The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2016

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline provides a list of key events, policy and legislative changes that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and 15 December 2016. Events are listed by jurisdiction, at the federal and state/territory level. The first table includes events at the federal level. Events in the state and territories are split into two parts. The second table includes events from the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Events from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia are listed in the third table. All events added in the last six months are highlighted in blue. DPMP will continue to update the timeline every June and December. Please feel free to email through any comments or suggested inclusions.


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<th>Year</th>
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| 2016 | The Office of Drug Control (ODC) established in the Commonwealth Department of Health to regulate and provide advice on the import, export and manufacture of controlled drugs as well as the domestic cultivation of medicinal cannabis. Key roles: to administer the Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 and parts of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 and the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958 that relate to drugs (Feb 15).  
  
The Federal Parliament of Australia passed landmark legislation, Narcotic Drugs Amendment Act 2016, to allow the controlled cultivation of cannabis in Australia for medicinal and related scientific purposes via a national licensing scheme. The act came into effect on 30 Oct 2016, with a detailed regulatory framework enabling applications for licenses and permits for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medicinal cannabis products. Key rules included that first set of cultivation or manufacture licenses would be issued for one year only and that licensees must be judged as ‘fit and proper person’ including having previous business experience, no convictions for a serious offence in the last 5 years against Cth/State/Territory law and being a person of good repute (Feb 24).  
  
New research by Degenhardt et al released: “Estimating the number of regular and dependent methamphetamine users in Australia, 2002–2014”. This estimated that in 2012-13 there were a total of 268 000 regular methamphetamine users and 160 000 dependent users aged 15–54 years in Australia and that this number had increased substantially over the last 12 years (Mar).  
  
New research by Ritter and Stoove released: “Alcohol and other drug treatment policy in Australia” This concluded that Australia needs to double its investment in alcohol and drug resources to meet unmet treatment needs (Mar).  
  
TGA rescheduling of naloxone commenced enabling purchase of naloxone over-the-counter in pharmacies (S3) (Feb 1).  
  
New commentary by Lenton et al (Australia reschedules naloxone for opioid overdose) highlighted new challenges for full and effective implementation of naloxone over the counter (OTC) in Australia: including the cost of obtaining naloxone OTC. For example, they noted that under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, five minijets of naloxone cost A$37.70, or A$6.10 on concession, which could be a significant barrier to many consumers especially for opioid users who are often financially disadvantaged (Mar).  
  
Parliamentary Drug Summit held in Canberra, co-hosted by Senator Richard Di Natale (Greens), Sharron Stone MP (LNP) and Melissa Parke MP (ALP). Summit brought together International and Australian representatives with expertise in health, NGO, justice, personal addiction and academia to share experiences and recommendations around harm minimisation and drug law reform. Led to call for Australia to put health and community safety first in illicit drug policy; to remove criminal sanctions for personal drug use; to expand investment in drug treatment and to pursue an open debate on more effective policies (Mar 2).  
  
Australian country statement at the United Nations 59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs noted that “Australia opposes the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including in relation to drug-related crimes” and that Australia would “continue to press for a global ban on the death penalty and actively engage in promoting a public health approach to illicit drug use which considers a proportional response to minor or non-violent drug related crimes” (Mar).  
  
Australian country statement at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) reiterated that “Australia will continue to press for a global ban on the death penalty in all circumstances, including in relation to drug-related crimes” (Apr).  
  
Stereoscopic music festival organisers announced it was cancelling its 2016 trip to Australia following two fatal overdoses at their events in Sydney and Adelaide in late 2015 (Apr).  
  
DPMP research released by Chalmers et al: “The stigmatisation of ‘ice’ and underreporting of methamphetamine use in general population surveys.” Found stigmatisation of drug use (methamphetamine in particular) may lead to under-reporting of use in the national drug strategy household survey (Jun).  
  
A national pilot wastewater analysis program announced, funded through $3.6 million from Proceeds of Crime. The program will be run by the Australian Crime Commission and monitor levels of methylamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine (Jun).  
  
Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission was established following the merge of the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and CrimTrac (Jul 1).  
  
Data from the Kirby Institute revealed record numbers of Australians treated for Hepatitis C since listing of new generation treatments on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes. For example, 22,470 Australians had commenced Hepatitis C treatment since PBS listing in May 2015, compared to 2,000-3,000 people treated annually prior to the listing (Jul).  
  
New research by Hughes et al released: “Trafficking in multiple commodities: Exposing Australia’s poly-drug and poly-criminal networks.” This provided the first analysis of the scale, trends and harms of Australian poly-drug traffickers (traffic in multiple illicit drugs), showing that compared to traffickers that traffic in one drug (mono-drug traffickers), poly-drug traffickers import larger quantities of drugs, are more involved in other forms of organized crime and are more resilient to police (Aug).  
  
Illicit Drug Data Report 2014–15 released. This showed that the number of border detections increased for most drug types. Of note the number and weight of heroin, cocaine and MDMA...
2015

New research by Degenhardt et al. “Experience of adjunctive cannabis use for chronic non-cancer pain” found 13% of their sample of 1500 chronic pain patients were using cannabis in addition to prescribed opioids and that many of those reported they got more pain relief from cannabis than conventional medicines (Jan). Indonesian President Joko Widodo denied the final appeal for Bali Nine offenders, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, to avoid the death penalty (Jan).

ANZ Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation met to consider ANZ Food Standards approval A1039 for the use of low THC hemp products in food. The application was rejected on the basis of ongoing law enforcement concern about the impact on drug driving enforcement and the use of the cannabis leaf design normalizing and trivializing the use of cannabis (Jan). Silkroad website founder Ross Ulbricht found guilty on seven counts including drug trafficking and money laundering (Feb).

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee commenced an Inquiry into the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014 with a call for public submissions (Feb). The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Psychoactive Substances and Other Measures) Bill 2014 was adopted. The bill amends the Criminal Code Act 1995 (the Code) to ban the importation of all substances that have a psychoactive effect that are not otherwise regulated or banned. It was intended to fill the regulatory gap before new psychoactive substances were controlled under the Code or the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations. The maximum penalty for an offence will be imprisonment for five years, 300 penalty units (currently equivalent to $51,000) or both. The measures will enter into force when it is proclaimed or six months after Royal Assent (Feb 23).

Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement initiated an inquiry into crystal methamphetamine (ice). Terms of reference included to examine the role of Commonwealth law enforcement agencies in responding to the importation, manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine and its chemical precursors; the adequacy of Commonwealth law enforcement resources; and the involvement of organised crime in methamphetamine related criminal activities; and the nature, prevalence and culture of methamphetamine use in Australia (Mar).

National Ice Taskforce launched by Prime Minister Tony Abbott. The taskforce was led by Ken Lay APM, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, and tasked with establishing a National Ice Action Strategy to tackle ice (crystal methamphetamine). The taskforce called for public submissions until 20 May 2015 (Apr). Bali Nine offenders, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, were executed in Indonesia (Apr).

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2013-14 released. Noted that the number of illicit drug seizures and arrests were the highest on record. Of particular concern the number and weight of ATS end-product (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border were the highest and second highest on record and the number of national ATS seizures and arrests were the highest on record. That said, trends in the number of ATS clan lab detections had decreased for the second year (May).

Law and Community Safety Council (LCCSC – the peak ministerial law enforcement body in Australia) agreed to work towards more nationally consistent controls over precursor chemicals and equipment and that they would arrange public consultation on a range of possible options (May).

A range of new hepatitis C treatments were added to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS), including Viekira Pak® with a cure rate of more than 90%. Treatments became available May 1 2016 (Mar).

New research by Ritter et al, released: “Health expenditure on alcohol and other drug treatment in Australia (2012/2013).” This found that alcohol and other drug treatment spending in Australia amounted to $1.2 billion in 2012/2013: just under one per cent of health care spending in Australia. States/territories accounted for 51% of all expenditure (Aug).

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced its decision to place “naloxone when used for the treatment of opioid overdose” on Schedule 3, commencing 1 Feb 2016, thereby allowing over-the-counter (OTC) purchase. This made Australia the second country, after Italy (1995), to have naloxone formally available OTC. Key reasons for the decision were: 1) naloxone is a well-tolerated life-saving medicine with minimal side effects; 2) international experience and the outcomes of a trial conducted in the Australian Capital Territory support the view that easier availability of naloxone is likely to decrease the proportion of opioid overdoses which result in death in Australia; and 3) that there are few inherent risks with use of naloxone (Nov 4).

Final Report of the National Ice Taskforce, chaired by Ken Lay, released following face-to-face consultations across the country and over 1,300 written submissions. Report concluded that...
Ice use was causing significant harms across Australia, but that in spite of the best efforts of Australian law enforcement that the ice market remained high and very resilient to law enforcement (due to the capacity to both import and domestically manufacture supplies). The taskforce thus concluded that ice is "not something we can simply arrest our way out of" and recommended that governments focus action on reducing the demand for ice and reducing the harm it causes: via expanded prevention and treatment responses. Made 38 recommendations including; to increase investment in alcohol and other drug specialist treatment services; develop a comprehensive, evidence-based two-year prevention communication plan focusing on ice; review diversionary programmes to determine best practice approaches, and consider options for improving and expanding existing arrangements; prioritise building a national cooperative scheme on unexplained wealth; piloting a Swift and Certain Sanctions programme for ice offenders on probation, drawing on lessons learned from US HOPE models; introduce a simplified governance model to support greater cohesion and coordination of law enforcement, health, education and other responses to drug misuse in Australia; to establish a national wastewater analysis capability; and to establish an illicit drug monitoring clearinghouse for national data (Dec).

Concerning NDARC: to establish a national taskforce to respond to the growth in number of Australian retailers on the 'dark web' even after the closure of Silk Road 1.0 in Oct 2013 and a shift in nature of demand: reduction in a charge of "deemed supply" and sanction of up to 15 years prison. Recommended a number of quantities (Mar).

problems in threshold designs, including that users of drugs, particularly MDMA, consume or purchase for their personal use alone more than the current threshold quantity that triggers.

2014

Joint Task Force (Task Force Eligio), that was established to focus on high-threat money laundering, seized $550 million in drugs, $30 million worth of assets, $26 million in cash and arrested 105 people. The taskforce was led by the Australian Crime Commission and involved the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Transaction and Reporting Centre (AUSTRAC), in partnership with State and Territory police, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Commonwealth regulatory and law enforcement partners and international agencies including the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (Jan).

2014 Government Services Report showed perception of illegal drugs as a problem in Australia decreased from 45% to 37% (2011-12 to 2012-13) (Feb).

New DPMP research released: "Australian threshold quantities for drug trafficking." Provided the first evaluation of threshold designs throughout Australian states. Showed a number of problems in threshold designs, including that users of drugs, particularly MDMA, consume or purchase for their personal use alone more than the current threshold quantity that triggers a charge of "deemed supply" and sanction of up to 15 years prison. Recommended increasing a number of quantities (Mar).

New NDARC research showed growth in number of Australian retailers on the 'dark web' even after the closure of Silk Road 1.0 in Oct 2013 and a shift in nature of demand: reduction in demand for new psychoactive substances (NPS) and increase in demand for traditional illicit substances (Mar).

Minister for Justice Michael Keenan announced that the Government will amend regulations to add four NBOMe substances, also known as "synthetic LSD", to the Criminal Code. This will increase the penalties for importation of these products from a fine to between two years prison and life imprisonment (Mar).

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2012-13 released. The report highlighted a number of records in 2012-13 including that the number of national illicit drug arrests and seizures had increased to the highest on record and the weight of seizures to the second highest on record. Of particular note were further increases in the number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) (Apr).

The Australian Crime Commission warned that crystal methamphetamine was emerging in Australia as a 'pandemic' (Apr).


New DPMP research released by Alison Ritter et al, "Review working paper 7: Australian alcohol and other drug treatment spending". This provided the first estimate of total spending on alcohol and other drug treatment in Australia: approximately $1.3 billion per annum. It also showed that the largest contributor to the spending were the states/territories (49%), compared to 31% from the Commonwealth (Apr).

ANCD statement issued: "Funding principles for non-government organisations providing alcohol and other drug treatment." Key principles included 1) Recognise the important role of AOD NGOs and the benefits they bring to the wider AOD sector; 2) Recognise that NGOs provide more resources to service provision than governments fund; 3) The basis for government decisions surrounding funding models for the AOD sector and funding decisions must be transparent and; 4) Levels of funding provided to AOD NGOs must be adequate to enable provision of quality services that meet demand, and all the costs associated with its delivery (Apr).

The Prime Minister Tony Abbott stated on Radio 3AW that the war on drugs is "not a war we will ever finally win" (Apr).

ANCD position paper "Mandatory Treatment" opposed mandatory drug treatment except under exceptional circumstances (Apr).

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and other leaders of customs administrations from the Asia-Pacific, including Hong Kong and China, endorsed a new Asia-Pacific Anti-Drug Strategy, to provide for additional information and personnel exchanges, and a framework for regional and trans-national joint anti-drugs operations across the region (May).

