

Project update

September
2008

Our projects at a glance

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The Australian National Council on Drugs

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) is the principal advisory body to the Government on drug policy and plays a critical role in ensuring the voice of the community is heard in relation to drug related policies and strategies. A particular priority of the ANCD is to support initiatives that continue to build capacity within the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector to facilitate best practice.

Each year the ANCD commissions a number of projects. These projects are

selected following consideration of the ANCD's role and work plan priorities, consultations with the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) sector, and consideration of where the AOD sector and/or the ANCD require further information in order to provide credible advice to Government.

The ANCD ensures that research projects provide a current and evidence based approach to current AOD issues and is widely disseminated.

Projects Recently Commissioned

Injecting Drug Use and Associated Harm Amongst Indigenous Australians

This project has recently been tendered out to a consortium consisting of Anex and National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

With this project the ANCD is interested in obtaining an understanding of the dimensions and characteristics of

Indigenous injecting drug use and its associated harms including gaps in knowledge and whether there are specific issues that exist for Indigenous people.

The project will also focus on the implications of the findings in relation to Indigenous injecting drug use, the risks, associated harms, self harm and injury amongst Indigenous Australians.

Recently Re-launched Website

Positive Stories

This is an ongoing project that was initially launched in 2005 and involved the development of a website that documents the positive achievements of treatment and the success stories of drug users who have gone through it. The purpose of the project is to assist in reducing the marginalisation of drug users and make those people outside the AOD sector aware that:

- Treatment works;
- People who receive treatment are deserving; and

- Treatment is worth the investment.

To further promote this message the ANCD re-launched the Positive Stories website on 21st August at which time additional stories were added to the site.

The ANCD continues to seek positive stories and to assist in promoting this initiative has developed brochures and posters that may be obtained from the ANCD Secretariat office. This website can be accessed by going to www.positivestories.com.au.

Projects Nearing Completion

Working with Homeless People Who Use Drugs

A consortium headed up by Dr Jeremy Northcote and consisting of consultants from NDRI, Ted Noffs and St Bartholomew's House has been commissioned to this undertake this project.

The purpose of this project is to gain a better understanding of, and means of responding to the extent and nature of problems associated with drug use in the homeless population in Australia. The ANCD particularly wishes to develop a set of clear guidelines for managing drug and alcohol problems amongst the homeless.

This project will be web based and it is anticipated that it will be

launched on 31st October in Sydney.

Sustainability, Governance and Funding of Non-Government Organisations in the Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector: Implications for the Future

The University of NSW was awarded the tender for this project in 2006 with Dr Catherine Spooner as the project manager.

There are a range of significant issues facing the not for profit sector in Australia, all of which are having an impact on specialist services in the AOD sector.

To remain viable, all AOD services, regardless of their size are required to operate in a competition driven, service delivery model, while maintaining the values that inform

their practice, and effectively responding to client needs.

The ANCD commissioned this project to explore options for the future of AOD non-government organisations to effectively operate under a range of service delivery models in Australia. As such, it sought an investigation of the implications of the current context of sustainability, governance and funding of NGOs in the AOD sector.

This report has now been completed and it is anticipated that it will be released towards the end of the year.

Current Projects

Opioid Pharmacotherapy Review

A consortium headed up by Associate Professor Alison Ritter from the Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP) at the University of NSW is conducting a review on opioid pharmacotherapy in Australia.

This project examines whether the availability, accessibility and affordability of pharmacotherapy programs for the treatment of opioid dependence in Australia meets demand. It is also designed to cover any problems highlighted by current literature in this area.

It is anticipated that this report will be released either towards the end of 2008 or early in 2009.

Identifying Areas of Greatest Need Project

This project was tendered out to Professor Dennis Gray and his team from the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) at the Curtin University of Technology, WA and is managed by the National Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) a subcommittee of the ANCD.

This project seeks to determine the current Indigenous specific drug and alcohol funding available across State, Territory and Federal jurisdictions and the current distribution and appropriateness of Indigenous AOD services across all sectors across these jurisdictions.

This project relies heavily on receiving information from government and non government agencies and organisations and delays in receiving this information have slowed progress.

It is anticipated that this report will be completed by the end of the year and released in the first quarter of next year.

