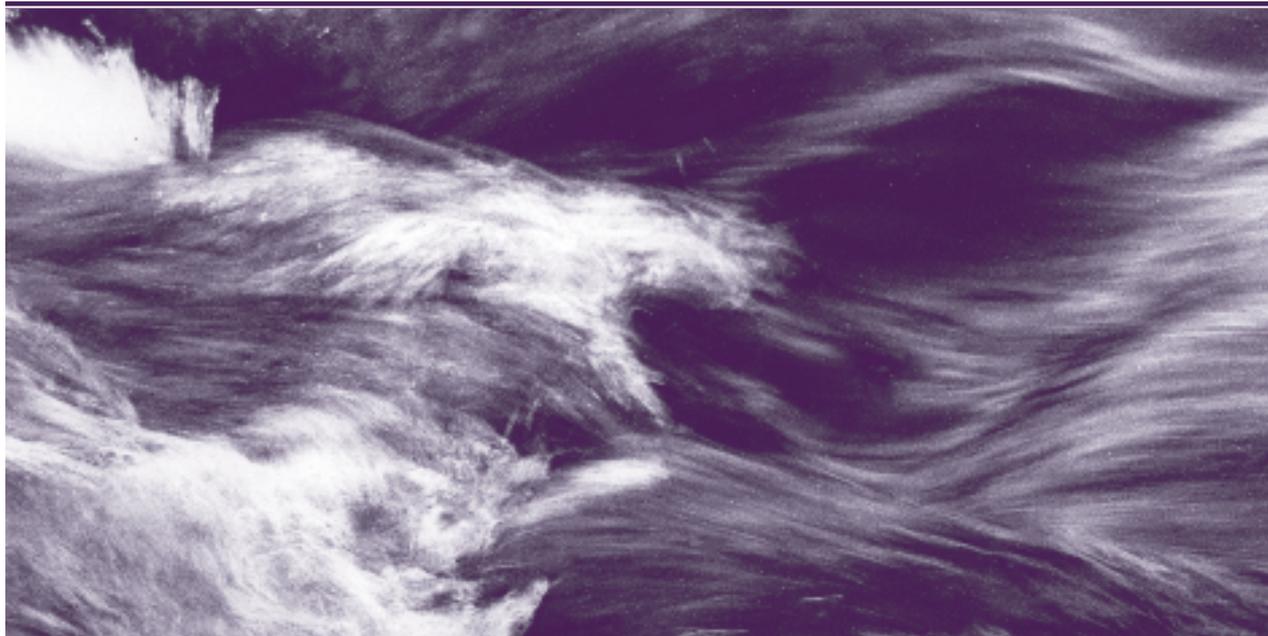




AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS



2002–03
ANNUAL REPORT

**AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL ON DRUGS
2002–03
ANNUAL REPORT**

Secretariat contact information

This annual report was prepared by the ANCD Secretariat. Copies of this report can be obtained by contacting the Secretariat or downloading it from the ANCD's web site.

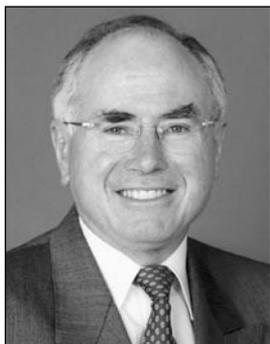
Australian National Council on Drugs
PO Box 1552
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6279 1650
Fax: 02 6279 1610
Email: ancd@ancd.org.au
Web Site: www.ancd.org.au

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER



The Council has helped shape government policy and create relevant, comprehensive and sound programmes, which are having a real impact on Australians affected by illicit drugs.

I thank the Australian National Council on Drugs for its invaluable advice over the years on illicit drugs policy in both demand and supply reduction initiatives under the National Illicit Drug Strategy — *Tough on Drugs*. Governments alone do not have all the answers to some of our more pressing problems, including illicit drugs, which is why the government has come to trust the sound and practical advice of the Council as we work towards reducing the use of drugs in this country.

I have also appreciated the collaborative and cooperative way in which the Council has worked with all levels of government, business and the non-government sector in this difficult area. The breadth and depth of experience of the Council's members is reflected in the quality of its advice to government and the influence of the non-government sector on drug policy in Australia. The Council should be justifiably proud of its achievements, both in 2002-03, and more generally since its inception. The Council has helped shape government policy and create relevant, comprehensive and sound programmes, which are having a real impact on Australians affected by illicit drugs.

We have collectively shared in the many successes of *Tough on Drugs* — both through increased seizures at the border and the increased numbers of treatment options available to assist people

who use illicit drugs. However, there is still more that needs to be done. We need to address the public health issues associated with the increased availability and use of psychostimulants, such as amphetamines, ecstasy and cocaine, and to improve treatment outcomes for people with co-morbid drug and mental health problems. The government will be looking to the Council to provide advice on appropriate strategies to combat these and other emerging illicit drug issues.

I congratulate the Council again on its achievements and for its timely advice and leadership in this important field of social policy. I would like to particularly thank Major Brian Watters for his chairmanship of the Council and his dedication to combating drug use and the harm it causes. I wish the Council well for the forthcoming year and look forward to continuing to work with the Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Howard".

John Howard

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) is now in the final year of its second three-year term. Despite some controversy at its inception, I believe it is now being recognised as a valuable element of our national drug policy structures.

It has been a primary purpose and intention of the Council to be available and recognisable to workers in the drug and alcohol field throughout Australia. Our Council meetings this year have been held as far apart as Darwin, Hobart and Perth. At each of the Council meetings we have conducted very well attended agency forums with the matters raised forwarded to the appropriate State and Federal Ministers. In addition, I with other Council members have visited remote areas such as Cape York, central Australia, the Torres Strait, and many regional cities and towns throughout Australia.

The level of access to our web site, together with a stream of correspondence, phone calls and visitors is a gratifying indication of the trust in and awareness of the role of the Council, and its concern for the issues affecting those who are dealing at a practical and day-to-day level with the problems of substance abuse.

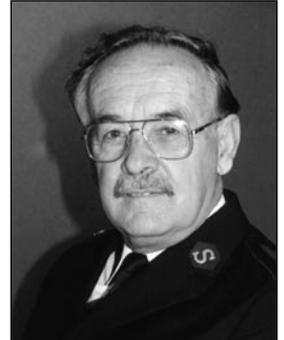
Amongst the achievements of this year has been the release of excellent reports, some of which have had to be reprinted to meet demand, including that from overseas. The new national magazine *Of Substance* will be

launched within a few months and we believe that this ANCD initiative will meet a real need of the field.

The Executive Officer, Mr Gino Vumbaca, with the Secretariat staff maintain a high level of efficiency and a commendable volume of output, from what is really a very small staff. Both personally, and on behalf of the ANCD, I express my thanks and congratulations on their excellent work.

The Executive and members of the Council give very generously of their time and expertise to meet the many demands made on the ANCD. This of course is in addition to their commitment and workload in their own agencies and workplaces. In particular, I would like to recognise the continuing support and encouragement of my Deputy Chairman, Commissioner Mick Keelty of the Australian Federal Police, in what has been a very demanding and trying year for him and his officers.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister John Howard and his staff, especially the Senior Policy Advisor, Mr John Perrin; together with the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Kay Patterson and her Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon Trish Worth, and their staff for their continued generous support and encouragement. An indication of the continued commitment of the Prime Minister and his Government, is the support and extension of a wide range of initiatives and services,



through the *Tough on Drugs* Strategy. Despite the financial pressures associated with the national drought and the response to terrorism, the 2003 Federal Budget has maintained and even increased the funding levels of the previous year.

The continuing drop in drug deaths across the nation, together with the downturn in the uptake and use of a number of drugs is the best reward that any of us would wish for our efforts. Whilst we often are focused on national policy issues, it is to this human and individual level of reduction in suffering and death that our efforts are directed and it is from the successes at that level, that we receive the incentive to continue with the work we are doing.

Major Brian Watters
Chairman

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



The past year has been both very rewarding and very demanding for the ANCD. The ANCD welcomed the 2003 Federal Budget, which showed the Federal Government's continuing support for a range of existing drug and alcohol initiatives such as Diversion, Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants, Community Partnerships and the Needle and Syringe Program. The announcement of new initiatives targeting rural and regional Australia, co-morbidity, psychostimulants, and drug and alcohol research was particularly pleasing given the many unforeseen and difficult issues that required Federal Government attention and funding this year.

As in previous years, we have seen many drug issues that have required significant attention. In keeping with its national advisory role the ANCD membership has rightly focused on a number of these issues. Of particular note was the attention given to the problems related to alcohol and in more recent times the inappropriate marketing and promotion of alcohol to young people. Raising public awareness and promoting debate

on such issues has been and will continue to be an integral role for the ANCD.

The past year has again seen the release of some very informative reports and papers by the ANCD, the continuation of the *Rural and Regional Alcohol and Other Drug Study Grants Initiative* has highlighted the ANCD's ongoing commitment to addressing issues affecting specific communities. It has also seen the completion of the development phase of the new national AOD magazine, which will have its first issue widely available in October 2003. I would like to highlight that the support of the drug and alcohol sector for this national magazine — *Of Substance* — has been tremendous. I am sure their contributions will be highly rewarded when they receive the magazine.

As has been the case since its inception, a core role of the ANCD is to provide advice at the highest levels of policy and planning to ensure that the views and needs of community sectors are taken into account during any decision making process. In many cases this advice is based on the numerous consultations held by the ANCD members with the sectors involved in addressing drug and alcohol issues. These consultations provide a vital dual service by allowing ANCD members to be informed of developments and concerns in the sector, as well as informing those working in the frontline of the developments and work at the policy and planning levels.

I would also like to reiterate a message from previous annual reports and stress the ANCD belief in providing independent and evidence based advice to all political parties and decision makers. The ANCD members remain focused and committed to achieving a greater level of policy and planning sophistication, as well as a greater recognition of the role of the community sectors than has ever previously been possible.

I would like to thank all members of the ANCD Secretariat and the National Magazine Editors for their tireless efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the support provided by our auspicing body the ADCA.

The ANCD has dealt with many governments departments this year, in particular the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Health and Ageing, all of whom have provided a high level of support that is very much appreciated by the ANCD.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the ANCD for their support, commitment, advice and assistance over the past year; it has undoubtedly made the work of the ANCD of the highest quality.

Gino Vumbaca
Executive Officer

ANCD MEMBERSHIP AND TERM

The Prime Minister is responsible for appointing members to the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD). Each member serves a term of three years. The current members of the ANCD form the second term of membership and this is due to expire in March 2004. Since the ANCD's inception in March 1998, some members have served more than one term of membership. As a result, each member's term/s of membership is indicated after his or her name.

Membership of the ANCD includes individuals with a wide range of experience and expertise on various aspects of drug policy, such as treatment, rehabilitation, education, family counselling, law enforcement, research and work at the coalface in community organisations. In addition, there is at least one member located in each State/Territory, which assists the ANCD to remain informed on jurisdictional AOD issues, and integrate them into the national picture, if appropriate.



Photo courtesy of AusPic

I would like to congratulate the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) for its work and its commitment to the Government's Tough on Drugs strategy. Too often the issue of drug abuse is swept under the carpet, and this attitude has to change if we are to teach our children about the reasons not to use drugs. The ANCD plays a vital role in educating parents on how to talk to their children about drugs, through their input into Tough on Drugs initiatives, such as the National Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative.

I have been particularly impressed with the importance that the Council has placed on consultations with the rural and regional alcohol and other drugs sector. ANCD initiatives such as the Rural and Regional Study Grants to rural and regional workers who deal with alcohol and other drugs, do demonstrate its commitment to addressing issues which affect rural and regional communities.