NIDAC released report "Alcohol and other drug treatment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples." This provided information on interventions that were evidence-based and
directly related to addressing AOD use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Jun).

New framework for a national response to New Psychoactive Substances in Australia released. The framework was developed by the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) with input from health, law enforcement and non-government experts. Key inclusions in the framework included: 1) the need for consistency in terminology, and henceforth the use of the term “new psychoactive substances” in all official correspondence and messaging; 2) the need to establish a solid evidence base, such as through improved monitoring of NPS trends, comprehensive harms assessments (health and social) of NPS and sharing of information across states/territories; and 3) consideration of optimal legal responses (Jul).

New strategies adopted: Seventh National HIV Strategy; Fourth National Hepatitis C Strategy; and Second National Hepatitis B Strategy (Jul). The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) rejected the application to add sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) an antiviral medication for Hepatitis C with a treatment time of just 12 weeks to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), arguing it was too expensive (Aug).

Commonwealth Government states that it would not oppose state or territory moves to decriminalise cannabis for medicinal purposes (Aug).


ANCD report released: “Young people’s opinions on alcohol and other drugs issues.” The report, which resulted from Australia’s largest survey of youth opinions on AOD policy (n=2335), concluded that Australian youth showed strong support for harm reduction measures, including needle and syringe programs, regulated injecting facilities, and the availability of pill testing, and for drug law reform but were opposed to tougher alcohol regulations. They also expressed a desire for more reliable or relevant drug information and education (Aug).

ANCD report on “Medication treatment options for amphetamine-type stimulant users” released. Used a systematic review covering withdrawal and pharmacotherapy options to identify whether there were any treatment options with promise. Concluded that the evidence was not yet strong enough to recommend routine use of any option. For example outcomes conflicted and most studies were poor quality e.g. small sample sizes, variable participant retention and often lacking testing for specific ATS patterns in Australia. That said, it noted a number of treatments that showed promise e.g. Dexamphetamine, Bupropion and Modafinil and recommended further research in local conditions (Aug).

ANCD report released: “From policy to implementation: child and family sensitive practice in the alcohol and other drugs sector.” The report, undertaken by NCETA, concluded that there was increasing attention being directed to the risks children are exposed to, but also that responsibility for the children of those attending AOD services currently remains ambiguous and that this impedes constructive and consistent responses across and within sectors (Aug).

Prime Minister Tony Abbot backs legalisation of medical cannabis and states that “no further testing should be needed on the drug if it is legal in similar jurisdictions” (Sep).

Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) launch position statement strongly supportive of medical cannabis (Sep).

The Australian Treatment Outcome Study (ATOS), a 11 year prospective cohort study of heroin dependent people, found that 11 years post the initial treatment episode the cohort had received a median of 1,465 treatment days and shown significant reductions in 1) daily heroin use from 80% at baseline to 4% at year 11; 2) involvement in crime from 55% at baseline to 22% at year 11; and 3) crime as a main source of income from 24% at baseline to 2% at year 11 (Sep).

New Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Peaks Networks formed. The network comprised all state and territory AOD peaks and provided a conduit for immediate access to AOD services in all Australian jurisdictions (including treatment & harm reduction services) and means to support information exchange, collaboration, sector development, and quality improvement (Sep).

New NDARC research released: “Young adult sequelae of adolescent cannabis use: an integrative analysis.” The study pooled data from four large Australasian longitudinal studies and showed that frequent cannabis use in adolescence was linked with reduced odds of high-school completion and degree attainment and substantially increased odds of later cannabis dependence, use of other illicit drugs and suicide attempt (Sep).

COAG meeting led to a national agreement to support a trial of medicinal cannabis in NSW (Oct).

ABC Four Corners issue a new documentary on methamphetamine: “Ice Rush.” Eight years on from their 2006 documentary “The Ice Age” it reported on a new ice epidemic “ravaging regional Australia” (Oct).

IGCD Stakeholder Forum held to discuss the development of the new National Drug Strategy. Key feedback was the need for more meaningful stakeholder engagement, a broader concept of enforcement beyond police, including liquor licensing authorities, local government, health authorities and food law and increased attention to the social determinants of health, including the role of education, employment and housing (Oct).

2014 Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) reported that amongst regular stimulant users there had been a stabilization in the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) (37% in 2014, compared to 36% in 2013) and a drop in use of synthetic cannabis (7% in 2014 compared to 16% in 2013) (Oct).

2014 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) reported that amongst people who inject drugs there had been a stabilization in the overall use of methamphetamine, but an increase in the use of crystal methamphetamine or ‘ice’ from 55% in 2013 to 61% in 2014 (Oct).

New NDLERF report released: “Supply reduction policy and drug-related harm.” The report conducted by BoCSAR employed a) time-series analysis of the relationship between high-level seizures and supplier arrests of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type substances (ATS) on emergency department (ED) admissions and use/possession arrests between July 2001 and June 2011 and b) analysis of the impacts of three specific large scale police operations targeting cocaine supply. It found that increased seizures of cocaine, heroin and ATS did not result in any reduction in overdose or arrests for use and possession of these drugs, but that the large scale operations were associated with a reduction in use and possession arrests (Nov).

New AIC report released: “Counting the costs of crime in Australia: A 2011 estimate”. The report concluded that the three most costly crimes to the Australian community were fraud, drugs and assault, with drugs accounted for an estimated $3.161 million each year (Nov).

The 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) was released. This showed recent use of any illicit drug (excluding pharmaceuticals) remained stable between 2010 and 2013 (at 12%). However, there was a significant decrease in recent use of ecstasy (from 3.0% to 2.5%) and while recent use of methamphetamine remained stable (at 2.1%), the use of recently rescheduled drugs was increasing (from 3.8% to 5.0%), with input from health, law enforcement and non-government experts. Key inclusions in the framework included: 1) the need for consistency in terminology, and henceforth the use of the term “new psychoactive substances” in all official correspondence and messaging; 2) the need to establish a solid evidence base, such as through improved monitoring of NPS trends, comprehensive harms assessments (health and social) of NPS and sharing of information across states/territories; and 3) consideration of optimal legal responses (Jul).

New strategies adopted: Seventh National HIV Strategy; Fourth National Hepatitis C Strategy; and Second National Hepatitis B Strategy (Jul).
recent use of ice (or crystal methamphetamine) more than doubled, from 22% in 2010 to 50% in 2013 (Nov).

A joint operation by the Australian Federal Police, NSW Police, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, NSW Crime Commission and the Australian Commission led to the seizure of 2 tonnes of MDMA and 800kgs of methamphetamine, worth an estimated $1.5 billion, that had been shipped from Germany to Sydney. Six men were also arrested (Nov).

Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014 introduced by Senator’s Di Natale, Macdonald, Leyonhjelm and Urquhart. Proposed to establish an Australian Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis to be responsible for formulating rules and monitoring compliance with those rules for licensing the production, manufacture, supply, use, experimental use and import and export of medicinal cannabis; and provides for a national system to regulate the cultivation, production and use of medicinal cannabis products, and related activities such as research (Nov).

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) was restructured as the Australian National Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drug (ANACAD), led by Kay Hull MP, with the first priority being to look at the harmful effects of methamphetamine or ‘ice’. The new council reported directly to the Assistant Minister for Health, Senator Nash (Dec).

The National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) abolished (Dec).

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health announced an inquiry into treatment, testing, prevention and cost of Hepatitis C in Australia. The terms of reference included 1) prevalence rates of Hepatitis C in Australia; 2) early testing and treatment options; 3) costs associated with short and long-term treatment; 4) methods to improve prevention and to reduce the stigma associated with a positive diagnosis (Dec).

Migration Amendment (Character and General Visa Cancellation) Act 2014 adopted. Led to changes to Migration Act 1958 to expand powers to revoke visas and deport convicted/suspected offenders including:

- inserting a new mandatory ground for the cancellation without notice of a visa under section 501 of the Act for anyone serving a full-time sentence of imprisonment in a custodial institution for an offence against the law of the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory where the Minister is satisfied that the person does not pass the character test because the person has a substantial criminal record (meaning they have been sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 12 months or more);
- strengthening the powers to refuse to grant, or to cancel, a visa on character grounds by inserting additional grounds on which a person will not pass the character test, including where the Minister reasonably suspects that the person has been or is a member of a group or organisation, or has had or has an association with a group, organisation or person that has been or is involved in criminal conduct, whether or not the person, or another person, has been convicted of an offence constituted by the conduct.


2013

Research by McKetin et al. ‘Dose-related psychotic symptoms in chronic methamphetamine users’ Evidence from a prospective longitudinal study’ provided the first comprehensive evidence that methamphetamine use is linked to psychosis, as shown by a large dose-dependent increase in the occurrence of psychotic symptoms during periods of methamphetamine use (Jan).

New report released by the National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee: “The Australian Night Time Economy A First Analysis 2009 to 2011.” Showed night time economy was valued at $92 billion in 2011; 3.3% of the total Australian economy (Feb).

An Australian, Paul Leslie Howard, became the first person in the world to be convicted and sentenced for a Silk Road-related crime of importation and trafficking illicit drugs (MDMA, amphetamine, marijuana and cocaine). He was sentenced to three years and six months imprisonment, with a minimum of 21 months (Feb).

New report released: “Australian secondary school students’ use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2011.” Showed significant declines (from 2005 to 2011) in lifetime and recent use of most illicit substances e.g. amphetamines, cocaine and ecstasy. Lifetime use of cannabis increased in 2011 relative to 2008 (14.8% compared to 13.6%) but remained significantly lower than in 2005 (17.8%) (Feb).

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Australia's largest recorded seizure of methamphetamine (585 kilograms) was detected by the Joint Organised Crime Group (JOCG) involving the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, NSW Police Force, the NSW Crime Commission (NSWCC) and the Australian Crime Commission (ACC). The seizure occurred in Sydney and led to the arrest of three alleged offenders (Feb).

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing released two requests for tender: (1) review of the drug and alcohol prevention and treatment sector; and (2) the development of a quality framework for Australian Government funded drug and alcohol treatment services (Mar).

The 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was held in Vienna. A resolution by Australia, New Zealand, UK and Japan, titled "Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances" was approved. This will foster a global early warning system about emerging psychoactive substances (Mar).

A joint law enforcement operation involving Australian Federal Police, Australian Crime Commission, Australian Customs and Victoria Police led to the seizure of 365 litres of liquid containing methamphetamine stored in bottles of carpet stain cleaner (Apr).

A multi-agency law enforcement operation targeting criminal organisations using the South Pacific as a transit point and staging area for their activities seized approximately 750 kilograms of cocaine in Vanuatu bound for Australia. Agencies involved included the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and United States Drug Enforcement Administration (Aug).

New NDLERF report released: "Patron Offending and Intoxication in Night-Time Entertainment Districts (POINTED)." This was the largest study of AOD use in the night-time economy; interviewing almost 7000 patrons between November 2011 to June 2012 in entertainment precincts in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Wollongong and Geelong. Found that 16-22% admitted or tested positive to illicit drugs on the night out, with the main drugs being cannabis, methamphetamine and ecstasy (Mar).

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New report released from the Drug Policy Modelling Program: "Government drug policy expenditure in Australia - 2009/10". Found that Australian governments spent approximately $1.7 billion in 2009/10 on illicit drugs and that 64% was directed at law enforcement, compared to 22% treatment, 10% prevention and 2% harm reduction. Also showed relative expenditure on harm reduction had decreased from 2002/03: from 3.9% of expenditure to 2.2% (Aug).

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) released a report: "Survey of secondary school principals on the use of alcohol and other drugs in schools". The report stemmed from a survey which canvassed the opinions of over two hundred Australian secondary school principals regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in schools (Jul).

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The then Commonwealth Assistant Treasurer introduced an interim consumer protection ban under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth) prohibiting the retail sale of 19 psychoactive products and substances nationally for a period of 120 days. This ban was introduced to fill a gap in coverage in some states and territories where Schedule 9 of the Poisons Standard had not been fully implemented. It followed the introduction of an interim ban that was put in place by the New South Wales Minister for Fair Trading. Interim ban was extended for another 30 days but then lapsed on 13 October 2013, when the Assistant Treasurer determined that a permanent ban was not required (Jun 19).

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New research from NDARC: "Global burden of disease attributable to illicit drug use and dependence: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010." This showed that Australia had one of the highest burdens of disease attributable to illicit drug use. Other countries included USA, UK and Russia (Aug).

ANCD released a series of reports on employment participation for people experiencing AOD problems including: "ANCD Employment Participation Survey: Full Report"; and "Working..."
Peter Phillip Nash was arrested in Brisbane over alleged involvement in moderating Silk Road (an online drug market) (Dec).

To better meet the needs of ATS users (Dec).

estimates of ATS use; invest in rapid assessment and response strategies to ATS; and adapt existing harm reduction services, such as drop-in centres and needle and syringe programs,

high risk behaviours such as polydrug use and injecting drug use, and 2) low health service utilisation. Recommendations included: enhance capacity to enable more precise prevalence

in the Southeast Asian region.” Identified key gaps in data on ATS rates of use, but also significant public health concern. Showed ATS users were exposed to multiple HIV risks due to 1)

Australian Crime Commission and New Zealand Customs Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing both countries to share information and intelligence on the highest

criminal risks (Oct).

