

WA DRUG ABUSE STRATEGY OFFICE

Statistical Bulletin Number 5, June 1999

UTILISATION OF SOBERING UP CENTRES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1990-1997

Summary

A review was conducted of the utilisation of sobering up services in Western Australia over the period 1990 to 1997. The eight sobering up centres (SUCs) opened over this period had a major impact on the management of intoxicated persons in this State.

Over this seven and one half year period in which SUCs have operated in WA it was found:

- admissions to SUCs increased eight fold, from 1,667 persons in 1991 (the first year of full operation) to 15,029 persons in 1997 (Figure 1, page 2);
- the number of detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups decreased by 42.2%, from 11,316 in 1992 to 6,538 in 1997 (Figure 1);
- there were a total of 54,568 admissions to SUCs and a total of 52,688 detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in this State; and
- that just over seven out of every 10 admissions to SUCs involved males.

There have been no deaths of any intoxicated person detained in SUCs or police lock ups in any of the regions in which SUCs have been established over the period 1990 to 1997.

While it is difficult to quantify readily, the expansion of sobering up services has had a number of identifiable financial and social benefits for communities in which SUCs have been established. These gains include:

- reductions in police time and resources previously involved in detaining and monitoring intoxicated people in police lock ups;
- reduced use of court time and resources;
- reduced levels of domestic violence and other problems associated with alcohol abuse; and
- reduced burden on the health system as a result of less people being hospitalised for alcohol related illnesses and accidents.

Introduction

On 27 April 1990 the *Detention of Drunken Persons Act 1989* was enacted to decriminalise public drunkenness in WA. Establishment of sobering up centres is also

consistent with recommendations in the Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).

The first sobering up centre (SUC) was opened in Perth in May 1990 and provides a service to the inner city area, which includes the East Perth police lock up. Sobering up centres have been opened progressively in identified high priority areas including Port Hedland (April 1991), Halls Creek (September 1992), Roebourne (February 1993), Fitzroy Crossing (March 1994), Kalgoorlie (June 1994), Wiluna (April 1996), Kununurra (September 1996), Derby (May 1998) and Broome (February 1999).

Further SUCs are planned to be developed in Midland (to service the Eastern metropolitan region) and in Wyndham and Geraldton in the 1999/2000 fiscal year. These SUCs will also accommodate young people who are intoxicated due to using drugs other than alcohol.

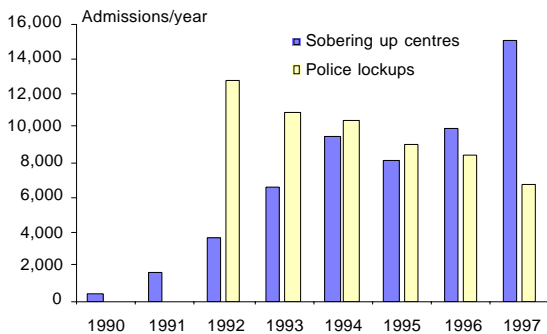
Development of SUCs has been undertaken by the State Government (WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office (WADASO) and previously the Health Department of WA and the Alcohol and Drug Authority). The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission has contributed some of the capital costs.

Sobering up centres emphasise providing a practical focus on assisting alcohol intoxicated adults found in public places through overnight care. As SUCs are only resourced to manage clients over a short period of time, they will be discharged the next morning, with the exception of the Perth SUC, which is co located with a detoxification unit.

The service involves the provision of a substantial meal, clean bedding and sleepwear and laundering of clothes. The short stay aims to break the negative cycle of alcohol induced harm by providing care to intoxicated persons most at risk to themselves, their families and their community.

Experience has shown the opening of a SUC usually also encourages the community over a period of time to develop additional services to address alcohol related problems. These have included outreach programs, community patrols, a safe house for women and children, alcohol and other drug education programs and community support for initiatives to restrict alcohol availability.

Figure 1: Admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in police lockups, 1990 - 1997



Impact on police

The study highlights marked decreases in the number of detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in the SUC catchment area following the establishment of the service.

This is particularly apparent in the Pilbara region as a result of the opening of the Roebourne SUC and in the Kimberley region with the opening of the Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra SUCs. In the central region the opening of the Wiluna SUC has also resulted in a noticeable drop in detentions of intoxicated persons even though this SUC only opened in mid 1996.

Expenditure

The annual expenditure on sobering up services has increased more than six fold from 1990/91 to 1997/98 (Table 1, page 3). In the 1997/98 fiscal year there were a total of some 56 FTEs employed in SUCs in this State. In the 1998/99 fiscal year it is expected that there will have

been an expenditure of \$2,968,400, an increase of 47.2% from the 1997/98 fiscal year.

In 1997 the mean cost was \$134 per person admitted to all SUCs in this State. This cost is substantially less than the cost of admission to a hospital or police lock up and appearing before a court.

Admissions to sobering up centres

In the eight year period 1990 to 1997 there was a total of 54,568 admissions to SUCs in this State, of which 38,883 (71.3%) were males and 15,685 (28.7%) were females (Table 2, page 3). The number of admissions per year to SUCs in this State increased eight fold, from 1,667 persons in 1991 to 15,029 persons in 1997.

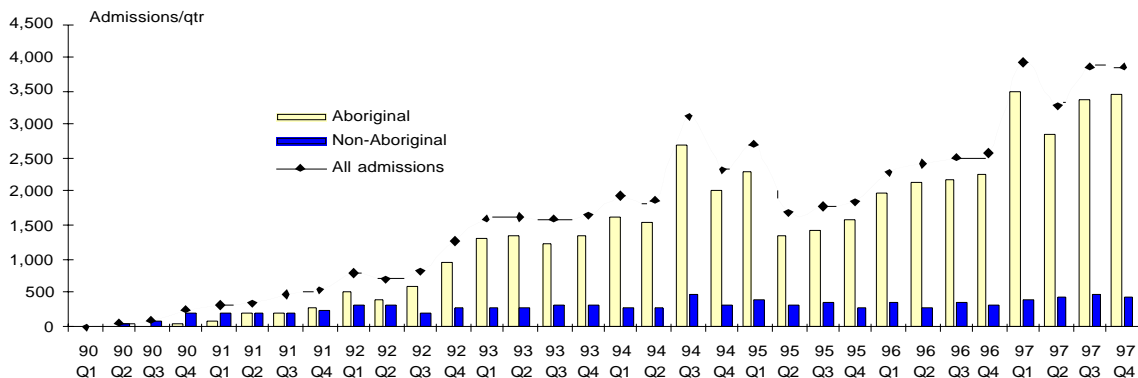
Detentions in police lock ups

Over the period from 1990 to 1997 there was a total of 52,688 detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in the various catchment areas served by operating SUCs, of which 39,383 (74.7%) were males and 13,305 (25.3%) were females (Table 3, page 3).