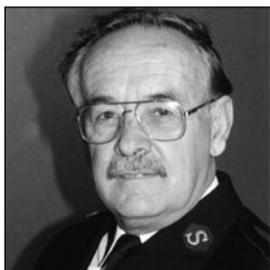
I would like to pass on my thanks to Major Watters as Chair of the ANCD and the members of the Council who work tirelessly to provide the Government with advice on national drug strategies and to assist the Government reduce the supply and demand for illicit drugs.

*John Anderson
Deputy Prime Minister*

Too often the issue of drug abuse is swept under the carpet, and this attitude has to change if we are to teach our children about the reasons not to use drugs. The ANCD plays a vital role in educating parents on how to talk to their children about drugs, through their input into Tough on Drugs initiatives, such as the National Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative.

ANCD MEMBER PROFILES

ANCD EXECUTIVE



MAJOR BRIAN WATTERS AO
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs

Major Watters was appointed Chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs in 1998.

Major Watters has been a Salvation Army Officer for twenty-eight years. Whilst most of his service has been in the area of addictions, it has also included appointments in Prison Chaplaincy, Psychiatric Chaplaincy and as Director of Youth Services for Western Sydney.

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, overseeing drug and alcohol treatment services in Queensland, NSW and ACT. He was the Salvation Army's Territorial Consultant and media spokesperson prior to his retirement in May 2000.

Major Watters is a past president of NADA (Network of Alcohol and Other 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.



COMMISSIONER MICHAEL JOSEPH KEELTY APM
(2001–2004)

Commissioner of Police, Australian Federal Police;

Deputy-Chairman, Australian National Council on Drugs

Mr Keelty was appointed Commissioner of Police of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on April 2, 2001.

Mr Keelty's policing career began in 1974 with the ACT Police, which subsequently merged with the Commonwealth Police to become the Australian Federal Police in 1979.

During his career Mr Keelty has worked in a variety of fields, including community policing, national drug operations and intelligence. He has also undertaken

a lengthy secondment to the National Crime Authority to work on investigations into organised crime and corruption.

In 1995 Mr Keelty attained the rank of Assistant Commissioner (AFP Queensland). In 1998 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner (Crime).

He was appointed as Deputy Commissioner in December 2000.

Mr Keelty received the Australian Police Medal for distinguished service in 1996. He holds a Master of Public Policy and Administration, a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education, is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. In 2003, Mr Keelty received a Centenary Medal For service as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police.

As Commissioner of the AFP, Mr Keelty is the Chair of the Board of the Australian Crime Commission. Mr Keelty is also Co-Chair (with the Republic of Korea) of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the Deputy Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs and Co-Chair of the Board of Control of the Australian Institute of Police Management.



PROFESSOR MARGARET HAMILTON
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

Director, Turning Point Alcohol And Drug Centre, Victoria;
Professor, School Of Population Health, University Of Melbourne

Professor Hamilton has over 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 and treatment), young people and drugs, women and alcohol, alcohol problems in remote Australia; evaluation of therapeutic communities and selfhelp. She serves on various policy advisory groups.



MR GARTH POPPLE
(2001–2004)

Executive Director, We Help Ourselves (WHOS);
Board Member, International Council of Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA);
Board Member, Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association;
Treasurer, Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (NSW)

Mr Popple has been working in AOD management roles since 1986 and in honorary committee and board positions since 1981 for the non-profit sector. He has been primarily focused on the Therapeutic Community movement for most of his career to date, and in 1991 became involved in harm minimisation initiatives and he attempts to stay in touch with the needs and feedback from users past and present.

Mr Popple is the Executive Director of We Help Ourselves (WHOS) which operates four Therapeutic Communities within NSW: WHOS Metro for men, WHOS New Beginnings for women, WHOS MTAR (Methadone To Abstinence Residential) and WHOS Hunter Valley. WHOS provides other services such as Aftercare and HIV/Infectious Disease Education Services.

Mr Popple through his position at WHOS has been a member of NADA since 1986. He is a past NADA President 1993–1997 and currently treasurer. He is a past President of the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association and currently a Board member.

Mr Popple is a Board member of the International Council of Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA) and an Executive Member of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD).

The above honorary appointments have a specific interest to Mr Popple due to their focus on the non-government sector, nationally and internationally. Mr Popple received an Honorary Fellowship of the University of Western Sydney. This award was in recognition of 'Services to the Community.'



MR SCOTT WILSON
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

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. In 1997, Mr Wilson was awarded the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) Australia Day Achievement Medallion, and in 2003, he was awarded a Centenary Medal for Services to the Community.

OTHER MEMBERS



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROBERT ALI
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

Director, Clinical Policy and Research for the Drug and Alcohol Services Council (SA)

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



MS ANN BRESSINGTON
(2001–2004)

Founder and Administrator, DrugBeat of South Australia Program for ADTARP Inc.

Born in Toowoomba, Queensland and one of seven children, Ms Bressington attended Mater Dei Private College. Her daughter Shay Louise Bressington died in 1998 from heroin. Her daughter's addiction is what led her to the area of treatment and rehabilitation.

Ms Bressington has studied privately in the areas of human behaviours, natural and traditional medicine, and drug dependency. She has further refined treatment that offers detoxification using Temgesic and Naltrexone for relapse prevention, and has introduced new approaches for substance abusers and family members, which include hypnotherapy, family therapy and natural therapies to assist with the psychological issues that exist for drug dependent persons and family members.



MR DAVID CROSBIE
(2001–2004)

Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House, Victoria

Mr Crosbie manages a staff of over seventy and a broad range of programs including residential rehabilitation, counselling, family support, research and training, youth outreach and early intervention programs for parents of adolescents. Between August 1993 and December 1999, Mr Crosbie was the Chief Executive Officer of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA).

Mr Crosbie is currently an editor of the 'Drug and Alcohol Review', with responsibility for the 'News and Views' Section of this publication. Previously, he was Director of Research, Training and Program Development at the Australian Drug Foundation. Mr Crosbie has written and published articles and papers on many issues including; non-government organisational effectiveness, alcohol policy towards the year 2000, the changing role of government and non-government organisations, the role of information

in the drug and alcohol field, drug education in schools, alcohol in the workplace, drugs and sport, parents and drugs, smart drugs, and the police role in drug education. He has also been a regular guest lecturer at several universities, and attracts regular consulting work facilitating meetings and working with non-government organisations to improve their effectiveness.

For the past fifteen years, Mr Crosbie has primarily worked in the non-government health and welfare sectors. He has a strong commitment to the role of non-government agencies in the provision of quality programs and services.



MR KEITH EVANS
(2001–2004)

Director, Drug Programs and Population Strategies, South Australian Department of Human Services

Mr Evans has qualifications in psychology, nursing and management and has worked in the areas of drug and alcohol and public health in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia for the past twenty-five years.

Mr Evans is currently Director, Drug Programs and Population Strategies with the South Australian Department of Human Services, a position he has held since December 2001. Prior to this appointment he was State Manager of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services, Queensland Health. For the period 1984–1994 Mr Evans was Chief Executive Officer with the Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand.

Mr Evans has published in the areas of alcohol policy, treatment and prevention and acted as a consultant on alcohol policy and prevention to the World Health Organization. Recently he has provided technical advice to the Scottish Government on the development and implementation of their new National Alcohol Strategy.

Mr Evans is currently Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs and a member of the National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions.



MR NICK GILL
(2001-2004)

*Manager, Drug and Alcohol Services
Association Alice Springs Inc*

Mr Gill was born in England in 1948. Educated at Blundell's School, he attended Cambridge University where he commenced reading Medicine and subsequently English. He then did Research in Educational Administration at Bristol University, before immigrating to Australia in 1974. Mr Gill spent the next fifteen years working as a professional Actor, Playwright and Director, mainly in Community Theatre.

In 1990 he began working for the AIDS Council of South Australia, where he became Administration Manager, moving from there to working for the Salvation Army in the Whitmore Square Sobering Up Shelter, and then as Counsellor in the Bridge Rehabilitation Program. In 1997 Mr Gill developed Australia's first Residential Cannabis Rehabilitation program. In 1999 he moved to Alice Springs, where he is presently Manager of the Drug and Alcohol Services Association. Mr Gill is on the Board of Directors for the

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation and is a Churchwarden in the Anglican Parish of the Ascension, Alice Springs.



MS JULIE HANBURY
(2001-2004)

*Coordinator, Helping Empower Local
Parents (HELP) project, Local Drug Action
Groups Inc.;*
*Parent Drug Information Service,
Western Australia*

Julie is the parent of three children in their late teens and early twenties and lives in Perth, Western Australia. She is the Coordinator of HELP, a parent drug education project managed by Local Drug Action Groups Inc., that focuses on prevention and early intervention initiatives. Julie is involved as a volunteer with the Parent Telephone Support Network at the Parent Drug Information Service in Western Australia and is also a volunteer drug and alcohol counsellor at the Palmerston Centre in Northbridge.



MS TONIE MILLER
(1998-2001, 2001-2004)

TOUGHLOVE Representative Tasmania

Ms Miller has been a registered pharmacist for over twenty-five years and has held registration and worked in four countries, including both hospital and community pharmacy. She is currently professionally involved with the Methadone Program in Tasmania.

Ms Miller was a founding member and State Coordinator for TOUGHLOVE Tasmania Inc., a support group and program for parents experiencing difficulties with their young people's behaviour. She has been responsible for the establishment of the program in other areas of Tasmania and has worked extensively with families facing difficulties related to illicit drug usage. She is a qualified TOUGHLOVE representative.

Ms Miller was both a Board Member and employee of Holyoake Tasmania Inc., The Tasmanian Alcohol and Addictions Family Education and Support Program.

She has been actively involved in forums and meetings dealing with Youth Homelessness, Youth Justice and Health related issues.



**PROFESSOR JOHN B SAUNDERS
(2001–2004)**

*Professor of Alcohol and Drug Studies,
University of Queensland;*

*Director, Alcohol and Drug Services
of The Prince Charles Hospital and
Royal Brisbane Hospital Health Service
Districts;*

*Honorary Secretary, Australasian Chapter
of Addiction Medicine of the Royal
Australasian College of Physicians*

Professor Saunders qualified in pharmacology and then medicine from the University of Cambridge and later specialised in acute general medicine, gastroenterology and drug and alcohol medicine. He has been a practising clinician and manager in drug and alcohol services for twenty-five years, as well as a teacher and researcher.

Professor Saunders has worked closely with the World Health Organization for many years, being Technical Focal Point (Scientific Director) for ten years of WHO's collaborative studies on brief intervention, and responsible for devising the AUDIT questionnaire. He has been a member of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Mental Health since 1991 and is the Co-Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Mental Health and Substance Abuse for Australia. From 1989–1993, he was a member of the Expert Advisory Panel on Alcohol and Drugs of the National Health and Medical Research Council.

He has published two books and over 250 scientific papers and reviews. He has been Editor of the Drug and Alcohol Review since 1984, and a member of the Council of the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs. Since 1995, he has been Secretary and a Board Member of the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism. He has given guest lectures and workshops at international meetings on thirty-eight occasions in the past six years.



**MR CRAIG THOMPSON
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)**

Magistrate, Sydney

Mr Thompson is a non-practicing Barrister at Law and has twenty-three years experience as a magistrate in Local Courts of NSW, 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.



