

# Kava Education & Health Advisory Group (KEHAG)

## RECORD OF MEETING

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2006

### Attendance

Danny Burton	- Yuyung Nyannung Aboriginal Corporation
Chris Constable	- Yuyung Nyannung Aboriginal Corporation
Terry	- Yuyung Nyannung Aboriginal Corporation
Johnny	- Yuyung Nyannung Aboriginal Corporation
Peter	- Yuyung Nyannung Aboriginal Corporation
Laurie Thorneloe	- Gapuwiyak Community Inc.
Hala Topou	- Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
Timmy Burarrwanga	- Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
Barayuwa Mununggurr	- Ganybu Wholesalers (Laynhapuy Homelands Association)
Ric Norton	- Ganybu Wholesalers
Djambuwa (Terry) Marawili	- Laynhapuy Homeland Retailers
Greg Lye	- Racing, Gaming & Licensing Division
Peter Jones	- Racing, Gaming & Licensing Division
Danielle	- Racing, Gaming & Licensing Division

### Apologies

Johnny Namayiwa - Warruwi Community Inc.

### **1. Review report of Kava Licensees Forum (Sept 05)**

Ric Norton briefly reviewed key sections of the report from the Kava Licensees Forum (sessions 1, 3 and 7) to set the context for this first meeting and future work of KEAHG.

The forum had indicated two primary areas of concern:

- a need for information and education about kava in relation to health and harm minimisation
- a need for information and education around the regulatory and business aspects of kava.

Participants at the forum had clearly identified that kava was causing a range of problems for communities ranging from health and nutrition, to family income, family relationships, school and work attendance, humbug, loss of respect, etc. Therefore there was a need for 'harm minimisation' strategies to reduce these adverse effects.

The key recommendation from the workshop was the establishment of KEAG so there was a dedicated group to work towards the development of appropriate kava education and harm minimisation strategies.

Gapuwiyak Council (Laurie Thorneloe) advised that the report was a useful tool for communities thinking about taking on a kava license.

## **2. Confirm Terms of Reference for KEAG.**

The draft 'terms of reference' outlined in the preamble to the draft MOU was taken as the starting point for the discussion of the Terms of Reference.

It was noted that there was probably some redundancy between points 2,3,4. The emphasis of these points was about achieving a consistent approach/message and getting value for money and effort.

A key question in the discussions was whether KEAG was to be a purely 'advisory group' or whether it should function as the 'steering committee' for projects, and the extend of its involvement in this. As a result two additional terms were added:

- KEAG should meet quarterly or more frequently if required
- KEAG should undertake the role of steering committee for collectively decided and funded projects.

Ganybu Wholesalers undertook to redraft and distribute revised Terms of Reference taking into account these matters.

There was some discussion about whether RGL and NT Health should have 'voting rights' because of the potential for a conflict of interest re regulatory responsibilities.

RGL would seek further advice on this matter, but it was felt that RGL could probably abstain from voting in matters where such concerns were relevant.

In trying to clarify the potential role of the committee, the group diverted into a discussion of the idea of 'kava clubs', and the problem of multi-substance use. It was felt that KEHAG could potentially have a useful role in evaluating such issues/trials but probably not in directly sponsoring them.

Terry Marawili suggested to the group that when kava was first introduced, Yolngu at that time had a better understanding about how to prepare and drink it.

It was noted that KEAHG should rotate meetings between communities to both facilitate understanding of different licensee environments and distribute costs of attendance equitably.

## **3. Name change: Kava Education & Health Advisory Group (KEHAG)**

Health is a major concern for licensees themselves and their communities.

The proposed change of name to Kava Education & Health Advisory Group was endorsed by the meeting.

## **4. Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on pooling of funds for KEAG projects**

The group worked through the draft MOU that had been distributed, with the key issues being as follows:

### *Decision making*

- 70% support was generally considered reasonable where consensus

### *Level of contribution*

- the group generally felt that the contribution of 5% of gross profit was not unreasonable as a target.
- it was acknowledged this amount would need to be endorsed by the respective licensee organizations, and it may take a bit of effort to mobilise the necessary support. In relation to this matter RGL indicated that both ALP and CLP supported the principle that licensees should be responsible for education and harm minimisation work, and explained how the 10% levy operated on Hotels and Clubs. By implication, Kava licensees needed to take their responsibility seriously or they could face a higher levy.

