

Meeting Communique

29 February – 1 March 2024

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 Kurna land in Adelaide on 29 February – 1 March 2024.

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, met with ANACAD during the meeting. The Council were able to discuss with the Minister the progress of a number of items from the ANACAD Workplan, including alcohol and other drug governance options, primary care and workforce matters. During this discussion Council members also identified key areas of interest for further consideration.

A focus of the February/March meeting was stigma and discrimination within the alcohol and other drug sector. During the meeting, ANACAD heard presentations from representatives of Mindframe, the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, and the University of New South Wales Centre for Social Research in Health. These presenters provided a range of information on the impacts that stigma and discrimination can have on people who use drugs and examples of work currently being done in this space. Members appreciated the opportunity to discuss this important issue and have agreed to undertake further work in this space during 2024.

Representatives from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) also attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the recently released 2022-2023 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report. Following the presentation, Council members were given the opportunity to discuss the results with the AIHW, including some of the new trends that were identified, and potential opportunities for further action.

Finally, ANACAD discussed standard Council business along with a number of key alcohol and other drug matters including:

- Options for strengthening alcohol policy,
- Improving alcohol and other drug responses within primary care settings, and
- Relevance of the National Preventive Health Strategy implementation in relation to alcohol and other drugs.

The Chair of ANACAD will provide confidential advice to Minister Butler following this meeting, which will include insights gleaned from the presentations.

Next meeting

The next ANACAD meeting will be held in June 2024.