

MAKIN' TRACKS
(2004 – 2007)
Summary Evaluation

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1. BACKGROUND

On the 23rd August 1999, the Manager of the South Australian State Office of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (AGDHA – now the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing) informed the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) that it had been successful in its application for funds for the 'Development of strategies to address and reduce solvent misuse and other drug use in selected Aboriginal communities'. This project was subsequently named *Makin' Tracks*, and work on it commenced in October 1999. The *Makin' Tracks* has continued and has been subsequently refunded for 2004–6, and 2006–8.

The original objectives of the *Makin' Tracks* project were to:

- develop a multi-strategy plan for intervention strategies for Aboriginal solvent and other drug misusers in selected Aboriginal communities in South Australia within 3–4 months of the beginning of the project;
- develop individual community strategies for intervention (prevention, early intervention and treatment) in solvent and other drug misuse as soon as possible but within time-frames set by individual communities; and,
- develop a strategic multi-agency plan for intervention with Aboriginal solvent and other drug misusers in the cross-border region during the second year.

Following the first evaluation, the objectives of the *Makin' Tracks* project were brought into line with ADAC's Strategic Plan. The revised objectives were similar to those of the original version of *Makin' Tracks*. These are shown in Table 1. The revised objectives of the *Makin' Tracks* project are:

- develop, deliver and promote effective programs to reduce harm related to substance misuse in Aboriginal communities;
- promote and support the re-empowerment of Aboriginal communities to deal with substance misuse issues;
- increase the organisation's capacity to effectively address substance misuse issues within Aboriginal communities; and,

- strengthen linkages with relevant organisations, committees, and policy makers and improve coordination on behalf of Aboriginal communities.

2. EVALUATION METHODS

As indicated previously, the evaluation strategy for the project was developed by ADAC staff members in consultation with staff from NDRI when the original project proposal was prepared. When the grant was made to ADAC, the strategy was reviewed, modified, and endorsed by the project Steering Committee – which was disbanded, due to reduced funding, following the 2004–6 funding round. As part of this process, for each objective, desired outcomes and performance indicators were identified and methods were developed for ascertaining whether the objectives had been achieved. In the sections of the report that follow, each objective, outcome and performance indicator is listed and a review of the evidence for its achievement (or otherwise) is presented.

Evaluation staff were in regular contact with the *Makin' Tracks* team, as were ADAC supervisory staff, to monitor progress. Evaluation staff also monitored other documentary evidence provided by ADAC staff.

Towards the conclusion of the project, an Aboriginal staff member from NDRI conducted a total of 20 key informant interviews, in November 2006 and June 2007 with:

- 6 ADAC staff members (five current and one previous);
- 4 Australian, South Australian and local government representatives; and,
- 10 representatives of community organisations from throughout South Australia.

The structure and questions employed in the key informant interviews were varied to accommodate the different degrees and types of contact that informants had with the project, but focused on eliciting evidence about the extent to which the project objectives had been met. Assessment of outcomes was based on these qualitative data. Rather the impact of the project is best reflected in the performance indicators reported.

The summary report provides an outlined of the evaluation methods, discussion of the strengths and difficulties faced by the project team, and recommendations for the future