Situational Analysis of Drug and Alcohol Issues in the Pacific Region

This project has been tendered out to Professor Robert Power and his team from the Centre for Harm Reduction at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne. This project is looking to undertake a comprehensive situational analysis of drug and

alcohol issues and responses in the Pacific Region which builds on existing reports and strategic analyses.

The project is made up of three parts, namely:

Part 1 collecting and synthesising current information regarding Australia's involvement in responding to drug and alcohol issues in the Pacific Region;

Part 2 preparation of country profiles for each country in the Pacific Region; and

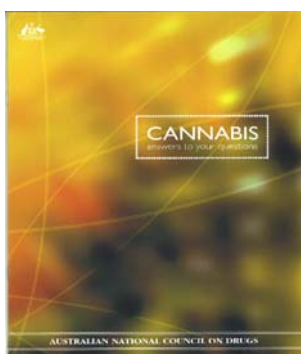
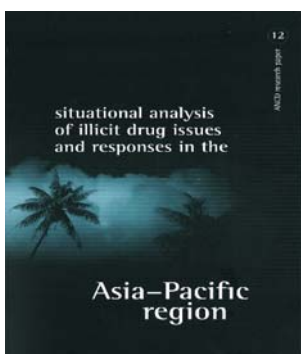
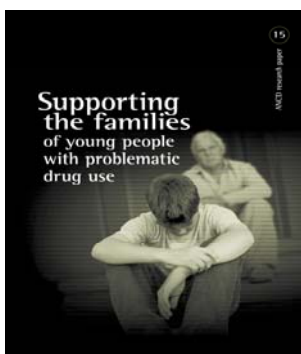
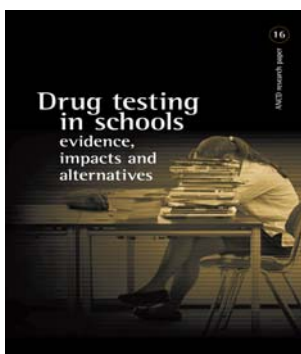
Part 3 collecting and synthesising current information regarding drug and alcohol related activities being undertaken by international organisations and funders in the Pacific Region.

This project is managed by the ANCD subcommittee, the Asia Pacific Drug Issues Committee (APDIC) and is anticipated to be completed towards the middle to latter part of 2009.

Completed Projects

Completed reports can be accessed by going to www.ancd.org.au/publications/index.

Hard copies of the following reports are available. Please email: ancd@ancd.org.au.



Reports Recently and Soon to be Released

Beyond 2008 Project – A Review of United Nations Achievements and Progress

In 1998 the United Nations General Assembly held a special session (UNGASS) to focus on the world drug problem. This session established ambitious targets in the reduction of illicit supply and demand for drugs by 2008.

A review of achievements since the 1998 UNGASS is currently being undertaken by the UN General Assembly and incorporated a International Forum “Beyond 2008” which was held in July in Vienna. This forum was a means for collating together the experiences of NGOs across the globe, and for the development of improved mechanisms for incorporating NGOs in the planning of future drug control strategies.

To assist in the review process the ANCD and the NZ Drug Foundation were appointed as the Regional Lead Organisations for collating together the experiences from NGOs in Australia/New Zealand. For New Zealand, a two day regional consultation was held in late February. In Australia, a total of 142 NGOs were invited to take part in this process, which involved completion of an online survey and participation in a qualitative telephone interview with the ANCD Secretariat. A wide range of organisations were invited to reflect the breadth of services provided in Australia and also, to ensure adequate geographic coverage. Of the 142 invited NGOs, 42 participated in the Australian consultation.

Following on from the consultations a report was completed which reflects the views of NGOs in the Australian/New Zealand region. This report was presented at “Beyond 2008” and is available on the ANCD and Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs websites. A second report that outlines the details of the Australian process is currently being completed by the ANCD and will be available from the ANCD website shortly.

News

The ANCD’s research paper “Drug testing in schools: evidence, impacts and alternatives”, released earlier this year is currently being translated into Czech by the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (ICSP). The ICSP is a unique criminological institute based in the Czech Republic and deals with various criminological topics such as crime prevention, drug related crime and juvenile crime. Once translated the report will be available on their website.

ANCD Contact Details

More information on the Australian National Council on Drugs, including copies of completed reports, is available by accessing this ANCD website or by contacting the ANCD Secretariat:

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