

ABC NEWS ONLINE

Friday, July 5, 2002. Posted: 09:05:45 (AEDT)

Success of petrol-sniffing program could be used as model

The manager of a program in central Australia to tackle petrol-sniffing says it could be used as a model for other communities but some cultural taboos would have to be overcome. The Mount Theo program has helped reduce petrol sniffing in Yuendumu north-west of Alice Springs to almost non-existent levels and has been suggested to the Northern Territory's select committee on substance abuse as a model initiative. Andrew Stojanovski says the Mt Theo program has benefited from people giving up some culturally important practices to care for petrol-sniffers. "It's one of the biggest challenges for other communities that want to set up this sort of program... to have that sort of a special person who's prepared to go and sit down at an outstation and do the hard yards and look after other people's kids," Mr Stojanovski said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200207/s599244.htm>