MR ARTHUR TOON
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

*Vice President, Alcohol and other Drugs
Council of Australia*

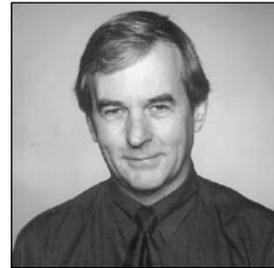
Mr Toon was Director of Cyrenian House (a non-government rehabilitation agency) from 1987 to 2002. He was also an executive member of the WA Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) and served as its chair for four years. He is currently the Acting Director of WANADA.



PROFESSOR IAN WEBSTER AO
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

Physician

Professor Webster is Emeritus Professor of The University of New South Wales. He is Chair of the National Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention, Chair of the New South Wales Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs, Chair of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, Co-chair, New South Wales Mental Health Implementation Group, Director of the Board of the South Western Sydney Area Health Service and Chair, Centres for Primary Health Care and Equity, University of New South Wales. He is honorary visiting physician to the Matthew Talbot Hostel for the homeless and physician in Drug and Alcohol in the South Western Sydney Area Health Service. He is President of the International Federation of Non-Government Organisations against drug abuse.



MR TERRY WOOLLEY
(2001–2004)

*Immediate Past President, Australian
Secondary Principals Association*

Mr Woolley has been a teacher, curriculum specialist and leader in the South Australian public school system for more than thirty-two years, the last thirteen years as the Principal of three large and complex schools. He holds educational, science and postgraduate management qualifications and has had successful teaching experiences in country and city schools, including a year overseas. He is an author, educational writer and speaker and has served on a wide range of educational and advisory committees at state and national level. He is currently Principal of Unley High School in Adelaide, South Australia. He has been an executive member of both state and national principal associations for six years and was elected national president in 1999. Mr Woolley's background has brought him into contact with many young people and their families in diverse communities over many years.



MR DENNIS YOUNG
(1998–2001, 2001–2004)

Executive Director, Drug Awareness and Relief Foundation (Australia);

National Director, DRUG-ARM Australia

Mr Young's diverse and multi-faceted background includes management, leadership, training and youth programs. He has qualifications in Human Resource Management, Marketing, and Vocation Education and is a registered teacher in Queensland who has worked in the alcohol and other drug field since 1988.

ADVISOR TO THE ANCD

MS SUE KERR
(July 2002 – October 2002)

Assistant Secretary

Drug Strategy Branch

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

Ms Kerr is now the State Manager of the NSW Office of the Department of Health and Ageing.

MS JENNY HEFFORD
(November 2002 – present)

Assistant Secretary

Drug Strategy Branch

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

ANCD SECRETARIAT



MR GINO VUMBACA

Executive Officer

Mr Vumbaca has extensive experience in the HIV/AIDS and drug and alcohol fields both in Australia and overseas. He is a Churchill Fellow and has completed a Social Work degree and a Masters of Business Administration at the University of Sydney. He has worked as the Manager of HIV/AIDS and related services with the NSW Department of Corrective Services, in a variety of drug and alcohol centres as a counsellor and was responsible for co-ordinating the establishment of the NSW network of needle and syringe exchange programs for the NSW Health Department. Mr Vumbaca also continues to provide advice on prisons, HIV and drug issues for international organisations such as the UN and WHO.



MS KAREN PRICE

Research Officer

Ms Price has a background in drugs in sport, having worked for the Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA), and in a coordination role drug testing at the Sydney Olympics. In her various roles at ASDA, Ms Price has had experience in education programs, staff training and development, and contracts with professional and non-professional sports. Ms Price has a Bachelor of Education (human movements and legal studies) and a Graduate Diploma in Public Health.



MR NEILL TAYLOR

Project Officer

Mr Taylor has been with the ANCD since March 2002. Previously he has worked in the Commonwealth Government's Youth Affairs Bureau and as a secondary teacher. Mr Taylor holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Human Movement and Recreation), Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary) (PD/H/PE) and a Graduate Certificate in Public Administration.



MS KIM CROWLE

Office Manager

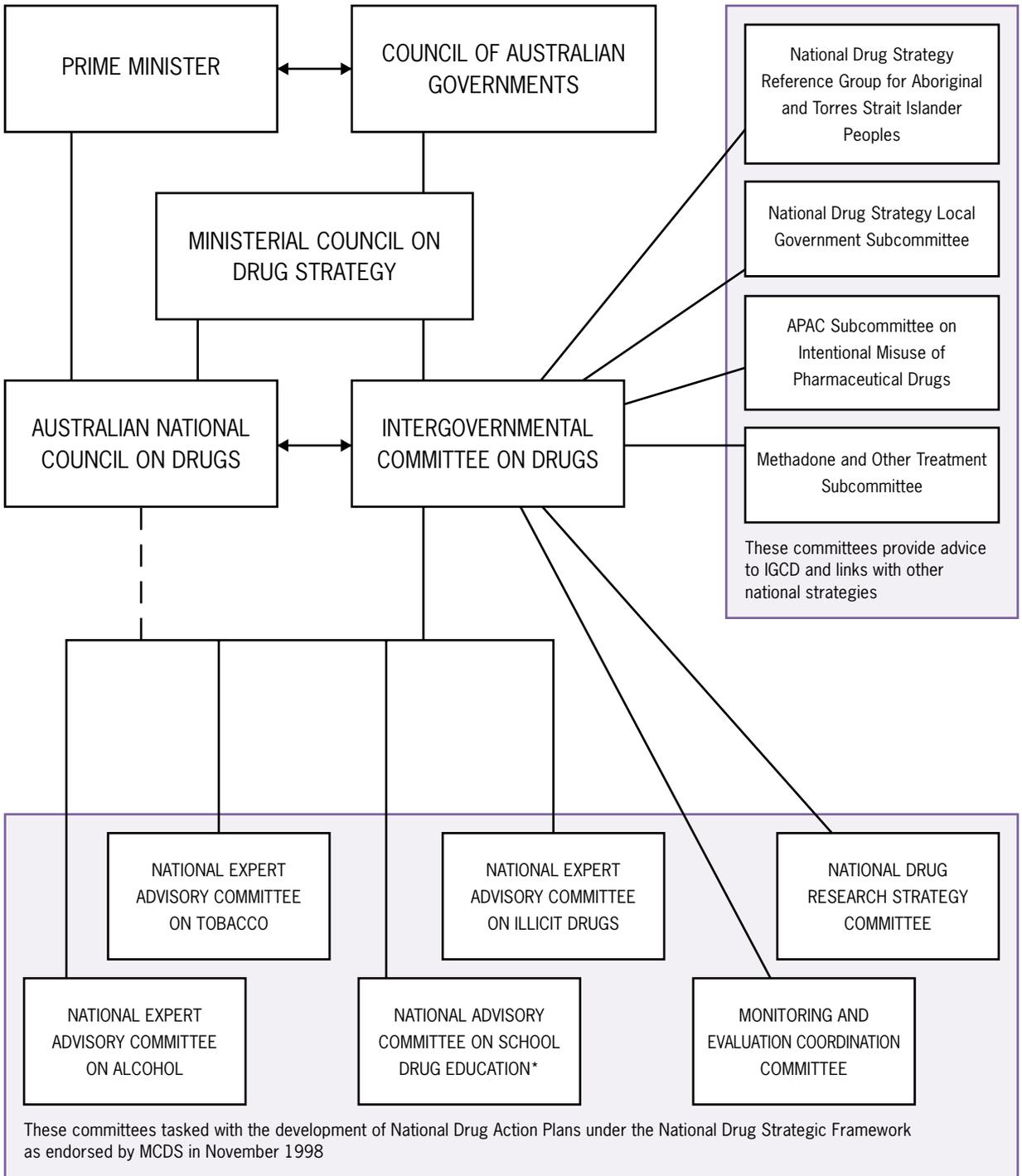
Ms Crowle has been with the ANCD Secretariat since January 2000. As Office Manager, some of her responsibilities include organisation of meetings, travel arrangements for members, and various other office administration tasks.

I strongly support the Australian National Council on Drugs in its mission to eradicate drug abuse from the community. Drug abuse has ruined the lives of so many people in Australia, both directly through the individuals concerned and indirectly through the difficulties that families and friends of drug abusers face. I wholeheartedly endorse the efforts of Major Watters and others at the Council in dealing with this issue. I believe that since its establishment in 1998 the Council has been effective in reducing the incidence of drug abuse in the community. I continue to offer my support to the ANCD and wish it every success in the future.



*Peter Costello
Treasurer*

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, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2002–2003, the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) continued to work extremely hard to provide government with independent, evidence based advice on a range of AOD matters. In addition, the ANCD also ensured that the voice of the community sectors was taken into account in the policy development cycle.

During the last financial year the ANCD released the following publications: *Drug Policy: The Australian Approach*; *Diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth from Juvenile Detention*; *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome National Workshop 2002 Report*; and the *Rural and Regional Co-morbidity Workshops Report*. Each of these publications allowed key stakeholders to become more informed about specific AOD issues. The ANCD anticipates that the forthcoming year will see the release of more evidence based publications. In particular, the new national AOD magazine — *Of Substance* — which aims to bridge the gap between research and practice in the AOD sector. The first edition of *Of Substance* is scheduled for release in October 2003.

Throughout the year the ANCD has provided significant input to government about the continuation of initiatives such as the Community Partnerships Initiative, the Council of Australian Governments Illicit Drug

Diversion Initiative and the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program. In addition, the ANCD provided the Federal Government with a high level of advice and support regarding the development of the 2003 Federal Budget.

Following the use of a number of consultative mechanisms, the ANCD was able to provide government with comprehensive advice on a range of AOD issues. Specific examples of the issues the ANCD has raised with government include alcohol marketing, co-morbidity, families, workforce development and the National Drug Strategic Framework.

In 2002–2003, the ANCD continued to foster its working relationships with a number of stakeholders both nationally and internationally. From a national perspective, the ANCD has maintained its productive working relationship with stakeholders such as the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy, the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs and the National Expert Advisory Committees, in particular the National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol. In terms of international stakeholders, the ANCD has continued to develop working relationships with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, the World Health Organization and the International Federation of Non-Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse.

As stated in previous annual reports, the level of support provided to the ANCD by government and its departments in each jurisdiction has been extremely valuable and greatly appreciated. The ANCD trusts that these positive working relationships will continue in the forthcoming year.

Finally, the ANCD recommends its annual report to readers and would encourage those who require further information about any of the issues raised within it to view the ANCD's web site <www.ancd.org.au> or contact the Secretariat.

INTRODUCTION

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) was established by the Prime Minister in 1998 with the distinct purpose of being the principal advisory body to government on drug policy and plays a critical role in ensuring the voice of the community sectors is heard in relation to drug related policies and strategies. As a result of its unique position, the ANCD continues to be an influential advisory body and has had input into several initiatives associated with the national drug strategy.

This report outlines the work of the ANCD during the 2002–2003 financial year. In particular, it demonstrates how the ANCD's activities during this period have made progress against the objectives identified in its three-year work plan.

The work of the Council has added significantly to Australia's body of knowledge, through recent publications such as the research paper *Drug Policy — The Australian Approach* and the national report *Rural and Regional Co-morbidity Workshops*.



I am pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of the Council on their significant contribution to Australia's management of drug issues over the past year. The Council brings an important voice and expertise to the National Drug Strategic Framework.

I value the Council's continued support in implementation of the Government's Tough on Drugs strategy through representation on overseeing bodies for the Community Partnerships Initiative and the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program and the COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative.

*The work of the Council has added significantly to Australia's body of knowledge, through recent publications such as the research paper *Drug Policy — The Australian Approach* and the national report *Rural and Regional Co-morbidity Workshops*.*

I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Australian National Council on Drugs for their contribution and support and I look forward to our continued collaboration in reducing the supply, demand and harm caused by drugs in our society.

