Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Meeting Communique
26-27 August 2026

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ANACAD) is pleased to publish this communique following the most recent meeting, held on Kaurna country in Adelaide on 26-27 August 2026.

This meeting focused on how available datasets could be triangulated to provide early warning of emerging alcohol and other drug (AOD) issues and better inform health planning.

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

- the intersection of ANACAD's Work Plan with the priorities of the Coalition of Peaks
- harmful impacts of alcohol marketing and sponsorship, particularly in sports
- wastewater monitoring and drug trends, including mortality and hospitalisation data
- emerging issues associated with unapproved peptides and illicit alcohol
- how AOD could be positioned within a future National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement
- priorities for a future National Drug Strategy.

All Work Plan items continue to be considered with a view to reducing stigma, discrimination and racism.

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
- Mr Scott Wilson, Deputy Lead Convenor, Coalition of Peaks
- Professor Cobus Gerber, Adelaide University
- Associate Professor Amy Peacock, Deputy Director, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- Ms Robyn Gawenda and Dr Aimee Brownbill, Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education
- Dr Michala Kowalski, NDARC, and Dr Nic Taylor, National Drug Research Institute
- Professor Robyn Langham, Chief Medical Adviser, Therapeutic Goods Administration.

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 November 2026.

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