

## **ANACAD Summary of Activities 2018–19**

### **ANACAD Background**

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs (ANACAD) was established in December 2014 as the principal expert advisory body to the Australian Government on issues relating to alcohol and other drugs (AOD). In January 2018 the ANACAD entered its second three year term under the new name of the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, the acronym did not change. ANACAD is a confidential expert advisory Council.

The ANACAD membership is made up of individual experts with a range of expertise and backgrounds. The full membership list and Terms of Reference is available on the Departmental website on the [Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs \(ANACAD\)](#) webpage.

This summary provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the ANACAD over the period of 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

### **The role of ANACAD**

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

- Alcohol and other drug (AOD) trends;
- Identified priorities of national importance;
- Key international issues relevant to the priorities;
- AOD issues among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations;
- The National Drug Strategy and accompanying national frameworks; and
- AOD prevention and education activity including activities through the National Drugs Campaign.

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

### **Key activities to date**

The ANACAD has been active and engaged with the Minister and Australian Government during 2018-19 and has provided expert advice on the AOD priorities identified by the Minister.

Throughout 2017-18 ANACAD continued to monitor the development of the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS), including the rapid review of the progress under the NIAS, in order to provide independent advice to the Minister.

ANACAD maintained their commitment to promoting the National AOD Hotline, and also maintained their commitment to monitoring the implementation of commissioning of AOD treatment services by Public Health Networks (PHNs). In 2018/19 a number of projects and reports commissioned by ANACAD were completed. Advice was provided to the Minister on the following:

- The depth and breadth of sponsorship by the alcohol industry in Australian sport project was a research project commissioned by ANACAD in 2017/18 and undertaken by For Purpose. The project was completed in 2018/19.
- The Criminal justice responses relating to personal use and possession of illicit drugs project was commissioned by ANACAD in 2018 and undertaken by National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales (UNSW).
- The Providing Alcohol and Other Drug Services through Primary Health Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: A toolkit for service providers was a project commissioned by ANACAD in 2017/18. The project was undertaken by Edward Tilton Consulting.

### **Meetings and engagements**

The ANACAD met face-to-face on four occasions through 2018–19:

- 19–20 September 2018 — Melbourne — Warrnambool, VIC
- 20 November 2018 — Perth, WA
- 27–28 February 2019 — Sydney, NSW
- 29–30 May 2019 — Darwin-Katherine, NT

### **Engagement with community and sector**

The ANACAD has attended meetings, forums and engaged with the community and other stakeholders with AOD linkages throughout 2018–19. Consultations with Community and/or Stakeholders were held in Warrnambool, Perth, Darwin and Katherine with representatives from many sectors of the community including local Government, the education sector, not for profit organisations, and other state funded community organisations.

In March 2019, the Chair attended the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), 62<sup>nd</sup> session, in Vienna as part of the Australian delegation.

ANACAD has also hosted guests at meetings throughout the period including University of Queensland, Self Help Addiction Resource Centre, Uniting ReGen, Victoria Police, Deakin University, Warrnambool City Council, Southern Grampians Primary Care Partnership, Centre for Rural Emergency Medicine, Portland Health, Great South Coast ICE Challenge, Great South Coast Drug and Alcohol Consortium, Cyrenian House, Holyoake, Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network, Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA, NT Department of Health, Alice Springs Hospital, ANU College of Health and Medicine, NT Department of Education, Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Services, Kalano Community Association Aboriginal Corporation, Mission Australia and Department of Health officials.

ANACAD has also engaged with a number of Government Ministers from a range of portfolios with AOD linkages including Health, Indigenous Health, Rural Health and Regional Communication.