The data shows that police diverted a growing number of intoxicated persons to SUCs as the number of sobering up beds expanded in regional areas over the eight year period. Over the period 1992 to 1997 the number of detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in SUC catchment areas declined by 42.2%, from 11,316 in 1992 to 6,538 in 1997 (Figure 1).

From 1992 to 1993 when the number of SUCs increased from three to four, the number of police detentions fell by 19.4%, from a total of 11,316 recorded in 1992 to a total of 9,119 in 1993. By 1997 a total of eight SUCs had been established and in that year there was a total of 6,538 police detentions, a drop of 21.7% from the total of 8,352 recorded in 1996.

Figure 2: Quarterly admissions to sobering up centres by Aboriginality, 1990 - 1997



A recent example of the impact of SUCs on the management of intoxicated persons can be seen following the opening of the Wiluna and Kununurra SUCs in 1996 and 1997. By 1997 a total of 4,947 admissions to these two centres had been recorded (Table 4, page 4).

Table 1: Expenditure on sobering up services, 1990/91 - 1997/98

Fiscal year	Expenditure (\$)
1990/91	318,733
1991/92	501,413
1992/93	763,165
1993/94	1,086,982
1994/95	1,863,665
1995/96	1,722,200
1996/97	1,863,007
1997/98	2,016,871
1998/99	2,968,400

Comparisons between centres

Over the period there has been some variations in the pattern of annual admissions to a number of the SUCs as follows.

- There was a peak of 2,289 admissions to the South Hedland SUC in 1993. By 1997 the total number of admissions had nearly halved, dropping to a total 1,203 admissions.
- The number of admissions to the Fitzroy Crossing SUC peaked in its first year of operation in 1994 and declined in 1995 and 1996. In 1997 admissions to this SUC have increased.
- The Roebourne SUC has experienced a sustained growth in the annual number of admissions from 1993 up to 1997.

Table 2: Number of admissions to sobering up centres by gender, 1990 - 1997

	Males	Females	Total
1990	349	57	406
1991	1,408	259	1,667
1992	2,688	925	3,613
1993	4,833	1,635	6,468
1994	6,776	2,653	9,429
1995	5,859	2,213	8,072
1996	6,764	3,120	9,884
1997	10,206	4,823	15,029
Total	38,883	15,685	54,568

- The Kalgoorlie SUC has had between about 1,000 and 1,400 admissions per year from 1994 to 1997.
- Admissions to the Halls Creek SUC increased from 1992 to 1994 (about 2,300 admissions), then decreased to just under 1,900 admissions in 1996. In 1997 admissions to this SUC increased, with a total of 2,450 recorded.

Gender

There has been a growing proportion of females who use sobering up services in this State. In 1991 females represented 15.5% of all admissions and by 1997 this had doubled, with 32% of all admissions involving females.

Aboriginality

From the June quarter 1990 to the December quarter 1997 the proportion of Aboriginal admissions to all SUCs has gradually increased. Up to the end of 1991 Aboriginal admissions were less than half of all admissions. Since the beginning of 1993 more than 80% of all admissions have involved Aboriginal persons (Table 5, page 4; Figure 2, page 2).

This outcome reflects the location of centres and is consistent with recommendations of the RCIADIC, that the provision of safe care such as sobering up centres, is a vital measure to avoid the risks of the former practice of the detention of intoxicated persons in police lock ups.

In Perth, in comparison to the rest of the State, from 1990 to early 1997 there were a greater proportion of non Aboriginal admissions. However, by the December quarter 1997 Aboriginal admissions had reached 52% of all admissions to the Perth SUC.

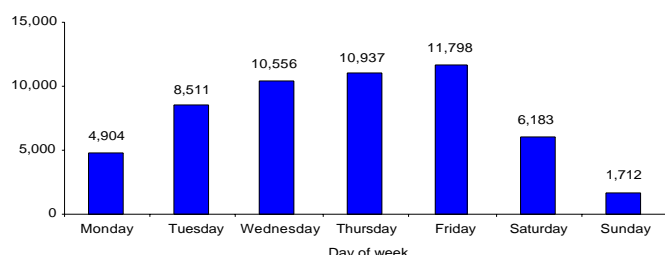
Length of stay

Of a total of 48,682 admissions from 1990 to 1997, 63.3% involved persons whose total length of stay was 10 hours or less. Overall, 45.2% of all admissions involved a length of stay of between 6 and 10 hours, with a further

Table 3: Number of detentions for drunkenness in police lock ups by gender 1990 - 1997

	Males	Females	Total
1990	6	3	9
1991	15	-	15
1992	8,306	3,010	11,316
1993	7,031	2,088	9,119
1994	6,717	2,442	9,159
1995	6,001	2,179	8,180
1996	6,344	2,008	8,352
1997	4,963	1,575	6,538
Total	39,383	13,305	52,688

Figure 3: Number of admissions by day of admission all sobering up centres, 1990 - 1997



12,262 (25.2%) admissions for between eight and 10 hours duration. (Figure 4, page 5). The preponderance of short stay admissions is consistent with the approach of sobering up services operating primarily as overnight facilities.

Day of week

The greatest number of admissions occur at the end of the week, with a total of 11,798 (21.6%) of all the 54,601 admissions occurring on Friday.

Overall, for the 1990 to 1997 period it was found that just over 4 out of 10 of all admissions (41.6%) occurred on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Figure 3).

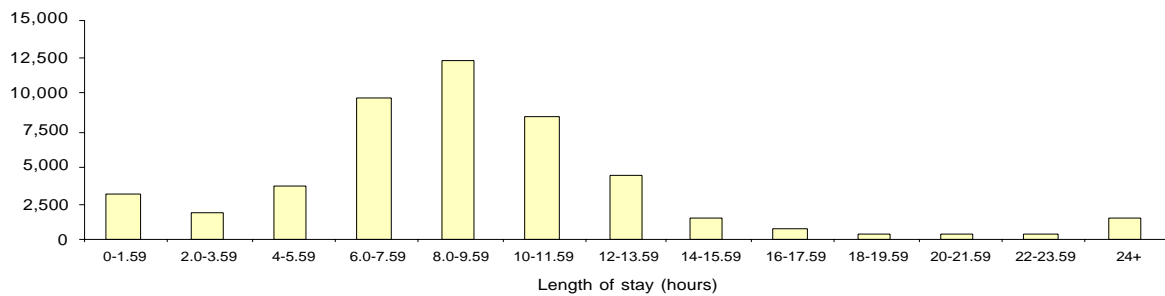
Table 4: Number of admissions to sobering up centres by centre, 1990 - 1997

