



1998-99 annual report

ANNUAL REPORT

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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS

Australian National Council on Drugs

Annual Report 1998-1999

This annual report was prepared by the ANCD Secretariat.
Copies of this report can be obtained by contacting the
Secretariat on 02 6260 5791.

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Chairman's Report



Major Brian Watters

Director of the South-Eastern Region, Salvation Army, Sydney.

Major Watters has been a Salvation Army Officer for 25 years. Most of his service has been in the area of addiction, which has included appointments in Prison Chaplaincy, Psychiatric Chaplaincy and as Director of Youth Services for Western Sydney.

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) is a unique concept of partnership between Government and non-government in the field of alcohol and other drug services and policy. The Council also represents a unique partnership of individuals with wide ranging skills, experience and views.

It has been a challenging experience to develop a working relationship which recognises and accommodates our differences, whilst melding a team that can utilise the wealth of expertise contained within our membership. I am happy to report that it is the consensus of our members that such a relationship has developed and is becoming increasingly effective.

I am often asked "What has the Council accomplished during it's first year of life?" It is both a fair and important question, because if the ANCD does not produce tangible and measurable outcomes then it is proper to question both it's value and it's continuance. It is also important to note the Council is comprised of people eminent in their fields who are carrying heavy workloads in their regular positions, and who do not themselves want to spend precious time and energy in an unproductive effort.

This annual report seeks to answer that question in detail. It should be remembered that considerable time and effort has been required to establish the ANCD structures and processes during this first year of its existence.

While the Council were involved in a number of activities, which will be highlighted throughout this report, the following is a brief precis of our most important achievements:

- Significant involvement in the formulation of the National Strategic Framework, including the community forums held in each State and Territory
- Membership of COAG Diversion Taskforce which had responsibility for the development and strategic advice on the initiative

- Providing advice and recommendations for approval of submissions for the treatment grants and community partnership funding within the *Tough on Drugs* strategy

I would like to acknowledge the support of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, in the provision of Secretariat services throughout most of the establishment year of the Council.

Both personally and on behalf of the Council, I want to thank our Prime Minister John Howard and the officers of his Department, for their generous support and their ongoing commitment to the ANCD. This support has made possible the recognition and acceptance of the non-government sector and its contribution to the field of alcohol and other drugs.

There is probably no area of social policy which is more urgent and more contentious, than the area of drugs. There is a wide range of views and vigorous debate as to the best way to respond to the problem. The ANCD is a microcosm of the Australian community in that spectrum of opinions, but far outweighing those potential divisions is the members unity in their desire to initiate effective strategies and action to reduce the use of drugs and their associated harms. In short, we all want so see lives saved and restored to dignity and young people enabled to avoid the use of drugs and the damage they bring.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow Council members for their loyalty, support and encouragement. I believe we have successfully survived the pains of the birth process and that our second year will be one of growth, maturity and achievement.

Major Watters has managed various drug and alcohol treatment facilities and has Commanded the Salvation Army's Rehabilitation Services Command, with responsibility for all Bridge Program's major treatment centres in Eastern Australia, and overseeing drug and alcohol treatment services in Queensland, NSW and ACT. He is currently the Salvation Army's Territorial Consultant on Addictions and is also the Salvation Army's spokesperson on Addictions. Major Watters is a past president of NADA (Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies, NSW) and served for three years on the NSW Health Minister's Drug Advisory Council. Major Watters is a current member of the NSW and Qld Boards of Drug-Arm Australia.

Executive Member Profiles



Commissioner Mick Palmer AO APM

Commissioner, Australian Federal Police, Canberra.

Commissioner Palmer is a 30 year police practitioner who has enjoyed service in both the State/Territory and Federal areas of policing within Australia. Mr Palmer served as Commissioner, Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services for six years and was sworn in as the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in June 1994. In 1997 the Commissioner was unanimously elected for three years as representative for Asia on Interpol's Executive Committee.



Professor Ian Webster AO

President, Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia.

Professor Webster is Chair of the National Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention, Chair of the New South Wales Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs, Member of New South Wales Health Council and the Board of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service. Professor Webster is also Clinical Associate Dean in the University of New South Wales in the South Western Sydney Clinical School and Professor of Public Health and Director of the Division of Population Health. He is visiting physician to the Matthew Talbot Hostel for the homeless and physician in Drug and Alcohol.



Professor Margaret Hamilton

Director, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Victoria.

Professor Hamilton has thirty years experience in this field including clinical work, education and research. She has a background in social work and public health and has conducted research in epidemiology, policy, evaluation (prevention & treatment), young people & drugs, women & alcohol, alcohol problems in remote Australia; evaluation of therapeutic communities and self-help.