*Kay Patterson
Minister for Health and Ageing*

ANCD TERMS OF REFERENCE 2001–2004

The Australian National Council on Drugs will:

- A. Provide independent advice to the Prime Minister and the MCDS on national drug strategies and policies;
- B. Contribute to the effectiveness of Australia's supply, demand and harm reduction initiatives, consistent with the national interest;
- C. Provide independent and strategic advice on drug policy and services to Federal Government and other bodies and parliamentary parties, as appropriate;
- D. Consult and liaise with the drug and alcohol and related sector, and in particular the non-government sector;
- E. Inform and educate public knowledge and discussion on drug related issues;
- F. Build and maintain partnerships across the range of sectors concerned in dealing with and addressing drug related issues;
- G. Work closely with the IGCD and the National Expert Advisory Committees to develop and implement effective strategies, policies and programs to address the uptake and misuse of illicit and licit drugs;
- H. Maintain effective liaison with other stakeholders, public health advisory bodies and relevant peak non-government organisations;
- I. Develop a 3 year Work Plan for the Council; and
- J. Report annually to the Prime Minister and the MCDS on the work of the Council.

The expertise and dedication of members of the Australian National Council on Drugs to reducing the harm caused by drugs in our society is greatly valued by this Government.



Australia's approach to the complexity of drug issues continues to be comprehensive, innovative and balanced largely because we have, in the National Drug Strategic Framework, a unique way of coordinating the work of jurisdictions and the advice of experts on priority areas. The ANCD has an important role in this process in representing the views of the non-government sector and in providing policy advice. I have found the ANCD to be very accessible and able to provide timely information and advice on a range of drug related issues.

The Government is committed to making every effort to address the illicit drug problem in Australia and accordingly has introduced the largest single initiative ever undertaken in this country to reduce the supply of and demand for illicit drugs, Tough on Drugs. I would like to acknowledge the time and commitment of ANCD members in providing expert advice on many of the programs within Tough on Drugs, which covers demand, supply and harm reduction strategies. There have been significant achievements to date, with fewer people now using illicit drugs, fewer people dying of overdoses, more people receiving treatment for drug and alcohol problems and more parents talking to their children about drugs.

While we have made much progress, the dynamic nature of this issue requires continuing vigilance. I look forward to continued collaboration with the ANCD, which I know shares the Government's commitment to further developing Australia's policy and programs in this vital area.

*Trish Worth
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing*

ANCD WORK PLAN

The development of a three-year work plan is a requirement of the Australian National Council on Drugs' (ANCD) Terms of Reference. Accordingly, the ANCD developed a comprehensive work plan for the period 2001–2004. In developing its Work Plan, the ANCD used each Term of Reference as a heading to ensure its activities reflect the mandate given to it by the Federal Government.

A. Provide independent advice to the Prime Minister and the MCDS on national drug strategies and policies

OBJECTIVES

- i. Contribute to the provision of timely and effective advice which has an impact on the decisions of Ministers and their advisers, particularly in regard to the development, implementation and evaluation of national drug strategies.

PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR

Throughout the year the ANCD regularly provided the Prime Minister, relevant Ministers, their offices and departments with formal and informal advice on a range of issues associated with the national drug strategy. In particular, the ANCD provided the Federal Government with a high level of advice and support during the development of the 2003 Federal Budget. The ANCD continued to contribute to the House of Representatives' Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs inquiry into substance abuse in Australian communities. The ANCD also provided advice to government on the continuation of initiatives such as the Community Partnerships Initiative (CPI), Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) and the COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative.

The ANCD reports formally to the Prime Minister and the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) through its annual report. Representatives of the ANCD also attended the MCDS' annual meeting. Following each formal meeting of the ANCD a written report is provided to the Prime Minister.

Members of the ANCD also occupy positions on a range of other committees that provide timely and effective advice on national drug strategies and policies. The ANCD Member Representation on other Committees section of this report provides these details.

- ii. Effective presentation of the views and issues relating to the NGO and community sectors, and other stakeholders, in advice on national drug strategy and policy formulation.

The ANCD conducted regular consultation forums to enable it to be aware of the views of non-government organisations, the community and other relevant stakeholders. Based on its consultation forums, the ANCD was able to ensure that the views of these groups were provided to key decision makers for consideration in policy formulation. With particular reference to the consultation forums, the ANCD provided written reports of the issues raised to the Premier or Chief Minister and relevant Ministers in the appropriate jurisdiction.

In addition to consultation forums, the ANCD regularly communicated with various NGO peak bodies in the AOD sector on a formal and informal basis. Once again, through this process the ANCD was able to ensure that their views were put forward for consideration in policy formulation.

Specific examples of the issues the ANCD has raised with relevant ministers include alcohol marketing, families, co-morbidity, application processes for funding, and the need for greater recognition and involvement of the NGO sector in policy development.

B. Contribute to the effectiveness of Australia's supply, demand and harm reduction initiatives, consistent with the national interest

OBJECTIVES

PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR

Integration plans

- i. Achieve a greater level of understanding amongst decision makers on the impacts, links, effectiveness and benefits of an integrative and complementary approach to supply, demand and harm reduction initiatives.

The ANCD released publications on a range of issues with the aim of increasing key decision makers' understanding of the impact on supply, demand, and harm reduction initiatives. Due to the quality of these publications, stakeholder demand for them in hard copy and electronic format has been extremely high. In addition, members of the ANCD regularly met with key decision makers in the areas of supply, demand and harm reduction to foster closer working relationships and reinforce partnerships with them. During these meetings members have also been able to use ANCD publications as a significant resource to increase key decision makers' understanding of specific issues.

<p>ii. Raise awareness of the impact of supply, demand and harm reduction initiatives on issues affecting particular communities, such as women, youth, Indigenous people and communities, families, past and present drug users, rural communities, co-morbid clients, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, prisoners, etc.</p>	<p>Each year the ANCD aims to commission at least one project that targets a specific community. During the reporting period the ANCD either launched or conducted projects that focused on issues such as Indigenous communities, young people, rural and regional comorbidity. With each completed project a report was provided to relevant key decision makers throughout Australia.</p> <p>In addition to the commissioned projects, members of the ANCD also participated in various committees which focused on specific communities such as parents, pharmacists, Indigenous people and co-morbid clients.</p>
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<p>iii. Greater level of accountability, value and transparency in the allocation and funding decision making process.</p>	<p>The ANCD recognises the need for accountability, transparency and value for money in the allocation of Tough on Drugs funding. Accordingly, as an overriding principle of ANCD involvement in any committee members ensure that accountability, transparency and value for money are factored into all decisions regarding the allocation of funding.</p>
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Supply reduction plans

<p>iv. Provide expert advice on the effectiveness and improvement of supply reduction initiatives.</p>	<p>The ANCD received regular briefings from appropriate authorities such as the Attorney General's Department, Australian Customs Service and the Australian Federal Police on a number of supply reduction initiatives and values their contribution to the overall national drug strategy. The ANCD will continue to liaise with these authorities in the forthcoming year to increase its involvement in the area of supply reduction.</p>
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Demand reduction plans

<p>v. Provide expert advice on the effectiveness and improvement of demand reduction initiatives.</p>	<p>During the year the ANCD was closely involved in the negotiations that ensured the continuation of the NGOTGP. Subsequently, the ANCD was involved in the decision making process that determined grant recipients. In addition, the ANCD has continued to provide advice to all levels of government about the success of various treatment options and the need to provide an appropriate range of treatment options that are adequately resourced.</p>
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Harm reduction plans

- vi. Provide expert advice on the effectiveness and improvement of harm reduction initiatives.

During the reporting period the ANCD provided advice to all levels of government on a range of harm reduction initiatives associated with needle and syringe programs, methadone, HIV and hepatitis C.

The ANCD continued to work on a joint project with the Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (ANCAHRD) that will report on injecting behaviour and the risks of acquiring blood borne viruses.

The ANCD was also very active in promoting the benefits of harm reduction initiatives to the community. In particular, the ANCD showed strong support for, and promoted the findings of, the report Return on Investment in Needle and Syringe Programs in Australia, which was launched in October 2002.

National interest plans

- vii. Increased attention on the workforce development needs of all professions and people dealing and working with drug use issues.

The ANCD recognises the importance of workforce development needs for those individuals who deal with AOD issues. Throughout the year the ANCD liaised with the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD), National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction and the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation regarding a number of workforce development issues. As a result of such discussions, the ANCD has been able to raise specific workforce development issues with relevant key decision makers.

As a practical demonstration of the ANCD's commitment to workforce development, it continued to conduct its Rural and Regional Alcohol and Other Drugs Study Grants program and also conducted co-morbidity workshops for workers in rural and regional areas.

During the reporting period the ANCD contributed to the development and implementation of the Training Frontline Workers Initiative.

Throughout the year the ANCD has been working on the new national AOD magazine which aims to bridge the gap between research and practice in the AOD sector and as a result contribute to workforce development. The first issue of the magazine is due for release in October 2003.

viii. Greater international and regional understanding of the Australian approach to drug use issues, including increased information sharing amongst agencies and services dealing with drug use issues, particularly in the area of policy development and service provision.	<p>To enhance the understanding of Australia's approach to drug issues, the ANCD continued to maintain networks with relevant organisations within the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and the USA. Such organisations included the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Non-Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO).</p> <p>Representatives of the ANCD participated in the 12th International Federation of Non Government Organisations — Association of South East Asian Nations (IFNGO-ASEAN) Workshop on Drugs and Substance Abuse Prevention and the 14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, held in Manila and Chang Mai respectively. The Chairman of the ANCD was also part of the official Australian delegation that participated in the 46th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna.</p> <p>In December 2002, the ANCD released its research paper Drug Policy: The Australian Approach. This document provided an outline of the events and traces the development of both jurisdictional and national drug policy positions and practices.</p>
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C. Provide independent and strategic advice on drug policy and services to Federal Government and other bodies and parliamentary parties, as appropriate

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR
i. Establish appropriate consultative mechanisms for providing input to policy development and implementation of national drug strategy components.	<p>During the year the ANCD sought information on a number of topics through various consultative mechanisms. AOD agency forums were held in conjunction with formal meetings of the ANCD and from these forums the ANCD gained valuable input from the sector on a range of AOD issues such as the National Drug Strategic Framework, workforce development and families. Apart from its regular consultation mechanisms, the ANCD continued to conduct its rural and regional co-morbidity workshops, which gave workers the opportunity to provide comment on issues related to co-morbidity. The ANCD has produced reports based on each of its consultations and these have been provided to key decision makers for their information and consideration.</p> <p>Through its web site the ANCD also provided an opportunity for feedback on any issue relevant to the national drug strategy.</p>

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| <p>ii. Increase the level of consensus and acceptance for consistent substance use policies across the nation, including across political parties.</p> | <p>Throughout the year the ANCD met with representatives from all political parties at each level of government (Federal, State and Local). The purpose of these meetings was to keep all levels of government aware of the role of the ANCD and to provide them with evidence based advice and reports on a range of AOD issues. In the forthcoming year the ANCD intends to continue communicating with all levels of government across the nation to ensure that the positive working relationship continues and that there is an increasing level of consistency in Australia's AOD policies.</p> |
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D. Consult and liaise with the drug and alcohol and related sector, and in particular the non-government sector

OBJECTIVES

PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR

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| <p>i. Support initiatives that strengthen capacity of the NGO and community sectors to respond to drug issues at the national and community level by increasing the understanding of key decision makers of NGO and community sector viewpoints and advice.</p> | <p>The ANCD recognises the importance of the NGO sector in responding to AOD issues and believes it is essential to involve them in the policy development cycle. As a result, the ANCD regularly communicated with NGOs and NGO peak bodies on a range issues.</p> <p>The ANCD has had significant input from the NGO sector about the development of the new national AOD magazine. This process has proved valuable and should ensure that the magazine is a welcome resource for the sector. In addition, it is anticipated that this process will also provide workers with increased access to information to better equip them to respond to AOD issues, as well as to actively engage in the policy cycle.</p> |
| <p>ii. Ensure relevance of drug policy to a range of sectors in the community, including individuals, community organisations, education sector, police and others involved in the issue of drugs.</p> | <p>Through its publications, media statements and consultation mechanisms the ANCD has communicated the relevance of drug policies to the broader community. In addition, it has also developed ongoing working relationships with the police, education, local government, mental health and public health sectors on a range of AOD issues.</p> <p>One example of the ANCD's work in this area has been its involvement in the development and promotion of the Department of Education, Science and Training's REDI (Resilience Education and Drug Information) resource, which was designed for students, teachers and other members of the school community.</p> |
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iii. Ensure appropriate opportunities for the NGO and community sectors to influence and better understand the work and role of the ANCD, as well as the development and implementation of drug policies, strategies and programs.

