

Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum Communiqué

27 November 2017

The third meeting of the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum (the Forum) took place via teleconference today.

The Forum consists of Ministers from across Australia with responsibility for alcohol and other drug policy from the health and justice / law enforcement portfolios from each jurisdiction.

The meeting was chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP.

Major items discussed by Members today included:

The National Alcohol Strategy (NAS)

Members agreed for a draft NAS to undergo a public consultation process and encouraged all interested parties to participate in this consultation.

It was agreed the consultation would be an online submission process and be open for a period of 2 months. Submissions can be lodged at any time between the 11th of December 2017 and the 11th of February 2018. The Forum highlighted the desire for the Strategy to be finalised in the first quarter of 2018.

The draft NAS and submission details will be available on [Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum](#) from the 11th of December.

Alternatively, interested parties can register their interest to be notified when the consultation process has commenced by emailing nationaldrugstrategy@health.gov.au.

Progress against the National Ice Action Strategy

Members noted that there continues to be good progress on the implementation of actions under the National Ice Action Strategy which seek to reduce the impact that crystal methamphetamine ('ice') is having on Australian communities.

Ministers approved the second annual progress report for consideration by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

Development of a National Quality Framework for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services

Members approved in-principle the National Quality Framework for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services, whilst finalisation to be undertaken by a National Drug Strategy Committee Quality Working group.

Members also agreed that consultation would occur with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, and the state and territory peak bodies, to ensure alignment with current accreditation systems in place across jurisdictions and to minimise duplication.

The Forum noted that this work will be finalised by the National Drug Strategy Committee by April 2018.

E-cigarettes

Members noted that the current evidence base in relation to e-cigarettes supports maintaining and, where appropriate, strengthening the current controls that apply to the marketing and use of these products in Australia.

Members agreed to national guiding principles which reflect a precautionary approach to e-cigarettes and affirmed the current national regulatory framework remains appropriate.

The guiding principles will be published shortly on [Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum](#)

The next meeting of the Forum is expected to take place in April 2018.

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