Other Member Profiles

Professor Wayne Hall

Executive Director, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; Professor, Drug and Alcohol Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Professor Hall has been involved in teaching and research in addiction, mental health and public health for over twenty years. Mr Hall has been at the National Centre for twelve years, six of those as Executive Director.



Ms Karyn Hart

President, Australian Secondary Principals' Association, Brisbane.

Ms Hart has been involved in secondary school education since 1974 and is currently the Principal of Rochedale State High School in Brisbane. Ms Hart was a member of the IGCD review and evaluation reference group and was a regional representative on Equity, Arts and Technology Committees in Queensland.



Ms Jude Byrne

Education Manager, Australian Intravenous League's National Hepatitis C Education/Prevention Program.

Ms Byrne is a member of the Interim Board of the International Harm Reduction Association, who's work has paid particular attention to the negative effects of discrimination and stigmatisation on drug users, and their families, health and well-being.





Mr Wesley Noffs

Chief Executive Officer, Ted Noffs Foundation, Sydney

Mr Noffs has held senior management positions in the field of alcohol and other drugs for 13 years. He held the positions of Chief Executive Officer and Director of Fund-Raising, Planning and Public Relations for the Life Education Centre and was the Public Relations and Fundraising Manager for the Wayside Chapel.



Mr Arthur Toon

Director, Cyrenian House, Perth

Mr Toon has been Director of Cyrenian House (a non-government rehabilitation agency) since 1987. His involvement in broader drug and alcohol policy issues includes membership of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia Board and chairing its Treatment and Rehabilitation Services Reference Group. He is also an executive member of the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies and served as its chair for four years.



Mr Scott Wilson

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

ADAC is the only indigenous organisation of its kind in Australia, and is based in Adelaide. Mr Wilson has presented a number of papers on behalf of ADAC at both national and international conferences on indigenous drug and alcohol issues and was awarded the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA) Australia Day Achievement Medallion in 1997.

Mr Tony Trimmingham

Chief Executive Officer, Family Drug Support

Mr Trimmingham established the Damien Trimmingham Foundation after the death of his son from a drug overdose. A counsellor for twenty years, Mr Trimmingham has assisted many families who are affected by illicit drug use. The Foundation's working project, 'Family Drug Support' runs a 24hr help line, support meetings and has produced a Parent Education Kit for families with drug problems. The Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia awarded Mr Trimmingham an Australia Day Medallion in 1999 for outstanding achievement in the reduction of alcohol and drug-related harm.



Mr Craig Thompson

Magistrate, Bankstown Local Court, Sydney

Mr Thompson is a non-practicing Barrister at Law and has been a magistrate in Local Courts of NSW for fifteen years, has four years experience in the Children's Court and served briefly in the Coroner's Court. Mr Thompson is a former District Governor in Lions Clubs International. He was the liaison officer for Lions in the former Lions-AFADD Foundation, the District Drug Awareness Chairman for three years and President of PRYDE (Parents Reaching Youth through Drug Education). Mr Thompson was a board member of the Ted Noffs Foundation for seven years.



Dr Robert Ali

Director, Clinical Policy and Research for the Drug and Alcohol Services Council in South Australia

Dr Robert Ali is a public health physician who has worked in the Alcohol and other Drug area since 1985. Dr Ali is also a senior lecturer in the National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction. Dr Ali is the chair of the National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs.





Mr Graham Strathearn

Chief Executive Officer, Drug and Alcohol Services Council of South Australia (DASC); Chairman, Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD)

Mr Strathearn has been responsible for the development of alcohol and other drug directions in the South Australian Government for over twenty years. Mr Strathearn is responsible for the provision of government treatment and intervention services, education and training programs, and health promotion and prevention programs, the funding of non-government services and the provision of policy advice to the State Government.