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1990-1997
Perth	406	1,238	1,500	1,550	1,812	1,669	1,725	2,800	12,700
South Hedland	-	429	1,339	2,289	2,086	1,415	1,265	1,203	10,026
Halls Creek	-	-	774	2,155	2,297	1,985	1,881	2,450	11,542
Roebourne	-	-	-	474	801	878	1,403	1,550	5,106
Fitzroy Crossing	-	-	-	-	1,384	664	444	848	3,340
Kalgoorlie	-	-	-	-	1,048	1,425	1,140	1,156	4,769
Wiluna	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,475	2,507	3,982
Kununurra	-	-	-	-	-	-	520	2,440	2,960
Total	406	1,667	3,613	6,468	9,428	8,036	9,853	14,954	54,425

Table 5: Quarterly admissions to all sobering up centres, 1990 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total	%	Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total	%
1990	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	1994	Jan-Mar	1,640	298	1,938	84.6
	Apr-Jun	6	42	48	12.5		Apr-Jun	1,578	290	1,868	84.5
	Jul-Sep	12	88	100	12.0		Jul-Sep	2,668	464	3,132	85.2
	Oct-Dec	74	186	260	28.5		Oct-Dec	2,011	330	2,341	85.9
	Total	92	316	408	22.5		Total	7,897	1,382	9,279	85.1
1991	Jan-Mar	107	210	317	33.8	1995	Jan-Mar	2,309	403	2,712	85.1
	Apr-Jun	176	180	356	49.4		Apr-Jun	1,358	322	1,680	80.8
	Jul-Sep	232	234	466	49.8		Jul-Sep	1,446	347	1,793	80.6
	Oct-Dec	286	243	529	54.1		Oct-Dec	1,586	277	1,863	85.1
	Total	801	867	1,668	48.0		Total	6,699	1,349	8,048	83.2
1992	Jan-Mar	497	312	809	61.4	1996	Jan-Mar	1,967	346	2,313	85.0
	Apr-Jun	400	312	712	56.2		Apr-Jun	2,124	290	2,414	88.0
	Jul-Sep	595	234	829	71.8		Jul-Sep	2,189	338	2,527	86.6
	Oct-Dec	962	300	1,262	76.2		Oct-Dec	2,265	334	2,599	87.1
	Total	2,454	1,158	3,612	67.9		Total	8,545	1,308	9,853	86.7
1993	Jan-Mar	1,318	284	1,602	82.3	1997	Jan-Mar	3,500	424	3,924	89.2
	Apr-Jun	1,342	278	1,620	82.8		Apr-Jun	2,852	445	3,297	86.5
	Jul-Sep	1,260	334	1,594	79.0		Jul-Sep	3,394	475	3,869	87.7
	Oct-Dec	1,351	307	1,658	81.5		Oct-Dec	3,433	431	3,864	88.8
	Total	5,271	1,203	6,474	81.4		Total	13,179	1,775	14,954	88.1

Figure 4: Number of admissions by frequency of length of stay (hours) all sobering up centres, 1990 - 1997



PERTH METROPOLITAN REGION

The Perth SUC was opened in May 1990, is based in Highgate and has been the only metropolitan SUC. The catchment police lock up for the Perth SUC is the East Perth lock up. The Perth SUC has 10 beds, is open seven days a week 24 hours per day and is funded for five FTEs (one manager and four carers).

A unique feature of the Perth SUC is that it is operated as part of the Salvation Army Bridge Program and is linked to a longer term detoxification facility which is an entry point to other rehabilitation programs.

Admissions to SUC

Over the period from 1992 to 1997 there was a total of 12,694 admissions to the Perth SUC, of which 4,104 (32.3%) involved Aboriginal persons and 8,590 (67.7%) involved non Aboriginal persons (Table 6, page 6).

Aboriginality

From 1990 to 1997 there has been a shift in the proportion of Aboriginal persons in the population that utilise the Perth SUC (Table 6; Figure 5, page 6). From the inception of the SUC in May 1990 until early 1997 a greater proportion of the population were non Aboriginal persons.

Since the June quarter 1997 a growing proportion of those admitted to the Perth SUC have been Aboriginal persons. By the December quarter 1997 this had reached 51.9% of all admissions (Table 6).

Detentions in police lock ups

It is believed that the Perth SUC has had a major impact on the improved management of the public order, other social problems and health consequences associated with the abuse of alcohol, as very few persons detained by the police for drunkenness are taken to the East Perth lock up.

For instance, in 1997 there was a total of 218 detentions in the East Perth lock up compared to 2,800 admissions to the Perth SUC (Table 7, page 6; Figure 6, page 7).

In 1992 only 4.4% of intoxicated persons detained by police were taken to the East Perth lock up rather than the Perth SUC. In 1997 there had been a slight increase with only 7.8% of intoxicated persons going to the East Perth lock up rather than to the Perth SUC.

Age group

Over the period 1990 to 1997 there were 11,690 admissions to the Perth SUC for which age related data was available. Three age groups accounted for nearly 90% of all admissions, as follows:

- 3,162 (27.0%) were persons aged 26 to 35 years;
- 4,191 (35.9%) were persons aged 36 to 45 years; and
- 2,896 (24.8%) were persons aged 46 to 55 years.

Frequency of admissions

Over the period from the inception of the Perth SUC to the end of 1997 there were a total of 6,753 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 4,852 (71.8%) were first time admissions.

In the September quarter 1990, the first full quarter of operation, just over three quarters of all admissions were first time admissions (Table 8, page 7). The proportion of first time admissions decreased to 46.1% of all admissions by the March quarter 1992 (Figure 7, page 7).

After the March quarter 1992 the proportion of first time admissions increased and for almost all of the period since 1994 has constituted three quarters or more of all admissions to the Perth SUC.

