

## National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee membership announcement

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The Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD), Dr John Herron is pleased to announce the new membership of the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) for 2007–2010.

In announcing the membership of NIDAC, Dr Herron said “As the leading voice in Indigenous drug and alcohol policy NIDAC plays a very important role for the ANCD in providing advice to the Australian Government on ways to address the serious drug and alcohol issues that exist for Indigenous Australians. In appreciation for the efforts and contribution of past members of NIDAC, I would sincerely like to thank them for their commitment to improving the quality and standard of health for Indigenous communities and families across Australia. We are fortunate to have Associate Professor Ted Wilkes as Chair of the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee. Associate Professor Ted Wilkes is an Associate Professor of the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University. As an Aboriginal leader, he has endeavoured to facilitate positive health and social outcomes for the Aboriginal community for many years. Associate Professor Ted Wilkes’ expertise and direction will be a valuable contribution to NIDAC and the ANCD.”

### **A/Prof Ted Wilkes (Chairman)**

*Associate Professor, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University*

Associate Professor Wilkes is a Nyungar man from WA whose professional background includes working for the Western Australia museum, the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University and sixteen years as the Director of the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service. Associate Professor Wilkes provides advice and expertise on a wide range of state, national and international committees.

### **Mr Scott Wilson (co-Deputy Chair)**

*State Director, Aboriginal and Drug Council (SA) Inc (ADAC)*

Mr Wilson has presented a number of papers at both national and international conferences on Indigenous drug and alcohol issues. In 1997, he was awarded the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) Australia Day Achievement Medallion and in 2003, a Centenary Medal for Services to the Community.

### **Ms Coralie Ober (co-Deputy Chair)**

*Research Fellow Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC) University of Queensland*

Ms Ober was involved in the Global Project on Indigenous Peoples and Substance Use for the World Health Organisation and the development of the National Drug Strategy Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan 2003–2006. Her current major project work is the development and implementation of a work force development training and capacity building for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Drug Community Workers in Queensland.

### **Dr Noel Hayman (Executive Member)**

*Clinical Director, Inala Indigenous Health Service in Brisbane*

Dr Hayman also holds appointments with the University of Queensland as Senior lecturer for the School of Medicine, the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, is Secretary of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association and Chair of the ATSI Health Working Group in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians

### **Ms Delaney Thiele (Executive Member)**

*Chief Executive Officer, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)*

Having worked in Aboriginal health for many years, Ms Thiele has been an active community member through membership on a range of Boards, including several Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Boards at the Local, State and National level, the Westmead Children's Hospital and the Western Sydney Area Health Board. Ms Thiele holds a Post Graduate in health Management and is currently working towards a Masters in Population Health.

### **Ms Donna Ah Chee**

*Deputy Director, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress*

Originally a Bundjalung woman from the far north coast of NSW, Ms Ah Chee lives in Alice Springs NT and has been involved in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs for over 25 years. She is the Deputy Director of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, an Aboriginal community controlled primary health care service in Alice Springs. Ms Ah Chee has also been a board member on the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and is involved in policy development on Aboriginal health for the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT).

### **Ms Wendy Casey**

*Principal Advisor, Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Program, Practice Development Branch of the WA Drug and Alcohol Office*

Ms Casey belongs to the Karajarri and Yawuru people who reside in the Kimberley region in the remote northwest of Western Australia and has extensive experience working in the drug and alcohol field in metropolitan and remote area regions.

## **Dr Colin Dillon APM**

*Lecturer, School of Justice, QLD University of Technology*

Prior to his current appointment, Dr Colin Dillon APM, was appointed by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs to the Board of Commissioners of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). Prior to this appointment, Dr Dillon has worked in the Queensland Police Force since 1965. As Inspector of Police, he is the most senior ranking commissioned Aboriginal police officer in Australia. He was awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) in the Queen's honour list for distinguished Police Service to Queensland and has an Honorary University Doctorate and Commissioner of Declarations.

## **Mr Keith Evans**

*Chair, Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs*

Since January 2005 Keith has been Executive Director of Drug & Alcohol Services, South Australia and Principal Advisor, Drugs Policy to the Government of South Australia. As of 1 January 2006, Keith is Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs. Prior to this appointment, Keith was State Director, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services for the Queensland Government's Health Department from 1994–2001. From 1984–1994 Keith was Chief Executive of the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand. Keith has published extensively in the areas of alcohol policy, treatment and prevention and acted as an international consultant on alcohol policy to the World Health Organization. Keith's other roles include membership of the Board of Directors of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) and Board of Directors of the National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

## **Mr Bradley Freeburn**

*Coordinator, Drug and Alcohol Unit Aboriginal Medical Service NSW*

Mr Bradley Freeburn is a Bundjalung man, from Casino New South Wales who has worked in the health sector since 1993. Mr Freeman has represented the Aboriginal Medical Service and Aboriginal people on through the Australian Drug Council of Australia, and provides input on key strategic issues in NSW in relation to alcohol and other drugs. Mr Freeburn also provided advice to the Standing Committee on Social Issues Inquiry into issues relating to Redfern / Waterloo

## **Ms Kim Gates**

*Chief Executive Officer, Council for Aboriginal Alcohol Program Services NT*

Ms Kim Gates has worked in the alcohol and other drug sector for many years in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. She was previously the Administrator of the Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation in Wyndham in Western Australia.

## **Professor Dennis Gray**

*Deputy Director, National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University of Technology*

Professor Dennis Gray established the Institute's Indigenous Australian Research Program. He is a leading researcher in this area and has established collaborative research relationships with various Indigenous community-controlled organisations, as well as publishing extensively on Indigenous substance misuse issues and presented research at various national and international forums.

## **Ms Marion Green**

*Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative Ltd*

Ms Green is a Gamilaroi woman from NSW who has worked for the Koori community over the past 32 years in the areas of health, substance abuse and advocacy. Previously held positions include ATSIC regional councillor and Victorian Commissioner for ATSIC. Ms Green is a founding member of Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative Ltd, the largest Koori drug and alcohol service in Victoria. Ms Green also chairs the Aboriginal Family Violence & Prevention Legal Service and the South East Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee in Victoria.

## **Mr Romlie Mokak**

*Chief Executive Officer, Australian Indigenous Doctors Association*

The Australian Indigenous Doctors Association comprises general practitioners, physicians, specialists, researchers, academics, teachers and students who provide advice to state, national and international policy bodies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, education and health workforce issues and maintain strong working partnerships with Australian medical schools, medical colleges and key health and education organisations.

NIDAC also relies on representatives of government and non government bodies to provide advice on specific issues, policies and programs relevant to Indigenous drug and alcohol use. These include:

### NIDAC Advisors

- Mr Daryl Smeaton, CEO, Alcohol Education & Rehabilitation Foundation
- Mr Gino Vumbaca, Executive Director, Australian National Council on Drugs
- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Representative
- Australian Government Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Representative
- Australian Government Families and Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Representative

The ANCD welcomes the new members and looks forward to utilising their experience and expertise to provide valuable advice on alcohol and drug problems being faced by Indigenous communities.

*28 June 2007*

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*The ANCD is the principal advisory body to Government on drug and alcohol issues.*

For further information, please contact:

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