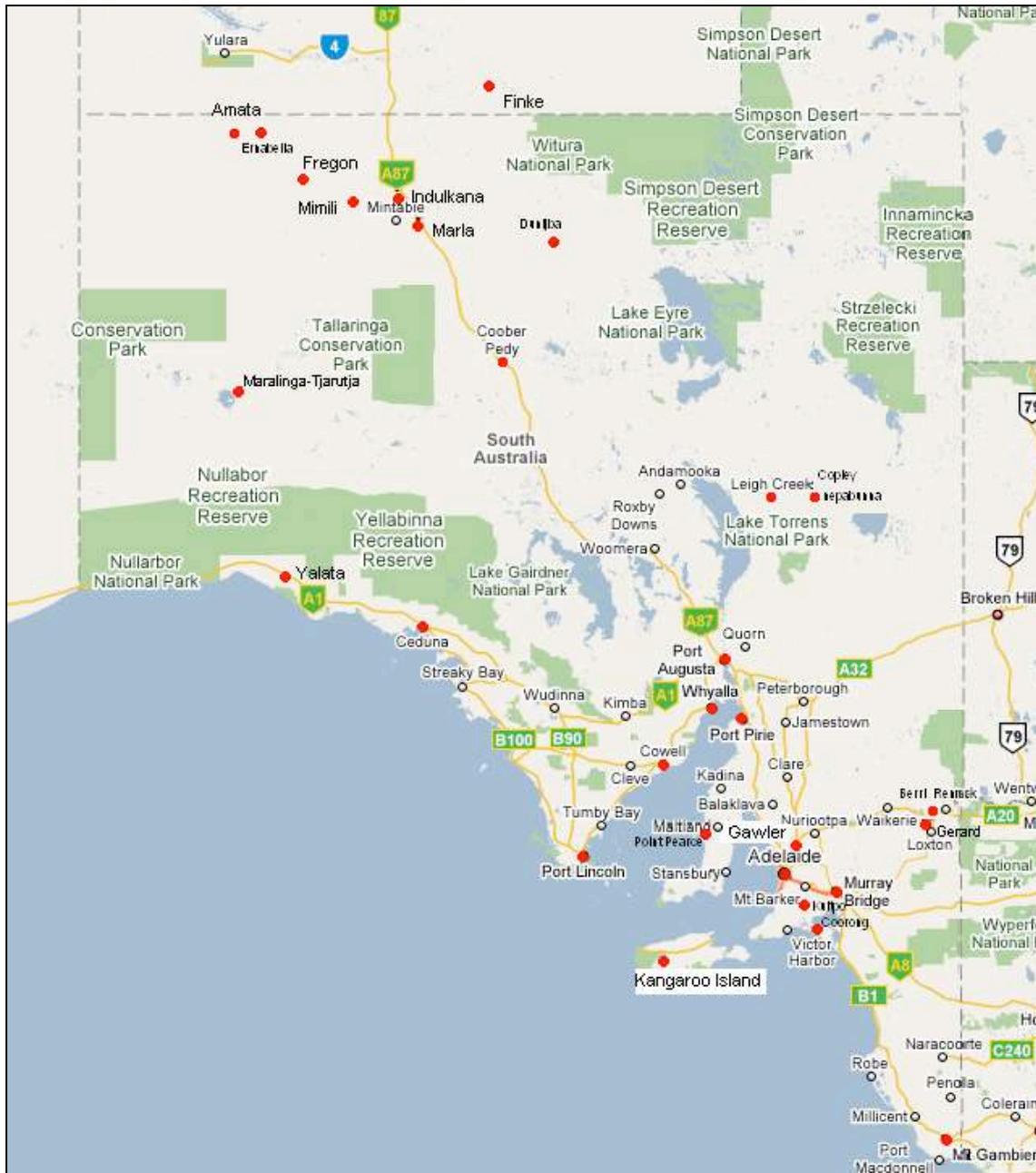
strengthening of the project. Table 1 provides an indication of whether the each performance indicator has been achieved. Details of the outcomes and the impact made by the *Makin' Tracks* project against each performance indicator will be provided in detail in the full report.

