

Meeting Communique

26-27 November 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 26-27 November 2025.

The focus of this meeting was for ANACAD to refine the documentation of its 2025-27 Work Plan, and progress considerations of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) reform activities, AOD models of care and AOD workforce modelling.

ANACAD's discussions covered a range of matters, including:

- Reform opportunities associated with the National Drug Strategy, Inquiry into the health impacts of AOD in Australia, and the Drug and Alcohol Program
- Models of care
- Commonwealth-funded AOD Research Centres
- AOD use by young women
- Governance, and
- the final report from the Productivity Commission review of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.

All Work Plan items will be considered with a view to reducing stigma, discrimination and racism. ANACAD agreed to continue its watching brief on secondary priorities: domestic and sexual violence; suicide and suicidality; ageing; and early warning systems and forensic toxicology. ANACAD will also remain available to provide advice to Government on ad hoc issues as topical.

Notable attendees at this meeting were:

- The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health and Ageing, and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Professor Alison Ritter AO, Director, Drug Policy Modelling Program, University of New South Wales
- Drs Megan Cook, Benjamin Riordan, Emmanuel Kuntsche and Amy Pennay, La Trobe University
- Representatives from the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing's Health Workforce Division.

The ANACAD Chair will provide confidential advice on the issues discussed to the Hon Mark Butler MP. The next meeting of ANACAD is scheduled for February 2026.

ANACAD Secretariat

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