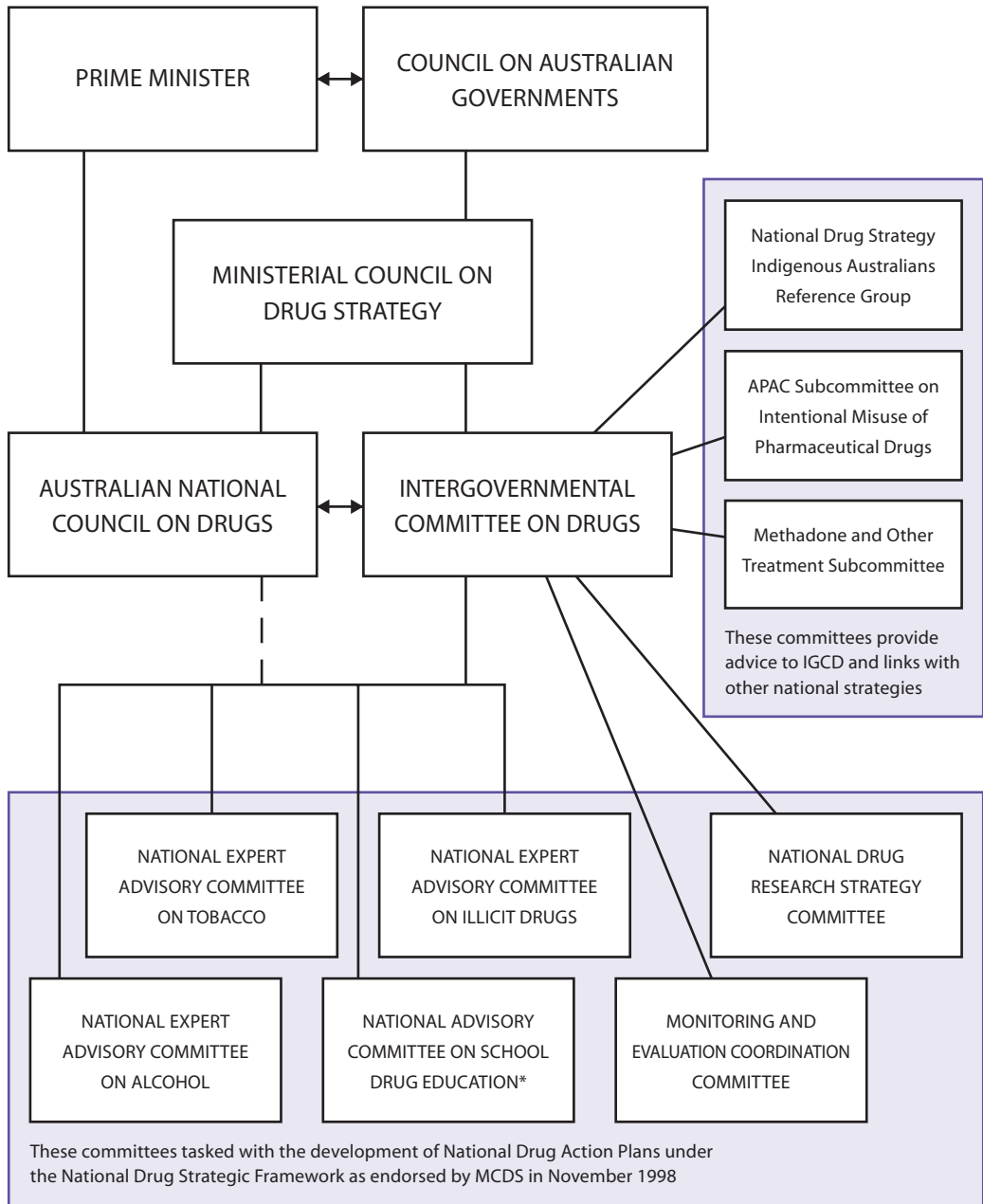


Mr Dennis Young

Executive Director, Drug Awareness and Relief Foundation (Australia); National Director, DRUG-ARM Australia

Mr Young's diverse and multi-faceted background includes management, leadership, public speaking, training and youth programs. He has qualifications in Human Resource Management, Marketing, Vocational Education and is currently completing a doctorate in Health Management. Mr Young is a registered teacher in Queensland.

Advisory Structures for the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 to 2002-03



*The National Advisory Committee on School Drug Education also reports to the Ministerial Council on Education, Training and Youth Affairs

Hon John Howard's Announcement of ANCD



The new Council will ensure that the expert voice of non-government organisations and individuals working in the drug field reaches all levels of government and influences policy.

Launch of the Australian National Council on Drugs

Today, in Brisbane, I attended a special service of support for individuals and families suffering through illicit drug use. I was fortified in my determination to stem the flow of drugs into the country, educate our young people, and help those whose lives have been ruined by the cycle of drug dependency and associated crime.

At the service I was pleased to announce the membership of the new Australian National Council on Drugs. I was also pleased to announce the second instalment of my government's "Tough on Drugs" strategy worth in excess of \$100 million over four years. This is in addition to the \$87.5 million I announced in November 1997.

I have appointed Major Brian Watters as Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs. Major Brian Watters has 23 years experience as a Salvation Army Officer, primarily in the areas of drug and alcohol addiction. He is well placed to provide advice from the front line in our fight against drugs. The Deputy Chairman is Commissioner Mick Palmer of the Australian Federal Police. Commissioner Palmer has 30 years of law enforcement experience, and is highly regarded in international policing circles.

The new Council will ensure that the expert voice of non-government organisations and individuals working in the drug field reaches all levels of government and influences policy.

The Council will advise on licit and illicit drugs. Its first priority will be to advise on the development and implementation of the National Illicit Drug Strategy, including advice on the allocation of the funds I announced today and last November.

The Council has broad representation, including from volunteer and community organisations, law enforcement, education, health and social welfare interests. The Council members will bring their expertise and years of experience and commitment to the national effort to combat drugs.