### *Method of Contribution*

- the proposed method of contribution (ie. invoicing during projects) was seen by the group to have several problems including, retrospectivity of the obligation, difficulty in calculating contribution share, possible need to 'save' funds for larger efforts or for ongoing activities.
- the benefits of the 'invoicing' method were that licensees held the funds until the last minute, and could potentially 'opt out' of particular projects.
- a fairly convincing case was put for contributions to be made to a central fund from a fixed commencement date. The 'levy' could be simply included on wholesale invoices.

### *Optional participation in KEHAG projects*

- the draft MOU was based on optional contributions for projects, which was in turn part of the rationale for an 'invoicing' approach to collecting contributions.
- RGL suggested that the non-participation of licensees in KEHAG would probably not be viewed favourably by the Licensing Commission.

### *Project Administration*

- additional clarification was requested in relation to the role of Ganybu Wholesalers acting as project manager, with the group reinforcing that it was a project 'administration' role and that responsibility resided with KEHAG.

Ganybu Wholesalers undertook to redraft and distribute a revised Memorandum of Understanding taking into account these matters, but including two contribution methods both based on 5% from a fixed date:

- contributions levied at time of wholesale purchase
- contributions invoiced at time of payment on KEHAG projects.

### **Kava Education**

The meeting agreed that the term 'education' needed to be interpreted very broadly to include matters such as health, financial impacts, history, community social impacts, etc.

### **5. Proposal by consortium of Amity, ARDS & Nungalinya to run a 'scoping workshop' at Yilpara Homeland and discussions with Yirrkala Council (6-10 March)**

Ric Norton outlined the background to the above proposal which evolved directly from the September Forum and the generally positive response to the input Amity ARDS/Nungalinya made to the forum. Put simply, licensees need to start somewhere and Amity/ARDS/Nungalinya were

already on the ground, have some credibility, and there seemed to be potential to build on the work they have already started at Rammo.

Concern was expressed that the 'goal' of the project was expressed rather negatively. It was suggested it be reworded to reflect that there are also potential 'opportunities' deriving from community run kava businesses, as well as risks. Suggested wording of the goal could be:

*"To increase the opportunities and the reduce risks in communities resulting from kava being the substance of choice"*

Yuyung Nyannung representatives generally expressed satisfaction with how the consortium were working at Ramingining, but it was still far to early to assess the long term effectiveness of their work.

It was noted that the project was not specific to Yilpara, but was intended to develop generic strategies and resources for use across license areas, and that would be owned by KEHAG. This work should inform KEHAG about what is required and what it's work priorities should be.

The consortium of Amity/ARDS/Nungalinya would be expected to report back to KEHAG on the outcomes of the workshop.

There was general support at the meeting for the project subject to agreement from Yilpara community. Licensees undertook to advise Ric Norton by Friday 10 February, if their respective organizations had any objection to supporting the project.

## **6. Other ideas to investigate**

The meeting discussed the need for KEHAG to also have a role in facilitating the development positive experiences, healthy lifestyle activities and other diversions from substance use. In this regard Yuyung Nyannung (Danny Burton) were interested in enlisting KEHAG support for the development of inter community sporting competitions (eg. football) possibly through seed funding to engage an appropriate consultant to put together a proposal with government and sports industry sponsorship.

Evaluation of any kava club trial was also flagged as a possible future project.

The importance of NT Health participation in developing long term public health information and approaches was discussed as was the currency and accuracy of existing NT Health literature on kava. RGL (Danielle) agreed to pursue these issues with NT Health on behalf of KEHAG.

It was suggested that, in the interim until a more strategic approach to KEHAG's work is developed, written project proposal's are probably easiest way for the group to consider specific ideas that might warrant support.

