

Meeting Communiqué 6 – 7 June 2023

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD) is pleased to publish its first communiqué. This will be the first in a series of communiqués that will come out of each meeting, providing the Council with a greater level of transparency while retaining the ability to provide confidential advice to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP.

This decision follows the ANACAD meeting held on 6-7 June 2023, on Kurna land in Adelaide, where it was recognised that the alcohol and other drugs sector has a strong interest in the work of the Council and would benefit from a greater understanding of what happens at meetings.

Direction setting with Minister Butler

Minister Butler provided an overview of his key priorities. Minister Butler agreed that open and transparent communication across the alcohol and other drug sector is critical and supported the introduction of ANACAD communiqués.

Key policy issues under discussion

Members agreed on a forward work program to set the strategic direction of the Council's activities over the coming 18 months, and discussed a range of alcohol and other drug related issues including:

- Alcohol and other drug actions under the National Preventive Health Strategy
- The regulatory framework for alcohol advertising
- Options for addressing addiction medicine workforce shortages and other related workforce issues
- The potential benefits of developing a national alcohol and other drugs research agenda
- Implementation of the National Quality Framework for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services.

ANACAD members recognised their constructive and engaging relationship with the Department of Health and Aged Care and look forward to working closely with a range of Department representatives into the future.

Next meeting

The next ANACAD meeting will be held in late August 2023 at The Glen drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre on the Central Coast of NSW. This will provide members with an opportunity to learn about the operations of The Glen, and allow ANACAD to engage in public consultation with community members and service providers on the alcohol and other drug issues that are of greatest concern.