This second instalment of more than \$100 million announced today builds on a balanced and integrated approach to reducing the supply of and demand for illicit drugs and minimising the harm they cause. This money targets each step in the drug chain from its importation and distribution, to its consumption. This includes additional funds to attack organised crime links with large scale heroin trafficking; new Australian Federal Police mobile strike teams in Perth, Brisbane and Melbourne; significantly more money for non-government organisation drug treatment facilities; and a community education and information campaign.

Today I have written to Premiers and Chief Ministers informing them about the new Council and my Government's second instalment on the Tough on Drugs strategy. I am looking to my State and Territory colleagues to throw their weight behind this strategy.

In 1996 there were 526 heroin related deaths in Australia. Eighty five percent of those deaths involved people who were not in treatment. Illicit drugs are associated with over 40,000 hospital bed days each year in Australia and a national turnover in excess of \$7 billion each year.

Research shows that more than half, and possibly up to 80% of property offences have some drug involvement. Between 45% and 60% of convicted offenders committed property crimes to support drug habits. Some 64% of offenders admitted using drugs (to give them a lift, or courage) to commit an offence.

I am determined to confront this social and economic problem. We need this moral leadership for our children's sake.

16 March 1998

Executive Summary

The Council is now poised to make a greater impact in the drug and alcohol field.

The Australian National Council on Drugs was established by the Prime Minister in March 1998, as the peak advisory body on drug policy and services. The Council represents the non-government sector and provides advice to all levels of government. Whilst 1998-99 represents an establishment year for the Council, progress has been made in a number of areas. Some of the major achievements include:

- Development of ANCD Work Plan 1999-2002
- Contribution to the Development of National Drug Strategic Framework
- MCDS and IGCD Representation
- High level involvement in development of COAG Diversion Initiative
- Chairing of Community Partnerships Initiatives Expert Reference Group
- Chairing of the Training of Frontline Workers Initiative Expert Reference Group
- Chairing of the National School Drug Education Strategy Expert Reference Group
- Representation on National Expert Advisory Committees
- Representation on the Australian Drug Information Network Expert Reference Group
- Representation on a number of State and Territory Reference Groups
- Involvement in the Treatment Grants Program Process
- Involvement in Needle and Syringe Program Initiative
- Establishment of Independent Secretariat

- Provision of regular advice to Prime Minister
- Provision of regular advice to Commonwealth Agencies
- Presentation of Papers at National and International Drug and Alcohol Conferences
- Distribution of Media Releases and Communiqués
- Ongoing liaison with other National Health Strategy Committees and Councils

The Council is now poised to make a greater impact in the drug and alcohol field. Some of the Council's plans for the future include consultative forums with local drug and alcohol agencies, enhancing partnerships with other public health strategies, increasing public awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol issues, and the commissioning of a number of significant research projects.

This is the first Annual Report of the ANCD. In particular, the Council would like to thank the Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Health, other Members of Parliament, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Health and Aged Care, and other government departments for their recognition and ongoing support of the non-government sector and its role in the drug and alcohol field.

ANCD Terms of Reference

The Australian National Council on Drugs will provide advice to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) on the implementation and evaluation of the National Illicit Drug Strategy

The Council's terms of reference are as follows:

The Australian National Council on Drugs will:

- (a) provide advice to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) on the implementation and evaluation of the National Illicit Drug Strategy (NIDS) agreed by the Council of Australian Governments on 7 November 1997, including the allocation of NIDS funds, as appropriate;
- (b) provide independent strategic advice to Ministers on other drug-related issues;
- (c) where appropriate, drawing on the expertise of the National Expert Advisory Committees, ensure that ANCD policies, strategies and directions are consistent with the National Drug Strategic Framework;
- (d) work closely with the MCDS National Expert Advisory Committees and the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs to develop and implement effective strategies to address the misuse of alcohol and other drugs;
- (e) identify opportunities for collaboration by the MCDS National Expert Advisory Committees with other sectors, including industry and local government;
- (f) maintain effective communication with other stakeholders, including the Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Misuse Committee and peak non-government organisations;
- (g) develop an annual work plan for the ANCD which prioritises the activities of the Council in terms of milestones, deliverables and outcomes, for endorsement by Ministers; and
- (h) report annually to the MCDS and the Prime Minister on progress against the work plan.

Introduction

This report fulfills an ANCD requirement under its Terms of Reference to inform the Prime Minister and the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) on the key activities and progress of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) since its establishment in March 1998, up to July 1999.

The report will provide background information on the ANCD, its Secretariat, and describe the Work Plan in order to provide a framework against which the Council's activities can be measured. The ANCD's Annual Report will address the work of the Council in two ways. Firstly, each area within the Council's work plan will be reported against in terms of work performed. Secondly, the report will forecast particular projects or areas in which the Council will increase its involvement over the next twelve months.

