

Meeting Communique 23 - 24 November 2023

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD) is pleased to publish this communique following the most recent ANACAD meeting, held on Kaurua land in Adelaide on 23-24 November 2023.

At the November meeting, ANACAD discussed a number of national alcohol and other drug (AOD) policy priorities including:

- AOD national governance options
- National level AOD workforce development priorities
- Integration of AOD and primary care (in the context of primary care reform opportunities)
- Reducing alcohol related health harms, and
- The Opioid Dependent Treatment (ODT) Program transition process.

Representatives from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) attended the November meeting and provided an update on the 2022-2023 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS), which included a focus on the methodology and overview of the history of the survey, and a description of new content included in the 2022-2023 survey. ANACAD noted that this will be the 14th survey in the series, which commenced in 1985, and the 9th to be managed by the AIHW on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care. ANACAD is looking forward to the release of the 2022-2023 NDSHS survey results, which will provide the most up-to-date information on licit and illicit drug use behaviours across Australia. The survey results are anticipated to be released in the first quarter of 2024.

ANACAD was also provided with the opportunity to engage with departmental officials from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), of the Department of Health and Aged Care, to discuss progress of the Australian Government's vaping reform package. ANACAD welcomed the open and constructive engagement with the TGA on the proposed technical aspects of the reforms and will provide formal advice to the TGA on these matters through the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP.

Finally, ANACAD discussed its work plan for 2024 and agreed on key topics for action over the next 12 months.

Next meeting

The next ANACAD meeting will be held in late February 2024. The next meeting will include a focus on the impacts of stigma and discrimination in the AOD context.

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