Figure 5: Quarterly admissions to Perth SUC, 1990 - 1997

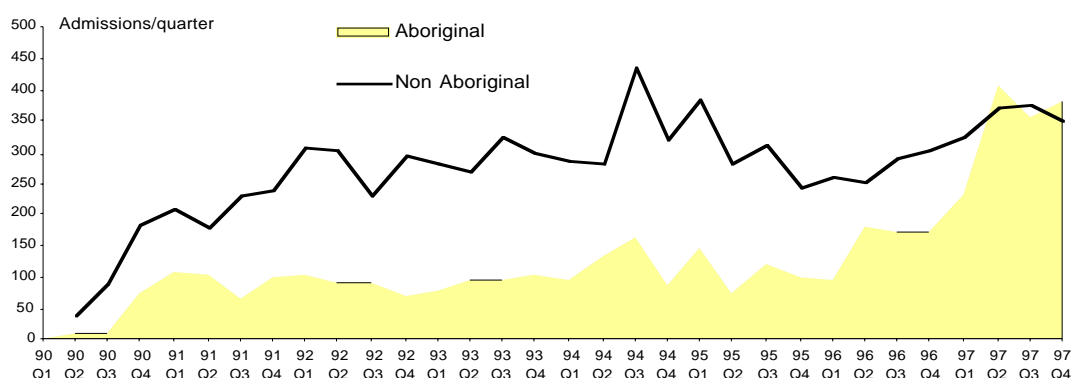


Table 6: Quarterly admissions to Perth SUC, 1990 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total	Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1990	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	1994	Jan-Mar	96	287	383
	Apr-Jun	6	42	48		Apr-Jun	136	283	419
	Jul-Sep	12	88	100		Jul-Sep	164	435	599
	Oct-Dec	74	186	260		Oct-Dec	86	320	406
	Total	92	316	408		Total	482	1,325	1,807
1991	Jan-Mar	107	210	317	1995	Jan-Mar	147	384	531
	Apr-Jun	104	180	284		Apr-Jun	74	285	359
	Jul-Sep	64	230	294		Jul-Sep	121	312	433
	Oct-Dec	101	242	343		Oct-Dec	99	248	347
	Total	376	862	1,238		Total	441	1,229	1,670
1992	Jan-Mar	106	311	417	1996	Jan-Mar	93	261	354
	Apr-Jun	91	305	396		Apr-Jun	179	254	433
	Jul-Sep	89	233	322		Jul-Sep	170	291	461
	Oct-Dec	72	293	365		Oct-Dec	172	305	477
	Total	358	1,142	1,500		Total	614	1,111	1,725
1993	Jan-Mar	77	282	359	1997	Jan-Mar	231	326	557
	Apr-Jun	95	272	367		Apr-Jun	408	372	780
	Jul-Sep	92	324	416		Jul-Sep	356	377	733
	Oct-Dec	103	301	404		Oct-Dec	379	351	730
	Total	367	1,179	1,546		Total	1,374	1,426	2,800

Table 7: Number of admissions to Perth SUC and detentions for drunkenness in East Perth lock up, 1990 - 1997

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1992-1997
Police detentions	na	na	66	34	37	71	117	218	543
Admissions to SUCs	406	1,238	1,500	1,546	1,807	1,670	1,725	2,800	11,048

na = not available

Table 8: Frequency of admissions to Perth SUC, 1990 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				
		1	2	3-5	6	Total
1990	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	31	8	0	0	39
	Jul-Sep	53	14	1	1	69
	Oct-Dec	95	21	19	5	140
1991	Jan-Mar	104	17	26	10	157
	Apr-Jun	92	19	17	8	136
	Jul-Sep	85	30	15	7	137
	Oct-Dec	82	30	21	9	142
1992	Jan-Mar	53	23	29	10	115
	Apr-Jun	84	22	26	9	141
	Jul-Sep	106	20	26	3	155
	Oct-Dec	140	40	19	5	204
1993	Jan-Mar	134	25	21	8	188
	Apr-Jun	121	23	15	13	172
	Jul-Sep	152	30	15	13	210
	Oct-Dec	158	33	19	13	223
1994	Jan-Mar	174	32	20	9	235
	Apr-Jun	143	23	22	12	200
	Jul-Sep	182	30	26	24	262
	Oct-Dec	174	28	26	10	238
1995	Jan-Mar	195	53	22	17	287
	Apr-Jun	168	28	23	6	225
	Jul-Sep	186	26	29	11	252
	Oct-Dec	172	34	17	6	229
1996	Jan-Mar	176	34	20	6	236
	Apr-Jun	209	28	20	7	264
	Jul-Sep	251	29	24	6	310
	Oct-Dec	224	37	31	7	299
1997	Jan-Mar	234	45	25	11	315
	Apr-Jun	268	48	34	24	374
	Jul-Sep	288	44	36	14	382
	Oct-Dec	318	43	36	20	417
1990-97		4,852	917	680	304	6,753

Figure 6: Number of admissions by age group, Perth SUC, 1990 - 1997

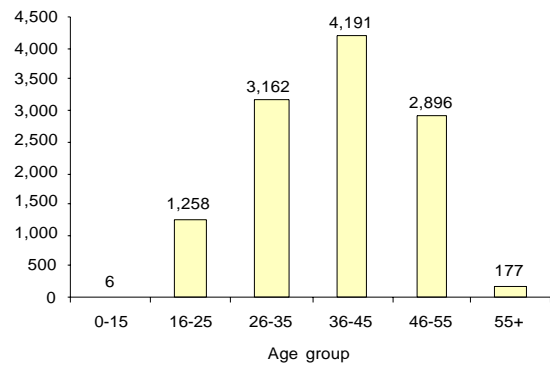
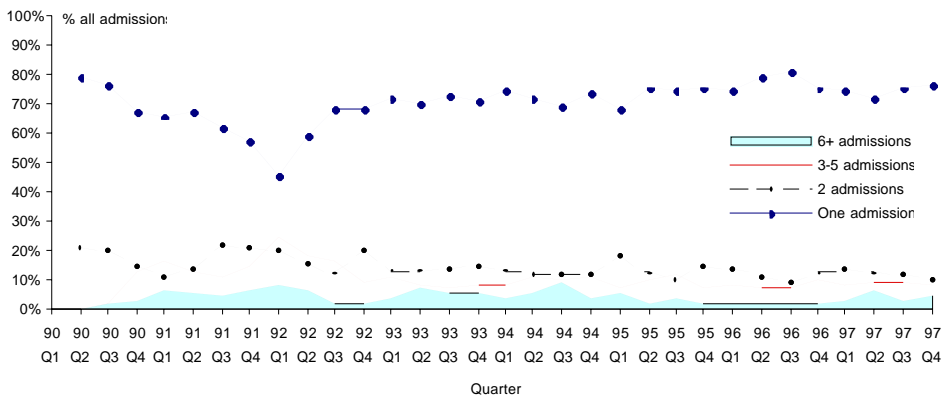


Figure 7: Quarterly admissions to Perth SUC, 1990 - 1997



PILBARA REGION

In the Pilbara region there are two SUCs, the South Hedland SUC which was established in April 1991 and the Roebourne SUC which was established in February 1993. The catchment police lock ups for these two SUCs are the South Hedland lock up and the Roebourne lock up respectively.

