


New Chair welcomed by Australian National Council on Drugs

The Prime Minister today announced that Dr John Herron would commence duty as the new Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD). 

Dr Herron, who has just completed an appointment as Australian Ambassador to Ireland & the Holy See replaces Major Brian Watters who retired in April 2005 after being elected to the International Narcotics Control Board.

Dr Herron was also previously a Senator in the Federal Parliament with his most recent appointment in the Parliament being Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

The members of the ANCD welcomed the Prime Minister's appointment of Dr Herron and particularly looked forward to working with him on gaining a greater level of budgetary support for drug and alcohol programs in Australia, and in particular utilising his experience and expertise to address problems being faced by Indigenous communities.

Acting Chairs Commissioner Mick Keelty, Professor Margaret Hamilton & Mr Garth Pople stated that – “The ANCD has a number of reports to release in 2006 and will be seeking a strong and ongoing commitment from key decision makers, community leaders and the general public in addressing some of the pressing drug and alcohol issues facing this country. The growing concerns over the impact and harm caused by alcohol, cannabis and methamphetamines are legitimate and deserve a greater level of policy and program response. The strength of the ANCD has been to provide impartial and evidence based advice to governments and we are confident this approach will continue under Dr Herron's leadership. Indeed, Dr Herron's experience and extensive networks will significantly enhance the ability of the ANCD to highlight and address the serious drug and alcohol issues facing the community.”

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

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