The FBI shut down the original Silk Road site and arrested the alleged founder and main operator Ross Ulbricht (Oct 2).

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service noted an increase in attempted importations of ContacNT. ContacNT is a Chinese cold and flu medication sold over-the-counter that

contains high amounts of pseudoephedrine, and Customs had identified drug trafficking syndicates were targeting International students to

Police and the Australian Crime Commission asserted this was indicative of the recent rise in Iranian organised crime involvement (Feb).

47.5kg of ‘black tar’ heroin (and 2.2kg of brown heroin and 25.5kg of crystal methamphetamine) were detected in Sydney in connection with an alleged Iranian drug trafficker. NSW

Police and the Australian Crime Commission asserted this was indicative of the recent rise in Iranian organised crime involvement (Feb).

A Tongan national male was fined $900,000 for the illegal importation of the largest seizure of kava in Australian history (a

significant decrease in the use of ecstasy (MDMA) amongst police detainees: 5% in 2010 and 2011, down from 11% in 2009 (Mar).

New BOCSAR report released: Trends in property and illicit drug crime around the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Kings Cross: 2012 update. This re-affirmed that trends in property crime and illicit drug crime incidents were the same in Kings Cross LAC and the rest of Sydney after the opening of the MSIC (Sep).

Liberal Government elected, under PM Tony Abbott (Sep).

ANCD released “Needle Syringe Programs position paper” which noted with concern the closure of a number of NSPs and reduction in funds. The report put forward 12 recommendations including that all Australian governments renew commitment to the use and expansion of NSPs and that there is an immediate introduction of a prison based NSP in all states (Oct).

Australian Crime Commission and New Zealand Customs Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing both countries to share information and intelligence on the highest
criminal risks (Oct).

The National Drugs Campaign partnered with the Big Day Out to encourage attendees to 'face facts' about ecstasy. Free branded water was provided and a National Drugs Campaign chill
out van. The National Drugs Campaign subsequently partnered with urban music festival Supafest in April/May (Jan).

47.5kg of ‘black tar’ heroin (and 2.2kg of brown heroin and 25.5kg of crystal methamphetamine) were detected in Sydney in connection with an alleged Iranian drug trafficker. NSW Police and the Australian Crime Commission asserted this was indicative of the recent rise in Iranian organised crime involvement (Feb).

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contains high amounts of pseudoephedrine, and Customs had identified drug trafficking syndicates were targeting International students to

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Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC) established as the new peak law enforcement body in Australia and New Zealand, bringing together Ministers from the Commonwealth, each state and territory and New Zealand with portfolio responsibility for law and justice, police and emergency management. This replaced the Standing Council on Law and Justice (SCLJ) and the Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM) and was given the mandate of fighting crime and promoting best practice in laws, criminal justice and community safety in Australia and New Zealand (Dec).

2012

World-first study launched by the National Cannabis Information and Prevention Centre to trial a new drug, Saltivex, to manage withdrawal symptoms from trying to stop smoking cannabis (Jan).

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contains high amounts of pseudoephedrine, and Customs had identified drug trafficking syndicates were targeting International students to collect or take delivery of what they think are harmless packages (Feb).

Request to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to exempt Kava from scheduling controls by allowing access when used in accordance with the traditional use patterns of the Pacific Island region was denied. Ruling meant kava remained a Schedule 4 drug (Feb).

TGA ruling added methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), a synthetic stimulant to Schedule 9 (prohibited substances). Ruling came into force 1 May 2012 (Feb).

TGA ruling added a new group entry to Schedule 9 (prohibited substances) for ‘synthetic cannabinoids’. The intent was to ‘limit the promotion of “new legal mixes” of synthetic cannabinoids that were not already listed’ and to provide a safety net ”without the need for ongoing urgent scheduling action” (Feb).

New report from the Australian Institute of Criminology’s Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) released. The 2009-2010 report on drug use among police detainees indicated a significant decrease in the use of ecstasy (MDMA) amongst police detainees: 5% in 2010 and 2011, down from 11% in 2009 (Mar).

A Tongan national male was fined $900,000 for the illegal importation of the largest seizure of kava in Australian history (almost four tonnes). The seizure had an estimated street value
The Federal Government announced that from 1 July 2012 it would return all money from its Confiscated Assets Account (an estimated $58.3 million over four years) to consolidated federal coffers. The government also announced that new taskforces would be established to investigate organised crime on the waterfront in Melbourne and Brisbane. Melbourne's Task Force System to aid a criminal organisation; (2) Limit access to specific cargo information to those in the private sector who have reported a direct and legitimate interest in the movement and handling of drugs and other illicit substances into Australia. It noted that Australia’s border security was exposed to 19 “critical” risks, particularly in relation to the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) report concluded that the international and Australian prohibition of the use of certain ‘illicit’ drugs had failed and that Australia needed to consider alternatives (Apr). The report highlighted a record number of illicit drug seizures and arrests across Australia, and a 19% increase (from 2009-10) in the total quantity of drugs seized. Large increases in amount seized were noted for two drugs: (1) cocaine – seizure weight increased by 67.7% in 2010–11 - the third highest in the last decade, and (2) heroin – seizure weight increased by 241% in 2010–11 - the highest recorded since 2001–02 (May). New research on Australian attitudes to drug law reform released from the Drug Policy Modelling Program: Analysis of the 2010 NDSHS showed over 72.7% and 51.9% Australians accepted evidence based treatments” but that the “ongoing use of the TGA Special Access Scheme for sustained release naltrexone preparations circumvents formal processes to ascertain quality, safety and efficacy of pharmacological treatment products and is therefore inappropriate.” The ANCD called for the “TGA and the Department of Health & Ageing to resolve the ongoing use of the Special Access Scheme for the use of naltrexone implants” (Mar). ANEX issued a new discussion paper titled Australian Drug Policy: harm reduction and ‘new recovery’ (Apr). The Australian Greens called for dispensing fees for methadone and buprenorphine to be covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, noting that the dispensing fees limit access to many drug users who could benefit from pharmacotherapy treatment (Apr). The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Powers and Offences) Act 2012 amended the Criminal Code to ensure that substances and quantities that were temporarily prescribed in the Criminal Code Regulations 2002 (interim regulations) now remain subject to the Commonwealth serious drug offences. This included the four drugs Benzylpiperazine (BZP), Ketamine, Methcathinone, 4-Methylethcathinone (4-MMC) and the precursor Phenylpropanolamine. In accordance with Part 9.1 of the Code the Interim Regulations [Criminal Code Amendment Regulations 2011 (No 1)] expired on 9 April 2012. The Act also amended the Customs Act to ensure powers available to Customs officers to seize illicit drugs at the border are consistent and efficient (Apr 4). Australia 21 report released: ‘The prohibition of illicit drugs is killing and criminalising our children and we are all letting it happen.’ Based on the high level roundtable discussions involving 24 former senior politicians, law enforcement officers and public health officials (including Former WA Premier Hon. Geoff Gallop and Former AFP Commissioner Mick Palmer) the report concluded that the international and Australian prohibition of the use of certain ‘illicit’ drugs had failed and that Australia needed to consider alternatives (Apr). Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2010-11 released. The report highlighted a record number of illicit drug seizures and arrests across Australia, and a 19% increase (from 2009-10) in the total quantity of drugs seized. Large increases in amount seized were noted for two drugs: (1) cocaine – seizure weight increased by 67.7% in 2010–11 - the third highest in the last decade, and (2) heroin – seizure weight increased by 241% in 2010–11 - the highest recorded since 2001–02 (May). New research on Australian attitudes to drug law reform released from the Drug Policy Modelling Program: Analysis of the 2010 NDSHS showed over 72.7% and 51.9% Australians supported no or minimal penalties for possession of cannabis and ecstasy respectively (May). Fairfax media organised a public forum on drug law reform, and devoted two weeks of media coverage and launched a ‘wikicurve’ that asked members of the public to have their say on ‘the drugs dilemma’ (May). The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement handed down the final report on its inquiry into new Commonwealth unexplained wealth legislation (adopted Feb 2010). Noted that despite the laws having been in operation for two years, no cases have been brought before the courts. It was argued that the current unexplained wealth provisions necessitated an overly burdensome investigation upon prosecutors. The Committee made 18 recommendations for improvement including enabling the Australian Crime Commission to use its coercive powers to provide evidence in support of unexplained wealth, allowing the Australian Taxation Office to use telecommunication information collected by law enforcement agencies and developing a nationally consistent unexplained wealth regime (Mar). The ANCD released a position statement, ‘Naltrexone Sustained Release Preparations (Injectables and Implants)’, in response to the ongoing debate regarding the use of naltrexone implants to treat opioid dependence. The statement noted that: “the ANCD supports the increased access to, and availability of scientifically acceptable evidence based treatments” but that the “ongoing use of the TGA Special Access Scheme for sustained release naltrexone preparations circumvents formal processes to ascertain quality, safety and efficacy of pharmacological treatment products and is therefore inappropriate.” The ANCD called for the “TGA and the Department of Health & Ageing to resolve the ongoing use of the Special Access Scheme for the use of naltrexone implants” (Mar). 200kg of cocaine destined for Australia was seized in New Caledonia. The seizure followed an international operation involving Australian Customs and Border Protection Services, the Australian Federal Police, New Caledonian Police and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (Mar 31). ANEX issued a new discussion paper titled Australian Drug Policy: harm reduction and ‘new recovery’ (Apr). 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projects such as DUMA & the development of an Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs (May).

The ANCD's Asia-Pacific Drug Issues Committee prepared a summary paper of the influential 2nd Australian Needle and Syringe Program Return on Investment Study in English, Burmese, Khmer, Mandarin, Russian and Vietnamese. Translations into other languages are expected to follow. It is expected that this will assist in the expansion and further development of needle and syringe programs in the region (May).

The Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) issued a new policy statement on 'New recovery', harm reduction and drug use. Arguments included: (1) that false distinctions between 'active users' and 'people in recovery' are unhelpful and may promote continued social exclusion and discrimination against current drug users; (2) that principles for recovery, such as self-empowerment, social inclusion, fulfilment and happiness, are easy to support in principle but are likely to be difficult and costly to attain in practice; and (3) that people on opioid pharmacotherapy maintenance potentially stand to lose the most from any shift towards a 'new recovery' approach – increasing risks of losing the employment, housing and stability accumulated while on long-term pharmacotherapy (Jun).

Australian Institute of Criminology report released: 'Measuring drug use patterns in Queensland through wastewater analysis’. Report outlined daily estimates of per capita consumption of methamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine produced by chemical analysis of sewerage water from a Qld municipality in Nov 2009 and Nov 2010. This suggested that the per capita consumption of methamphetamine was greater than for MDMA and cocaine, particularly in 2010. The report concluded that wastewater analysis could supplement traditional surveys of drug use, such as the NDSHS, and provide estimates of drug use patterns that are not reliant upon self-report (Jun).

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) released a report from its 1st Recovery Roundtable that sought to explore the meaning of recovery in the AOD sector. Key findings included: "that the National Drug Strategy, which was developed after extensive consultation and input from the AOD sector, and which has been agreed to by all governments already, has as an objective to support people to recover from alcohol and drug dependence and assist their reconnection with the community; that recovery does not mean that abstinence must be the goal for all people with alcohol and other drug problems; and That recovery, regardless of definition, should not be the sole basis for a national drug strategy, particularly as it would tragically undermine the gains available from both harm and demand reduction" (Jun).

2011 National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data (NOPSPAD) collection report released: Indicated that the proportion of clients aged 30 years and over increased from 72% in 2006 to 85% in 2011, with the median age of clients in 2011 being 38 years. Buprenorphine-naloxone was used more by younger clients, but methadone was more used among clients aged over 40 years (Jun).

The Second National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference was held: "Beyond 2012: Leading The Way To Action." The conference run by the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee, ANCD brought together over 400 experts and practitioners to discuss and share information specifically on addressing the harmful use of alcohol and other drugs amongst Indigenous Australians. 22 resolutions were made including the need for (1) all national health campaigns to include an Indigenous specific focus; (2) governments to support the development of Indigenous AOD worker skills; and (3) substantial increase in Indigenous diversion programs and investment in through-care programs in correctional and juvenile detention (Jun).

Liberal MP Mal Washer, Greens senator Richard Di Natale and independent Rob Oakeshott called on the Federal Government to ask the Productivity Commission to investigate the current adequacy of Australian drug laws, including "the economic cost of law enforcement around illicit drugs’ (Jun).

Minister for Home Affairs Jason Clare announced that the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service had commenced trailing the use of body scanning technology to detect internal drug concealments. The trial commenced at one Australian airport: Melbourne (Jul).

Australia’s first national e-mental health online portal launched: mindhealthconnect as a gateway to information, support and services on mental health (Jul).

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service issue a warning to persons engaging in illegal activity through online marketplaces such as Silk Road. The warning followed the arrest of a Melbourne man who allegedly imported narcotics into Australia via Silk Road. The man was charged with 10 offences relating to the importation, trafficking and possession of narcotics and prohibited weapons (Jul).