The report will provide background information on the ANCD, its Secretariat, and describe the Work Plan in order to provide a framework against which the Council's activities can be measured.

Background

The mission for the National Drug Strategic Framework is: to improve health, social and economic outcomes by preventing the uptake of harmful drug use and reducing the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs in Australian society.

The ANCD was established as part of the Federal government's response to reduce the harm caused by drugs in our community. An important component of the ANCD's work is to ensure that policies, strategies and directions in the drug and alcohol field are consistent with the National Drug Strategic Framework.

The mission for the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 - 2002-03, prepared under the direction of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy, is:

to improve health, social and economic outcomes by preventing the uptake of harmful drug use and reducing the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs in Australian society.

The National Drug Strategic Framework recognises the importance of building partnerships. It clearly states that the framework's effectiveness depends on cooperation between a very broad range of sectors. It is with this in mind that the Prime Minister established the Australian National Council on Drugs. The Council occupies a unique position by virtue of its role in enhancing the partnership between government and the community. It has pivotal advisory, advocacy and representative functions, with a significant role to provide government Ministers with independent, expert advice on matters related to licit and illicit drugs.

The ANCD brings to the national effort expertise from volunteer and community organisations, law enforcement, health and social welfare fields. The cooperation of these fields is vital to the comprehensiveness of Australia's policy response to alcohol and other drug issues in our community.

The ANCD Secretariat, originally with the Department of Health and Aged Care, was outsourced in May 1999 and is now auspiced within the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia. The independent Secretariat is made up of three, recently engaged, full time positions; an Executive Officer, a Project Officer, and an Administration Officer, who's role is to coordinate and assist the Council to implement projects and achieve the goals of the ANCD.

ANCD Work Plan 1999-2002

The Council's terms of reference require it to develop an annual Work Plan, which prioritises the work of the Council. Developed throughout 1998-99, this Plan is endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) and ensures the work of the Council occurs within a planned, strategic framework and provides a mechanism for accountability.

The Plan identifies five (5) key activity areas for the ANCD's work. In addition to these five areas, the Plan also describes three 'Broader Relationship' areas which cover how the Council relates to the National Drug Strategic Framework, the National Expert Advisory Committees and related public health strategies. The Work Plan also provides for an annual review of Council priorities, and requires it to report annually to the MCDS.

The Australian National Council on Drugs first Annual Report aims to provide information against each of the five Key Activity, and three Broader Relationship, Areas.

The five *Key Activity Areas* are:

1. Ensuring the non-government and community sectors are well informed about the work of the Council.
2. Consulting with non-government organisations and the community on drug issues and advocacy on their behalf.
3. Providing credible advice to government.
4. Promoting informed public discussion on drug issues.
5. Advocating the Australian approach to drug issues.

The three *Broader Relationship Areas* are:

1. Providing strategic advice on the implementation of the National Drug Strategic Framework.
2. Effective working relationship between the ANCD and the National Expert Advisory Committees.
3. Effective coordination with related national public health strategies.

Key Activity Areas

The ANCD, through its membership, has excellent links with non-government and community sector organisations.

Key Activity Areas 1 & 2:

1. Ensuring the non-government and community sectors are well informed about the work of the Council; and
2. Consulting with non-government organisations and the community on drug issues and advocacy on their behalf.

The ANCD, through its membership, has excellent links with non-government and community sector organisations. Council members have used these links to discuss the role and work of the Council. Similarly, the Secretariat has identified and worked with a number of organisations it believes are important to the role of the ANCD.

The work of the Council has been publicised in many ways; through the representation on various committees by its members, communiqués and media engagement. Council members are respected by others in the community and as such, many are sought by the media and members of the drug and alcohol sector for their views and advice.

The Council's consultancy and advocacy role has largely been informal throughout its establishment phase, with members seeking opportunities for contact with a range of groups throughout the country. The Chairman's visit to the Northern Territory and his discussions with indigenous organisations and community groups is an example of the Council's activities in this regard.

Individual Council members are aware of their responsibility to work within their particular sectors as representatives of the ANCD and increasingly, the Secretariat is taking on more of a coordination role in consulting with non-government organisations.

Plans for 1999-2000

These key activity areas will become an increasing focus for the Council in the coming year.

One strategy that will be employed to facilitate the liaison and opportunity to consult with community organisations is hosting local drug and alcohol agency forums adjacent to ANCD meetings. Held in each State and/or Territory, these local agency forums will provide an opportunity for discussion and liaison between members of the ANCD and representatives from community and non-government agencies. This interaction will serve to enhance the quality of the Council's advice to governments.

