

ANACAD Summary of Activities 2015-2016

ANACAD Background

In late 2014, the then Prime Minister approved a series of reforms to the governance, scope and structure of the Australian Government's national alcohol and other drug (AOD) advisory body through the establishment of the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs (ANACAD).

The ANACAD membership is made up of people with a range of expertise and backgrounds. The full membership list and Terms of Reference is available on the departmental website at

www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/anacad.

This summary provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the ANACAD over the period of December 2014 to 30 June 2016. The first reporting period covered an 18 month period recognizing the time it took to confirm a new council.

The role of ANACAD

The ANACAD supports the Australian Government by providing confidential, strategic, evidence-based advice on:

- AOD trends;
- Identified priorities of national importance;
- Key international issues relevant to the priorities; and
- AOD issues among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

Through the development and approval of the strategically driven annual workplan, the Government identified a number of priority areas for advice and consideration by the ANACAD including:

- Methamphetamine use and harms in Australia;
- Harm among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations;
- Alcohol related harms;
- Emerging trends and evidence; and
- Gaps in current approaches and evidence.

ANACAD reports to the Government through the portfolio Minister with policy responsibility for AOD issues.

Key activities to date

ANACAD has engaged with a number of Government Ministers, both in formal council meetings and out of session. These include Ministers from a range of portfolios with AOD linkages including Health, Indigenous Affairs; Justice, Communications and Education.

ANACAD has engaged in the following activities:

- Methamphetamine use and harms in Australia:
 - contributed to the work of the National Ice Taskforce the subsequent Australian Government response to the National Ice

- Action Strategy (NIAS), including planning and implementation for Primary Health Networks (PHNs).
 - provided advice to the Minister highlighting the importance of a national single point of contact for the community with AOD services.
- Harm among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Populations:
 - ANACAD's Indigenous advisers met with non-member Indigenous colleagues engaged in responses to tobacco and mental health, to identify areas of common interest and potential for collaboration.
 - Provision of advice recommending that the Australian Government sponsor a number of activities that recognise the extraordinary work being undertaken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with regard to reducing AOD harms.
 - Provided advice regarding expanding the Positive Choices web portal to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific content.
- Alcohol Related Harms:
 - ANACAD met with Australian Communications and Media Authority regarding the proposed Commercial Television Code of Practice.
- Emerging Trends and Evidence
 - Data continues to be a key priority for ANACAD and providing advice on current data sources, their strengths and limitations and how triangulation of data can assist in planning.

Meeting and engagements

The ANACAD met face to face on eight occasions during its first 18 months of operation:

- 19 December 2014 – Sydney, NSW
- 12 February 2015 – Canberra, ACT
- 29 April 2015 – Roebourne, WA
- 10 June 2015 – Melbourne, Vic
- 19 August 2015 – Sydney, NSW
- 9-10 December 2015 – Brisbane, Qld
- 16-17 March 2016 – Canberra, ACT
- 8-9 June 2016 – Adelaide, SA

Engagement with community and sector

Members of ANACAD have attended meetings, forums and engaged with the community and other stakeholders with AOD linkages throughout 2015-16 including:

- The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).
- Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) Stakeholder Forum.
- Third Roundtable on compulsory drug treatment in Manila.
- Parliamentary Drug Summit.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference.
- Family Matters Strategic Forum.
- State/Territory government and community organisations.
- NACCHO Ice Roundtable.

- Community consultations and site visits including to various AOD treatment and rehabilitation providers.
- Federal Circuit Court of Australia.
- Life Education Australia.
- Family Drug Support.

In April 2016 the Chair was a member of the Australian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on the World Drug Program.

ANACAD has also hosted guests at meetings throughout the period, including the Chair and members of the National Ice Taskforce, Civil Society Taskforce, the Australian Crime Commission, Department of Health officials and representatives of non-government organisations including Hello Sunday Morning and Turning Point.