

Meeting Communique **29 – 30 August 2023**

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD) is pleased to publish this communique following the recent ANACAD meeting held on Darkinjung Country at The Glen drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres on the Central Coast of New South Wales, on 29-30 August 2023.

This meeting provided members with an opportunity to engage in public consultation with community members and alcohol and other drug (AOD) service providers and to learn about the operations of The Glen. The meeting also coincided with the formal opening of The Glen for Women in Wyong Creek NSW by the Hon Emma McBride MP.

ANACAD recognise that the opening of this centre is a momentous occasion for the local community of the Central Coast of NSW, given The Glen for Women is Australia's first rehabilitation centre to provide culturally appropriate treatment specifically tailored for First Nations women. Members were pleased to support such an important event.

Key messages raised during the community and service provider consultations included:

- A need to improve grants processes including the consideration of longer-term funding that supports the development and maintenance of a quality system of care.
- A need to invest in strategies that reduce incarceration for AOD related offences and simultaneously enhance the management of AOD issues within the prison system and pre- and post-release.
- A strong representation for enhanced services for young people affected by AOD related harm, from cultural and community connectedness to rehabilitation services for young people.
- The opportunity to consider direct participation of First Nations people in the Council. Community members commented that representation would support the Council being fully informed about the need and effective responses to AOD related harm among First Nations Australians.

Additionally, during this meeting members discussed standard Council business, their forward work plan and considered a range of key alcohol and other drug matters including:

- Strengthening AOD governance
- Alcohol policy considerations, and
- Commonwealth strategies and activities with relevance to AOD.

The ANACAD Chair will be providing confidential advice stemming from this meeting to the Minister of Health and Aged Care, which will also be informed by the public consultations.

The next ANACAD meeting will be held in November 2023 and the focus will be on further progressing work plan items.

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