Table 1: Summary of the achieved performance indicators

Objective	Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Achieved
1 Develop, deliver and promote effective programs to reduce harm related to substance misuse in Aboriginal communities.	1.1 Reduce the impact of drug and alcohol abuse in Aboriginal communities.	1.1.1 Increase awareness of the importance of prevention and early intervention.	
	1.2 Meet the particular needs of the Aboriginal community in relation to drug and alcohol services.	1.2.1 Develop education and training resources that enhance training opportunities for drug and alcohol workers.	
		1.2.2 Conduct training activities for mainstream organisations (ie general practitioners, police, and schools).	
	1.3 Ensure more culturally appropriate and timely research into Indigenous drug and alcohol issues is conducted.	1.3.1 Monitor national and international trends in Aboriginal drug and alcohol research issues.	
		1:4:1 Identify community resource needs.	
		1:4:2 Identify resources needed to respond to emerging drug and alcohol trends	
		1:4:3 Develop drug and alcohol related health promotion materials for the Aboriginal community and disseminate through a range of media.	
		1:4:4 Ensure all ADAC resources are appropriate to the target audience and informed by evidence-based research.	
2 Promote and support the re-empowerment of Aboriginal communities to deal with	2.1 Inform community organisations and individual members of the work of ADAC.	2.1.1 Conduct community information sessions on drug and alcohol issues.	
		2.1.2 Have a consistent presence in the community.	

<p>substance misuse issues.</p>	<p>2.2 Assist communities to build the capacity to engage in positive change in relation to drug and alcohol issues.</p>	<p>2.2.1 Assist communities in developing drug and alcohol use strategic plans.</p>	<p>2.2.2 Provide ongoing support to member organisations and in particular to drug and alcohol services.</p>	<p>2.2.3 Assist communities to use research findings to identify needs and justify funding applications.</p>	<p>2.2.4 Recognize efforts of communities through the annual ADAC awards announced during Drug Action Week.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>3 Increase the organisation's capacity to effectively address substance misuse issues within Aboriginal communities.</p>	<p>3.1 Participate in relevant quality improvement processes</p>	<p>3.1.1 Ensure all ADAC staff have relevant opportunities to participate in professional development activities.</p>	<p>3.1.2 Ensure all ADAC projects have evaluated outcomes</p>			
<p>4 Strengthen linkages with relevant organisations, committees, and policy makers and improve coordination on behalf of Aboriginal communities.</p>	<p>4.1 Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal communities on relevant state and national committees, boards, and/or reference groups.</p>	<p>4.1.1 Ensure membership of relevant committees that advise government on drug and alcohol related issues.</p>	<p>4.1.2 Lobby for recurrent funding of solvent abuse rehabilitation service in the far north of South Australia.</p>	<p>4.2 Develop alliances and partnerships with key organisations</p>	<p>4:2.1 Develop relationships with Aboriginal education providers.</p>	<p>4:2.2 Explore opportunities for inter-sectoral collaboration and partnerships in consultation with the community.</p>

Figure 1: Map of South Australia, with all the communities visited by the *Makin' Tracks* project team



3. DISCUSSION

The Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) is a state-wide advocacy organisation, for Indigenous substance misuse services and agencies throughout South Australia. They are not a service provider; however the *Makin' Tracks* project is providing an opportunity for ADAC to support its member organisations throughout South Australia. The *Makin' Tracks* project is key to supporting the workers, organisations, agencies, and communities, addressing substance misuse issues in South Australian Indigenous communities. The evaluation process has highlighted both some strengths and difficulties experienced; the following is a discussion of these. In addition, three areas where the *Makin' Tracks* team have made a significant impact are discussed in detail.

Strengths

The *Makin' Tracks* project is unique, providing support for Aboriginal substance misuse workers and programs throughout South Australia. From discussion with the key informants, it is clear that there are a number of elements that strengthen the *Makin' Tracks* project, and are viewed as the important elements of the success of the project. A number of strengths of the project have been identified, these are the:

- *Makin' Tracks* project officers;
- support for workers in isolation;
- consistency of support;
- flexibility of the project; and,
- value-adding to the other project offered by ADAC.

Makin' Tracks project officers

The project officers are a key strength of the project, for a number of reasons. As well as being able to relate well to the youth people and the workers are complementary in their approach. Many key informants noted that the fact that both the *Makin' Tracks* team are strong Nunga (Aboriginal) men is one of the strengths of the project.

We want as many Nunga presenters as possible, it is important for Nunga to be giving the information.

They are Aboriginal men. They (young people) hear it (the message) coming from their own mob. They can engage with the men.