The South Hedland SUC has 16 beds and is open seven days per week from Monday to Friday 1 pm to 7 am and

Saturday and Sunday 7 pm to 7 am. It is funded for seven FTEs (one manager, five carers and one outreach worker). An important additional component of this program is the outreach program which is conducted Monday to Friday 8 am to 7 pm.

The Roebourne SUC has 12 beds and is open five days per week, being open Monday 8 am to 5 pm and open 24 hours per day Tuesday to Friday. It is funded for six FTEs (one manager and five carers).

Table 9: Quarterly admissions to South Hedland SUC, 1991 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1991	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	72	0	72
	Jul-Sep	168	4	172
	Oct-Dec	185	1	186
	Total	425	5	430
1992	Jan-Mar	391	1	392
	Apr-Jun	309	7	316
	Jul-Sep	328	1	329
	Oct-Dec	294	7	301
	Total	1,322	16	1,338
1993	Jan-Mar	674	2	676
	Apr-Jun	510	4	514
	Jul-Sep	439	10	449
	Oct-Dec	653	5	658
	Total	2,276	21	2,297
1994	Jan-Mar	727	8	735
	Apr-Jun	432	2	434
	Jul-Sep	463	17	480
	Oct-Dec	310	1	311
	Total	1,932	28	1,960
1995	Jan-Mar	728	4	732
	Apr-Jun	285	4	289
	Jul-Sep	132	3	135
	Oct-Dec	255	4	259
	Total	1,400	15	1,415
1996	Jan-Mar	595	12	607
	Apr-Jun	263	5	268
	Jul-Sep	207	13	220
	Oct-Dec	167	3	170
	Total	1,232	33	1,265
1997	Jan-Mar	347	35	382
	Apr-Jun	318	32	350
	Jul-Sep	141	28	169
	Oct-Dec	250	52	302
	Total	1,056	147	1,203

In 1992, the first full year of operation of the South Hedland SUC, there was a total of 1,338 admissions (Table 9). The number of admissions increased by 72% to 2,297 in the following year.

However, in each successive year annual admissions have dropped. There was a total of 1,203 admissions recorded in 1997, an overall decrease of 47.6% from the peak in 1993.

Table 10: Quarterly admissions to Roebourne SUC, 1993 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1993	Jan-Mar	141	0	141
	Apr-Jun	134	1	135
	Jul-Sep	80	0	80
	Oct-Dec	119	0	119
	Total	474	1	475
1994	Jan-Mar	216	2	218
	Apr-Jun	132	4	136
	Jul-Sep	201	1	202
	Oct-Dec	239	0	239
	Total	788	7	795
1995	Jan-Mar	206	1	207
	Apr-Jun	172	3	175
	Jul-Sep	253	3	256
	Oct-Dec	239	1	240
	Total	870	8	878
1996	Jan-Mar	374	2	376
	Apr-Jun	304	1	305
	Jul-Sep	334	3	337
	Oct-Dec	380	5	385
	Total	1,392	11	1,403
1997	Jan-Mar	408	-	408
	Apr-Jun	320	-	320
	Jul-Sep	419	4	423
	Oct-Dec	393	6	399
	Total	1,540	10	1,550

In 1994, the first full year of operation of the Roebourne SUC there was a total of 795 admissions (Table 10, page 8). Admissions have increased in each of the following years with a total of 1,550 admissions recorded for 1997. This was an overall increase of just under 200% from 1994 to 1997.

There were a total of 9,622 detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups in the Pilbara region for the period 1992 to 1997 compared to 14,579 admissions to the two SUCs in the region (Table 11).

In 1992 there were 2,198 intoxicated persons taken to lock ups in the region but only 1,338 admissions to the two SUCs. By 1997, however, nearly three times as many intoxicated persons were being taken to sobering up centres than police lock ups (Figure 8, page 10).

Frequency of admissions

Over the period from the inception of the South Hedland SUC to the end of 1997 there were a total of 3,974 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 2,320 (58.4%) were first time admissions (Table 12).

For the period from the inception of the South Hedland SUC (in 1991) to the end of 1994, first time admissions constituted about half of all admissions. The proportion of first time admissions then decreased, to just over one third of all admissions in the September quarter 1994.

Since mid 1995 to the end of 1997 first time admissions have constituted between about two thirds and three quarters of all admissions to the South Hedland SUC.

Over the period from the inception of the Roebourne SUC to the end of 1997 there were a total of 1,697 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 919 (54.2%) were first time admissions (Table 13, page 10).

For the period from the inception of the Roebourne SUC (in 1993) to the end of 1997, first time admissions have fluctuated between about 50 and 60% of all admissions.

Table 12: Frequency of admissions to South Hedland SUC, 1991 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				Total
		1	2	3-5	6	
1991	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	27	9	5	1	42
	Jul-Sep	56	8	13	4	81
	Oct-Dec	51	21	12	4	88
1992	Jan-Mar	70	22	33	13	138
	Apr-Jun	62	21	26	10	119
	Jul-Sep	60	26	22	13	121
	Oct-Dec	63	14	20	11	108
1993	Jan-Mar	96	33	47	27	203
	Apr-Jun	75	26	29	24	154
	Jul-Sep	84	22	25	19	150
	Oct-Dec	94	28	59	25	206
1994	Jan-Mar	112	34	46	30	222
	Apr-Jun	87	28	33	16	164
	Jul-Sep	53	47	25	27	152
	Oct-Dec	104	39	38	12	193
1995	Jan-Mar	155	41	51	32	279
	Apr-Jun	111	29	20	5	165
	Jul-Sep	71	17	7	1	96
	Oct-Dec	90	18	21	5	134
1996	Jan-Mar	138	32	40	28	238
	Apr-Jun	109	20	17	5	151
	Jul-Sep	97	15	10	6	128
	Oct-Dec	82	12	12	2	108
1997	Jan-Mar	119	20	22	12	173
	Apr-Jun	106	21	21	11	159
	Jul-Sep	59	8	6	3	76
	Oct-Dec	89	15	14	8	126
1991-97		2,320	626	674	354	3,974