The ANCD is well aware of the need to be accessible to NGOs and the community sector and provides these stakeholders with a range of communication opportunities. The most successful strategy used to engage with the NGOs and the community sector was the AOD agency consultation forums. These forums gave stakeholders the opportunity to discuss a diverse range of AOD issues, as well as learn more about the role and work of the ANCD. In addition, the ANCD provided a feedback mechanism on its web site, which several individuals used to make comment on various AOD issues.

The Chairman and members of the ANCD were very active in promoting the work and role of the ANCD and they regularly participated in a wide range of forums where they were able to do this. The ANCD Secretariat also provided opportunities at conferences for participants to engage with the ANCD, through the provision of information booths and presentations about the role and work of the ANCD.

The ANCD also uses its publications as a method of highlighting its work during the year. Based on the continual demand for them from individuals and organisations in the AOD sector, the ANCD is confident that the NGO and community sectors view these reports as being of high quality and relevant to the issues in the sector.

E. Inform and educate public knowledge and discussion on drug related issues

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR
<p>i. Better informed alcohol and other drug sector, professions dealing with drug use issues and general public on the rationale and reasons guiding drug policies, strategies and programs.</p>	<p>The ANCD recognises the importance of a well informed and educated public when it comes to dealing with AOD issues. Accordingly, the ANCD ensured that the media were aware of the launch of each new publication, as well as circulating a number of media releases on a range of AOD issues. In addition, ANCD members were active in all forms of the media.</p> <p>The ANCD is well aware of the influence the media has in the reporting of AOD issues and the impact this has on the public. In December 2002, the ANCD completed the first phase of its media initiative. As a result of this project, the ANCD will be commissioning a follow up project that aims to develop two sets of key principles. The first set will be for the media in relation to the reporting of drug and alcohol issues. The second set will be for the drug and alcohol sector in working with the media to achieve better reporting of drug and alcohol issues.</p> <p>Through its web site the ANCD endeavoured to provide opportunities for the AOD sector to find links to relevant information. The ANCD monitored its web site statistics and they indicated a steady increase in the number of visitors to the site. Some of the most commonly accessed pages on the web site were the publications and funding opportunities pages.</p>
<p>ii. Promote discussion on drug issues and ANCD activities amongst professionals and people working with drug issues using a variety of mediums including existing periodicals, forums, etc.</p>	<p>To ensure that discussion occurs on a range of AOD issues the ANCD made all of its publications available in hard copy and electronic format. Additionally, a comprehensive mailing list was used to distribute publications to stakeholders. The ANCD also provided opinion pieces for newspapers, articles for AOD newsletters and regularly contributed to relevant email discussion lists such as the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia's list — Update. With the release of the new national AOD magazine the ANCD envisages that this will generate further discussion on a range of AOD issues.</p>
<p>iii. Ensure an understanding amongst ANCD members on the role, relationship and processes in dealing with the media on behalf of the ANCD.</p>	<p>All members of the ANCD were aware of, and adhered to, the media protocols established at the beginning of the 2001–2004 term of membership.</p>

F. Build and maintain partnerships across the range of sectors concerned in dealing with and addressing drug related issues

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR
<p>i. Achieve a greater level of understanding and awareness across relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments and departments and other relevant organisations and bodies (such as those dealing with matters related to education, justice, youth, family, law enforcement etc) on drug issues.</p>	<p>Representatives of the ANCD regularly met with Federal and State and Territory Governments to discuss a range of AOD issues, as well as provide them with correspondence, advice and reports. At the Federal level, the ANCD participated in a number of National Illicit Drug Strategy Forums, where the ANCD Executive met with senior officials from a wide range of government departments. In addition to the forums, the ANCD continued to have regular meetings with senior officials from government departments such as Family and Community Services; Health and Ageing; Education, Science and Training; and Customs. All stakeholders agreed that these kinds of meetings were essential to achieve a greater level of understanding and awareness about a range of AOD issues.</p>
<p>ii. Improve links and awareness of drug issues across all sectors by contributing towards a greater level of consensus, co-operation and collaboration between related sectors and stakeholders, and working towards a consistent cross-sectoral approach at a national, state and territory level.</p>	<p>The ANCD considers that building and maintaining partnerships is very important to ensure that there is a consistent approach to addressing drug related issues. As a result, the ANCD facilitated communication between organisations and the sectors involved in addressing drug use to ensure that there is a consistent approach. In addition, ANCD members occupied positions on a range of committees where they were able to promote the value of having a consistent and collaborative approach to addressing drug related issues.</p>

G. Work closely with the IGCD and the National Expert Advisory Committees to develop and implement effective strategies, policies and programs to address the uptake and misuse of illicit and licit drugs

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR
<p>i. Achieve a greater understanding and reduce the overlap and duplication of work undertaken by groups positioned within the national drug advisory structure.</p>	<p>The ANCD continued to work closely with IGCD and the National Expert Advisory Committees (NEACs). To reduce the duplication of work and enhance the working relationship between the ANCD and IGCD, both organisations held joint executive meetings, representatives of the ANCD participated in IGCD meetings, and the IGCD provided the ANCD with written updates about its work. In terms of the NEACs, the ANCD continued to work on a joint project with National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.</p>
<p>ii. Support the achievement of common national approaches in key drug issues.</p>	<p>The ANCD has advocated to Federal and State/Territory Governments the need for an evidence based approach in determining AOD policies. To facilitate this process, members of the ANCD were involved in a number of relevant State/Territory reference groups. The ANCD also met and communicated regularly with a number of State/Territory Ministers regarding AOD policy.</p>

H. Maintain effective liaison with other stakeholders, public health advisory bodies and relevant peak non-government organisations

OBJECTIVES

PROGRESS DURING 2002–2003 FINANCIAL YEAR

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| i. Increase the level of harmonisation between public health and other strategies. | In the past twelve months the ANCD completed its Rural and Regional Co-morbidity Workshops and it continued to work on a joint project with ANCAHRD that examined injecting behaviour and blood borne viruses. Both of these projects dealt with other public health issues that were related to AOD. |
| ii. Greater co-operation and collaboration amongst key peak NGO bodies and the ANCD on the broader health, social and welfare issues that impact on drug policies, strategies and programs. | The ANCD values the input of all stakeholders when it comes to AOD policies. As a result, the ANCD regularly communicated with relevant peak bodies both within and outside of the AOD sector to ensure that it was informed of the influence of broader health, social and welfare issues on AOD policies. |

I. Develop a 3 year Work Plan for the Council; and

The ANCD has developed a work plan for the period 2001–2004, which the Prime Minister has approved. A full copy of the work plan is available on the ANCD's web site <www.ancd.org.au>.

J. Report annually to the Prime Minister and the MCDS on the work of the Council.

The ANCD reports annually to the Prime Minister and the MCDS through its annual report. This annual report is the second for the current work plan.

AGENCY CONSULTATIONS

Perth AOD Agency Forum	12 September 2002
Melbourne AOD Agency Forum	5 December 2002
Hobart AOD Agency Forum	20 March 2003
Darwin AOD Agency Forum	12 June 2003

The ANCD has greatly assisted with the provision of advice from the non-government and community sector to all levels of government. Over the past year it has commissioned research and undertaken consultations on a range of important issues.



I gratefully acknowledge the important role that the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) plays in the Australian Government's fight against illicit drugs.

To achieve the aims of the National Illicit Drug Strategy it is vital that all sectors of the community are involved to ensure there is a balanced and integrated approach to reduce the supply and demand for illicit drugs.

From my portfolio's perspective, reducing the supply of illicit drugs is of the highest priority. I firmly believe that it is only in an environment of reduced supply that we can successfully treat addicts and educate our young Australians against the danger of drugs.

The ANCD has greatly assisted with the provision of advice from the non-government and community sector to all levels of government. Over the past year it has commissioned research and undertaken consultations on a range of important issues. It has also been represented on many reference groups including, for example, your participation on the National Working Group on the Diversion of Chemical Precursors.

I look forward to the forthcoming year and the ANCD's continued and important participation in drug policy development.

*Chris Ellison
Minister for Justice and Customs*

ANCD COMMISSIONED RESEARCH AND PROJECT WORK

The ANCD completed six projects and had several under commission during the 2002–2003 financial year.

NATIONAL DIVERSION INITIATIVE JURISDICTIONAL WORKSHOPS

CONSAN Pty Ltd

In collaboration with the Department of Health and Ageing (DHA) and IGCD, the ANCD identified the National Diversion Initiative as being an area of significant importance requiring a broad base of knowledge to inform decisions on its current and future direction.

As a result, the ANCD, DHA and IGCD hosted eight one-day workshops (one in each capital city) for alcohol, drug, and other professionals working with diversion programs. These workshops focused on the experiences, needs and issues associated with the provision of diversion based services and potential future directions for the initiative.

This project was completed in October 2002.

DRUG POLICY: THE AUSTRALIAN APPROACH

Department of Criminology, University of Melbourne, Vic

Australia has now had an integrated drug policy including demand, supply and harm reduction elements across licit and illicit drugs for some years. We are seen as a leader in this field in many countries. While we examine and sometimes borrow policies and programs from other countries, we have our own distinct set of circumstances, history, social and political context and patterns of drug use and harms. This project included consideration of drug policies, programs and practice, across all drugs included in the NDS and the range of sectors involved in responding to drug use in Australia.

This report resulted in a document that promotes the Australian approach to drugs issues with an emphasis on partnerships; identification of the harm caused by drugs; prevention of drug use; harm minimisation; supply, demand and harm reduction approaches used; evidence based approaches; and multi-sectoral involvement.

The ANCD released and launched this report in December 2002.

RURAL AND REGIONAL CO- MORBIDITY WORKSHOPS

JenCo Consulting

In its work, the ANCD identified that alcohol and other drug workers based in rural and regional centres are generally less well supported and have diminished opportunities to access training and other development activities than their urban counterparts. Further, the ANCD has also heard the concerns of both the mental health and AOD sectors that support is required to cater for co-morbid clients (i.e. co-occurring mental health condition and drug dependence — also known as having a 'dual diagnosis').

As a result, the ANCD decided to host up to eleven one-day workshops for rural and regional based alcohol and other drug and mental health workers. These workshops focused on the needs and issues associated with co-morbidity and the provision of treatment for co-morbid clients.