Jimmy (Perry) and Warren (Miller) know the lifestyles and family issues that they kids are going through – they have seen where these kids live.

More to this, many of the key informants highlighted the value of the *Makin' Tracks* team being male. One such worker noted the importance of this since most workers in the field are female and there is a lack of male workers, and specific programs.

As an Aboriginal person and with the cultural beliefs, the value of *Makin' Tracks* is important. When I first asked for their assistance, there wasn't a male worker I could speak to about drug and alcohol issues here... There are no male-specific services, but *Makin' Tracks* were able to capture the attention of our blokes and get the message through to them. Most of the Aboriginal health workers are women, the guys (*Makin' Tracks*) make it possible for us to be able to address the needs of the women, while they address the needs of the men.

Support for workers in isolation

Another important element of the *Makin' Tracks* project is the support – emotional, social, and professional – provided for substance workers, communities, and organisations. These groups are living and working in isolated environments, often resulting in a high staff turnover, which in turn affects the community. Two Adelaide-based workers noted the value of the support from *Makin' Tracks*:

Without *Makin' Tracks* there would be nothing in the country or remote areas. The knowledge that they have and the way that they deliver the information is very valuable and important. Without *Makin' Tracks* the communities and the workers out there wouldn't be getting anything.

If the program wasn't running, the rural communities would miss out. Here in Adelaide there are community events, and drug and alcohol seminars. Out there in the communities, if there was no *Makin' Tracks* they wouldn't get the information or the support.

Consistency of support

Makin' Tracks have been consistent in their support of a number of community organisations, and even some workers, and individuals. One community-based worker started in Port Lincoln not long after the *Makin' Tracks* project began. *Makin' Tracks* has continued to support this worker for more than seven years. The team are still supporting this, and the other workers in this service. The relationship has changed to one that the organisation plans their events around the availability of the *Makin' Tracks* team.

Flexibility of the project

Defining the work and role of the *Makin' Tracks* team is difficult. The scope of the team is wide broad; in their approach and work, they are flexible to meet the needs of the communities rather than implementing a particular program. The team work with the community, based on the needs of the community. It is clear from the key informants the *Makin' Tracks* team respond to the needs of the communities and workers. This is a strength of the project. As one former ADAC staff member highlighted:

It is hard to report on what they (*Makin' Tracks*) are doing – they go all over the place. The guidelines for the project are pretty broad. Working in an Aboriginal community, you take every opportunity you get. You need to work with that the community wants to achieve. You can't go in there and put in place what you want.

Value-adding to the other programs offered by ADAC

One of the most valuable roles of *Makin' Tracks* is the internal collaboration with the different programs and projects also run by ADAC, as one of the ADAC staff highlighted.

Makin' Tracks have enabled other workers (at ADAC) to do similar but different work. *Makin' Tracks* is great. They are an important support to this program, especially with the travel and safety during the travel.

ADAC's Health Promotion Unit (HPU), develop Indigenous-specific drug and alcohol resources. The relationship between the two projects is two-way. The HPU develop the resources, while the *Makin' Tracks* team assist in making the resources relevant to the remote and regional areas. The *Makin' Tracks* team take the resources out with them to services for consultations and testing.

I give work for him to take out to areas that wouldn't normally receive these resources. I always tie in the work with work that he is already doing. So get him to get an opinion about the work. Because he gets out to all the places that don't normally get assistance. It's involved with his work.

In reverse, the *Makin' Tracks* team utilise the skills and resources available with the HPU, to develop posters, stickers and workbooks. The access of the *Makin' Tracks* to these resources has played a valuable role in one of the successes of the project. Through the assistance from the HPU *Makin' Tracks* has supported the Rio Tinto Challenge Cup (RTCC) through the development and provision of the promotional

posters. These resources are things that community organisations do not always have access to, without great expense.