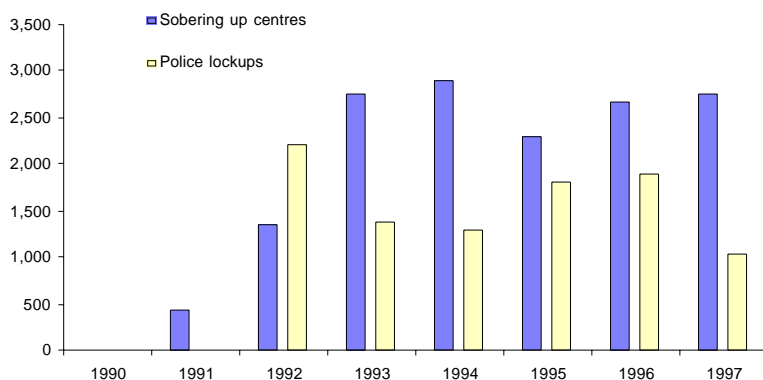
Table 11: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Pilbara region, 1991 - 1997

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1992-1997
Police detentions	2,198	1,362	1,308	1,799	1,921	1,034	9,622
Admissions to SUCs	1,338	2,772	2,755	2,293	2,668	2,753	14,579

Table 13: Frequency of admissions to Roebourne SUC, 1993 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				Total
		1	2	3-5	6	
1993	Jan-Mar	36	18	10	5	69
	Apr-Jun	45	12	13	2	72
	Jul-Sep	29	7	9	0	45
	Oct-Dec	45	4	13	2	64
1994	Jan-Mar	15	22	13	7	57
	Apr-Jun	29	13	12	4	58
	Jul-Sep	40	14	12	10	76
	Oct-Dec	34	21	14	11	80
1995	Jan-Mar	47	11	12	12	82
	Apr-Jun	52	13	14	4	83
	Jul-Sep	57	15	11	11	94
	Oct-Dec	48	12	15	10	85
1996	Jan-Mar	64	7	17	21	109
	Apr-Jun	48	18	16	16	98
	Jul-Sep	61	13	8	19	101
	Oct-Dec	53	16	24	16	109
1997	Jan-Mar	76	15	17	21	129
	Apr-Jun	50	12	18	15	95
	Jul-Sep	42	24	12	21	99
	Oct-Dec	48	12	12	20	92
1993-97		919	279	272	227	1,697

Figure 8: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Pilbara region, 1991 - 1997



KIMBERLEY REGION

In the Kimberley region there are three SUCs, the Halls Creek SUC which was established in September 1992, the Fitzroy Crossing SUC which was established in March 1994 and the Kununurra SUC established in September 1996. The catchment police lock ups for these three SUCs are the three major towns in which each of the SUCs is based.

The Halls Creek SUC has 24 beds and is open six days per week from Monday to Saturday 3 pm to 7 am. It is funded for six FTEs (one manager and five carers).

The Fitzroy Crossing SUC has 20 beds and is open five days per week from Tuesday to Saturday 4 pm to 8 am. It is funded for six FTEs (one manager and five carers).

The Kununurra SUC has 20 beds and is open five days per week from Monday to Friday 7 pm to 9 am. It is funded for six FTEs (one manager and five carers).

In 1993, the first full year of operation of the Halls Creek SUC, there was a total of 2,156 admissions (Table 14). Over the five year period the number of admissions increased by 13.6%, from 2,196 in 1993 to 2,450 in 1997.

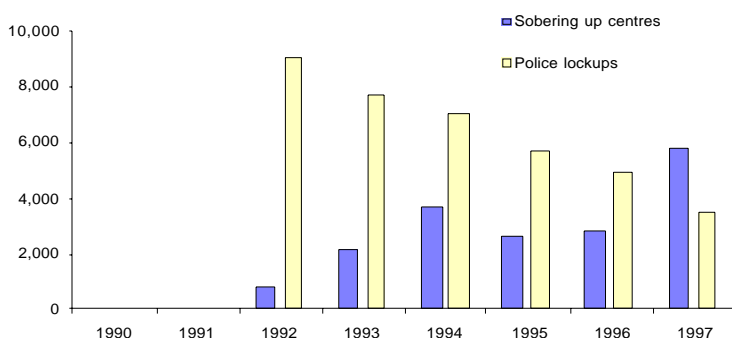
In 1995 and 1996 admissions decreased from peak of nearly 2,300 admissions recorded in 1994. There has been an increase in quarterly admissions in 1997 compared to earlier years, with more than 600 admissions per quarter in the final two quarters of 1997.

The Fitzroy Crossing SUC opened in March 1994 and in the first year of its operation a total of 1,382 admissions were recorded. In the following two years admissions decreased, such that in 1996 there was a total of

Table 14: Quarterly admissions to Halls Creek SUC, 1992 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1992	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	-	-	-
	Jul-Sep	178	-	178
	Oct-Dec	596	-	596
	Total	774	-	774
1993	Jan-Mar	426	-	426
	Apr-Jun	603	1	604
	Jul-Sep	649	-	649
	Oct-Dec	476	1	477
	Total	2,154	2	2,156
1994	Jan-Mar	546	1	547
	Apr-Jun	413	-	413
	Jul-Sep	763	-	763
	Oct-Dec	574	1	575
	Total	2,296	2	2,298
1995	Jan-Mar	595	-	595
	Apr-Jun	474	4	478
	Jul-Sep	537	2	539
	Oct-Dec	372	1	373
	Total	1,978	7	1,985
1996	Jan-Mar	521	58	579
	Apr-Jun	464	1	465
	Jul-Sep	397	5	402
	Oct-Dec	431	4	435
	Total	1,813	68	1,881
1997	Jan-Mar	685	2	687
	Apr-Jun	504	4	508
	Jul-Sep	623	2	625
	Oct-Dec	628	2	630
	Total	2,440	10	2,450

Figure 9: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Kimberley region, 1992 - 1997



only 444 admissions, less than one third of the total recorded in 1994. In 1997 admissions have nearly doubled with a total of 848 recorded for the year (Table 15).

In its first full year of operation (1997) the Kununurra SUC recorded 2,440 admissions, indicating a high demand for such a service in the town. Throughout 1997 there were more than 500 admissions per quarter to this SUC (Table 16).

There has been a marked impact of the expansion on sobering up services in the Kimberley region from 1992 to 1997 on the number of intoxicated persons being taken to police lock ups, largely as a result of the opening of the Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra SUCs in the latter part of the period (Figure 9, page 11).

The number of detentions in police lock ups in the region decreased by more than 60%, from a total of 9,052 in 1992 to a total of 3,511 in 1997 (Table 17). Over this same period admissions to sobering up centres increased by nearly seven and a half times, from 774 in 1992 to 5,738 in 1997 (Table 17).

Frequency of admissions

Over the period from the inception of the Halls Creek SUC to the end of 1997 there were a total of 4,827 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 2,782 (57.6%) were first time admissions (Table 18, page 13).

