

# 1. STARTING A MEN'S GROUP

The following questions are aimed at covering all stages in starting up a men's group. You will need to answer most of the questions to be able to be successful in starting a group. The questions follow a logical order, but at times life is not logical, so jumping forward and backward is needed.

- What are the difficulties (facing Aboriginal Men in this community)?
- Who is affected by these difficulties (numbers, ages)?
- How are these men affected by these difficulties (ie the effects on men's lives).
- What are the immediate and underlying causes of these difficulties?
- Who can be involved in helping to solve these difficulties?
- What has been done about trying to fix these difficulties before, or is being done now? If this helped, why did it? If it didn't work, why not?
- What are the different actions that can be done to help fix these difficulties? Why do you think that these actions will help?
- Which of these actions do you feel are the most useful?
- What would be achieved through these actions? (ie these would be your aims).
- What steps must you take to do the actions? (ie these are your objectives).
- What resources do you already have that will help to do the actions? (Knowledge, skills, interested people, time, equipment, buildings, money).
- What extra resources do you need?
- Where can you get extra resources?

## ORGANISING

Note that a local men's group does not always need a formal structure to exist if you are not seeking any funding support. If your aim is to get funding, you will need to consider setting up a formal structure. For those

interested in setting up a formal body to run a men's group, you will need to consider:

### Structure

- What type of organisation is best for your aims? (eg just a few interested friends, a management committee, auspiced through existing AMS or other incorporated organisation, or incorporation of your own group?)
- What rules (or policies and procedures) do you need to have?
- What legislation do you need to follow?
- For managing human resources?
- For managing finance?

### **PLANNING**

- What steps are needed to achieve your actions? (ie identify who does what, when, where, how and with what resources for each step needed to achieve the action).
- When do you want to start? How long will each step take?
- What records will we need to keep?
- How can you ensure that stakeholders (especially local men) are involved in all aspects of implementing the actions?
- What advertising or promotions of the group or your actions will you need to do for potential participants?

### **EVALUATING**

The main areas of concern for evaluation are **activities** and **process**.

#### **Activities**

- What outcomes will indicate if what you do works?
- How can you show other people & the community the actions work (ie how can you measure the actions and the effects of the actions on participants)?

#### **Process**

- Did you do things in the best way with the least resources?
- What could you change about what you have done to do things better in the future?

## **DISSEMINATING AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- Who do you want to know about your project?
- How will you report what you are doing?
- How can you make sure the project continues?
- How can you make sure that the benefits from your project continue?