

Family, friends and support people

Has alcohol and other drug use caused some conflict or issues in your relationships?

Sometimes family members, friends or support people can be affected too. It can be a difficult time.

This free program can also help family members, friends or support people.



Contacts

My Diversion Officer:

My local support service:

The Alcohol & Drug Support Line is a non-judgemental telephone counselling, information and referral service for anyone who needs help with their own or another person's alcohol and drug use.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Metro: (08) 9442 5000

Country: 1800 198 024

Visit mhc.wa.gov.au/getting-help to find a list of helplines, online chats and forums for more support and advice.



Government of **Western Australia**
Mental Health Commission

Alcohol and Other Drug Diversion Program



Are you worried about your alcohol and other drug use? Has it led you to court?

This free program will link you and your family to support services that can help you get back on track.

What's in it for me?

Benefits of the program include:

- Talk to a counsellor without shame or judgement.
- Get support to manage stress and conflict.
- Gain priority access to treatment.
- Focus on your social and emotional wellbeing.
- Look after your physical and mental health.
- Get help to explain your story to the court.



You can access the program if you are...

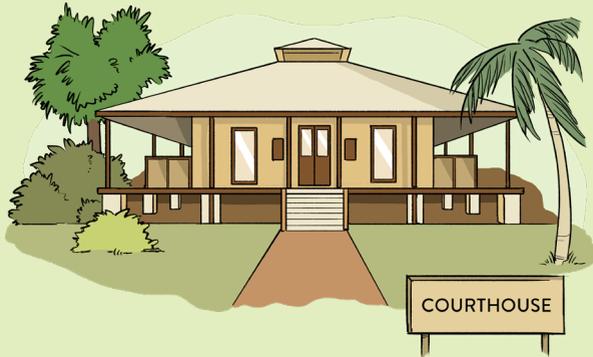
- Pleading guilty to a charge.
- Having issues related to alcohol and other drug use.
- Willing to go to counselling.

1. First court appearance

You may be referred to the program by:

- the Magistrate
- a lawyer
- police
- Community Corrections
- yourself
- a family member or support person

The Magistrate might adjourn (delay) your case so that you can participate in an assessment with a Diversion Officer.



2. Diversion Officers

Diversion Officers talk with people who are appearing in court who have alcohol and other drug issues. They will:

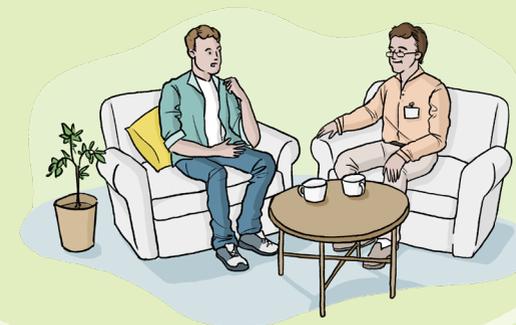
- Listen to your story non-judgementally
- Check that the program is suitable for you and make a recommendation to the court
- Refer you to a trained Alcohol and Other Drug Counsellor



3. Court Review

The Magistrate will review the Diversion Officer's recommendation. Your case may be adjourned (delayed) for 10-12 weeks so that you can access treatment and support.

The Magistrate may also give you bail with conditions. This means that a Community Corrections Officer may also be involved.



Sentencing

The Magistrate may take your participation in the program into account when sentencing you.



4. Treatment and Support

You need to attend a minimum of 3 sessions with a trained Alcohol and Other Drug Counsellor who will:

- Listen to your story
- Provide useful information about alcohol and other drug use
- Discuss treatment options
- Refer you to other support services if needed
- Get support to make positive changes in your life.

5. Treatment Report

Your counsellor will provide a report to the Diversion Officer about your progress and whether more support might be helpful.

The Diversion Officer will provide a summary of this report to the court.

Tips about court

- Arrive early to court
- No food or drink can be taken inside
- Take off your hat and sunglasses
- Switch off your mobile phone

Help and information at court

- Legal Aid give people advice about their legal options and what to expect. Ask to see the Duty Lawyer on the day to represent you during the hearing.

- The Court Orderly calls people to appear in any order. It's important that you are present when you are called. You may be waiting for a few hours.

- Court staff at the administration desk can provide advice and assistance.