New research by Bruno et al. 'Emerging psychoactive substance (EPS) use among regular ecstasy users in Australia’ estimated the extent of EPS use and found that 28% of the 2012 EDRS sample had used an EPS. They revealed significant differences in the profiles of those who used EPS, with psychedelic EPS users but not stimulant EPS users engaging in higher levels of poly-drug use and reporting more social, health and legal problems (Jul).

Large poly-drug seizure undertaken by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Services and Australian Federal Police: 306 kg of crystal methamphetamine (ice) and 252 kg of heroin. The drugs were hidden in a shipment of terracotta pots and constituted the largest and third-largest seizure of ice and heroin in AFP history. Seven people were also arrested (31 Jul).

The ANCD released a report: "Supply, demand and harm reduction strategies in Australian prisons: An update”. The report, prepared by NDARC, found that Australia’s prisons tend to focus on supply reduction strategies, and there is a need to expand strategies to reduce demand and harm. In addition the report highlighted the need for greater levels of transparency and accountability within the correctional system (Aug).

Regulation 4H of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (the Regulations), prohibiting the importation of ice pipes, republished as Regulation 41 (Aug).

New report released: "Social Inclusion in Australia - How Australia is faring". Showed that while Australia is doing well in terms of life expectancy, health, employment and education, Australia’s level of income inequality has increased. It has particularly increased relative to the OECD average with Australia now having the ninth highest level of income inequality in the OECD (out of 26). Moreover, approximately 640,000 Australians experience multiple and complex disadvantage (Aug).

The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing Mark Butler announced that up to $549.8M would be made available through the Partners in Recovery (PIR) Flexible Funding rounds, to improve collaboration at a system level to people with multiple complex needs including mental health (Aug).

An alcohol and substance management plan Toolkit and Training Package were completed for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced that 8 targeted mental health programs worth $113.2 million will be rolled out beginning January 1st. The programs for continuation. Found that initiation was in the main due to curiosity (70%) and continuation due to enjoyment (40%) and relaxation (43%). Only 4% cited fear of legal consequences as the reason for non-initiation (Aug).

New report released: 'The economic impact of hepatitis C in Australia’. The report by the Boston Consulting Group estimated that Hepatitis C cost the Australian governments (Commonwealth, state and territory) $252 million per year, with a projected 5 year cost of $1.5 billion. Without new treatments, the cost will be born primarily by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) covering disability pensions for people unable to work (Aug).

New Australia 21 report launched: ‘Alternatives to prohibition: illicit drugs, how we can stop killing and criminalising young Australians’. Report examined the experiences of four nations (Portugal, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden) and concluded that more effective drug policies are possible. The report outlined a range of potential policy options for Australia and called for a national drug summit in 2013 involving parliamentarians from all sides of the political spectrum (Aug).

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) convened a roundtable discussion on Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD) with participants from medicine, consumer groups, pharmacy, government, peak bodies, and expert advisors. The roundtable report noted there were 92,503 registered medical practitioners in Australia of which only 1,444 were MATOD prescribers. Concluded that there is increasing levels of unmet need, that unmet need nationally is creating significant pressure and that the current MATOD system has failed to keep pace with the needs of clients in terms of affordability and accessibility (Aug).

The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) position paper released: "Expanding Naloxone Availability." Called for expansion in the availability of naloxone as a prescription medication for potential overdose victims be instituted in all Australian states and territories and that naloxone be rescheduled to be made available as a pharmacist only medicine (S3) or as a pharmacy medicine (S2) (Sep).

New set of recovery principles launched: ‘Principles of Recovery Academy Australia.’ This outlined that ‘recovery embraces and transcends both harm reduction and abstinence-based approaches’ and that ‘recovery does not necessarily require abstinence.’ It also notes that ‘there are multiple paths to recovery including peer support, mutual aid groups and professional treatments’ and self-recovery, but that not all substance use is problematic or harmful (Sep).

The ABC 7:30 Report did a feature on naltrexone implants, titled “Drug addiction treatment divides opinions” (Oct).

The Australian Drug Foundation launched a "get the effects by txt!” drug SMS information service, to which people can text a drug name and receive a health and safety message (Nov).

The Crimes Legislation Amendment (serious drugs, identity crime and other measures) Bill 2012 adopted. Amended the Criminal Code Act 1998 to transfer the lists of illicit substances from the Criminal Code to the regulations and allow for future listing of drugs, plants and precursors as prohibited substances to be done by regulation. It also repealed existing mechanisms for listing additional prohibited substances: providing a single emergency determination mechanism and increasing the length of the determination from 56 days to 12-18 months. The stated goal was to ensure the Commonwealth drug laws were up to date and allowed for flexible, quick responses to new and emerging drug threats (Nov).

Centre for Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use established, headed by Professor Maree Teesson (Nov).

An alleged drug manufacturer has been charged with manslaughter after his friend was killed after a clan lab explosion. It has been argued he should have foreseen the possibility of an explosion. This will be the first such case in Australia (Nov).

Naloxone was listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) (Nov).

The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Organised Crime and Other Measures) Bill introduced to strengthen the Commonwealth’s unexplained wealth regime (Dec).

Federal Council of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) agreed that all Australian governments should implement and evaluate naloxone distribution pilot programs to reduce the incidence of fatal opioid overdoses (Dec).

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) launched a new section on its website which aims to raise awareness of Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs), such as hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Safe Sex practices among young people.

A two year joint investigation by Customs and Border Protection, Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity and the Australian Federal Police unveiled a suspected drug ring operating out of Sydney Airport. As of Dec 2012 eight people had been arrested, including two Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers, an officer of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, and two suspected drug couriers, with further arrests likely. It is alleged that at least 10kg of pseudoephedrine was imported into Australia, in August of 2012 (Dec).

Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare announced a new Customs Reforms Board would be established. Key members include Justice Wood (who oversaw the royal commission into Police Corruption in NSW), Ken Moroney (former NSW Police Commissioner) and David Mortimer (former CEO of TNT Limited, former deputy chairman of Ansett and former chairman of Australia Post and Leighton Holdings) (Dec).

New research by Barrett et al. 'Internet content regulation, public drug websites and the growth in hidden Internet service' found that sites such as Silk Road are seen by drug consumers as a way of reducing the harm of illicit drugs, particularly compared to street-based drug marketplaces (Dec).

New report released: "Australian secondary school students’ use of tobacco, alcohol, and over-the-counter and illicit substances in 2008.” The report indicated declines in most illicit substances in 2008 relative to 2002 and/or 2005. The main exception was ecstasy (Jan).

The Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, announced that 8 targeted mental health programs worth $113.2 million will be rolled out beginning January 1st. The programs include targeted mental health training to help community workers better identify and respond to those at risk of suicide, online mental health and counseling services, and current successful programs will be boosted to provide additional services (Jan).

2011

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A major reform of the ministerial council system by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) led to the closure of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS). The MCDS met for the last time on 25 February 2011 and agreed that the IGCD would take the lead role in coordinating Commonwealth, State and Territory efforts to implement the National Drug Strategy, and that relevant Ministers would meet on occasions when Ministerial-level policy decisions and direction were required (Feb).

Minister for Justice, the Hon Brendan O’Connor MP, sought public comment on whether the model schedules and the quantities of drugs, plants and precursors recommended by the Working Party in 2007, and endorsed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy should be implemented in the Criminal Code, and if so how this ought be achieved (Mar).

WA Liberals Mal Washer and Judi Moylan and Victorian Liberal Russell Broadbent called for a rethink on the way the Federal and State governments dealt with drugs, saying the “zero tolerance” approach was wasting billions of dollars and causing more crime (Mar).

National Drug Strategy 2010-2015 adopted. Strategy maintained the balanced approach between demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction, increased acknowledgement of the roles of sectors beyond health and law enforcement, and included for the first time performance measures for assessing progress (Mar).

2010 Australian Crime Commission’s Organised Crime in Australia, the unclassified version of the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) released. Identified that organised crime cost the Australian community between $10–15 billion every year and that illicit drug markets are the principle source of profit for organised crime in Australia (Apr).

Multi-agency Criminal Asset Confiscation Taskforce, led by the Australian Federal Police, launched to identify and pursue proceeds of crime where there is a link to a Commonwealth offence. Taskforce uses resources of the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions to confiscate assets, recover debt etc. All confiscated money and derived funds will be returned to the Commonwealth and placed into a Confiscated Assets Account; with the approval of the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice used to fund drug treatment, drug diversion programs etc (Mar).

Australian National Council on Drugs report ‘Injecting drug use and associated harms among Aboriginal Australians’ conducted by Anex and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Inc identified a gap in knowledge on Aboriginal people who inject drugs, fuelled by a lack of accurate and representative data on patterns and prevalence of Aboriginal injecting drug use. They also identified structural impediments to appropriate service provision (Apr).

The Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department listed five additional substances to be subject to the serious drug offences contained in Part 9.1 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (the Code), via interim regulations [Criminal Code Amendment Regulations 2011 (No 1)]; Benzylpiperazine (BZP); 4 – Methylmethcathinone (4-MMC, mephedrone, ‘Mew-Meow’); Methcathinone; Ketamine; and Phenylpropanolamine. This is the first time the interim regulations have been utilised (Apr).

IGCD noted the emergence of new and existing synthetic analogue drugs (analouges) that mimic the effects of illegal drugs, particularly substances in herbal blends which mimic the effects of cannabis. Noted the reported wide use of these substances, particularly in the mining industry and raised concerns over health and safety, particularly for employees operating machinery and the risk to public health and safety (May).

New Drug Use in Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) report released that assessed police detainee knowledge of newly emerging or less common drug types. Interviews with 824 police detainees revealed that in 2010 only 27% knew of Mephedrone, compared to 41%, 53% and 59% for Ketamine, GHB and Rohypnol respectively (May).

Australian Federal Police made the largest recorded seizure of methamphetamine: 239 kilograms. Most of the methamphetamine was found in a van at an apartment block at Clovelly in Sydney’s east, the alleged site from which the national network was run. Four men were also arrested from Sydney and Perth (May).

The 2011-12 Budget outlined new flexible funding arrangements for all Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) funded programs. This was in response to the Federal Government’s strategic review of DOHA funding which highlighted high levels of inefficiencies and red tape e.g. that DOHA administered funds to 159 small programs involving 2,200 direct funding recipients (often with multiple funding agreements and different reporting requirements). Accordingly, from 1 July 2011 a total of 159 predominantly grant programs will be consolidated into 18 new or expanded flexible Funds. Two funds relate to substance misuse:

- the Substance Misuse Prevention and Service Improvement Grants Fund (SMPSIGF) – for national activities under the National Drug Strategy, including the national research centres, peak national bodies such as ADCA, IGCD support and health promotion;
- the Substance Misuse Service Delivery Grants fund – for services that treat substance misuse.

The budget statement noted this would save the department an estimated $53.5 million over four years and enable reinvestment in new health policy areas (May).

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement report released: “Inquiry into the adequacy of aviation and maritime security measures to combat serious and organised crime.” Concluded that there was significant evidence of infiltration of the aviation and maritime sectors by serious and organised criminal networks (SOCN) and that this was a natural consequence of the strong incentives that exist for profit-seeking, particularly from drug trafficking. Committee recommended that joint maritime taskforces be established in every state and the Northern Territory (Jun).

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2009–10 released. Report noted that a record 694 clandestine laboratories were detected — an increase of 55 per cent from 2008–09 and 245 per cent since 2000–2001. Arrests were highest on record and the number of seizures detected in 2009-10 was second highest since 2000-01, but weight of seizures was 41% lower than in 2008-09 (and third lowest recorded in the decade) (Jun).

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report released: ‘National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data collection: 2010 report.’ Key finding was that there had been a shift towards older clients receiving treatment, with the proportion of clients aged 30 years and over rising between 2006 and 2010 from 72% to 82% (Jun).

First National Drugs Campaign iphone app developed. App contained facts on drugs and consequences of use and referral numbers for youth and families (Jun).

Australian injecting and Illicit Drug Users League report released: ‘Why wouldn’t I discriminate against all of them?’ A report on stigma and discrimination towards the injecting drug user community. Key recommendations included: that the Australian Government identify, review and, as appropriate, repeal federal laws and policies that contribute to the continuing criminalisation and marginalisation of people who inject illicit drugs; that federal parliamentarians receive education about the health and human rights of people who inject drugs and how current approaches to drug control adversely affect the health and wellbeing of people who inject drugs on a daily basis; and that the Australian Communications and Media
The Therapeutic Goods Authority scheduled eight synthetic cannabinoids: JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-122, JWH-200, JWH-250, CP47,497, AM-694, and cannabicyclohexanol. The synthetic hallucinogens, commonly referred to as 'Kronic', 'Spice' and 'Voodoo' etc., were placed on schedule 9 (prohibited substances), thereby banning from 8 July their use for therapeutic purposes (Jul).

The Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern (ASCDC), second edition, was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ASCDC is the Australian statistical standard for classifying data relating to drugs which are considered to be of concern in Australian society. The first edition, produced in 2000, was reviewed in consultation with relevant Commonwealth and State government departments, academics and other experts. One key change was the removal of 'cannabinoids' from the broad group of 'stimulants and hallucinogens' to its own broad group: 'Cannabinoids and Related Drugs Broad Group'. The new broad group encompasses both synthetic and plant-based forms of cannabinoids. Six new narrow groups were also added including: GHB Type Drugs and Analogues; Cathinones; and Piperazines (Jul).

New AVIL discussion paper released: "Double jeopardy: Older injecting opioid users in Australia." Paper estimated that there were as 30,000 regular opioid users in Australia aged 40 years and over, and up to 80,000 infrequent or non-dependent opioid users. Paper also noted that the older cohort were not commonly served well by services and that they appeared to receive and/or experience a greater degree of discrimination (Jul).

National Patient Pathways project commenced funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Research sought to (1) describe the current alcohol and other drug systems in each state and territory; (2) link data from AOD, ED, and hospitals to examine AOD client experiences with health services and systems; and (3) interview clients that are new to an AOD service, to explore their journey into, through, and following treatment (Jul).

New research released: "Counting the cost: estimating the number of deaths among recently released prisoners in Australia." The study, led by Dr Stuart Kinner of the Burnet Institute, revealed that among adults released from prison in Australia in 2007/08, almost 140 died from drug-related causes within a year of release and that the number of drug-related deaths in recently released prisoners is three times higher than the total number of deaths in prison. The study called for the establishment of a national system for routine monitoring of deaths in ex-prisoners and evidence-based interventions, such as easier access to naloxone, to reduce these deaths (Jul).

The IGCD held its first Annual Stakeholder Forum under the National Drug Strategy 2010 – 2015. Stakeholders from the drug and alcohol sector included service providers, local government, law enforcement, peak bodies and research organisations. Key themes emerging included the importance of ongoing and appropriate stakeholder communication and engagement, strengthening the focus on consumer outcomes and social inclusion, and enhancing data collection to build a stronger evidence base (Aug).

IGCD members participated in a one and a half day planning workshop. A mission statement for the IGCD was agreed to and three goals adopted: 1. Develop, implement and monitor the National Drug Strategy; 2. Provide evidence-informed advice to relevant Ministers; 3. Identify and respond to emerging issues. Planning for seven national sub-strategies was undertaken relating to: Tobacco; Alcohol; Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse; Illicit Drugs; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Drug Strategy; Research and Data; and Workforce Development (Aug).

New National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund report released: ‘Opioid Substitution treatment in prison and post-release: effects on criminal recidivism and mortality.’ The study of heroin-dependent prisoners in NSW found 84% were back behind bars within two years of release, compared to the average return rate for all prisoners of 45%. However, the numbers dropped by one fifth if they left jail on opioid substitutes such as methadone and continued treatment in the community (Aug).

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Australian Federal Police detected 271kg cocaine in a shipment of lawnmowers from Brazil (the fifth-largest cocaine seizure in Australian history) (Sep).

High Court ruling: MOMCIOVIC v THE QUEEN & ORS [2011] HCA 34. High court, by majority, upheld the right of the Victorian Court of Appeal to rule that s 5 of the Victorian Drugs Act, which stated that an occupier of premises in which drugs were found was deemed to be in possession of those drugs unless he/she 'satisfies the court to the contrary', was inconsistent with the Victorian Human Rights Charter. The ruling pertained to the case of an alleged trafficker, Ms Vera Momciclovic, section 5 of the Drugs Act and the Victorian Court of Appeal ruling that by reversing the onus of proof (placing a legal burden on the defendant to prove the absence of possession), section 5 could not be interpreted consistently with the presumption of innocence under s 25(1) of the Charter. The High Court noted “declarations of Inconsistent Interpretation under the Charter play an important role in calling the attention of parliament and the people to laws that may be inconsistent with human rights". It further noted that while such declarations do not affect the validity of legislation, they act as a trigger for parliament to consider whether a particular law should be amended to better protect human rights. The High Court also concluded that the jury had been mis-directed about the interpretation of s 5 and quashed the conviction of Momciclovic and ordered a re-trial (Sep).

Largest seizure of pure safrrole in Australian history: approximately 288 litres, enough to make approximately 2.3 million ecstasy tablets. The safrrole was detected by Australian Federal Police and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service concealed in liquid hair and cleaning products imported from China. Three Sydney men were also arrested (Sep).

Seizure of synthetic drugs, including MDPV and BZP, destined from Vietnam to South Australia. Operation led to the arrest of 5 South Australian men and seizure of 880 grams of methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV), 10 kilograms of phenylpiperazine and benzylpiperazine (BZP) and 1kg of 5-ido-aminoindane. Involved AFP, SA Police, the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Vietnamese Police (Sep).

Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL) launched an Online Vein Care Guide. It seeks to reduce the risk of Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) particularly Hepatitis C that comes...
from poor vein care: abscesses, scaring etc. It outlines the risks, addresses popular myths, and contains animations on safer injecting practices (Oct).

Operation Avalon, directed at an international trafficking unit suspected of money laundering and planning a substantial importation of cocaine into Australia, led to arrest of four Spanish nationals, 300 kg in cocaine concealed in a yacht in Bundaberg, Queensland and seizure of $3 million in cash. The operation involved Australian Federal Police, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Queensland Police Service and Vanuatu enforcement authorities (Nov).

New report from the Australian Institute of Criminology’s Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program showed a significant increase in the use of methamphetamine among police detainees: 21% of police detainees in 2011 tested positive to methamphetamine—up from 16% in 2010 and 13% in 2009 (Nov).

Guidelines for DOHA funding in 2012-13 released and applications opened for the first set of Federal Government’s flexible funds (Nov 14).

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Australian Federal Police seized 216 kilograms of illicit drugs and precursors that were hidden in cartons on raisins from Iran: 97.7kg of heroin and 118.4kg of pseudephedrine (Nov 29).

Regulation 4H of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (the Regulations) came into effect. This prohibited the importation of ice pipes unless permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or his authorised officer has been granted. Under new Regulation 4H, an ice pipe is defined as ‘a device capable of being used for administering methamphetamine, or any other drug mentioned in Schedule 4’ and ‘that is used to draw in or inhale smoke of fumes resulting from heating the drug in the device, in a crystal, powder, oil or base form’ (Dec 10).

2010

Updated “Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings” produced for the Commonwealth Government. The guidelines were accompanied by a training package to facilitate their implementation into the workplace (Jan).

Two Serious and Organised Crimes Acts adopted: Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Acts (No. 1 and No. 2). Acts strengthened criminal asset confiscation and anti-money laundering regimes, and required individuals suspected of unexplained wealth to demonstrate that it was legally acquired. Acts also strengthened law enforcement powers to investigate organised crime by providing protection for undercover law enforcement officers who infiltrate criminal organizations, implementing model laws for controlled operations, assumed identities and witness identity protection, enhancing search and seizure powers including access to electronic data, and facilitating greater access to telecommunications interception for criminal organisation offences (Feb).

Australian Federal Police’s Australian Illicit Drug Data Centre (AIDDC) opened enabling drug profiling/chemical signature identification for off-shore and on-shore illicit drug seizures. The centre specifically aimed to collate and disseminate information to all state and territory law enforcement agencies and increase knowledge about drug distribution routes within Australia. The centre also aimed to work with health and education professionals in reducing demand for and harm from illicit drugs (Feb).

Joint operation between Australian Federal Police and Cambodian National Authority on Combating Drugs (NACD) resulted in the detection and burning of 15 tonnes of Safrone oil in Cambodia. The AFP estimated that once converted to ecstasy this would have had a street value of $6 million (Feb).

Stage one completed of AIVL National Anti-Discrimination Project. The project sought to identify key issues that would need to be addressed in a National Anti-Discrimination Campaign against injecting drug users (IDU), with stage one examining the level and drivers of stigma in the general population. Revealed interviews strongly entrenched views of IDU as selfish, dishonest, violent, unpredictable and not capable of either getting or holding down a job. Discrimination was indeed deemed necessary by many to reinforce that IDU was unacceptable. A number of suggested reasons were put forward for the stigma including that the general public has very limited direct exposure to IDUs and high exposure to “inaccurate” media and government policy on IDU (Feb).

Regulation 4G of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 came into effect, prohibiting the importation of tablet presses without the approval from the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person (1 Mar).

Public submissions for “Australia’s National Drug Strategy beyond 2009” concluded with a total of 96 submissions from groups including Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Civil Liberties Australia, Mission Australia, Cancer Council, Women’s Health Victoria, Life Education Australia, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Inspire and drug and alcohol research centres (Mar).

6th National HIV Strategy 2010-2013, 3rd National Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Strategy and 3rd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy released. All identified people who inject drugs and people in custodial settings were priority groups in the next period. They recommended that needle and syringe programs be trialed in Australian prisons (28 Mar).

National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund report released: “An environmental scan on alcohol and other drug issues facing drug law enforcement in Australia.” Key challenges include the continued switch from naturally produced drugs to synthetic products, the amateurisation of illicit drug manufacture and production, the rapid uptake of new technology e.g. emails and file encryption and jurisdictional differences in precursor chemical controls. The main illicit drug identified for future concern was ecstasy due to supply factors – not being dependent upon access to one chemical – and demand factors - no evidence that demand had peaked & limited negative feedback loops. Pharmaceutical misuse was also singled out as of concern (Mar).

Report released: “Situational Analysis of drug and alcohol issues and responses in the Pacific 2008-09” by the Australian National Council on Drugs followed on from an earlier report and provided a more in depth analysis, including both licit and illicit drug use. Report concluded that challenges for responding to substance use in the Pacific region had changed little in the last decade and that efforts to improve health and law enforcement outcomes were hampered by a lack of resources, commitment and local capacity (Mar).

The National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre launched an Indigenous community project “Cannabis: It’s not our culture.” The project utilised stories and artwork depicting how cannabis impacts on their communities and potential solutions to cannabis-related issues (Mar).

Australian National Council on Drugs Report released into levels of Indigenous specific funding. The report "Indigenous specific alcohol and other drug interventions: Continuities, changes and areas of greatest need“ found that between 1999–2000 and 2006–2007 operational expenditure on Indigenous specific alcohol and other drug projects increased from $42.6 to
Australian Customs and Australian Federal Police made the third largest seizure of cocaine. A total of 464 kilograms of cocaine was detected on a yacht moored in a Brisbane marina, the largest seizure of cocaine. A total of 464 kilograms of cocaine was detected on a yacht moored in a Brisbane marina.

The Inaugural National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference was held in Adelaide. It was hosted and organized by NIDAC and attracted over 550 participants (Jun).

The Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey 2009 indicated a significant decline in the prevalence of HCV antibody: from 61-62% during the period 2005-2008, to 50% in 2009. The decline in HCV antibody prevalence was observed in all states and territories with the exception of South Australia (Jun).

The study involved 2,296 young Australians aged 16-24 indicated that news media is more likely to deter young people from using illicit drugs than encourage its use, but news media messages were most likely to affect youth (users & non-users) if they reported on social and health consequences of use (Sep).

The 2010 Ecstasy and related Drug Reporting System (EDRS), a sentinel survey of regular ecstasy and related drug users, reported a decline in use of ecstasy and an increase in use of cocaine and synthetic chemicals such as mephedrone. Reported prevalence of cocaine use was the highest since reporting had begun (23% in 2003 vs 48% in 2010) (Oct).

Australian Customs and Australian Federal Police made the third-largest seizure of cocaine. A total of 464 kilograms of cocaine was detected on a yacht moored in a Brisbane marina.
Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam.

The ANCD’s Asia-Pacific Drug Issues Committee and the UNODC commenced a series of discussions on Compulsory Centres for Drug Users (CCDUs) in the Southeast Asian nations and across states and territories. Seven priorities were identified including: national minimum standards; nationally accredited core training for staff; improved data collection and reporting; and increased availability of injecting equipment (Dec).

First national framework for NSPs released: National Needle and Syringe Programs Strategic Framework 2010-2014. Framework was designed to strengthen the links between services and international law enforcement agencies, forensic and health services, industry and the legal profession (Dec).

The 2010 Australasian Chemical Diversion Congress was held in Perth. Hosted by Western Australia Police, the Congress drew together precursor chemical diversion experts from national and international law enforcement agencies, forensic and health services, industry and the legal profession (Dec).

The Federal Government announced that their latest phase of the National Drugs Campaign will use "In the Mix" website to target festival-goers with an increasing focus on information and education (Dec).

A new report, "Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2008–09: Report on the National Minimum Data Set" found that treatment episodes for alcohol continued to increase (making up over half of treatment episodes in 2008-09), but treatment for most illicit drugs declined or stabilised. The biggest decline was in relation to heroin, with 1,349 less treatment episodes in 2008-09, and a 8,420 decline between 2002-03 and 2008-09 (Dec).

Ketamine moved from Schedule 8 to Schedule 4 of the Poisons Standard and the Philippines. A series of three invitation only Roundtables and follow-up working groups were employed, targeting obesity, along with alcohol, tobacco and other substance abuse (Nov-Dec).