Another project that is supported by the *Makin' Tracks* project, the Police Drug Diversion Liaison Project, is an alternative to going through the criminal justice system. When an offender has been charged with possession of small amounts of illegal drugs, they can elect to be diverted, from the system to ADAC for an assessment. The ADAC project officer Mr Byron Wright helps the client and refers them to counselling or treatment. Clients in remote areas may wait for months for an assessment or referral; however, with the assistance of *Makin' Tracks* Mr Wright visited clients in remote areas. This enabled the clients to get assistance as needed, as well as the project officer to get out to communities more regularly and safely. For the *Makin' Tracks* project officer, this was of great value particularly in 2006 when he was working for much of the year by himself, has another person travelling with him reduced the risk encountered when travelling long distances by himself. This was so successful, that now that there are two project officers with *Makin' Tracks* there are plans for one of the *Makin' Tracks* Project officers to become qualified as in the Police Drug Diversion Liaison Project. This qualification would enable the project officer to also conduct assessments while visiting communities assisted by the *Makin' Tracks* team.

The Strong Spirit, Strong Mind (SSSM), National Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drug Worker Training Program Certificate III Community Services Work (Alcohol and Other Drugs) is currently being rolled out through South Australia via the collaborative partnership of ADAC and government department – Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia (DASSA). The *Makin' Tracks* team have worked closely with project officer, Ms Sharon Drage, in turn improving the provision of the training. One of the *Makin' Tracks* project officers, Mr Warren Miller, is a facilitator with the SSSM course. Mr Miller ensures cultural relevance and security in the course, while the Mr Perry provides the drug and alcohol component of the course. The *Makin' Tracks* team has also played a greater role in the provision of this course to drug and alcohol workers in South Australia, early in the course the project officer travelled out to communities with the *Makin' Tracks* team. As she described the importance of the support provided by the team:

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, Jimmy (Perry) took me out there and supported me with meeting the right people. It was very important for the first visit out to the communities. It takes time to build a relationship and they (*Makin' Tracks*) assisted with that early on.

Another important role of the *Makin' Tracks* team in this project is that they are providing support to the participants during the breaks, as the course is provided in a block-release format. The students are from all over South Australia, as one ADAC staff member stated, *Makin' Tracks* provide extra support for the students:

For the Strong Spirit, Strong Mind students, they all have a common denominator; they all know the *Makin' Tracks* workers, and get support from them. *Makin' Tracks* is about community development and capacity building. Here what they are involved in is further capacity building. We wouldn't be able to provide the program this way, or the level of support that we do to the students without the *Makin' Tracks* program.

Difficulties Experienced

The *Makin' Tracks* team have faced a number of barriers, or problems, in the provision of their project. These barriers can be grouped according to the problems experienced with: working with communities; operating the project, by the staff; and supporting the project, by ADAC.

Working directly with communities can be unpredictable; this has impacted on work of *Makin' Tracks*. The project officers have to travel a great distance to assist some communities; however, the work in remote communities is affected by sorry business and other traditional activities. The isolation of remote areas has further effect on the work of *Makin' Tracks* such as the lack of infrastructure in some areas, in particular accommodation. The lack of accommodation facilities in some communities has hindered the length of time that the *Makin' Tracks* team can spend in community. The lack of trained staff in remote communities has also affected the work of *Makin' Tracks*.

Staffing

During these funding periods (2004–2006 and 2006–2008) there have been four project officers on *Makin' Tracks*. Both Misters Perry and Elliot have remained with the project since the previous funding period. In late 2005 Mr Elliot left the project, his replacement began in late January 2006. The next project officer stayed with the project

for just three months, most of this time was orientation to the work with the project, in particular introducing him to communities that *Makin' Tracks* were working with. For most of 2006, Mr Jimmy Perry worked alone; this reduced the capacity of the project to meet the needs of the community. As highlighted by a former ADAC staff member: 'Staff turnover has a big effect on *Makin' Tracks* project, as we have to then begin the process again.' Retaining qualified staff remains a difficulty of the project. The nature of the project requires a significant personal commitment from the project staff.

