

Meeting Communique 3-4 June 2025

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 Ngunnawal country in Canberra on 3-4 June 2025.

As the first meeting of the 2025-27 term, and with a refreshed membership, Members used this opportunity to establish rapport and confirm meeting protocols.

ANACAD reviewed progress made by the former term of the Council against the respective Work Plan items (as outlined in the [July 2023 - December 2024 ANACAD Report](#)):

- Strategies stocktake
- Workforce
- Primary care
- Governance
- Stigma and discrimination
- Ad hoc advice.

This was used to inform the initial development of the forward Work Plan. ANACAD agreed to resume its consideration of primary care, workforce, and stigma, discrimination and racism. Discussions also occurred regarding the next iteration of the National Drug Strategy, current evaluation of the Drug and Alcohol Program and the lapsed *Inquiry into the health impacts of alcohol and other drugs in Australia*. Consideration of new work extended to the relationship between alcohol and other drugs and suicide and suicidality, and challenges arising in the context of ageing and aged care.

The Council further discussed the importance of community engagement and consultation and will seek to facilitate these activities in 2025.

The ANACAD Chair will provide confidential advice to the minister with portfolio responsibility for alcohol and other drugs, the Hon Mark Butler MP, to confirm priorities for this term.

Representatives from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing attended this meeting to update ANACAD on Commonwealth priorities and provide meeting support.

The next meeting of ANACAD is scheduled for September 2025.

ANACAD Secretariat

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