A bill approving an Australian National Preventive Health Agency was passed in Parliament. The agency will lead Australia’s fight against preventable diseases through campaigns targeting obesity, along with alcohol, tobacco and other substance abuse (Nov).

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14 new substances added to Schedule 4 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956: Acetylcodone; Acetylmorphine; Alkoxyamphetamine; Alkoxyphenylethylamine; Alkylthioamphetamine1; Amineptine; 5-(2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene; Benzylpiperazine (BZP); 1-(8-Bromobenzo[1,2-b:4,5-b]difuran-4-yl)-2-aminopropane (Bromo-Dragonfly); Codeine-N-oxide; Dimethylamphetamine; Oripavine; 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC); and Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP). Their inclusion increased alignment with existing legislation (e.g. the Poisons Standard or the Criminal Code Act 1995) and addressed an increased market demand for alternative synthetic drugs and drugs marketed as party pills (14 Dec).

The Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department, in close collaboration with state and territory jurisdictions, released a National Organised Crime Response Plan 2010–13. This complements the Commonwealth Organised Crime Response Plan and aims to strengthen multi-jurisdictional collaboration. Under the plan the Commonwealth, state and territory governments have agreed to improve consistency of legislation to fight organised crime; remove impediments to effective sharing of information and intelligence; and target the priority organised crime risks identified in the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (Dec).

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using country officials, UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS, ESCAP and bilateral partners. The first of these Roundtables was held in December 2010, the second was held in October 2012. A third Roundtable is planned for 2014. The goal is to explore options for introducing effective policies and programs (such as drug and HIV prevention, treatment and harm reduction) (Dec).

**2009**

National Amphetamine Type Stimulant Training Program, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, commenced. The training is provided by ANEX in the aim of increasing the capacity of service providers to meet the needs of people who use ATS, providing earlier intervention and increasing referrals to support services (Mar).

New Ministerial Advisory Committee formed on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections (Mar).

"Meth website" launched in the aim of helping methamphetamine users self-manage some of the most common meth-related issues. Run by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre the site provides a self-assessment tool, and research-based, practical advice on self-management for methamphetamine users and options for specialist treatment (Mar).

Report by the Australian Institute of Criminology released on "Women, drug use and crime: Findings from the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia program." Report found female police detainees had higher rates of illicit drug use (except for cannabis and ecstasy), were more likely to have injected drugs and had higher rates of dependency. They were also more likely to attribute their crime to illicit drug use, with use tending to precede criminal activity (Apr).

Release of report on 2007 Australian Survey of Social Attitudes (AuSSA) on crime and justice showed 10% Australians viewed drugs as the first or second most important issue facing Australia. Public fear on drug trafficking remained higher in rural/remote areas than in capital cities and public support for the removal of criminal penalties for cannabis use continued to decline (May).

Updated guidelines on managing co-occurrence of mental health and substance use problems released: hMonograph series no. 71: Comorbidity of mental disorders and substance use: A brief guide for the primary care clinicianH (May).

New report funded by the Australian National Council on Drugs "Non-government organisations in the alcohol and other drugs sector: issues and options for sustainability" identified NGOs were over-burdened with red tape and had to spend over 474 hours per year reporting to funding bodies. Additional problems included limited workforce capacity, insufficient funds and reduced independence of the NGO sector due in part to increased use of government tied grants (May).

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2007-08 reported that the Australian heroin market was stable but that trends in relation to cocaine indicated "a possible expansion of the domestic cocaine market." Primary indicators were that the number and weight of border cocaine seizures increased from 2006-07 to 2007-08 and the number of domestic cocaine seizures was the highest on record (Jun).

The Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O’Connor, announced that in an effort to crack down on Australia’s record ecstasy use the Australian Government would make tablet presses a prohibited import. The announcement occurred at the meeting of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management in Perth (Jun).

Illicit Drugs in Sport – National Education and Action Plan adopted. The plan uses sports role models (for community education), targeted education programs (for elite athletes, coaches and sports administrators), and funding to help national sporting agencies conduct out of competition illicit drug testing (Jun).

Therapeutic Goods Authority closed a loop hole in a ruling that naltrexone implants could only be used in clinical trials and in cases where it is proven the naltrexone implants meet appropriate quality. This decision blocked all future administration of Western Australia’s "naltrexone implant pioneer” Dr George O’Neil unless he obtained regulatory approval for his implants (Jul).

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission (PIC-ACC) initiated an inquiry into the adequacy of aviation and maritime security measures to combat serious and organised crime, including the methods used by criminal groups to infiltrate Australia’s airports and ports, and the extent of infiltration (Sep 14).

Second Needle Syringe Program (NSP) return on investment study in Australia released. The research conducted by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research estimated that NSP investment over the period 2000-09 resulted in an estimated 32,050 HIV infections and 96,667 HCV infections averted as well as substantial healthcare cost savings to government, and gains in disability-adjusted life years. It concluded that even over the short term, every $1 invested in NSPs returned $4 in healthcare cost-savings (Oct).

Commonwealth government announced provision of $9 million (over 3 years) to enable extra support for parents who have drug or alcohol problems. The funding was intended to assist in the provision of in-home parenting help and aftercare support for parents who have left rehabilitation services (Oct).

Fifth evaluation of the National Drug Strategy released by Siggins Miller. The evaluators noted that the NDS had continued to serve Australia well by driving partnerships and an emphasis upon pragmatic and evidence-informed policy. Yet they identified a number of areas of concern including: a lack of stakeholder support for the term harm minimisation, a lack of knowledge over what constitutes the optimal allocation of resources, either between licit and illicit drugs or between the strategy goals (supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction), gaps in the monitoring of drug trends and evaluation of program implementation and poor community engagement in policy development. These problems were deemed to have reduced the capacity of the national drug strategy to drive policy commitment, to allocate resources efficiently and ensure evidence-informed and publicly supported policy decisions. They put forward 15 recommendations including that the NDS goal “harm minimisation" be replaced by a new term “that encompasses both the supply reduction, demand reduction, gaps in the monitoring of drug trends and evaluation of program implementation and poor community engagement in policy development. These problems were deemed to have reduced the capacity of the national drug strategy to drive policy commitment, to allocate resources efficiently and ensure evidence-informed and publicly supported policy decisions. They put forward 15 recommendations including that the NDS goal “harm minimisation" be replaced by a new term “that encompasses both the causes of problematic drug use and responding to drug related harms,” that the "imbalance of investment" among drug types and intervention sectors be rectified and that broader stakeholder engagement be encouraged in all stages of the policy process (Nov).

The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy issued a document for public consultation: “Australia’s National Drug Strategy beyond 2009: Consultation” which provided 2 months for public feedback. The document asked for advice on a number of specific questions such as how to better engage other sectors in the advisory structures, how to complement the social inclusion agenda and how to build the capacity of the drug and alcohol sector? It also asked for advice on what constituted the top priorities for Australian drug policy for the ensuing 5 years and how emerging issues such as performance and image enhancing drugs may affect Australian drug trends (Nov).

The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy endorsed the National Drug and Alcohol Clinical Care and Prevention (DA-CCP) Modelling Project. This project sought: (1) to develop the first
2008 Mission Australia youth survey identified that drugs were the number one issue of concern for the survey of 46,000 11-24 year olds. 11-14 year olds were particularly concerned about illicit drugs, leading Mission Australia to conclude they were in need of less fear campaigns and more information on drug issues (Nov).

Commonwealth Organised Crime Strategic Framework released by the Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP, and the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Brendan O’Connor MP. The Framework sought to ensure Commonwealth agencies worked together to prevent, disrupt, investigate and prosecute organised crime. Key elements included: a classified Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA) that will be produced by the Australian Crime Commission and identify biannually the most significant threats and harms for Australia; and an Organised Crime Response Plan (OCRP) that will align Commonwealth efforts to respond (25 Nov).

Health Minister announced $4 million in funding for illicit drugs. Key measures included $750,000 to support national web-based counseling, $360,000 for peak bodies including the Alcohol and Drugs Council of Australia and Australian Therapeutic Communities Association, $948,000 for data collection and $1.1 million for drug law enforcement research (Dec).

A confidential Australian Federal Police report argued that Australia has become the world’s most profitable market for cocaine cartels due to unprecedented demand and prices. Between 2003 and 2006/7, cocaine accounted for about 5 per cent of drugs seized in Australia. By 2007/08 this had risen to 10 per cent. In 2008/09 it was 25 per cent. The report argued that the market was likely to remain highly lucrative in Australia due to a “generational shift” to cocaine (Dec).

Amendments to the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 were passed. This prohibited the importation of tablet presses without the permission of the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person (Dec).

Following the advice received from the Australian Medical Council, the Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, announced that she had decided to recognise addiction medicine as a medical specialty for the purpose of inclusion in the AMC List of Australian Recognised Medical Specialties (Dec).

"Drug use: in the Australian workforce,” a report by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, found that based on re-analysis of the 2004 National Drug Strategy Household Survey 10.4% of those in the paid workforce had used an illicit drug in the last month and 46.8% had ever used an illicit drug. Only 1% of the workforce reported drug-related absences from work and 2.5% reported attending work while under the influence of drugs, but rates were higher amongst young male workers and for some professions, especially the retail and hospitality sector (Dec).

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2008 Report on “Supporting the families of young people with problematic drug use: investigating support options” by the Australian National Council on Drugs addressed the support needs of families who have, as a family member, a young person who is misusing substances (Feb).

Report on “Drug Testing in Schools – evidence, impacts and alternatives” by the Australian National Council on Drugs recommended against drug testing in schools. The report by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction raised concerns about the accuracy of available testing technology, the potential of testing regimes to undermine child-school and parent-child relations and the significant cost (an annual cost of at least $302 million for urine tests or $355 million for saliva tests) (Mar).

Media reports that heroin shortage had ended, with increased availability, increased purity and decreased price of white heroin in the Sydney area. Also evident was a rise in heroin overdoses (Mar).

Media reports that Afghan brown heroin was emerging in Sydney. Ingrid Van Beek, director of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, reported use of brown heroin had increased over the last 9 months and that 30% of injectors at the centre were currently using brown heroin (Mar).

On the eve of the Bucharest NATO-plus summit, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd strongly advocated for opium eradication programs in Afghanistan. Media reports highlighted arguments against such interventions (Apr).

Collins and Lapsley released a new report on "The cost of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004-05." This reported that the net social costs to Australian society had increased from $34 billion in 1998-99 to $55 billion in 2004-05. Of this, the costs associated with alcohol had increased from 22% to 27%, while costs associated with illicit drugs had decreased from 17% to 14% (Apr).

Media attention resumed on Naltrexone implants in light of editorials and new research findings on the harms associated with their use e.g. severe withdrawal, vomiting, diarrhoea, episodes of delirium, infections and kidney impairment (Apr).

Netherlands-based Synthetic Drug Unit reported that Australia had become a major destination for supplying Dutch MDMA, aided by the Italian Mafia. Led to the permanent appointment of a Dutch police officer in the Australian Federal Police (Apr).

2020 Summit held in Canberra. Summit brought together experts from around Australia to develop new ideas/policy directions for Australia by year 2020 (Apr).

At an Extraordinary General meeting, ADCA adopted a new constitution that radically altered its governance arrangements, one aspect of which was that the State and Territory NGO peaks were given a direct role in the organisation (Apr).

Evaluation of the third phase of the National Drugs Campaign released. The results showed that 78% of 13-24 year olds felt the campaign had influenced them to some extent e.g. thinking about the consequences of using drugs (32%) or avoiding the use of drugs (20%) and significant increases in the number of young people who discussed illegal drugs with their parents and significant reductions in perceptions that drugs were fun and increased perceptions that the use of drugs could lead to mental health problems (Apr).

Research by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction into use of methamphetamines by Australians in paid employment found 4% of workforce and 11% of those aged 18-29 had used methamphetamines. Authors found use was contributing to growing levels of workplace absenteeism and/or lost productivity with 13% employed meth users reporting they had failed to attend work because of illicit drug use and 33% reporting going to work while under the influence (May).

MCDS endorsed the First National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy 2008-2011 (May).

National rollout of Clandestine Laboratory Database a secure national repository for information derived from clandestine laboratory seizures. The database includes information on lab locations, persons engaged in the illicit manufacture, safety, types of laboratory reactions being used, methodology, exhibit details, on-site reports and photographs. The rollout was funded by the National Precursor Strategy (May).

Report on "Responding to substance abuse and offending in Indigenous communities: review of diversion programs" found that eligibility criteria were a major barrier to Indigenous involvement in drug diversion programs. Two principle reasons were the exclusion of offenders with prior criminal histories and/or violent offences and requirement for illicit drug problems. Report recommended expanding eligibility criteria e.g. enabling diversion for alcohol and inhalant misuse (Jun).

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2006-07 reported a significant increase in cocaine seizures and arrests, including a 635% increase in the quantity of border seizures, a 1278% increase in the quantity of domestic seizures and a 76% increase in cocaine arrests (Jun).