Demand

According to the *Makin' Tracks* project officers; they are in greater demand than they are able to meet. The issue is that the demand from regularly communities and agencies prevents the ability of *Makin' Tracks* to take on additional communities, without the reducing the involvement with the regular communities.

Provision of project

An issues faced by the project, raised by both the project staff and other ADAC staff, is one of project funding. It has been suggested that the funding for the project is not adequate to meet the actual costs, thus ADAC has had to absorb these additional costs. Most notably, since the 2003–4 financial year the project has exceeded its budget, with 2005–6 being the first year that the project stayed within its budget. However, during 2005/6 financial year there was a change in staff and for a quarter of that financial year there was just one the project officer working on the *Makin' Tracks* team, thus the project came in within budget.

On examination of the budget, there are a number of areas where the project exceeded budgeted costs.

- **Vehicle costs:** The amount of travelling undertaken by the *Makin' Tracks* team has resulted in need for the vehicle to be replaced. During this funding period, the *Makin' Tracks* project has had to replace the vehicle twice. The most recent funding round has not allowed for the costs of replacing the current vehicle. This has resulted in ADAC having to replace the vehicle, and absorb the costs for the project.
- **Fuel:** Vital to the provision of the project is fuel for the two vehicles. The significant increase in the cost of fuel since 2003, has influenced to operation of the project.

Especially since fuel has increased significantly in the past three years, and is even more expensive in remote and rural areas, the expenditure on fuel has increased, with the team going over budget in the 2005–6 financial years, despite only one vehicle operating for much of that year.

- Staff salaries: Since the 2003 the amount budgeted for the project staff salaries has not increased, despite a significant increase in the cost of living. The award still needs to be paid to the staff, thus the costs of staff salaries exceeds that of the project budget.

The increases in the costs for these fundamental elements to the project, if not addressed, can have an effect on the way in which the project will continue to operate. The increasing costs will ultimately result in a decrease in the budget available for other necessary elements of the project. Currently the work of the *Makin' Tracks* team is not hindered by the costs involved; however, without an increase in the funding that at least matches the increase in the cost of living, the project could be hindered in the way that they work.

Impact

Given that the majority of the work of the *Makin' Tracks* team is prevention and education, it is difficult to measure the outcomes and impact of the project. However, given that *Makin' Tracks* has been working in many of these communities since 1999, the team have had an effect on individuals, organisations, and communities. Three examples that stand out are discussed in detail.

Individual

Since the *Makin' Tracks* team are not based continually in one community, and they do not specifically work with individuals it is difficult to attribute the change directly to the *Makin' Tracks* team. As one of the project officers stated:

Individual successes – now that is really hard work. There are people that are now using and drinking less. With youth, they aren't as into drugs as heavily, so the change isn't always.

One of the key stakeholders noted that the *Makin' Tracks* team have had a significant input into the life of one particular person. The young man lived in an Aboriginal community, he spent a lot of time with both the *Makin' Tracks* and another program

worker who also worked in the area. With the support from both programs, the young man has moved to Adelaide, and is studying. The project officer from the other program described the changes in this young man's life; they even noted that had *Makin' Tracks* not supported this young man he might have had a lot of problems in the future.

We supported him and gave him information. We got him into the sports programs at a school up here, he is going to school, and now living in Adelaide ... I would have said that he was one of the worst in the community, very little hope if he had stayed. We helped him move, you don't get a lot of success stories like that, people who make a move and change away from their community.

Community

Since the start of *Makin' Tracks*, the project officers have worked consistently with Yalata community – both with the Tullawon Health Service and the Yalata Community Council. The consistency of this involvement with Yalata community has resulted in a change in the community as well as providing much needed consistency. As the director of ADAC noted: 'Yalata these days has been cleaned up. The value is they know these guys (*Makin' Tracks*) are coming. It's like they know that someone cares.' One of the workers that *Makin' Tracks* has supported has witnessed the changes in Yalata community.

