

ANACAD Summary of Activities 2019-20

ANACAD Background

The Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs (ANACAD) was established in December 2014.

As the principal alcohol and other drug (AOD) expert advisory body to the Australian Government, the Council provides expert advice on new and emerging policies, ideas or issues relating to AOD. 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) web page:

<https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/australian-national-advisory-council-on-alcohol-and-other-drugs-anacad>

This summary provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the ANACAD over the period of 01 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

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;
- 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 2019-20 and has provided expert advice on the AOD priorities.

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 Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

In April 2020 ANACAD provided advice to the Minister on AOD issues arising during COVID-19 pandemic, including deliverable actions that the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments could take to address these concerns.

In 2019-20 the following report commissioned by ANACAD was completed. Advice was provided to the Minister on the following:

- A review of alcohol and drug education and early intervention programs in Australian government schools (School's Project Report) was commissioned by ANACAD and the Department of Health in 2018 and undertaken by Deakin University.

Meetings and engagements

The ANACAD met face-to-face on three occasions through 2019-20:

- 28-29 August 2019 – Adelaide, SA
- 26-27 November 2019 – Canberra, ACT
- 12-13 February 2020 – Coolangatta, QLD and Northern New South Wales.

A fourth meeting was scheduled to be held in Perth from 13-14 May 2020, however, due to COVID-19 this meeting had to be cancelled.

Engagement with community and sector

The ANACAD has attended meetings, forums and engaged with the community and other stakeholders with AOD linkages throughout 2019-20. Consultations with Community and/or stakeholders were held in Adelaide, Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales 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 2020, the Chair attended the sixty third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna as part of the Australian delegation.

ANACAD has also hosted guests at meetings throughout the period including National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, National Centre for Education & Training on Addiction, Drug Policy Modelling Program, University of New South Wales, National Indigenous Australians Agency, SA Police, South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services, Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, Centrecare Drug & Alcohol Services, Family Drug Support, Drug and Alcohol Services SA, Adelaide Primary Health Network, Life Without Barriers, Development Unit Women's and Children's Health, National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) Freshstart Fitness, The Buttery, Namatjira Haven, Rekindling the Spirit 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, Aged Care and Indigenous Health and Youth and Sport.