The purpose of the workshops, which were located in each jurisdiction, was to invite workers to attend a training session on this issue, with a view to increasing workers' understanding of co-morbidity, expanding their knowledge of where to access further information, and improving workers' capacity to treat co-morbid clients.

The ANCD released this report in December 2002.

ANCD MEDIA INITIATIVE

Urbis Keys Young

The media is a powerful vehicle by which to convey messages, and a common means for people to obtain information on issues that lie outside their own frames of reference or experience. It is also true that government policy is impacted on by public opinion. For these reasons the ANCD believes it is important that there is an effort made to increase the level of sophistication and accuracy in the reporting of drug and alcohol related issues in the media.

Accordingly, the ANCD conducted an initiative that addressed a number of issues that relate to the media reporting of drug and alcohol issues.

This project was completed in December 2002.

As a result of this project, the ANCD will be commissioning a follow up project that aims to develop two sets of key principles. The first set will be for the media in relation to the reporting of drug and alcohol issues. The second set will be for the drug and alcohol sector in working with the media to achieve better reporting of drug and alcohol issues.

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME NATIONAL WORKSHOP 2002

Joint project between the ANCD and the National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol (NEACA)

The issue of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) was brought to the attention of both the ANCD and NEACA. As a result, the two bodies jointly conducted a workshop in Sydney on 27 May 2002 with the following aims:

- Bring together key people in relation to FAS to share information;
- Raise awareness of activities relating to, and the national profile of, FAS amongst professionals;
- Assist in the establishment of networks related to FAS;
- Identify and further refine the main issues relating to FAS, including the development of a paper to examine current research and interventions;
- Contribute to the future direction of policy approaches to FAS; and
- Facilitate a greater degree of evidence informed policy and practice.

The ANCD and NEACA released and launched this report in March 2003.

DIVERSION OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUTH FROM JUVENILE DETENTION

Siggins Miller Consultants

This project aimed to identify the number and proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth being detained, including the number for alcohol and other drug related crimes. Secondly, the project aimed to identify available options for diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth into alcohol and other drug treatment programs, if any, in each Australian jurisdiction. After mapping the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees and diversion alternatives available, the project identified any particularly effective program(s) with a view to providing a recommended model for diversion.

The ANCD released this report in June 2003 and it was launched in July 2003.

ANCD RURAL AND REGIONAL ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS STUDY GRANTS PROGRAM 2002

This annual initiative is a workforce development strategy specifically for rural and regional based workers who deal with AOD issues. Workers are able to submit applications for funding to attend other AOD agencies to gather new information, improve workforce networks and learn about the services provided at other agencies. Each grant is a maximum of \$5,000 and recipients must submit a report to the ANCD by no later than three months after completion of study, along with a full acquittal of funds.

The ANCD received a great deal of interest from workers for this program, with twenty-one grants awarded in the reporting period.

RISKS OF INJECTING: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Jointly commissioned by ANCD and ANCAHRD

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

National and international research to date is unable to explain the reasons for the continued increase in the spread of some blood borne viruses. A likely set of contributing factors may include:

- Cohort Issues (age, stage and behaviours of vulnerable sectors of the community);
- Pre-existing infection rates in the injecting drug users community;
- Ease of transmission of particular viruses;
- Delay between diagnosis and presentation of symptoms; and
- Other elements which are yet to be clearly articulated.

While considerable epidemiological research is examining some of the above-mentioned factors, the ANCD and ANCAHRD are commissioning a piece of research that goes beyond the 'what' of injecting drug use to the 'why'; particularly at the level of the individual user.

REVIEW OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES RESPONSES TO REDUCE THE INITIATION, LEVEL AND IMPACT OF DRUG USE WITHIN AUSTRALIAN PRISONS

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

A number of strategies are employed to reduce drug use in Australian prisons. These strategies generally focus on the reduction of supply of drugs and the reduction of demand for drugs. This project seeks to collect, collate, audit and review data on the drug use strategies implemented in Australian prisons.

As prisons are a State and Territory responsibility a level of liaison with appropriate State and Territory agencies will be required to obtain some information. In general, the paper will present an objective overview of the drug related strategies employed by each Australian jurisdiction. The review will therefore also include information on the levels of expenditure and the results of any existing evaluation documentation associated with each strategy.

INDIGENOUS DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROJECTS 1999–2000 (Stage 2)

National Drug Research Institute

The ANCD is aware that there are various community-based programs being run in a number of States and Territories. It has become apparent that currently, there have been limited attempts to identify and map the different types of programs that have been tried, the areas in which they are run and their effectiveness. Accordingly, there is no instrument that can be utilised by other communities who may wish to see model programs and possibly adopt some strategies from these programs. This project aims to identify the number and nature of programs which are specifically targeted at Indigenous people who are experiencing drug and alcohol problems. Within the project there are two core elements (or phases) a review of the literature and a mapping exercise, and site visits and evaluations. The scope of this project includes mapping these programs and describing the nature and any existing evaluations of the programs. One of the primary outcomes of the project is to identify and promote programs that may be suitable models for other communities to implement.

The ANCD launched the first stage of this project in June 2002.

MAPPING NATIONAL DRUG TREATMENT CAPACITY

Siggins Miller Consultants

The ANCD is seeking information on the actual number, location and nature of all available AOD treatment services around Australia. The desired outcome of this project will provide the ANCD with a reference tool which will be used to facilitate advice and decisions about allocation of resources to treatment services, utilising information about the nature and spread of existing AOD services. The ANCD recognises that a range of professionals and organisations provide AOD treatment and other services such as Doctors, primary health care professionals, community health clinics, etc. For the purposes of this work, the ANCD wishes to gain a picture of existing drug and alcohol treatment capacity across Australia. This includes AOD-specific detoxification, rehabilitation, pharmacotherapy treatments and other services, which are dedicated to the treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse.

EVIDENCED-BASED ANSWERS TO CANNABIS QUESTIONS

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre

Cannabis is Australia's most frequently used illicit substance. Figures from the 2001 national drug strategy Household Survey estimate that marijuana/cannabis had been

used by one-third of Australians aged 14 years or older in 2001 (33.1%), and that (12.9%) had recently used in 2001 (AIHW 2001:5).

It is not surprising that cannabis has been the subject of significant research efforts, both within Australia and internationally. Despite these efforts, the ANCD has recognised that there is confusion about the state of our knowledge about cannabis and its effects. Issues such as the conflicting nature of some research findings, the accessibility of the information by decision makers, and the views and perceptions which are developed from experiences rather than research evidence may be contributing to this situation.

Accordingly, the ANCD has decided that it is important that governments have access to clear and concise answers to some of the more commonly asked questions about cannabis and that importantly, these answers are provided on the basis of findings from the highest quality research evidence. To achieve these goals, the ANCD will be producing two documents. Document 1 will be a compilation of research evidence which will be gathered around a number of key questions that have been identified by the ANCD. Document 2 will serve to provide succinct answers to each of the key questions.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND DRUGS

Queensland Health Alcohol and Drug Service

Through its consultation forums and own networks the ANCD is well aware that youth drug use is a significant concern to the community. Furthermore, the ANCD acknowledges that young people have relatively limited opportunities to express their concern about the impact of AOD issues on their lives. Consequently, the ANCD has identified young people (12–18 years) as a specific community about which it seeks to gain more information. This process will involve a comprehensive literature review and a series of consultations to ascertain the issues young people face in terms of drugs.

The ANCD recognises that research about young people and drugs is continually evolving and that a considerable body of literature exists within Australia and internationally on issues such as the impact of drugs on young people; statistics about young people's drug use; influences on young people's drug use behaviour; and young people's views, attitudes and perceptions about a range of drugs.

The ANCD believes that there is an opportunity to build upon the aforementioned and other research, which in conjunction with direct consultation with young people will better inform ANCD members about the issues young people face in

relation to drugs. In addition, it will also allow the ANCD to advocate more effectively in its spheres of influence on behalf of young people.

POSITIVE STORIES WEB SITE

This project will involve the development of a web site — attached to the current ANCD site — that documents the positive achievements of treatment and the success stories of drug users who have gone through it. It is envisaged that such a resource would assist in reducing the marginalisation of drug users and make those people outside the AOD sector aware that:

- Treatment works;
- People who receive treatment are deserving; and
- Treatment is worth the investment.

AOD CHARTER

The purpose of the charter is to develop a broad range of principles and goals that all stakeholders within the AOD sector can draw upon in the development and implementation of AOD policy. The ANCD also expects that the charter would be included in a range of publications relevant to sectors such as law enforcement, public health, and welfare.

The ANCD envisages that the proposed AOD charter would draw upon existing documents such as the *European Charter on Alcohol (1995)*. The ANCD expects that the

AOD charter would include reference to groups such as families, individual drug users, and practitioners. In addition, the charter should also address issues such as human rights and how they impact on the aforementioned groups.

NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL AWARDS

The inaugural National Drug and Alcohol Awards are a collaborative effort of the Ted Noffs Foundation, the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia, the Australian Drug Foundation and the Australian National Council on Drugs and aim to encourage, recognise and celebrate Australian achievements to prevent and reduce alcohol and other drug use and harm. The awards will culminate with the presentation of The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence and Outstanding Contribution in Drug and Alcohol Endeavours.

ANCD MEMBER REPRESENTATIONS ON OTHER COMMITTEES

ANCD EXECUTIVE

Major Brian Watters

- National Drug Strategy Prevention Agenda Expert Steering Committee
- National Illicit Drug Campaign Reference Group
- COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative Reference Group (NSW)
- Drug-ARM Board Member (QLD and NSW)
- National Public Health Partnership Group
- Australian Drug Information Network Reference Group
- Patron Drug Free Australia

Commissioner Mick Keelty

- Interpol General Assembly
- Heads of Commonwealth Operational Law Enforcement Agencies (HOCOLEA)
- Australasian Police Ministers' Council — Senior Officers' Group
- Police Commissioners Conference (PCC)
 - PCC Drug Policy Sub-Committee
 - PCC Electronic Crime Steering Committee
- Member — Board of Control:
 - Australasian Police Education Standards Council
 - National Institute of Forensic Science
 - Australasian Centre for Policing Research
 - Australian Institute of Police Management — Chair
 - Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence



I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you and all the members of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) for your excellent work in advising the Australian Government on the myriad of drug related issues that continue to face our community.

The advice and support of the ANCD has been invaluable in the implementation of a range of activities under the National School Drug Education Strategy, including the development of an integrated national approach to school drug education. School drug education in Australia is now guided by an overarching framework that informs policy and practice; includes good practice models; and has excellent resources for students and the broader school community. A major achievement of the Strategy has been the completion of the REDI — Resilience Education and Drug Information — resources. These resources, which drew extensively on the ANCD report Structural Determinants of Youth Drug Use, were distributed to all Australian schools in July 2003.

Your continued determination to encourage young people to avoid substance abuse and adopt a healthy lifestyle is commendable. I very much appreciate the ongoing support and timely advice you have given me over the past twelve months and I look forward to our continued partnership.