In addition to this, the Secretariat will continue to develop strong links with key national non-government organisations. The Council plans to enhance its profile through an Internet site, corporate publications (such as the Annual Report) and a more deliberate communication strategy. These mechanisms will enable the Council to achieve its aim to improve understanding of, and accessibility to, the Council and its work.

Key Activity Area 3:

Providing credible advice to government.

Advice provided by the ANCD falls into two broad categories; funding advice and policy advice.

Funding Advice

Within the National Illicit Drugs Strategy (NIDS), approximately half of the funding made available by the Commonwealth is allocated towards demand reduction strategies. In collaboration with relevant Commonwealth agencies, the ANCD has been involved in the assessment of proposals seeking funding for initiatives that reduce the demand for, and impact of drugs.

The ANCD were represented on each State and Territory reference group that provided advice on individual proposals requesting funding.

The ANCD had a significant role in developing the National Drug Strategic Framework, a blueprint document for drug policy and service delivery in Australia for the next five years

Examples of ANCD involvement include the *Treatment Grants Program*, where advice was provided concerning the establishment of new treatment agencies and enhancement of existing agencies, with the aim of increasing national treatment capacity. The ANCD were represented on each State and Territory reference group that provided advice on individual proposals requesting funding. This process demonstrates the capacity of the ANCD to add value through the utilisation of its members' expertise.

The *Community Partnerships Initiative (CPI)* is a Commonwealth initiative, modelled on the World Health Organisation's "Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse", that aims to encourage quality practice and community action to prevent illicit drug use. Through the CPI Expert Reference Group, which was chaired by an ANCD member, the Council provided advice to the Health Minister regarding the assessment of applications and the allocation of funding.

The ANCD engaged a project officer to assist the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to progress the *Training of Front Line Workers Initiative*. The aim of this initiative is to enhance the quality and accessibility of relevant education to key groups. The Expert Reference Group overseeing this initiative was chaired by an ANCD member and provided specific advice to the Commonwealth to progress a number of previously identified recommendations.

Policy Advice

Within the broad area of policy advice, the Council has been active. In particular, the ANCD had a significant role in developing the National Drug Strategic Framework, a blueprint document for drug policy and service delivery in Australia for the next five years; as well as strategies on Diversion, Drug Education and Needle and Syringe Program initiatives.

Provision of high level advice continued from the ANCD through the National Drug Strategic Framework Steering Committee, advice which has contributed to the establishment of National Expert Advisory Committees.

From the historic COAG agreement on a national approach to illicit drugs in April 1999, came a core initiative and a number of supporting measures. The ANCD executive had extensive involvement in development of the Diversion package, working closely with the Drugs Taskforce. It is generally acknowledged that the ANCD has wide ranging expertise relating to the various elements of the diversion process (policing, treatment, education and courts) and has provided input across this broad spectrum. The Secretariat was also able to contribute to the expedition of the process.

In the area of drug education, a Council representative chaired the reference group and facilitated the development of the National School Drug Education Strategy. In this process, the Council commented on drafts, provided advice and continued to monitor the progress of the strategy. The ANCD actively pursued this issue, providing regular advice to the Office of the Prime Minister on the matter.

The National Illicit Drug Strategy has also identified Needle and Syringe Programs as an important component of the COAG initiative. The ANCD were represented at multi-lateral discussions on the enhancement of these programs and has publicly supported the need to develop linkages to treatment, counselling and education as desirable progressions from this intervention.

Plans for 1999-2000

The Council will give further attention to providing the Commonwealth, States and Territories with advice on behalf of the non-government sector in relation to the range of COAG supporting measures.

It is generally acknowledged that the ANCD has wide ranging expertise relating to the various elements of the diversion process (policing, treatment, education and courts) and has provided input across this broad spectrum.

Undoubtedly there has been a maturing of public debate on drug issues over recent times. The Council is able to take some credit for this, through the contributions of its members.

Key Activity Area 4:

Promoting informed public discussion on drug issues.

Undoubtedly there has been a maturing of public debate on drug issues over recent times. The Council is able to take some credit for this, through the contributions of its members. The increasing focus on drug issues and the increasing sophistication in discourse is encouraging as it provides a conducive environment for the success of initiatives under the NIDS.

The Council often discusses contentious issues at its meetings and a range of views are represented. By reflecting the spectrum of views that exist within the drug and alcohol sector and the community generally, the media coverage generated by the Council presents a balanced view on issues. This balance is important as it contributes to a more considered public attitude toward drug and alcohol issues.

Plans for 1999-2000

Through the development of information papers and a range of other initiatives, the Council expects to play an increasing role in public discourse on drug issues. Media releases, the launch of commissioned research and public comment on issues related to drug use in the community, will inevitably lead to an increasing public awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol issues.

Key Activity Area 5:

Advocating the Australian approach to drug issues.

ANCD members have attended forums and other official engagements to speak about, and advocate, Australian drug policy.

