		(146,736)	135,784
Add Non Recurrent Income			
Capital Grants Received		498,996	110,541
Net Surplus (Deficit)		\$352,260	\$246,325

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc.
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
Members' Funds at the beginning of the Financial Year		399,138	152,813
Net Surplus (Deficit) attributable to members		352,260	246,325
Members' Funds at the End of the Financial Year		\$751,398	\$399,138

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc.
Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	6	980,449	953,882
Sundry Debtors		150,504	140,109
		1,130,953	1,093,991
Non Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment at cost	2	1,145,199	735,182
Less Accumulated Depreciation		477,593	460,187
		667,606	274,995
Total Assets		1,798,558	1,368,986
Current Liabilities			
Creditors & Accrued Expenses	3	123,468	217,946
Unexpended Grants	4	563,440	439,351
Provisions	5	360,253	312,551
Total Liabilities		1,047,160	969,848
Net Assets		\$751,398	\$399,138
Members Funds			
Members' Funds		751,398	399,138
Total Equity		\$751,398	\$399,138
Contingent Liability	7		

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	Note	2007	2006
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash Receipts		3,015,549	2,374,540
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(2,517,398)	(2,023,489)
Interest Received		27,413	21,026
Net Cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities	6	525,564	372,077
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment		(514,496)	(141,995)
Proceeds from Disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment		15,500	386,884
Net Cash provided by (used in) Investing Activities		(498,996)	244,889
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Net Cash provided by (used in) Financing Activities		-	-
Net Increase in Cash Held		26,568	616,966
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year		953,882	336,916
Cash at the End of the Financial Year	6	980,450	953,882

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. The Committee of Management has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, and the following Accounting Standards:

AASB 1031: Materiality
AASB 110: Events after Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuation of non-current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this report.

- (a) **Income Tax**
Under Section 50.5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 the income of the Association is exempt from income tax.
- (b) **Property, Plant & Equipment**
Freehold Land & Buildings are brought to account at cost or at independent valuation. The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated in the following manner:-
- (i) Buildings – As it is difficult to separate the value of buildings from the freehold land the committee do not consider it necessary or material to depreciate buildings.
 - (ii) Other depreciable assets – A fixed annual charge over the estimated useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Profit and losses on disposal of property, plant & equipment are taken into account in determining the surplus for the year.

- (c) **Employee Benefits**
Provision is made in respect of the Association's liability for annual leave at balance date. Long service leave is accrued in respect of employees with more than seven years employment with the Association.

Contributions are made by the Association to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred. The Association has no legal obligation to provide benefits to employees on retirement.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(d) **Goods & Services Tax (GST)**
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

(e) **Going Concern**
The accounts of Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc. have been prepared on the basis that it is a going concern and that the Association will continue to operate.

The Association's future as a going concern is dependant upon grants and subject to compliance with the conditions attached to grants received. On this basis Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc. will generate sufficient cash flow to be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

	2007	2006
Note 2: Property, Plant & Equipment		
(a) Freehold Land & Buildings (at cost)		
3 Wilson Street, Berri	247,684	-
(b) Leasehold Improvements		
At Cost	171,902	60,850
Less Accumulated Amortisation	15,864	10,850
	<u>156,039</u>	<u>50,000</u>
(c) Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	472,740	425,592
Less Accumulated Depreciation	369,393	319,232
	<u>103,346</u>	<u>106,360</u>
(d) Motor Vehicles		
At Cost / Valuation	252,873	248,740
Less Accumulated Depreciation	92,336	130,105
	<u>160,537</u>	<u>118,635</u>
Total Property Plant & Equipment	\$667,606	\$274,995
Note 3: Creditors & Accrued Expenses		
Sundry Creditors	101,668	199,346
Accrued Expenses	21,800	18,600
	<u>\$123,468</u>	<u>\$217,946</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2007

	2007	2006
Note 4: Unexpended Grants		
At balance date the Association had not expended all of its grant funds. These unexpended funds have been carried forward into the next financial year. Details of the program unexpended grants are:		
APHCAP Northern Program	28,785	7,425
APHCAP Western Program	7,114	13,322
Building Program	13,242	50,000
City Watchhouse Program	50,422	54,759
Community Benefits SA	21,000	-
Drug Court Program	34,880	-
LTW Building Program	-	177,052
Mobile Assistance Program	16,042	-
No Pulgi Program	58,645	-
South Terrace Capital Works Program	24,041	-
Substance Abuse Riverland Program	78,973	136,793
Support Accommodation Assistance Program	22,980	-
Wilson Street Berri Capital Program	207,316	-
	<u>\$563,440</u>	<u>\$439,351</u>
Note 5: Provisions		
Provision for Annual Leave	168,406	136,163
Provision for Long Service Leave	69,433	82,826
Provision for Computer & IT Replacement	28,852	-
Provision for Vehicle Replacement	93,562	93,562
	<u>\$360,253</u>	<u>\$312,551</u>

2007 2006

Note 6: Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the year	352,260	246,325
(Profit) Loss on disposal of Non-Current Assets	2,536	(139,543)
Depreciation	103,849	42,988
(Increase)/Decrease in Sundry Debtors	(10,395)	(54,778)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	(94,478)	126,653
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	47,702	39,725
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities	124,090	110,707
Net Cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities	\$525,564	\$372,077

(b) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash at Bank	\$980,450	\$953,882
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Note 7: Contingent Liability

A contingent liability exists in relation to the potential repayment of surplus funds to funding bodies. It is the board's view that any surplus represents unexpended funds and will not be repayable to the funding bodies.

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report being the balance sheet, income statement, statement of cash flows, statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc. as at 30 June 2007 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- 2 In accordance with section 35(5) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, the committee hereby states that during the financial year ended 30 June 2007:
 - (a)
 - (i) no officer of the association;
 - (ii) no firm of which an officer is a member, and
 - (iii) no body corporate in which an officer has a substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, firm or body corporate and the association
 - (b) no officer of the association has received directly or indirectly from the association any payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value.
- 3 At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Board Member



Board Member

Signed in Adelaide this 26th day of September 2007

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of

Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report comprising income statement, statement of changes in equity, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, of Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2007.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. The audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

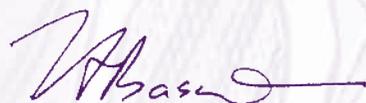
Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of the Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects the position of the Aboriginal Sobriety Group of SA Inc. as at 30 June 2007 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In our opinion the accounts on which the reports are based are considered adequate pursuant to Section 37(3)(d) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985, given the nature and scope of the activities of the association.



Trevor Basso - Partner
Basso Newman & Co
Chartered Accountants
Adelaide
27 September 2007



Abbreviations

ACC	Adelaide City Council
AHCSA	Aboriginal Health Council of SA Inc.
AKH	Annie Koolmatrie House
APHCAP	Aboriginal Primary Health Care Access Program
APOSS	Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Service
ARC	Assessment, Referral and Counselling team
ASG	Aboriginal Sobriety Group Inc.
CLH	Cyril Lindsay House
H&FC	Health and Fitness Centre
HEARING	Holistic Empowerment Aboriginal Riverland Incorporated Network Gathering
LTW	Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal
MAP	Mobile Assistance Patrol
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
OATSIH	Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
SAPol	South Australian Police



sober up the man
the wife wins
sober up the wife
the child wins
sober up the child
the family wins
when the family wins
the community wins

ASG Philosophy
(adopted from the Native Cree Canadians)



Aboriginal Sobriety Group Inc.

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