*Brendan Nelson
Minister for Education, Science and Training*

Professor Margaret Hamilton

- National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol
- National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs
- NHMRC — National Illicit Drug Strategy Working Committee
- Premier's Drug Prevention Council (Victoria)
- National Illicit Drug Campaign Reference Group — Chair
- National Alcohol Campaign Reference Group — Chair
- Youth Substance Abuse Service — Foundation Board Member
- Capital City Lord Mayors Drug Advisory Committee — Chair
- Cancer Council Victoria — Executive Committee
- Victorian Alcohol Action Plan Reference Group
- Royal Womens Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee — Chair
- COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative Reference Group (Victoria)

Mr Garth Pople

- International Council of Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA)
- Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)
- Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (NADA)

Mr Scott Wilson

- Aboriginal Sobriety Group Board of Management (SA)
- Australians For Reconciliation Committee Member (SA)
- Alcohol Related Brain Damage/ Dementia State Steering Committee (SA)

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) has an important role in contributing to the reduction of harm caused by drugs in Australia. An example of this is the ANCD's work in examining the issues surrounding substance abuse in Indigenous communities, in particular, their recent efforts in researching and reporting on the Diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth from Juvenile Detention.



The ANCD's range of expertise on substance abuse in the areas of research and education, treatment, rehabilitation and law enforcement recognises the need for a holistic approach to effectively address substance abuse. This approach complements the National Drug Strategic Framework in creating an environment where real improvements at a community level can be fostered.

The Commonwealth government is actively working to address the consequences of drug addiction and break the cycle of substance misuse. The ANCD's contribution to this work is to draw together a range of stakeholders in a spirit of effective cooperation, and to provide them with information and resources to enhance their understanding of substance abuse and its impact on individuals, families and communities.

I offer my continuing support to the ANCD and look forward to drawing on the resources they provide to the Australian community in my role as Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

*Philip Ruddock
Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs*

- Liquor Licensing Review Committee Member (SA)
- Methadone Maintenance Training Steering Committee (SA)
- Nunkunwarrin Yunti Board (SA)
- Police Drug Diversion Worker Training Steering Committee (SA)
- South Australian Emotional Social Wellbeing Regional Centre Board Member (SA)
- Social Inclusive Unit Dry Zone Committee (SA)
- Quality Management System Quality Assurance Project Steering Committee (National pilot) (SA)
- Quality Use of Medicines Education Program Steering Committee Member (SA)
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) — Executive Director
- Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation — Deputy Chairperson
- Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) — Executive Member
- National Drug Strategy Reference Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples — Deputy Chairperson
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council
- National Indigenous Substance Misuse Council — Chairperson
- National Drug Research Institute Board Member
- National Centre for Education and Training in Addictions Board Member
- National Illicit Drug Strategy State (SA) Reference Committee
- National Illicit Drug Strategy Media Campaign Reference Committee
- COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative Reference Group (SA)



My Government recognises that a comprehensive approach is needed to address alcohol and drug abuse. This requires government and non-government sectors working collaboratively at every level to develop a range of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation initiatives that reduce drug related harm for individuals and communities.

Community debate and input into policy and service delivery is vital for ensuring services remain accessible and relevant to local needs, while recognising that the answer to the complexities of drug abuse does not lie exclusively with the Government. The work of the ANCD supports this approach by promoting and building partnerships across the alcohol and drug sector.

I thank the ANCD for the assistance and support that it provides to the Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative in Queensland. This program continues to provide an opportunity for a significant number of people to engage in treatment options.

Building strong, co-operative relationships with the community sector is highly valued by my Government, as we work together to bring about strategies that address substance abuse in our communities.

*Peter Beattie
Premier (QLD)*

OTHER MEMBERS

Associate Professor Robert Ali

National Expert Advisory Committee on Illicit Drugs — Chair

National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD)

National Action Plan on Illicit Drugs

National Heroin Overdose Strategy

National Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)

Community Education and Information Campaign

Methadone and Other Treatments Sub-Committee of IGCD

Australian Treatment Outcome Study

Expert Working Group for DETYA School Drug Information Project (Critical Friend)

Ms Ann Bressington

South Australian Coalition Against Drugs (SACAD)

Northern Parent Support Group

Community Circles of the North

Drug Education To Enable Responsibility (DETER)

Australian Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Program Inc. (ADTARP)

Parents Against Drug Abuse (PADA)

Coalition of Non-Drug Using Concerned Teenagers

Mr David Crosbie

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation — Executive Board Director

National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol

National Alcohol Campaign Reference Group

National Alcohol Indicators Project Committee

National Illicit Drug Campaign Reference Group

Community Partnerships Initiative Expert Advisory Group — Chair

Editorial Board — Drug and Alcohol Review

Mr Keith Evans

Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) — Chair

National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund

International Council on Alcohol and Addictions — Board of Directors

I am pleased to acknowledge the important contribution made by the ANCD in addressing drug-related harms in Australia. I would particularly note its advocacy for evidence-based policy and practice in areas such as heroin overdose, structural determinants of drug use, and needle and syringe programs, as well as its key role in supporting the non-government sector in its provision of alcohol, tobacco and other drug services. At local level, the Council continues its constructive contribution to the on-going development of the Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative.



The Queensland Government places a very high value on the role of the non-government sector in contributing to debate and policy development as well as in providing quality services. Queensland Health is committed to further building its relationship with dedicated alcohol, tobacco and other drug non-government organisations and will continue its ongoing support and assistance.

I wish the Council well in its endeavours in the forthcoming year, and look forward to a continuation of the very cooperative and constructive relationship which has been established between the Council and the Queensland Health.

*Wendy Edmond
Minister for Health (QLD)*

Mr Nick Gill

Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF) — Director and Executive Member

AERF Scholarships and Workforce Development Subcommittee — Chair

NT Illicit Drug Diversions Program Diversions Advisory Group

NT Blood-Borne Virus Project Reference Group

NT NGO Treatment Grants Reference Group

Central Australian Regional Substance Misuse Action Group — Chair

Alice Springs Alcohol and Other Drugs Interagency Group

Central Australian Youth Link Up Service Governance Committee

NPY Women's Council Young People's Program Steering Group

Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council "Making Tracks" Project Steering Group

Ms Julie Hanbury

Community Partnerships Initiative Expert Reference Group

National Illicit Drug Campaign Reference Group

Parent Drug Information Service Reference Group (WA)

School Drug Education Project Task Force (WA)

Parent Drug Information Service — Drug Court Family Support

Western Suburbs Local Drug Action Group (WA)

Ms Tonie Miller

COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative Reference Group (TAS)

TAS NGO Treatment Grants Reference Group

National Illicit Drug Training Project for Pharmacy

Interim Executive committee, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Council (TAS)

TOUGHLOVE Representative



It is with great pleasure that I wish to acknowledge the invaluable work performed by the ANCD in providing an avenue for non-government and community based organisations to voice issues and concerns about substance misuse.

This has enabled the ANCD to provide independent, expert advice on drug, alcohol and other substance misuse issues and has allowed these organisations to reach government at all levels and influence policy development.

In South Australia, the ANCD has provided invaluable assistance in the development and implementation of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative.

I look forward to a continued and fruitful working relationship with the ANCD to help address both the human and social costs of drug use in our communities.

Lea Stevens
Minister for Health (SA)

Professor John B Saunders

World Health Organization
Collaborating Centre on Mental
Health and Substance Abuse
(Co-Director)

World Health Organization Expert
Panel on Mental Health

Alcohol Management Program
Steering Committee, Department of
Veterans' Affairs

Australian Professional Society on
Alcohol and Other Drugs

International Society for Biomedical
Research in Alcoholism (member of
the Board, and Secretary of ISBRA)

Executive Editorial Board, Drug and
Alcohol Review (Editor-in-Chief and
Chairman)

Editorial Board, Alcoholism: Clinical
and Experimental Research

Editorial Board, Alcoholia

Editorial Board, Addiciones

Mr Craig Thompson

National Illicit Drug Campaign
Reference Group

Sutherland Council Alcohol and Illicit
Drugs Advisory Committee

Lions Club International Drug
Awareness Programs

Drug Watch Australia

Australian Cities Against Drugs

Mr Arthur Toon

COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative
Reference Group (WA)

WA Network of Alcohol and Other
Drug Agencies — Executive Member

WA State Reference Group — NIDS
Treatment Grants

Alcohol and other Drugs Council of
Australia — Executive and Board

Professor Ian Webster

National Advisory Council on Suicide
Prevention — Chair

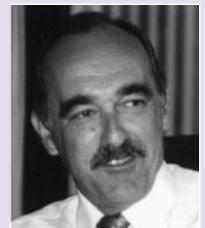
Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation
Foundation — Chair

International Federation of Non-
Government Organisations for the
Prevention of Drug and Substance
Abuse — President

NSW Expert Advisory Group on
Drugs — Chair

NSW Clinical Council — Member

A partnership approach is essential to tackling the harms caused by drug misuse in our community and has also proved effective in implementing the Council of Australian Governments Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (IDDI) in Tasmania. The IDDI is an important feature of the Tasmanian Drug Strategic Plan 2001–04 — the Plan designed to assist in the development of appropriate initiatives addressing alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues in Tasmania. In particular, the Tasmanian Government acknowledges the ANCD's ongoing support and participation in the implementation of this important national initiative.



The Tasmanian Government also recognises the important role that the ANCD plays in ensuring the voice of the community is heard in relation to drug related policies and strategies, and in informing and educating public knowledge and discussion on alcohol and drug issues.

The cooperation between the Government, non-government and community sectors in addressing the use of illicit drugs has been encouraging and I look forward to continuing this level of cooperation into the future.

*Jim Bacon
Premier (TAS)*

NHMRC — National Illicit Drug Strategy Working Committee

National Public Health Partnership Group Member

Indigenous — Social and Emotional Well-being Reference Group — Member

Personal Support Program, Family and Community Services, Reference Group

Premier of NSW Task Force on Coexisting Mental Health and Substance Use Problems — Co-Chair

National Co-morbidity Committee — Member

Motor Vehicle Emission Gas Working Group — Chair

Population Health Education for Clinicians Evaluation Committee — Chair

Premier of NSW Taskforce on Compulsory Treatment — Member

Centres for Primary Health Care and Equity, The University of New South Wales — Chair

Mr Terry Woolley

Immediate Past President, Australian Secondary Principals Association Executive Committee Member, International Confederation of Principals

National Advisory Committee on School Drug Education

Mr Dennis Young

COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative Reference Group (QLD)

Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative NGO Community Capacity Building Sub-committee — Chair

Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative Evaluation Sub-committee

National Drug Strategy Prevention Agenda Expert Steering Committee

NSW NGO Treatment Grants Reference Group

Queensland Drug and Alcohol Community Association — Honorary Secretary/Treasurer

Australian Drug Information Network Reference Group

ADCA Prevention and Community Education Reference Group



The use of alcohol and other drugs in our Communities presents a challenge for all levels of Government. I have been particularly pleased to witness and be part of a definite move towards such an issue being addressed collectively by Commonwealth, State and local governments, in a way which can only bring benefits and solutions to individuals, families and Communities. The Alcohol

and Drug sector is one of great skill and complexity. The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) is one of a range of organisations providing advice at the National level to support the National Drug Strategic Framework.

As Tasmania continues to work with other jurisdictions in our collective effort towards alleviating and reducing risks associated with alcohol and other drug use, I am mindful of the tremendous effort and skill level of those involved across the nation. I would like to provide my endorsement of this collective effort and will continue to support this evidence based sector into the future.

