THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) is the principal advisory body to the Government on drug policy and plays a critical role in ensuring the voice of the community is heard in relation to drug related policies and strategies. A particular priority of the ANCD is to support initiatives that continue to build capacity within the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector to facilitate best practice.

Each year the ANCD commissions a number of projects, either via the ANCD itself or its subcommittees, the National Indigenous Alcohol and Drug Committee (NIDAC) and the Asia Pacific Drug Issues Committee (APDIC). These projects are selected following consideration of the ANCD’s and its subcommittees’ roles and work plan priorities, consultations with the AOD sector, and consideration of where the AOD sector and/or the ANCD require further information in order to provide credible advice to Government. The ANCD ensures that research projects provide a current and evidence based approach to current AOD issues and that the project findings are widely disseminated.

1. COMPLETED

1.1 Position paper on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

In response to NIDACs’ concerns over fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) in Australia, a position paper has been developed, Addressing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Australia. The paper includes an overview of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in Australia, as well as a number of recommendations that have been put forward by NIDAC for addressing FASD in Australia.

The paper was launched on 6 June at the 2nd National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference in Fremantle, W.A., and copies can be obtained from NIDAC or via the NIDAC website.

1.2 Position statement on naltrexone sustained release preparations

In response to the ongoing debate regarding the use of naltrexone implants to treat opioid dependence, the ANCD has released a position statement, Naltrexone Sustained Release Preparations (Injectables and Implants).

The statement includes a brief fact sheet on naltrexone treatments and their use in Australia, and is available on the ANCD website.

2. SOON TO BE RELEASED REPORTS AND POSITION PAPERS

2.1 Supply, Demand and Harm Reduction Strategies in Australian Prisons: An Update

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, undertook this project, the objectives of which were to collate current data on the prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and/or illicit drug use among prisoners, and to assess the availability, access and use of supply, demand and harm reduction strategies, placing these data in context by comparing them to the results of studies conducted in 2004 and 2009.

The report will be launched on 28 August, at the 2012 National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre Annual Symposium, which will be held at the John Niland Scientia Building at UNSW.

After the report is launched, it will be available via the ANCD website.
2.2 Update of Bridges and Barriers: Addressing Indigenous Incarceration

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee position paper, Bridges and Barriers, has been updated. The revised paper will be launched on 28 August along with the ANCD Prison’s report, at the 2012 National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre Annual Symposium.

Copies will be available via the ANCD website.

2.3 Link between ATS use and the transmission of HIV and other BBVs in the South East Asia region

This project has been undertaken by the Burnet Institute and the National Drug Research Institute to determine the link between amphetamine type stimulant (ATS) use and potential blood borne virus (BBV) transmission with particular reference to the South East Asian experience.

It is anticipated that this report will be released towards the end of the third quarter of 2012.

2.4 Position paper on naloxone

Expanding Naloxone Availability updates the ANCD’s position on naloxone availability, previously presented in a 2001 position paper. It provides an overview of the evidence base for expanding availability of naloxone and peer-administration training programs, along with discussion of a number of issues. Recommendations to further the expanded availability of naloxone for the prevention of opioid overdose deaths and injuries in Australia are also presented.

The paper will be released soon.

3. CURRENT PROJECTS

3.1 Young people’s attitudes and views about alcohol and other drug issues survey

This project is being undertaken by the Drug Policy Modelling Program to ascertain what young people think about alcohol and drug issues and associated policies.

This is a 12 month project, with the online survey due for distribution between August and October 2012.

3.2 Alcohol action plan

An action plan on alcohol is currently being developed by the ANCD. The Alcohol Action Plan will identify a number of key issues about alcohol use that are of concern to the ANCD, as well as actions that would assist the government and others to address each of these issues.

3.3 Economic modelling project

This National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee project is being undertaken by Deloitte Access to provide clear economic modelling on the costs and benefits of addressing problematic Indigenous substance use with treatment, particularly residential rehabilitation, as compared to prison.

A draft report is expected by early August 2012.

3.4 FaHCSIA toolkit & training package project

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) approached NIDAC to undertake a project to develop an alcohol and substance management plan toolkit and training package to be used in the implementation of FaHCSIA’s Breaking the Cycle Initiative. NIDAC has engaged Siggins Miller to undertake this project on their behalf.

It is anticipated that this project will be completed by the end of August 2012.

4. ONGOING PROJECT

Asia Pacific Drug Issues Committee — Translations of 2nd Australian needle and syringe program return on investment study

English, Burmese, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Khmer translations of a new summary paper based on the influential 2nd Australian Needle and Syringe Program Return on Investment Study are now available. The summary paper is expected to assist in the expansion and further development of needle and syringe programs in the Asia Pacific region and potentially save thousands of lives by preventing the transmission of HIV and other blood borne viruses. Further translations are expected.