Australian Federal Police and Customs arrested 20 people in relation to ecstasy and cocaine importation, trafficking and money laundering in Australia. The arrests were the culmination of a 12 month multi-agency investigation involving Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs, Victoria Police, Tasmania Police, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, the Australian Crime Commission, and international law enforcement agencies throughout Asia and Europe that followed the seizure of the world’s largest single seizure of MDMA: 4.4 tonnes or 15 million tablets, with a street value of $440 million. The tablets were discovered hidden in tins of tomatoes shipped from Italy to Australia in June 2007 and replaced with inert substances to enable monitoring of the distribution and trafficking network (Aug).

AFP Police Commissioner Mick Keelty conceded that in spite of the massive MDMA busts, local demand would keep the trade thriving. He therefore argued that we needed to treat demand as much as we deal with supply (Aug).

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission made a landmark ruling on "$implementation of random drug testing: use of oral fluids or urine as specimen for testing." The AIRC was asked to rule on whether it was just to use urine testing instead of oral testing, given the former’s wide window of detection and increased potential to detect actions undertaken by employees that may have no consequential impact on employees’ actions at work. The AIRC concluded that given no Australian laboratory has been accredited for urine testing “…the implementation of a urine based random drug testing regime … would be unjust and unreasonable ….” But once accreditation is obtained urine testing could be introduced instead of oral testing (Aug).

The AFL (Australian Football League) announced 98.9% of players tested in 2007 were drug free. But it also widened its illicit drug testing regime by introducing hair testing to test players in the off season and testing for a wider range of illicit substances. The new regime enters into force in Jan 2009 (Aug).

The High Court made a landmark ruling when all six judges ruled that the NSW Crime Commission acted improperly when it allowed 6kg of cocaine to be sold on the streets in an undercover drugs operation. The High Court said that such conduct risked endangering the lives of drug users and hence was irreconcilable with state and federal prohibitions on supply (Sep).

New book "Drug Use and Mental Health: Effective Responses to Co-Occurring Drug and Mental Health Problems” edited by Professor Steve Allsop showed that people with serious co-occurring drug and mental health problems tends to access health services more frequently than individuals affected by either problem in isolation, but that they were more impaired, experienced more disability and had poorer treatment outcomes. This was attributed partly to a lack of service integration for people with co-occurring drug and mental health problems (Sep).

2007 DUMA report released. Report found that in 2007 66% police detainees tested positive for any illicit drug (cannabis, cocaine, heroin, meth or benzodiazepines), a rate that was stable since 2006. Detected use of cannabis and methamphetamine had decreased as had levels of dependency on illicit drugs (Sep).

The Australian Crime Commission estimated that $4-$12 billion in illicit drug money was being sent offshore annually. The unpublished estimates suggested that authorities were significantly underestimating the quantity of drugs that were undetected at Australia’s borders (Sep).

Report released by the Australian Institute for Family Studies into "Improving outcomes for children living in families with parental substance misuse: What do we know and what should we do." Report concluded that children raised in parents misusing substances do not fare well due to issues such as impaired responsiveness and ability to prepare meals. However it also noted these are often related to a broader range of factors, not just substance use/misuse. The report noted that childhood outcomes can be improved by treatment interventions, but that holistic responses are more effective than use of solely behavioural based responses (Sep).

Report on "Police drug diversion: a study of criminal offending outcomes" released by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The report demonstrated that that majority of offenders did not reoffend following diversion. Moreover in spite of marked differences in offending between jurisdictions the proportionate decrease in offending after diversion was relatively consistent across all jurisdictions, with 69-86% offenders without records and 31-54% offenders with records not reoffending within 18 months (Oct).

TGA ordered that Naltrexone implant pioneer George O’Neil cease production of Naltrexone implants because despite eight years of use he had failed to meet the regulatory standards (Oct).

AFP Police Commissioner Mick Keelty remarked on the high level of drug seizures in recent years and the need to stop measuring drug law enforcement success in terms of the size of seizures. He also advocated the need to devise better policy approaches that combine supply reduction with demand and harm reduction (Oct).

The ANCD launched a new website to support homelessness services help clients with drug and alcohol problems and called for a much bigger investment and focus on the levels of drug and alcohol issues amongst homeless populations and the identification of optimum service responses (Oct).

Report on National Prison Entrants’ Bloodborne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey 2007 released. Report showed 55% of prisoners had histories of injecting drug use (IDU). Prisoners who were IDU had much higher rates of HCV and Hepatitis B with e.g. 58% male IDU and 78% female IDU were HCV positive compared to 9% and 2% for non-IDU. IDUs also had much higher rates of prior prison experience (83% compared to 48%), particularly repeat prior experiences (Oct).
Mission Australia survey of young people aged 11-24 showed between 2007 and 2008 concern for drugs had risen from 20.1% to 26.0% making drugs one of the top three issues of concern to young people. And in four jurisdictions drugs had become the primary issue of concern: ACT, NT, SA and Vic (Nov).

The AFL (Australian Football League) Commission lifted its 12 month ban on former West Coast Eagles player Ben Cousins following his suspension for “bringing the game into disrepute” over a number of methamphetamine related incidents. The AFL Commission said he could play football again provided he met strict drug testing rules including submitting to up to three urine tests per week and up to four hair tests per year. A positive drug test could lead to his immediate suspension (Nov).

National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture (National Precursor Strategy) received recurrent funding of $1.068m.

Report from the National Institute of Forensic Science identified a gap in the national intelligence picture on illicit drugs. Drugs seized at the borders were being analysed, but there was very limited information on those seized on the streets.

Victoria Police, in partnership with the Federal Attorney General’s Department, produced a DVD to educate law enforcement and the judiciary across Australia about the dangers and associated risks in the manufacture of ATS and clandestine laboratories.


Report from the Inquiry into the manufacture, importation and use of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs in Australia. Recommended standardisation of analysis and data collection, continuation of Project STOP, national constancy in legislative approaches and greater attention to harm reduction and prevention strategies (Feb).

From “GO to WHOA” a new training package on psycho-stimulants was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to increase skills and educate health professionals e.g. GPS and nurses on dealing with psycho-stimulants. The training package devised by Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre included face to face sessions and an online portal on psycho-stimulants, pharmacological effects, risks associated with use and ways of responding to psycho-stimulant use (Feb).

Launch of the Australia Alcohol and Other Drugs Charter by the Australian National Council on Drugs. The Charter was developed for the drug and alcohol sector and outlines guiding principles, expectations and goals with regard to drugs as well as rights and responsibilities with regard to drug use and the development and implementation of policies and programs, at all community levels and for different settings and sectors (Feb).

National Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Strategy Consultation Paper released (Mar).

Ben Cousins, Australian Football League Brownlow medallist and former captain of the West Coast Eagles, was suspended from the club for personal reasons involving drug use. He was subsequently admitted for rehabilitation in Los Angeles, United States and was ordered by the AFL Head to “get his life in order” (Mar).

The AFL (Australian Football League) widened its illicit drug testing regime in response to the controversy involving West Coast Eagles players. The new scheme included illicit drug testing on weekends and a three strikes policy involving a maximum of 12 match suspension for a third offence (Mar).

National roll out of Project STOP – tracking sales of pseudoephedrine (Apr).

Federal Government committed $150 million in new funding for drug and alcohol issues (for 2007-08 to 2010-11) as part of the 2007-2008 budget. This included $79.5 million to enable a third round of funding through the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP), $22.9 million for Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Grants Program, $9.2 million to add to the national drugs campaign & $37.9 to improve law enforcement response to amphetamines production/supply (May).

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre (NCPIC) set up to educate and train health professionals with the aim of increasing early intervention and reducing cannabis use (Jun).

Ninth national household survey on drugs conducted: “National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 2007.” Results indicated that between 2004 and 2007 there was a significant reduction in the use of illicit drugs over the last 12 months (from 15% to 13%), particularly recent use of cannabis. There were significant reductions in lifetime use of tobacco and alcohol but increases in lifetime use of some illicit drugs e.g. heroin, cocaine and ecstasy (Jul-Nov).

CounsellingOnline service rolled out as a national program, endorsed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The service was operated by Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre and provided free drug and alcohol counseling for drug users, family or friends, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through an online service (Jul).

Andrew Johns, former captain of the National Rugby League Rugby, revealed live on the Channel Nine “Footy Show” that he had regularly taken ecstasy throughout his playing career. Johns claimed the drugs helped him in dealing with the high level of pressure associated with his career as an elite sportsman (Aug).

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services chaired by the Hon Bronwyn Bishop released its report into the impact of illicit drug use on families. The report titled “the wobbly war on drugs” recommended that the Australian Government replace the current NDS focus on harm minimisation with harm prevention and treatment with the ultimate aim of achieving permanent drug-free status. Other recommendations included that funding be preferentially provided to abstinence-based programs, that takeaway methadone be disallowed for parents, and that welfare payments be linked with child protection concerns (Sep).

Evaluation on methadone maintenance by the National Centre for HIV and Social Research “Methadone maintenance treatment in New South Wales and Victoria: Takeaways, diversion and other key issues” concluded that takeaways were vitally important to all clients, facilitating family responsibilities, ease of finding work, self-esteem and ability to cease illicit drug use. They found that diversion of methadone was often a result of unmet treatment demand and the economic disadvantage of clients. Report concluded that easy fixes such as diluting methadone or limiting doses may have unintended negative consequences and may reduce retention (Sep).

Chris Mainwaring, former Australian Football League star from the West Coast Eagles, died from a cocktail of drugs including cocaine, ecstasy, cannabis, Roaccutane, anti-depressants and alcohol. One week latter fellow West Coast Eagles star, Ben Cousins was sacked by his club, following his arrest for a drug charge (the charge was subsequently dropped) (Oct).

Coalition Government released “Tough on Drugs” election policy involving compulsory welfare quarantining for people who have been convicted of criminal drug offences involving hard
2005

- Restrictions introduced on sale of medications containing pseudoephedrine requiring that all medication be stored away from the public and sold by pharmacists (Jan).
- The Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk was established between the Commonwealth, Northern Territory, South Australian and Western Australian governments in a joint operation designed to reduce cross-border supply oflicit and illicit substances (Jan).
- COAG Mental Health Package announced (Feb).
- Dr John Herron appointed as Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) (Feb).
- Four Corners Report: “The Ice Age” heralded the beginning of media attention into methamphetamine (Mar).
- National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Drug Use During Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Development Years of the Newborn released (Mar).
- Restrictions increased on sale of medications containing pseudoephedrine: Products with higher concentrations of pseudoephedrine required a doctor’s prescription (Apr).
- Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) made available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (Apr).
- Report released: “Evidence based answers to cannabis questions: a review of the literature” and accompanying booklet “Cannabis: answers to your questions” by the Australian National Council on Drugs provided a review of the evidence and answered key questions in relation to cannabis (May).
- MCDS endorsed development of a National Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Strategy. Consultation paper for strategy to be developed by the National Drug Research Institute and the Australian Institute of Criminology (May).
- Department of Health and Ageing released updated report "Drug testing kits: Detailed discussion paper on social, health and legal issues." Report concluded it was unable to find evidence on the social or health consequences of providing ecstasy testing kits and whether it would increase or reduce harmful using behaviour (May).
- Federal Government provided $214.1 million in new funding for drug and alcohol issues as part of the 2006-2007 Budget. Included $136.1 to increase community awareness and train drug and alcohol workers of co-morbid mental health-drug issues (May).
- The Council Of Australian Governments agreed to a long-term generational commitment to overcome Indigenous disadvantage and to adopt and fund a collaborative approach to the reduction of violence and child abuse in Indigenous communities. $130 million was allocated over four years including $49.3 million to expand drug and alcohol rehabilitation and treatment services and hence reduce one of the major factors contributing to the violence and child abuse (Jul).
- The Council on Australian Governments adopted a National Action Plan on Mental Health (2006-2011) and committed $1.9 billion over five years to reduce the prevalence and severity of mental illness in Australia and the prevalence of risk factors such as illicit drug use that contribute to the onset of mental illness. Key initiatives included alerting the public to the links between mental health and drug issues and integrating mental health and drug and alcohol services (Jul).
- National Leadership Forum on Ice held in Sydney (Dec).
- The Australian Institute of Criminology (May).
- The Council on Australian Governments released the report "Mapping national drug treatment capacity” by the Australian National Council on Drugs included a broad overview of approaches to service planning and resource allocation (Feb).
- Trial of retractable needles and syringes cancelled after evaluation showed they could increase public health risks (May).
- Federal Government provided $21.8 million in new funding for drug and alcohol issues as part of the 2005-2006 Budget. Included $0.85 million for the National Illicit Drugs Campaign, $8.0 million for Capacity Building in Indigenous Communities & $12.0 million for the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (May).
- MCDS agreed not to endorse the development or use of drug testing kits for personal use at the point of consumption (May).
- Ketamine was rescheduled on the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule from a Schedule 4 to Schedule 8 drug (May).
- Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (Jul).

