# Drug Court of NSW



Serves 11 LGAs in West Sydney ■ 1.7 m people 5,773 sq km 34% born OS 1.3% ATSI

# Drug Court of FNQ

#### **Two sites**

Townsville
170 000 people
5.5% ATSI
13% born OS

Cairns
125 000 people
7.8% ATSI
18% born OS



# Legislative models

#### <u>NSW</u>

- Drug Court Act 1999 and supporting regulation
- Separate jurisdiction with powers of a Local/District Court

#### **FNO**

Drug Court Act 2000 and Drug Court Regulation 2006
Drug Court jurisdiction within the Magistrate's Court

# Offenders targeted NSW

- Must be adult offender facing custody
- Targets non-violent property offenders who are drug dependent
- 20% would otherwise face District Court
- Court investigates criminal history and risk to community in determining eligibility

# Offenders targeted FNQ

- 17 years or over and likely to be facing custody
  drug dependent
- charged with drug related offences and dependency contributed to offending
- not already serving a term of imprisonment
- no outstanding disqualifying offences involving sexual or violent nature
- intend pleading guilty
- be suitable for intensive drug rehabilitation

Who is part of the Drug Court Team in NQ and SEQ Magistrate – appointed under the Drug **Court Act** Legal Aid Solicitor / Barrister Police Prosecutor Queensland Health Representative

Queensland Corrective Services Representative

# Who is part of the Drug Court Team in NSW

Drug Court Judge – appointed under the Drug Court Act

- Legal Aid Solicitors
- ODPP solicitors
- Police Prosecutor
- Justice Health nurse
- Corrective Services P&P Officer

# Main problem drugs

#### <u>NSW</u>

- Heroin
- Increasing reported use of methamphetamine
- Common use of cannabis

#### Far North Old

Methamphetamine (speed)
Cannabis
Morphine
Alcohol

# Client make-up

# NSW About 170 entrants/year 150-170 on program at any time 21% female 12% ATSI

#### FNQ

- About 40
  entrants/year
  40 on program at each centre at any time
- 19% female11.5% ATSI

#### Numbers of Orders made by Location

Cairns (since 2002) – 115 Townsville (since 2002) – 172 SEQ (since 2000) – 1131

Drug Court of NSW (since 1999) – almost 1700

# Initial Sentence NSW

Average initial custodial sentence for program entrants is 14 months

Minimum of 12 months on program required for graduation

40-45% of participants exit with a noncustodial sentence; half of these are classed as 'graduates'

# Initial Sentence North QLD

Around 50% of program entrants face a sentence greater than 12 months

Graduates average 13 months to complete program

Persons terminated average 10 months on program

# Services directly provided

#### <u>NSW</u>

- Custodial detox
- Pharmacotherapy
- Group/individual counselling
- Residential Rehab
- Supervision
- Urinalysis

#### <u>FNQ</u>

Custodial detox
Group/individual counselling
Residential Rehab
Supervision
Urinalysis testing
Saliva testing

# Funded program partners

#### <u>NSW</u>

- Justice Health
- Two area health services
- Drug Rx NGOs
- Community Offender Services – DCS
- Legal AidODPP

# FNO Department of Justice and Attorney – General Queensland Health Queensland Corrective Services

- Queensland Police
- Legal Aid

### DRUG COURT STAKEHOLDERS

#### OzCare

- Stagpole Street (SSDARU)
- Townsville Recovery Service (Salvation Army)
- Accommodation Support Programme (ASP)
- Department of Communities
- Community Rent Scheme
- Addiction Help Agency
- Mission Australia

# Key services accessed

#### <u>NSW</u>

- Housing
- Family support
- Education/training

#### <u>FNQ</u>

Housing
Family Support
Education/training
Employment