The papers are available on the APDIC website.
5. DEVELOPING PROJECTS

5.1 Alternative medication treatment options for amphetamine type stimulants (ATS) users
This project will examine alternative medication treatment options for ATS use.

5.2 School principals survey
This project seeks opinions and attitudes of school principals regarding AOD issues in the school community.

5.3 Effectiveness of residential treatment models
The focus of this project is a review of the literature on the effectiveness of residential treatment models in substance dependency treatment.

5.4 Exploration of additional funding sources for AOD NGOs
The focus of this project is to explore additional funding sources and arrangements, including Social Compact Bonds, for NGOs.

5.5 Employment participation survey
The ANCD is developing a survey of AOD service providers regarding the employment participation of, and employment services for, people who are receiving or have completed AOD treatment. The survey will be used to inform and develop further work on these issues. It is anticipated that the survey will be distributed in late 2012.

5.6 Pre-employment police checks
This project will aim to provide information on, and discussion of, the increasing use of police checks to vet potential employees as it effects alcohol and other drug use issues, along with recommendations to government.
6. COMPLETED PROJECTS/REPORTS

6.1 Research Reports

ANCD Research paper 22
Injecting drug use and associated harms among Aboriginal Australians

ANCD Research paper 21
Situational analysis of drug and alcohol issues and responses in the Pacific 2008–09

ANCD Research paper 20
Indigenous-specific alcohol and other drug interventions: continuities, changes and areas of greatest need

ANCD Research paper 19
Modelling pharmacotherapy maintenance in Australia

ANCD Research paper 18
Polygon: the many sides to the Australian opioid pharmacotherapy maintenance system

ANCD Research paper 17
Non government organisations in the alcohol and other drugs sector

ANCD Research paper 16
Drug Testing in Schools: Evidence, Impacts and Alternatives

ANCD Research paper 15
Supporting Families: Investigating Support Options for Family Members of Young People with Problematic Drug Use

ANCD Research paper 14
Compulsory Treatment in Australia

ANCD Research paper 13
Drug Use in the Family – Impact and Implications

ANCD Research paper 12
Asia Pacific Region – Situational analysis of illicit drug issues and responses in the Asia Pacific Region

ANCD Research paper 11
Evidence-based answers to cannabis questions: a review of the literature

ANCD Research paper 10
Mapping national drug treatment capacity

ANCD Research paper 9
Supply, demand and harm reduction strategies in Australian prisons: implementation, cost and evaluation

ANCD Research paper 8
Indigenous drug and alcohol projects: elements of best practice

ANCD Research paper 7
Dealing with risk: a multidisciplinary study of injecting drug use, hepatitis C and other blood-borne viruses in Australia

ANCD Research paper 6
Diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth from juvenile detention

ANCD Research paper 5
Drug policy: the Australian approach

ANCD Research paper 4
Indigenous drug and alcohol projects 1999-2000

ANCD Research paper 3
Evidence supporting treatment
**ANCD Research paper 2**  
Structural determinants of youth drug use

**ANCD Research paper 1**  
Heroin overdose: prevalence, correlates, consequences and interventions

### 6.2 Other Reports
- NGO Burden of Submission Writing Survey/Report
- Beyond 2008 Regional Report: Australia and New Zealand
- Allocation of Resources to Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Treatment Services: A review of the literature
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Charter
- Media report – Key principles for the reporting of drug issues
- Cannabis: answers to your questions
- Cape York Indigenous Issues
- ANCD national report – Rural and regional alcohol and other drugs consultation forums
- ANCD national report – Rural and regional co-morbidity workshops
- ANCD and NEACA national report – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome National Workshop 2002

### 6.3 Position Papers
- Addressing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder in Australia
- Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) position statement – 2008
- Methamphetamines Position Paper
- Naloxone availability: A secondary position paper on heroin related overdoses
- Needle and syringe programs Position Paper
- Heroin related overdose Position Paper
- High risk groups and behaviours: A secondary position paper on heroin related overdoses
- Bridges and Barriers: Addressing Indigenous Incarceration and health
- Addressing harmful alcohol use amongst Indigenous Australians
- Locally designed and operated Indigenous community models and practices that address Indigenous alcohol and other drug use

### 6.4 Other Projects
- National Drug and Alcohol Awards 2004-2011
- National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference 2012
- Homeless Information Portal website
- Positive Stories website
- ANCD rural and regional alcohol and other drugs study grants program 2000-2007
- NIDAC on line survey: Survey 1 - Alcohol
- Compulsory Centres for Drug Users Roundtable (APDIC)
- Recovery Roundtable 2012
- Pharmacotherapy Roundtable 2012
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ANCD CONTACT DETAILS

More information on the Australian National Council on Drugs and its subcommittees, including copies of completed reports, is available by accessing the ANCD website: www.anecd.org.au or by contacting the ANCD Secretariat:

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