For the period from the inception of the Halls Creek SUC (in 1992) to the end of 1997, first time admissions have fluctuated between about 50 and 60% of all admissions.

Over the period from the inception of the Fitzroy Crossing SUC (in 1994) to the end of 1997 there were a total of 1,974 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 1,547 (78.4%) were first time admissions (Table 19, page 13).

Over the first 12 months of the operation of the Fitzroy Crossing SUC, from the June quarter 1994 to the June quarter 1995 (data is missing for the September quarter 1995) first time admissions constituted about 70% of all admissions.

Table 15: Quarterly admissions to Fitzroy Crossing SUC, 1994 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1994	Jan-Mar	55	-	55
	Apr-Jun	335	-	335
	Jul-Sep	481	-	481
	Oct-Dec	511	-	511
	Total	1,382	-	1,382
1995	Jan-Mar	320	-	320
	Apr-Jun	113	1	114
	Jul-Sep	-	-	-
	Oct-Dec	229	1	230
	Total	662	2	664
1996	Jan-Mar	61	1	62
	Apr-Jun	191	5	196
	Jul-Sep	98	2	100
	Oct-Dec	86	-	86
	Total	436	8	444
1997	Jan-Mar	79	-	79
	Apr-Jun	164	2	166
	Jul-Sep	304	4	308
	Oct-Dec	287	8	295
	Total	834	14	848

Table 16: Quarterly admissions to Kununurra SUC, 1996 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1996	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	-	-	-
	Jul-Sep	37	4	41
	Oct-Dec	470	9	479
	Total	507	13	520
1997	Jan-Mar	741	50	791
	Apr-Jun	508	23	531
	Jul-Sep	485	48	533
	Oct-Dec	577	8	585
	Total	2,311	129	2,440

Table 17: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Kimberley region, 1992 - 1997

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1992-1997
Police detentions	9,052	7,723	7,034	5,762	4,920	3,511	38,002
Admissions to SUCs	774	2,156	3,680	2,649	2,845	5,738	17,842

Since the beginning of 1996 there has been a pattern of a high proportion of first time admissions to the Fitzroy Crossing SUC. About nine out of 10 admissions were first time admissions up to mid 1997.

There was a slight reduction in the last two quarters of 1997, with about 80% of all admissions being first time admissions.

Over the period from the inception of the Kununurra SUC (in 1996) to the end of 1997 there were a total of 1,119 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 748 (66.8%) were first time admissions (Table 20).

Because of the level of missing data and the recency of opening of this SUC, there is insufficient information to develop an understanding of trends in admissions.

Table 18: Frequency of admissions to Halls Creek SUC, 1992 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				
		1	2	3-5	6	Total
1992	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	-	-	-	-	-
	Jul-Sep	65	26	12	2	105
	Oct-Dec	135	50	42	17	244
1993	Jan-Mar	66	24	27	18	135
	Apr-Jun	120	46	45	23	234
	Jul-Sep	159	45	52	17	273
	Oct-Dec	133	35	43	13	224
1994	Jan-Mar	116	46	36	21	219
	Apr-Jun	92	35	34	14	175
	Jul-Sep	148	60	54	24	286
	Oct-Dec	107	36	44	21	208
1995	Jan-Mar	131	52	41	23	247
	Apr-Jun	113	38	36	17	204
	Jul-Sep	131	42	34	17	224
	Oct-Dec	115	36	28	7	186
1996	Jan-Mar	166	46	37	16	265
	Apr-Jun	129	44	34	8	215
	Jul-Sep	150	31	26	9	216
	Oct-Dec	124	33	29	9	195
1997	Jan-Mar	146	44	43	23	256
	Apr-Jun	137	34	34	14	219
	Jul-Sep	146	47	28	23	244
	Oct-Dec	153	38	40	22	253
1992-97		2,782	888	799	358	4,827

Table 19: Frequency of admissions to Fitzroy Crossing SUC, 1994 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				
		1	2	3-5	6	Total
1994	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	94	29	29	5	157
	Jul-Sep	160	29	33	4	226
	Oct-Dec	143	28	24	12	207
1995	Jan-Mar	99	30	23	4	156
	Apr-Jun	63	15	4	0	82
	Jul-Sep	*	*	*	*	*
	Oct-Dec	146	24	10	0	180
1996	Jan-Mar	56	2	0	0	58
	Apr-Jun	110	11	6	0	127
	Jul-Sep	75	3	1	0	79
	Oct-Dec	57	5	4	0	66
1997	Jan-Mar	58	5	2	0	65
	Apr-Jun	113	8	2	0	123
	Jul-Sep	193	20	11	3	227
	Oct-Dec	180	26	13	2	221
1994-97		1,547	235	162	30	1,974

* = missing data

Table 20: Frequency of admissions to Kununurra SUC, 1992 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				
		1	2	3-5	6	Total
1996	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	-	-	-	-	0
	Jul-Sep	15	3	3	0	21
	Oct-Dec	124	20	24	9	177
1997	Jan-Mar	165	41	38	19	263
	Apr-Jun	159	19	24	21	223
	Jul-Sep	154	17	28	21	220
	Oct-Dec	131	29	31	24	215
1996-97		748	129	148	94	1,119

GOLDFIELDS REGION

In the Goldfields region there is one sobering up facility, the Kalgoorlie SUC, which was established in June 1994. The catchment police lock up for this SUC is in the Kalgoorlie town.

The Kalgoorlie SUC has 12 beds and is open five days per week from Monday to Friday 9 pm to 7 am. It is funded for five FTEs (one manager and four carers).

In the first full year of its operation in 1995 there was a total of 1,436 admissions to the Kalgoorlie SUC, with nearly 1,200 admissions per year in 1996 and 1997 (Table 21).

Prior to the introduction of a sobering up service in Kalgoorlie there were about 900 detentions per year of intoxicated persons in the Kalgoorlie police lock up.

Following the opening of the Kalgoorlie SUC (in mid 1994), by 1995 there were nearly 550 detentions, a decrease of nearly 40%. Since 1995, however, the number of detentions has nearly doubled, with 1,016 detentions in 1997 (Table 22; Figure 10, page 15).

During 1999/2000 the Kalgoorlie SUC is being expanded to 20 beds and will accommodate young people who are intoxicated due to drugs other than alcohol.

Frequency of admissions

Over the period from the inception of the Kalgoorlie SUC to the end of 1997 there was a total of 1,852 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 1,159 (62.6%) were first time admissions (Table 23, page 15).

For the period from the inception of the SUC (in 1994) to the end of 1997, between about half and two thirds of all admissions were first time admissions.