I was a health worker out at Yalata for 6 years. Yalata has changed since the guys started working out there. The support has had an effect. The workers (drug and alcohol/ youth workers) don't last out there very long. *Makin' Tracks* provide important social and emotional support to the workers, and the community.

The value of the having a consistent presence in the community was expressed by a number of the key stakeholders from both collaborative agencies and community organisations. A community-based worker in Ceduna expressed the importance of the *Makin' Tracks* team and the consistent presence that they have in communities.

To date we have had minimal involvement (with *Makin' Tracks*), but we are crying out for support. From now on, we are going to keep working when they are.

The value of the *Makin' Tracks* team is not limited to the community organisations, the presence that the team have in communities is of value to the agencies that *Makin' Tracks* and ADAC collaborate with – such as DASSA and Aboriginal Sports and Recreation. The *Makin' Tracks* is a state-wide project, the only project of its type and is

run by South Australian community controlled organisation. The *Makin' Tracks* team are flexible in their approaches, enabling the needs of the community to be met.

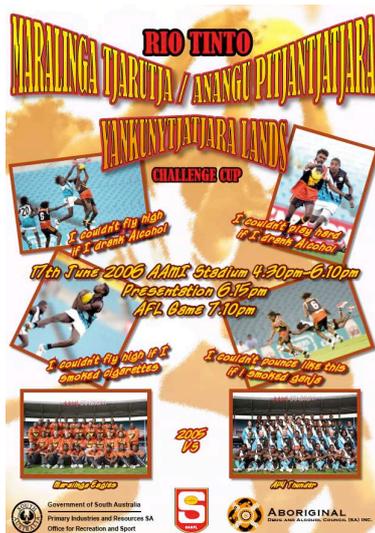
We try to work very closely with *Makin' Tracks* and the guys, they are more flexible than we can be. They can follow up on the work, and the community.

Another collaborating agency that *Makin' Tracks* supports and works with expressed the value of the support that the *Makin' Tracks* team provide, as well as the importance of network that they have developed. The network further strengthens the work of other agencies – so that they are not working in isolation:

We have made some strong connections and worked with them. They have strong connections through the region.

Rio Tinto Challenge Cup

One of the key successes of the *Makin' Tracks* project has been the Rio Tinto Challenge Cup (Rio Tinto Challenge Cup). The match became the Rio Tinto Challenge Cup in 2006 with the Australian Rules Football teams from Maralinga Tjarutja (Maralinga Eagles) and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY Thunder) playing the curtain raiser for the Port Power (Port Adelaide) match during Australian Football League (AFL) Indigenous Round (Round 9).



The *Makin' Tracks* team had been involved with both communities for a long time. In many Aboriginal communities, Australian rules football is seen as the 'only socially cohesive thing happening regularly'. *Makin' Tracks* has used this avenue to engage the men in these communities. Originally, the match was an 'ad hoc' event, for the first three years, it was held during drug action week. In 2006, Rio Tinto came on board to sponsor the event and ensure that it is a permanent fixture on the AFL

calendar. The teams spend a week in Adelaide, prior to the match. The event is about more than just the football match, as well as playing in the match the players reduce

their alcohol consumption, and participate in a workshops and education sessions. The time in described by one of the *Makin' Tracks* project officers:

They (the players) come down for the week, normally near drug action week, and have lots of time on drug and alcohol information. They go to the unis (universities), and health services. It is about opportunities and pathways; the football is second. Jimmy (Perry) spends all week with the guys, talking and supporting and answering questions for them.

One team has taken a harm minimisation approach to the time in Adelaide, while the other had an abstinence approach until after the match. One of the community representative involved in the event described the role and value of the *Makin' Tracks* team.

Makin' Tracks came along and had a chat with the team when they were in Adelaide. *Makin' Tracks* coordinated the time for the teams in Adelaide. *Makin' Tracks* are part of the organisation of the Cup (Rio Tinto Challenge Cup). I think it is very important. Our fellas have gotten a fair bit out of the talks they have given. ... Just having that reinforcement of the message really helps. We haven't had any problems when we come down, none like you would expect from a group coming into the town. This has helped us achieve that...The presentations help our guys. We keep thinking how the conduct has improved, and the importance of the support.