David Llewellyn

Minister for Health and Human Services (TAS)

Mr Gino Vumbaca

Best Practice and Evaluation
Reference Group

Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP)
Return on Investment Advisory
Committee

COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative
Reference Group (ACT)

COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative
Reference Group (NSW)

Department of Finance and
Administration COAG Illicit Drug
Diversion Initiative Evaluation
Committee

NSW NGO Treatment Grants
Reference Group

National Illicit Drug Campaign
Reference Group

National Research Magazine
— Board of Management

National Research Magazine
— Editorial Reference Group

Ms Karen Price

Training Frontline Workers —
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Resource Development Reference
Group

ACT NGO Treatment Grants
Reference Group

National Drug Strategy Prevention
Agenda Expert Steering Committee

The Victorian Government is committed to consultation with the non-government sector and the wider community in the development of policy and services. It welcomes the contribution of the ANCD in representing the views of the non-government sector, service agencies and other organisations and in providing expertise on drug related matters.



The Government values the role of peak organisations such as the ANCD which advocate on behalf of the drug and alcohol sector. At a national level, the ANCD plays a significant role, alongside State and Territory Governments, in contributing to the development of the National Drug Strategic Framework. The range of projects and initiatives undertaken by the ANCD provide valuable information to support the development of appropriate responses to drug related issues in the community.

The Government wishes the ANCD well in its activities for the forthcoming year and looks forward to continuing to work alongside the ANCD in progressing the development of programs and initiatives in the drug and alcohol sector.

*Bronwyn Pike
Minister for Health (VIC)*

ANCD MEETINGS

2002 MEETINGS

Canberra

15 August 2002	Executive meeting
15 August 2002	Secretariat steering committee meeting

Perth

11 September 2002	Executive meeting
12 September 2002	Agency forum and meeting
13 September 2002	Meeting

Teleconference

14 November 2002	Executive meeting
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Melbourne

4 December 2002	Executive meeting
5 December 2002	Agency forum and meeting
6 December 2002	Meeting

2003 MEETINGS

Canberra

20 February 2003	Executive meeting
20 February 2003	Secretariat steering committee meeting

Hobart

19 March 2003	Executive meeting
20 March 2003	Agency forum and meeting
21 March 2003	Meeting

Teleconference

23 May 2003	Executive meeting
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Darwin

11 June 2003	Executive meeting
12 June 2003	Agency forum and meeting
13 June 2003	Meeting

ANCD PUBLICATIONS

Since its inception the ANCD has produced a number of reports on a vast range of issues. Each report is available in hard copy and can be obtained free of charge by contacting the ANCD Secretariat. Alternatively, the reports are available in electronic format from the ANCD's web site <www.ancd.org.au>.

ANCD research paper 1

Heroin overdose: prevalence, correlates, consequences and interventions

ANCD research paper 2

Structural determinants of youth drug use

ANCD research paper 3

Evidence supporting treatment

ANCD research paper 4

Indigenous drug and alcohol projects 1999–2000

ANCD research paper 5

Drug policy: the Australian approach

ANCD research paper 6

Diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth from juvenile detention

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

ANCD position paper

Heroin related overdoses

ANCD position paper

High risk groups and behaviours: A secondary position paper on heroin related overdoses

ANCD position paper

Naloxone availability: A secondary position paper on heroin related overdoses

ANCD position paper

Needle and syringe programs

ANCD Annual Report 1998–1999

ANCD Annual Report 1999–2000

ANCD Annual Report 2000–2001

ANCD Annual Report 2001–2002

Since its inception in 1998, the Australian National Council on Drugs has made an important and ongoing contribution to the development of drugs and alcohol policy in this country.



As part of the NSW Government's evidence based approach to drug policy, we have always welcomed the opportunity to work with and learn from the diverse range of organisations and individuals with expertise and experience in these areas.

In this context, the NSW Government values the ANCD's active participation and consultative approach in relation to exploring the causes of, and solutions to, drug and alcohol abuse.

We also greatly appreciate the ANCD's continuing strong support for historic national initiatives such as the COAG Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative which aim to prevent further harm to individuals, families and communities from the use of illicit drugs.

The NSW Government is pleased to congratulate the ANCD on its many achievements to date. We look forward to working together in the coming year to deal with the challenge of drug and alcohol abuse in our community.

*John Della Bosca
Special Minister of State (NSW)*

MEDIA RELEASES

A big boost for tackling local drug problems	5 September 2002
National Council support for top end drug policy	2 October 2002
Our drugs workforce — value for money; but valued by the community?	3 October 2002
National Council backs investment on needle programs	23 October 2002
National Council applauds investment in top end	4 November 2002
Strong support for Aurukun and Qld Government on grog plan	27 November 2002
Reducing the supply of illegal drugs — a billion dollar return	10 December 2002
Heroin: Flood or Drought?	26 February 2003
National Drug Council Welcomes Alcohol onto the Agenda	14 March 2003
Families fractured by drug use lack support	28 March 2003
Budget Bonus for Drugs: Psych, Speed and the Bush Given Priority	13 May 2003
'REDI' to go to School: New drug resource welcomed by National Council	16 May 2003
Top end families high on National Council's agenda	28 June 2003



The Western Australian Government has made a commitment to consultation and working in partnership with the wider community, the non-government sector and peak bodies in addressing drug related issues. The Government recognises that the ANCD complements this philosophy, bringing together national expertise from a diverse range of groups including the non-government

sector, community and volunteer organisations, as well as the health and social development sectors.

The work of the ANCD facilitates a national framework of initiatives and Western Australia has been keen to assist with projects wherever possible. I wish the ANCD every success with the initiatives in the coming year.

*Geoff Gallop
Premier (WA)*

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

During the reporting period members of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) were actively involved in a number of significant international conferences. The Chairman of the ANCD was part of the official Australian delegation that participated in the 46th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna. In addition, the ANCD was represented at the 12th IFNGO-ASEAN Workshop on Drugs and Substance Abuse Prevention and the 14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm, held in Manila and Chang Mai respectively. The ANCD also received visitors from the World Health Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

Tackling alcohol and substance abuse is a challenge demanding strong efforts from all communities and levels of Government.

The NT Government is working collaboratively with government and non-government organisations in addressing illicit drug and alcohol use, and I am particularly pleased that the Australian National Council on Drugs has given its support to the NT Government's implementation of recommendations from the Taskforce on Illicit Drugs Report.



The taskforce was formed in 2001 to inquire into and develop effective rehabilitation and prevention strategies on illicit drug use, with recommendations becoming a key component of the NT Government's Three-Point Plan to Get Tough on Drugs.

More recently the ANCD has provided feedback and support to the NT Government's amendment to the Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act, which formalises the availability and controls on maintenance pharmacotherapies, as well as addresses the misuse and over-prescribing of medications.

I fully endorse the work of the Australian National Council on Drugs in providing independent advice to the Prime Minister and the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy on national drug strategies and policies.

*Jane Aagaard
Minister for Health and Community Services (NT)*

NATIONAL AOD RESEARCH MAGAZINE — ‘OF SUBSTANCE’

The last 12 months have seen the development of the new national AOD research magazine — *Of Substance*. Once the magazine is fully operational, the Australian National Council on Drugs will be able to report on it in more depth in future annual reports. For the benefit

of readers, an overview of the magazine is below.

Of Substance is a new national magazine for the AOD sector. It is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The magazine is auspiced by the ANCD. Its primary target audience

is the AOD frontline workforce in Australia. Secondary audiences include policy makers, academics and others interested in AOD issues.

The magazine's main purpose is to disseminate current research and best practice to the AOD sector in plain English. To ensure the quality of the magazine project the Managing Editor reports to a Board that is chaired by Professor John Saunders and an Editorial Reference Group that is chaired by Professor Margaret Hamilton. Representatives on these two groups come from a diverse range of backgrounds including the government, non-government and publishing sectors.

The magazine will be launched in October 2003 and will then be produced quarterly. It is expected that the first two issues will be free of charge and will be sent out to approximately 3,000 agencies and individuals. The funding (\$125,000/year) from the Commonwealth does not cover the entire cost (\$160,000/year) of producing the magazine over the next three years and a subscription base was built into the original budget. After the first two issues the magazine will continue to be sent out to those agencies and individuals who choose to subscribe.

For more information about *Of Substance*, please email the Managing Editor <editor@ancd.org.au> or contact 02 6279 1650.



It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to congratulate the Australian National Council on Drugs on the valuable work it has undertaken over the past year in providing advice to the Australian Government on drug policy issues, and voicing the concerns of the Australian community on these issues.

The National Illicit Drug Strategy provides a wide range of demand reduction and supply prevention activities to reduce the damage caused by drug abuse to the community, families and individuals. The ANCD's continued work and involvement in these activities is of great importance.

Drug abuse can adversely affect the connection that people have with their families and the community, and for young people their transition to adulthood. As the Minister for Family and Community Services, I strongly support the measures implemented under the National Illicit Drug Strategy to help overcome this.

The ANCD's support for the Department of Family and Community Service's "Strengthening and Supporting Families Coping With Illicit Drug Use" measure of the National Illicit Drug Strategy, which provides support and information to families of young people coping with illicit drug use, is particularly appreciated.

I look forward to the continuing close relationship between the Australian National Council on Drugs and the Australian Government, working together to reduce the impact of drug abuse on individuals, family and society.

Amanda Vanstone
Minister for Family and Community Services

ANCD FINANCIAL REPORT

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS FINANCIAL REPORT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 1 JULY 2002 – 30 JUNE 2003

INCOME	
Commonwealth Annual Grant for 2002/03	689,390
Approved Rollover from 2001/02	468,153
Additional Grants	107,000
Interest	6,889
Total	1,271,432
EXPENDITURE	
Secretariat Salaries	313,935*
Secretariat Activities	186,893
Sub-Total	500,828
ANCD Commissioned Research	317,205
ANCD Meetings (inc. Executive, Reference Groups, Sitting Fees etc)	194,529
Administrative Support for Chairman	5,525
Additional ANCD Member's Expenses	126,053
Media and Promotions	2,795
Consulting Services	280
Sub-Total	646,387
Total	1,147,215
Surplus	124,217

* includes \$52,000 liability of unused leave entitlements.

AUDITOR'S REPORT



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE
ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DRUGS FUNDING
GRANT ACQUITTAL**

Scope

We have audited the Income and Expenditure/Budget Statement ("the Statement") of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia ("ADCA") for the period ended 30 June 2003 set out on pages 1 to 3. ADCA's officers are responsible for the preparation of the Statement. We have conducted an independent audit of the Statement in order to express an opinion on it to ADCA.

The Statement has been prepared for distribution to ADCA and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing ("the Department"). It has been prepared for the purposes of acquitting grant funding in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement between the Department and ADCA in relation to the provision of secretariat and administrative support services to the Australian National Council on Drugs ("the Agreement"). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report, or on the Statement to which it relates, by any entity other than ADCA or the Department, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts in the Statement. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the Statement is presented fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the transactions relating to the grant funding.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion the Statement presents fairly in accordance with the Agreement, ADCA's income and expenditure in relation to the Australian National Council on Drugs grant funding for the period ended 30 June 2003.

KPMG

KPMG

D A Cross
Partner

17 September 2003
Canberra



KPMG, an Australian partnership, is a member of KPMG International, a Swiss non-operating association.

ACRONYMS

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AFP	Australian Federal Police
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ANCAHRD	Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases
ANCD	Australian National Council on Drugs
AOD	Alcohol and Other Drug
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
DHA	Department of Health and Ageing
FAS	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
IDDI	Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative
IFNGO	International Federation of Non-Government Organisations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse
IGCD	Inter Governmental Committee on Drugs
MCDS	Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy
NADA	Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies
NEAC	National Expert Advisory Committee
NEACA	National Expert Advisory Committee on Alcohol
NGOTGP	Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program
NSW	New South Wales
QLD	Queensland
REDI	Resilience Education and Drug Information
SA	South Australia
TAS	Tasmania
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VIC	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

Acknowledgement

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Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Commonwealth.