Table 21: Quarterly admissions to Kalgoorlie SUC, 1994 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	Total
1994	Jan-Mar	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	130	1	131
	Jul-Sep	596	11	607
	Oct-Dec	291	8	299
	Total	1,017	20	1,037
1995	Jan-Mar	313	14	327
	Apr-Jun	240	25	265
	Jul-Sep	403	27	430
	Oct-Dec	392	22	414
	Total	1,348	88	1,436
1996	Jan-Mar	322	12	334
	Apr-Jun	381	15	396
	Jul-Sep	333	14	347
	Oct-Dec	60	3	63
	Total	1,096	44	1,140
1997	Jan-Mar	355	4	359
	Apr-Jun	84	5	89
	Jul-Sep	461	-	461
	Oct-Dec	246	1	247
	Total	1,146	10	1,156

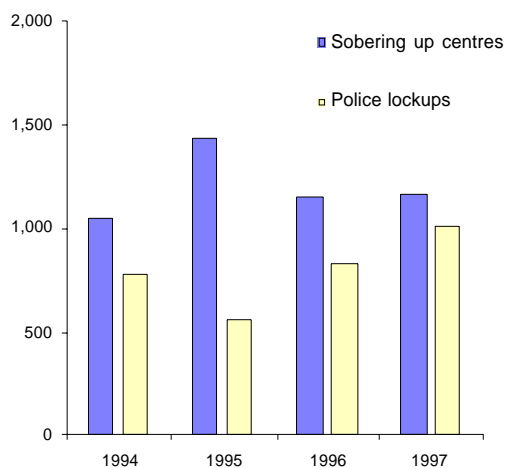
Table 22: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Goldfields region, 1994 - 1997

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994-1997
Police detentions	780	548	832	1,016	3,176
Admissions to SUCs	1,037	1,436	1,140	1,156	4,769

Table 23: Frequency of admissions to Kalgoorlie SUC, 1994 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				Total
		1	2	3-5	6	
1994	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	24	7	6	3	40
	Jul-Sep	62	20	16	22	120
	Oct-Dec	34	19	19	9	81
1995	Jan-Mar	109	27	29	9	174
	Apr-Jun	90	28	20	4	142
	Jul-Sep	157	24	28	21	230
	Oct-Dec	125	16	24	14	179
1996	Jan-Mar	82	29	21	9	141
	Apr-Jun	108	28	17	10	163
	Jul-Sep	77	18	16	12	123
	Oct-Dec	32	9	2	0	43
1997	Jan-Mar	90	18	16	14	138
	Apr-Jun	34	9	7	1	51
	Jul-Sep	72	21	18	19	130
	Oct-Dec	63	14	9	11	97
1994-97		1159	287	248	158	1,852

Figure 10: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Goldfields region, 1994 - 1997



CENTRAL REGION

In the Central region there is one sobering up facility, the Wiluna SUC which was established in April 1996. The catchment police lock up for this SUC is in the town of Wiluna.

The Wiluna SUC has 18 beds and is open five days per week from Tuesday to Saturday 4 pm to 8 pm. It is funded for five FTEs (one manager and four carers).

In the first full year of its operation in 1997 there were a total of 2,507 admissions to the Wiluna SUC (Table 24). The Wiluna SUC had the largest number of admissions in 1997 for a SUC outside the metropolitan area.

From 1996 to 1997 the number of admissions to SUCs in the Central region increased by 70.0%, from 1,475 admissions in 1996 to 2,507 admissions in 1997. Over this period the number of detentions of intoxicated persons in police lock ups also increased, from 562 detentions in 1996 to 759 detentions in 1997 (Figure 11, page 16; Table 25, page 16).

Throughout 1997 admissions to this SUC have fluctuated between about 550 and 700 per quarter, an increase on the number of admissions recorded in 1996 (Table 24).

Frequency of admissions

Over the period from the inception of the Wiluna SUC to the end of 1997 there were a total of 1,442 admissions for which readmission data was available, of which 835 (57.9%) were first time admissions (Table 26, page 16). For the period from the inception of the SUC (in 1996) to the end of 1997, about half of all admissions were first time admissions.

Table 24: Quarterly admissions to Wiluna SUC, 1996 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal		Total
			Aboriginal	Non Aboriginal	
1996	Jan-Mar	1	-	-	1
	Apr-Jun	342	9	-	351
	Jul-Sep	613	6	-	619
	Oct-Dec	499	5	-	504
	Total	1,455	20	-	1,475
1997	Jan-Mar	654	7	-	661
	Apr-Jun	546	7	-	553
	Jul-Sep	605	12	-	617
	Oct-Dec	673	3	-	676
	Total	2,478	29	-	2,507

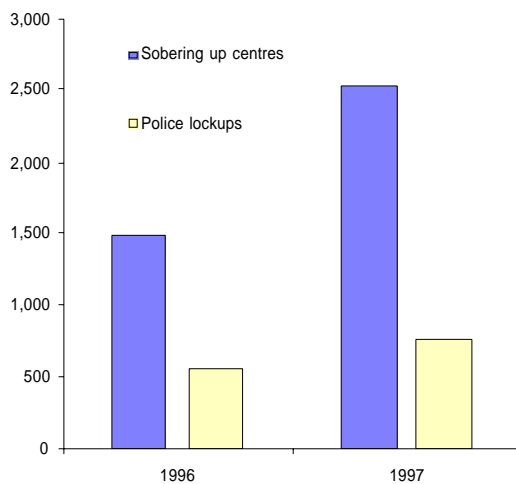
Table 25: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Central region, 1996 - 1997

	1996	1997	1996-1997
Police detentions	562	759	1,321
Admissions to SUCs	1,475	2,507	3,982

Table 26: Frequency of admissions to Wiluna SUC, 1996 - 1997

Year	Quarter	Number of admissions				Total
		1	2	3-5	6	
1996	Jan-Mar	-	-	-	-	-
	Apr-Jun	107	30	24	9	170
	Jul-Sep	132	39	44	25	240
	Oct-Dec	121	18	39	21	199
1997	Jan-Mar	166	21	31	26	244
	Apr-Jun	103	26	38	27	194
	Jul-Sep	110	35	34	30	209
	Oct-Dec	96	15	36	39	186
1996-97		835	184	246	177	1,442

Figure 11: Number of admissions to sobering up centres and detentions for drunkenness in catchment lock ups, Central region, 1996 - 1997



This issue was edited by Greg Swensen at the WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office.

The advice and assistance of Emmanuel Stamatiou (Manager, Services Funding and Development) and Barbara Banaszkiwicz (Contracts Assistant) in providing data and details of the operation of the sobering up centre program is gratefully acknowledged.

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