

Meeting Communiqué 18-19 September 2024

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD) is pleased to publish this communiqué following the most recent ANACAD meeting, held on Wurundjeri land in Melbourne on 18-19 September 2024.

The Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP, attended the meeting and discussed a number of important items with ANACAD, including alcohol and other drugs (AOD) matters related to women's safety, food labelling, and sector collaboration.

To help inform discussions, representatives were invited to present to ANACAD in dedicated sessions.

- The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, an agency of the Attorney-General's portfolio, which works to combat protect Australia from crime threats. This presentation focused on the detection of synthetic drugs, including nitazenes, and the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.
- The Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use of the University of Sydney, which works to trial innovative programs to prevent and treat mental and substance use disorders. This presentation focused on the development and implementation of the Mental Health Comorbidity Guidelines for the workforce.

Members also discussed progress against the ANACAD workplan and considered a number of other matters, including:

- Government's primary care reform agenda, and associated opportunities to address AOD related harm
- stigma and discrimination associated with AOD use, as a distinct matter from mental health stigma
- the role of alcohol in gender-based violence
- enablers required to support Australia's preparedness to respond to emerging drugs of concern
- the essential role of the peer workforce in building trust and uplifting the perspectives of those with lived experience of AOD
- food labelling of alcohol products
- further engagement with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare regarding the *National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022-2023*.

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

The next ANACAD meeting will be held in November 2024.

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