

NYOONGAR OUTREACH SERVICES FEEDBACK REGARDING PROTECTED ENTERTAINMENT PRECINCTS SCHEME

In response to the Ombudsman's invitation to provide feedback on the Protected Entertainment Precincts Scheme (PEP Scheme), the Mental Health Commission contacted several funded service providers that operate or provide services to people within the PEP Scheme areas.

The following feedback is provided by the Nyoongar Outreach Services (NOS) for information, with permission from the Chief Executive Officer. This information has been provided verbatim. Should additional information or clarification be required, please contact Maria McAttackney, Chief Executive Officer, Nyoongar Outreach Services (contact information provided below).

NYOONGAR OUTREACH SERVICES (NOS) FEEDBACK

Twenty-six (26) NOS Staff were consulted across our Youth Engagement and General outreach services on 12 and 13 November 2025. This comprised of 16 Indigenous staff and 10 non-indigenous staff.

In addition, our all-Aboriginal background Executive Board were consulted comprising of 5 members. Thirty-one (31) people from NOS in total provided feedback.

Staff and board members gave comment pertaining to the Northbridge and Perth CBD locations which are the only areas covered by PEP scheme that NOS operate from.

Responses received to below questions were:

1. HAS THE PEP SCHEME ENHANCED PUBLIC SAFETY AND CONFIDENCE IN PEP AREAS?

It is difficult to assess whether there has been enhanced safety due to PEP as there appeared to be a general lack of awareness of such a tool (PEP) being applied and little or no people knew that it existed. None of our Executive Board who are all elders knew such a tool was available. It is noted there was no Aboriginal Legal Service comments of such a tool being implemented in Perth and little or no media reports in regard to negative perceptions of safety or concerns in Northridge in the past year or recently.

Feedback was received that there was a sense of enhanced safety in Northbridge however there was uncertainty on what was contributing to this and whether it was individual tools such as WAPF wandering to discourage weapons being carried, or curfews, or move on orders, or PEP being used, or a combination of all these to enhance safety. There was a definite 'feel' and perception that Northbridge and Perth was a safer place. This is based on apparent decreases in crime and violence in Northridge and Perth CBD.

As an organisation we are aware of a recent occurrence of PEP STEO being applied to a perpetrator who vandalised one of our parked vehicles (in Russell Square on our weekend operations) causing \$25k damage and due to racial vilification, he has been banned from Northridge for 6 months.

Additional comments:

- Wandering by WAPF staff believed has improved public safety, although staff were unsure if safety and confidence was directly attributable to the PEP Scheme.
- Staff were aware of WAPF compliance officers (Liquor Enforcement Unit) but were uncertain whether the broader community was aware of PEP in action.
- Feedback from staff suggested that if they or their clients had more knowledge about the PEP Scheme, it might deter young people from engaging in antisocial and problematic behaviour in the city.

2. IS THE PEP SCHEME BEING ADMINISTERED FAIRLY AND APPROPRIATELY?

It is difficult to assess perception of whether PEP has been administered fairly as there was a lack of awareness of such a tool.

NOS is confident however that after consulting with 31 members of its organisation and its expertise and knowledge of working with Aboriginal people, in which a lot of communication is based on word of mouth, that if there were concerns these would have been expressed to NOS and we would be aware of them.

Additional comments:

- Staff reported that most clients were simply issued a move-on notice by WAPF.
- Many staff expressed that they had not witnessed the PEP Scheme in operation and therefore could not comment on its fairness or appropriateness.

3. HAS ANY GROUP IN THE COMMUNITY BEEN PARTICULARLY AFFECTED BY THE PEP SCHEME?

Having significant Aboriginal staffing and Executive Board being elders not being aware of the PEP Scheme, if it did have impact in the community, we are confident that we would know otherwise if it has had significant or harmful effect.

Additional comments:

- Some staff felt Aboriginal people were generally targeted unfairly by WAPF, although not specifically due to the PEP Scheme.
- Many staff reiterated that they had not observed the PEP Scheme in action and were unable to assess its affect.
- Some staff believed certain clients may have received banning notices from entering licensed premises but were unaware if they had STEO's or were under PEP Scheme.

Noting general lack of awareness of PEP scheme NOS has initiated further discussions with WA Police on PEP Scheme and will be conducting an upcoming information session with staff regarding this.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this and seeking NOS feedback.

CONTACT DETAILS

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