### **Health Monitoring**

RGL (Peter Jones) reinforced that all licensees have a responsibility for health monitoring work – retailers within their license areas and wholesaler across the region.

## **7. Previous undertakings given**

Ganybu Wholesalers (Ric Norton) referred to the extensive health monitoring commitments given by the wholesaler in its early license applications, and the incomplete work undertaken in conjunction with Menzies School of Health Research. The problem for the wholesaler was not so much the funding but the lack of expertise and knowing what to do.

Ganybu Wholesalers stressed that it did not see itself as having a monopoly on determining how monitoring should be done, and that the input of retailers and others was welcome.

It was suggested that Amity may be a useful source for gaining ideas/perspectives on what needs to be monitored and how this can be done.

Ganybu Wholesalers was requested to prepare a paper for KEHAG on options for monitoring that could be considered at the next meeting.

## **8. Monitoring strategies**

RGL circulated a paper titled “**Discussion Paper – Illegal kava – Piper methysticum**”, outlining concerns about the possible confounding health impacts of substances such as raw flour contained in much black market kava. It was proposed that there may be merit in undertaking some baseline studies in non-license communities prior to the introduction to ‘legal kava’ to try and ascertain any changes in health impact resulting from displacement of black market kava.

This paper to be considered by Ganybu Wholesalers and KEHAG in formulating options for health monitoring.

## **Other Business**

### **9. Review of Kava Management Plans**

RGL (Greg Lye) advised the meeting that all Kava Management Plans need to be reviewed during 2006, as some are now up to six years old. Revised plans would need to take into account matters such as:

- licensee commitment to KEHAG
- use of kava profits
- support to and functioning of independent Kava Monitoring Committees

At some stage RGL will be writing to licensees about the reviews and RGL will need to be directly involved because of the consultation provision under the Act.

The importance of Kava Management Plans (KMP) was stressed, as these are the means by which the community can exercise some leverage over the licensee, to ensure kava businesses to minimum harm and provide maximum benefit to the community.

### **10. Other**

Peter Jones summarised the recommendations/actions from the meeting. (see Attachment 1)

### **11. Next Meeting**

Next meeting is to be after next workshop conducted by Amity, ARDS and Nungalinya – likely to be Wednesday 29 March 2006. Venue: Ramingining, possibly Mulwangi Station

**KEAHG February 2006 – Recommendations**

1. KEAHG to hold meetings in different communities.
2. KEAHG to review the health and use warnings on kava bags.
3. That “health” be added to the title of the advisory group.
4. Licensees to take back to their governing body
  - a) whether a central account should be established to receive the 5% licensee contribution for education/health purposes or whether licensees should contribute funds on an invoice basis
  - b) the MOU as approved by KEAHG
5. Add additional goal to proposal from Amity, ARDS and Nungalinya (wording to be added about increased opportunity.
6. Further add to goal (wording to be added about “and reduce the risks”
7. KEAHG agreed to In-Principal support to the Harm Minimisation proposal from Amity, ARDS and Nungalinya. Any non-agreement to be advised to Ric Norton by Friday 10th February 2006.
8. Amity, ARDS and Nungalinya to be asked to provide a written report for the next KEAHG meeting on the community workshop to be undertaken as per their proposal.
9. Materials developed through the proposal from Amity, ARDS and Nungalinya to be owned by KEAHG.
10. RGL to clarify with the Dept of Health regarding their participation with KEAHG.
11. RGL to raise with the Dept of Health concerning the provision (revision and development of new material) of information to inform kava using communities regarding responsible consumption levels and practices of kava use.
12. Monitoring is responsibility of both the wholesale and retail licensees. Licensees to revise and further develop their activities in monitoring within licence areas – retail licensee responsibility and across licence areas – the wholesale licensee responsibility.
13. KEAHG agreed that all kava management plans to be revised ASAP.
14. Next meeting: To be after next workshop conducted by Amity, ARDS and Nungalinya – likely to be Wednesday 29 March 2006. Venue: Ramingining, possibly Mulwangi Station.