Through the *Makin' Tracks* team ADAC provide additional support to the Cup through the development of the posters (pictured) and promotion of the match. Through the *Makin' Tracks* team, the communities are able to access resources that they would not normally be able to access. Two of the community representatives expressed the importance of this:

Aside from doing the press, and the posters. They (ADAC/ *Makin' Tracks*) utilise the resources that they have access too. They help us with the promotion and posters. To promote the game and the message. This sends a further message. We don't have the resources to do the promotion.

The curtain raiser – it has been a great relationship with *Makin' Tracks*. It is likely that the curtain raiser would have happened, but they have value-added to the curtain raiser. We didn't have the funds to promote the game. They designed and produced the posters, all of that costs money, that we didn't have. Promotion greater than what you can afford. The word of mouth.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The *Makin' Tracks* project has achieved all its objectives, there are a number of recommendations that can be made to improve and strengthen the provision of the project. The support and assistance provided by the *Makin' Tracks* project is important to the workers, services, and agencies throughout South Australia. It is recommended that the *Makin' Tracks* project continue to operate in the current manner. There are a couple of recommendations to strengthen the current project.

Project administrative support

Originally, the project officers kept daily diaries, recording the type of work and activities that they were involved in. With the change in staff, during 2005–6, the project officers ceased keeping the daily diaries. Given the recent facility for the *Makin' Tracks* project officers to remotely access and maintain a web-blog on the ADAC website. It is recommended that a system be developed for the *Makin' Tracks* project officers to record the activities of the team, but also record the all requests for the team that they were not able to participate in. This will enable a truer indication of the demand for the team, and speed up the reporting processes for the funding agency. Ideally, positive feedback and results could be recorded as well as the needs of communities.

Expansion of the project

According to the *Makin' Tracks* project officers, the demands for their services are greater than that which they can meet. The growing reputation and network of the team is going to only increase the demand for the *Makin' Tracks* team.

I'm happy with the service they provide the amount of travel is massive. They are willing to travel, travel, travel. They get there for you, and support you. I don't have the same demands, that they do and the travel gets to me.

In addition to the increasing demand, since 2002, *Makin' Tracks* has been an all-male team. In some respect, this is a strength of the project, given the need in the community; however, there is also a need for similar support for the female clients.

We need female workers that will do the same work.

The program is great, however more workers, especially a couple of women, a female team would be great. They could go out into communities, operate parallel to the blokes that would enable both teams to be more concentrated in particular areas. There is a need for more Aboriginal drug and alcohol workers throughout the country.

It is recommended that the project be expanded to meet the greater need of the community, including that of the female clients and workers.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In summary, the *Makin' Tracks* project has continued to meet its aims and objectives and provided much needed support and assistance to the Aboriginal communities throughout Australia. In addition there are several important elements of the conduct of this project stand out and have implications for the way in which other Aboriginal substance misuse interventions are implemented

- The first of these was the establishment, at the commencement of the project, of clearly defined objectives and performance indicators – based on Aboriginal community needs identified by ADAC, an Aboriginal community-controlled service organisation.
- The second important element of the project was continued responsiveness to needs 'on-the-ground.
- The third important element of the project was the flexibility of the project team to respond to the needs of the Aboriginal community in South Australia.
- The fourth important element of the *Makin' Tracks* project was the collaborative way in which the project was conducted and its synergy with other intervention projects and agencies.
- The fifth important element of the project was capacity building both for ADAC staff and that of the communities.
- The sixth important element of the project was the awareness of Aboriginal cultures and its implications for the project.
- The seventh important element of the project was the continuity the project team provides to Aboriginal communities throughout South Australia.
- The eighth important element of the project was the 'value-adding' to other projects offered by ADAC.