The Council's involvement in developing the National Drug Strategic Framework has been very important in facilitating broader understanding, involvement and commitment to the complimentary aims of minimising harm, and reducing both demand and supply of illicit drugs in the community.

The Chairman has presented papers at a number of conferences such as the Australasian Conference on Drug Strategy and the National Drug and Alcohol Network Conference, where he has advocated Australian drug policies and promoted the role of the ANCD. In addition to formal advocacy, individual members are aware of their responsibilities in relation to promoting, advocating and contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the Australian approach to drug issues.

Plans for 1999-2000

The Council is planning to have the Chairman present a paper at the 38th International Congress on Alcohol, Drugs and other Dependencies in Vienna. The Chairman will advocate the Australian approach of developing partnerships to prevent and reduce drug-related harm, describe the Council's role and functions, and present the Australian model as one which could be adopted by other nations.

The Council has also identified a need to retrospectively examine Australia's approach to drug policy placing particular emphasis on the past 20 years. This project will cast a historical torch on Australia's path in drug policy and service delivery. Through this project, which should include descriptions of drug policy initiatives, successes, political and societal change and State and Commonwealth relations, the ANCD hopes to provide a succinct referral point to analyse the strengths and possible weaknesses of Australia's approach.

The Council has also identified a need to retrospectively examine Australia's approach to drug policy placing particular emphasis on the past 20 years.

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Broader Relationship Areas

The Council was instrumental in ensuring advice from the community sector contributed to the development of the Framework, leading to a greater degree of ownership of the principles of the Strategy.

1. Providing strategic advice on the implementation of the National Drug Strategic Framework.

The Council has worked, both directly and indirectly, with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and other relevant agencies on the development and implementation of the National Drug Strategic Framework (NDSF). The Council was instrumental in ensuring advice from the community sector contributed to the development of the Framework, leading to a greater degree of ownership of the principles of the Strategy. The implementation of the strategy was facilitated by the ANCD, providing the link between policy makers and service delivery organisations.

2. Effective working relationship between the ANCD and the National Expert Advisory Committees.

There is a degree of cross representation between the membership of the ANCD and the various National Expert Advisory Committees (NEAC), resulting in regular communication and cooperation. In addition, the Council has liaised closely with all of the NEAC's to foster a greater level of understanding and awareness of the respective responsibilities and plans.

3. Effective coordination with related national public health strategies.

Whilst there are a number of public health strategies that the Council needed to develop close working relations with, throughout 1998-99, the ANCD concentrated on developing relationships with the Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (ANCARD) and the National Advisory Committee on School Drug Education (NACSDE).

This focus was based on the clear need to ensure that the ANCD, ANCARD and NACSDE were aware of the respective policy positions of each body and to assist in the coordination and provision of consistent advice on drug issues. This process also ensured that potential duplication of work was minimised.

Council Member Representation on Other Committees

Major Brian Watters

- NSW Health Ministers Drug Advisors Council
- DRUG-ARM Board Member (Qld and NSW)
- Joint IGCD/ANCD Working Group on Diversion
- National Public Health Partnership Group Member
- National Drug Strategic Framework Committee
- NIDS State Reference Group—(NSW)

Commissioner Mick Palmer

- Australasian Police Ministers Council—Senior Officers Group
- Police Commissioners Conference—Drug Policy Sub-Committee
- Ministerial Council on Drugs Strategy (attendee)

Professor Margaret Hamilton

- National Illicit Drug Campaign Reference Group—Chair
- Reference Group National Alcohol Campaign—Chair
- National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol
- National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs
- NGO Treatment Grants Sub-Committee
(Victorian & Tasmanian Groups)
- Joint IGCD/ANCD Working Group on Diversion
- NHMRC—National Illicit Drug Strategy Working Committee
- Community Partnerships Initiative Expert Reference Group
- Victorian Ministerial Advisory Group (Drug and Alcohol)
- National Public Health Partnership Group Member

Professor Ian Webster

- National Youth Suicide Strategy Committee—Chair
- NHMRC—National Illicit Drug Strategy Working Committee
- National Drug Strategic Framework Committee
- Senior Commonwealth Officers' Taskforce on Diversion
- National Public Health Partnership Group Member

Professor Wayne Hall

- National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs
- Australian Drug Information Network Reference Group

Ms Jude Byrne

- Interim Board of the International Harm Reduction Association
- International Women and Drug Use Committee
- National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs
- IGCD-IGCARD Joint Working Party
- Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (ANCARD)
- ANCARD Hepatitis C Sub-Committee
- National Drug Strategic Framework Committee
- Respect Users Union—East London
- Canberra Injectors Network
- ACT Ministerial Committee—Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses

Mr Graham Strathearn

- Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD)—Chair
- Ministerial Council on Drugs Strategy (MCDS)
- National Centre for Research into the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction—Deputy Chair
- Chairs of National Public Health Strategies—Public Health Partnerships
- Anti-Tobacco Ministerial Advisory Task Force—South Australia

Ms Karyn Hart

- National Secondary Schools Principals Association—President
- National Advisory Committee on School Drug Education—Chair
- National Advisory Committee on School Drug Education Protocols
- NGO Treatment Service—Sub-Committee (Qld)
- Brisbane City Council Lord Mayors Drug Committee (Qld)
- Review Committee for Drug Education in Queensland

Mr Scott Wilson

- National Drug Research Institute—Board Member (WA)
- NIDS Community Information Campaign Reference Group
- National Strategies Coordination Working Group—Indigenous Strategies
- COAG Police and Court Diversion
- NIDS Training of Frontline Workers Initiative
- NIDS State Reference Groups—(SA and NT)
- ADCA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group
- Aboriginal Inter-Justice Working Party (SA)
- Alcohol, Drugs, Crime Working Party (SA)
- South Australians for Reconciliation (SA)
- Liquor Licensing Review Committee (SA)
- Lord Mayors City Safety and Drugs Advisory Group (SA)

Dr Robert Ali

- National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs—Chair
- National Illicit Drug Strategy Community Education & Information Campaign
- COAG Initiative—Cannabis Cessation Strategies for Adults & Adolescents
- Turning Point New Pharmacotherapies Project Advisory Group

Mr Wesley Noffs

- Training of Frontline Workers Initiative—Chair
- NIDS Treatment Sub-Committee
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (NSW)

Mr Arthur Toon

- Western Australian NIDS Reference Group
- South Australian NIDS Reference Group
- COAG Diversion Initiative—Joint Planning Reference Group
- ADCA Treatment and Rehabilitation Services Reference Group—Chair
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies—Executive Member

Mr Tony Trimmingham

- Community Partnerships Initiative Expert Reference Group—Chair
- Family and Community Services Initiative
- Illicit Drugs Campaign Reference Group
- NIDS State Reference Group

Mr Dennis Young

- State Reference Committee for Illicit Drug Treatment Programs Grants
- Hon Secretary Queensland Drug and Alcohol Community Association
- Queensland Government Intersectorial Committee on the Prevention of Alcohol and other Drug Use
- Australian Medical Association Working Committee (Qld)
- QUT Alcohol and Drug Advisory Council (Qld)

Mr Craig Thompson

- National Illicit Drug Campaign Reference Group
- Joint IGCD/ANCD Working Group on Diversion
- President of PRYDE
- Drug Watch Australia
- Ted Noffs Foundation Board Member
- Australian Cities Against Drugs
- Forum for the Prevention of Drug Abuse

ANCD Meetings—Dates and Places

<i>2 April 1998</i>	Parliament House, Canberra ACT
<i>29 May 1998</i>	Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre Inc, Melbourne VIC
<i>28 August 1998</i>	Salvation Army Function Centre, Sydney NSW
<i>22–3 October 1998</i>	Kurrajong Hotel, Canberra ACT
<i>22–3 February 1999</i>	Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart TAS
<i>13 May 1999</i>	Parliament House, Canberra ACT

Conference Presentations by Chairman

- **World Cities Against Drugs Conference**—Sweden
(12 May 1998)

Keynote Address—“Australian Drug Policy”
- **Rainbow International Association Against Drugs**—Italy
(3 October 1998)

Paper Presented—“*Forming and Training for Life: This is What Prevention Really Means*”
- **ADCA Prevention Workshop**—Melbourne
(25 November 1998)

Paper Presented—“*A New Role for Primary Prevention in the National Drug Strategy*”
- **Australasian Conference on Drugs Strategy**—Adelaide
(27 April 1999)

Paper Presented—“*The Australian National Council on Drugs: Getting it Right Together*”
- **Police Commissioners Conference**—(25 May 1999)

Paper Presented—“*Role and Function of the Australian National Council on Drugs*”
- **National Drug and Alcohol Network Conference**—Darwin
(15-17 June 1999)

Two Papers Presented—

“*A Long Way to Go: A National Approach to Addressing Indigenous Substance Misuse*” (16 June 1999); and

“*Fair and Equal Funding for Alcohol and other Drug Agencies*” (17 June 1999)

Acronyms

ADCA	Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIVL	Australian Intravenous League
ANCARD	Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases
ANCD	Australian National Council on Drugs
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CPI	Community Partnerships Initiative
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGCARD	Intergovernmental Committee on AIDS and Related Diseases
IGCD	Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs
MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy
NDS	National Drug Strategy
NDSF	National Drug Strategic Framework
NEAC	National Expert Advisory Committee
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NIDS	National Illicit Drug Strategy

Acknowledgment

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