2006

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- Launch of Headspace, a national program designed to provide information, support and services to young people and their families across Australia for mental health and related substance use problems (Jul).
- Launch of the report “Situational analysis of illicit drug issues and responses in the Asia Pacific region” by the Australian National Council on Drugs summarised for 14 nations including China, Hong Kong, Laos, Thailand and Timor-Leste the national prevalence of illicit drug use, country responses to illicit drug issues, and Australian and international involvement in relation to illicit drugs (Sep).
- National Leadership Forum on Ice held in Sydney (Dec).
- The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program expanded to include Footscray in Victoria and Darwin and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.
### 2004

**Soft gelatin Temazepam capsules removed from the Australian market following evidence of harms from injecting Temazepam (Feb and Mar).**

Prime Minister John Howard announced funding of almost $18 million to 63 organisations as part of stage 2 funding through the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) (funding from 2003-2006) (Apr).

**Report released: “Indigenous drug and alcohol projects: elements of best practice” by the Australian National Council on Drugs identified projects which could serve as examples to other organisations providing alcohol and other drug intervention services (May).**


**Report on Australia’s correctional response to drug use released: “Supply, demand and harm reduction strategies in Australian prisons: implementation, cost and evaluation” by the Australian National Council on Drugs.** Report concluded that supply reduction strategies e.g. drug detection dogs were widely used but were very costly and had not been evaluated. In contrast demand and harm reduction strategies e.g., detoxification and condom provision were less expensive and had proven positive impacts, but were less likely to be implemented in Australian prisons. Report recommended expanding use of detoxification and harm reduction strategies (Jul).

**Report on clinical trials of pharmacotherapies for opioid dependence released: “National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD).” Comparisons of treatment categories of methadone maintenance, buprenorphine maintenance, LAAM maintenance, naltrexone treatment, rapid opioid detoxification with anaesthesia or sedation, outpatient detoxification using buprenorphine, conventional inpatient detoxification and conventional outpatient detoxification led to the conclusion that all heroin users experienced reductions in criminal activity and heroin use after entering treatment but that the agonist maintenance treatments of LAAM, methadone and buprenorphine retained significantly more heroin users than naltrexone treatment. Overall LAAM was the most cost-effective treatment, but Methadone maintenance was the most cost-effective treatment available in Australia (Oct).**

**MCDS endorsed development of a National Cannabis Strategy (Nov).**

**Eighth national household survey on drugs conducted: “National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 2004.” Results indicated that between 2001 and 2004 there had been a decline in the proportion of the population, from 16.9% to 15.3%, who had used an illicit drug in the past 12 months.**

**Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) renamed as the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) reflecting a shift in focus to include New Zealand.**

**National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) established as the principal advisory group to the Commonwealth government on Indigenous drug and alcohol issues (Dec).**

ANEX – Association for the Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia was endorsed by the Australian Needle Syringe Program sector as the national voice and advocate for Needle Syringe Programs and harm reduction.

**Abolition of the National Drug Strategy National Expert Advisory Committees.**

**New national guidelines produced by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing “Psychostimulants - management of acute behavioural disturbances” to assist Australian police services to effectively and safely manage individuals who present with psychostimulant toxicity, and pose a significant risk to themselves or others.**

The Drug and Alcohol Nurses Association (DANA), established in 1984 as the peak professional body for nurses and midwives in the ATOD field, was re-launched as Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia.

### 2003

**Establishment of the Asia Pacific Drug Issues Committee by the Australian National Council on Drugs to focus on drug issues in the Asia Pacific region (Mar).**

Federal Government provided $316 million in new funding (over four years) for the National Illicit Drug Strategy as part of the 2003-04 Budget. It included $215 million for IDDI, $86 million to continue existing efforts e.g. $36 million for Needle Syringe Programs and $28 million for a range of new priorities e.g. $12 to develop new supply reduction initiatives and funding for a new initiatives. These included $2 million for the National Psychostimulants Initiative to identify good practice models for treatment and provide training and support for GPs and health workers, $4.4 million for the National Comorbidity Initiative to improve coordination and responses to individuals who had both mental health and drug use issues, and $4 million for a National Rural and Regional Initiative to improve access to treatment for rural illicit drug users and $5.4 million for a National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture (2003-04 to 2007-08) (May).

**Reports from MSIC that use of and harms associated with temazepam gel capsules had increased in previous 12 months despite the rescheduling of temazepam capsules. Led to...**
Report released: “Diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth from juvenile justice” from the Australian National Council on Drugs recommends the development of a greater number and range of culturally appropriate diversion options that specifically target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (Jul).


Report released from the House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs, chaired by Kay Hull MP: “Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian Communities.” Report made 128 recommendations including that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments replace the current focus on harm minimisation with a focus on harm prevention and treatment. Report also called for more effort in preventing the uptake of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs through education campaigns and regulation and increased early intervention (Aug).

Fourth evaluation of the National Drug Strategic Framework by Success Works. Report titled “Evaluation of the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 -2003-04” concluded that the NDSF had been a success but recommended renewed focus on partnerships between IGCD and ANCD, increased involvement of the education sector, increased attention to the dissemination of research, replacement of the national expert advisory structures and improved coordination of the NDSF with other related strategies (Sep).

Prime Minister John Howard announced funding of more than $41.5 million to 98 organisations as part of stage 1 funding through the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) (Oct).

First report from the Drug Use Careers of Offenders study released: ‘Drugs and Crime: a study of incarcerated male offenders.’ Study found that 62% of their sample of incarcerated male offenders reported current regular use of illicit drugs, and that of those who reported use of illicit drugs 51% attributed all or most of their offending to drug use. The authors estimated that 18% of serious offending could be causally attributed to either illicit drug intoxication or dependence and an additional 12% to illicit drug and alcohol intoxication or dependence. But the study also showed that contrary to expectations drug-using offenders tended to commence offending prior to illicit drug use and offenders who were more active in the criminal market, who had greater contact with the criminal justice system (especially property and regular multiple offenders), and who reported more frequent use of illegal drugs were those more likely to have commenced offending prior to illegal drug use (Nov).

Report released: “Dealing with risk: a multidisciplinary study of injecting drug use, hepatitis C and other blood borne viruses in Australia” by the Australian National Council on Drugs identified that risky injecting is as much a social practice as an individual behavior and that risks of BBV transmission were increased by multiple social factors including the stashing of syringes for re-use. The report concluded that for interventions to be effective they need to fit the imperatives of the daily lives of injecting drug users (Nov).

Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (ANCAHRD) replaced by the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH).

NDARC Report showed that restriction of temazepam capsules had led to a decrease in temazepam gel capsule prescriptions at a population level, but no reduction in the proportions of injecting of temazepam gel capsule preparations by IDUs. IDUs continued to obtain the capsules from doctors and on the ‘street.’ A survey of users of temazepan gel capsules found most had suffered complications including abscesses, cellulitis, skin ulcers, nerve damage and distal limb amputation. The Australian National Council on Drugs commenced publishing of a free magazine “Of Substance” (funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing) that addressed alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues and problems in Australia. The primary audience was frontline workers in the drug and alcohol field; however, it was also relevant to health professionals, social workers, educators, researchers, law enforcers and policy-makers.

**2002**

Australian police agencies (commencing with NSW Police) started to deploy drug detection dogs as a mainstream strategy for drug law enforcement (Feb).

Position paper was launched by the Australian National Council on Drugs: "Needle and Syringe Programs" which called for trials of needle and syringe programs in prisons (Mar).

Federal Government 2002-03 Budget increased funding for National Illicit Drug Strategy through an additional $14 million for community partnership initiatives, $65 million for non-government organisations treatment programs and $27.5 million to support the development of retractable needle and syringes (May).

Australian Health Ministers’ Conference recommended to the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council that Temazepam capsules be restricted as a Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme item. 10-mg temazepam capsules was then shifted from an unrestricted to a restricted access (May).

National Illicit Drug Indicators Project rolled out for all states and territories, following success of ACT Drug Indicators Project pilot. Project linked data from state and national sources concerning drug use prevalence, treatment, overdoses, morbidity, seizures, purity and drug-related crime so as to increase knowledge of trends in drug use and drug-related harm (Jun).

Interim evaluation of the National Hepatitis C Strategy: "The Road Not Taken: Review of the National Hepatitis C Strategy“ (Jul).

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 adopted with the aim of confiscating the proceeds of crime including current and future benefits that could be derived such as through commercial exploitation of offending (Oct).

Report on the Return on Investment in Needle and Syringe Programs in Australia concluded that between 1991 and 2000 NSPs had cost Australia $141 million but saved 25,000 HIV infections, 21,000 HCV infections and $2.4 to $7.7 billion (Oct).

Prime Minister John Howard announced that the Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative had been a success and that an additional $215 million would be committed to the second stage of the IDDI (from July 2003-July 2007) (Dec).

A National Working Group on the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals was established to stop over-the-counter medicines being diverted into illicit drug manufacture (Dec).

Report released: "Drug policy: the Australian approach" by the Australian National Council on Drugs used consultations with stakeholders to document core values underpinning the Australian approach to policy making: independence; a diversity of voices; the good sense of bureaucracy; frank and fearless advice; checks and balances; and leading the community (Dec).

National Heroin Signature Program was replaced by the Australian Illicit Drug Intelligence Program which physically and chemically profiled border seizures of heroin, plus cocaine and...
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to enable national data collection on drug market trends and provide an early warning system on illicit drugs. This followed the success of pilots which commenced in NSW, Victoria and SA in 1996, 1997 and 1998 respectively. Launch of first Australian Hepatitis C strategy: National Hepatitis C Strategy 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 (Jun). National Minimum Data Set on Alcohol and other drugs treatment services established (Jul). The Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern (ASDC), first edition, was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ASCDC aimed to ensure the compatibility and comparability of data on problem drugs derived from a range of different statistical and administrative systems and thereby assist government planners, policy analysts and social researchers by providing a consistent framework for the classification of drug related data. Seven core groups were specified: analgesics (e.g. heroin); sedatives and hypnotics (e.g. GHB and ketamine); stimulants and hallucinogens (e.g. amphetamine, MDMA, cocaine and cannabinoids – including cannabis); anabolic agents and selected hormones; antidepressants and antipsychotics; volatile solvents; and miscellaneous (Jul). Buprenorphine (as Subutex®) was registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (Oct). Naltrexone registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use as part of a comprehensive treatment program for alcohol dependence (Jan).</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Heroin shortage reported in Sydney. Both injecting drug users and key informants noted that heroin availability had reduced, purity decreased and price increased (Jan). National Drugs Campaign 2001 – “Lost Dreams” and “Ad within an Ad” (Mar). Australia’s first Medically Supervised Injecting Centre commenced as a pilot in Kings Cross, NSW (Mar). National Action Plan on Illicit Drugs 2001 – 2002-03 endorsed by the MCDS (Jul). Report released: “Heroin overdose: prevalence, correlates, consequences and interventions” from the Australian National Council on Drugs. This estimated that deaths among adults aged 15–44 years attributed to opioid overdose had increased 110 fold between 1964 and 1998 and that the rate of overdose could be reduced by expanding access to treatment, education of heroin users, distribution of naloxone or introduction of medically supervised injecting centres (Sep). Report released: “Structural determinants of youth drug use” from the Australian National Council on Drugs concluded that there is a need to acknowledge that youth drug use is affected by a range of macro-environmental factors, including socio-economic gaps, urban planning, social capital &amp; values and beliefs, and that failure to address these factors will limit capacity to reduce drug use (Sep). Report released: “Evidence supporting treatment: the effectiveness of interventions for illicit drug use” from the Australian National Council on Drugs reviewed research evidence of outcomes that could be attributed to various treatment approaches for users of opioid drugs, psychostimulants and cannabis (Oct). Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation established to address prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research into the misuse of alcohol and petrol, paint and glue (Oct). Prime Minister John Howard promised that if re-elected he would expand tough on drugs and support the development of retractable needle and syringes (Nov). The 2001 report from the Illicit Drug Reporting System confirmed there that there had been a dramatic reduction in heroin availability across Australia, particularly between January and March 2001. Price increased and purity decreased in most jurisdictions e.g. price of heroin increased in NSW from $220 to $320 per gram, price per cap doubled from $25 to $50 and purity of street heroin fell from 62% to 51%. This coincided with reductions in use, particularly daily use of heroin (Dec). Seventh national household survey on drugs conducted: “National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 2001.” Results indicated that 37.7% Australians had used an illicit drug at some time in their lives and 16.9% had used illicit drugs in the previous 12 months. Report by the National Drug Research Strategy Committee presented to the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) recommending the establishment of a National Drug Research Strategy as foreshadowed in the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 to 2002-03. IGCD Review of Advisory Structures Committee commissioned Professor Jim Rankin to review the advisory structures supporting the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 to 2002-03. First National Drug and Poisons Scheduling Committee (NDPSC) conditions placed upon pharmacy Pseudoephedrine. The regulations applied to single active products (i.e. pseudo only) and meant pseudo packs of 60s &amp; 90s were restricted to schedule 4 and pack sizes of 30s were restricted to Schedule 3 or S3R.</td>
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National Heroin Signature Program commenced to physically and chemically profile border seizures of heroin and their packing through projects that promoted and supported the establishment of community driven drug illicit prevention and early intervention initiatives (Nov).

Community Partnerships Initiative (CPI), a community grants program commenced as part of the Tough on Drugs strategy. The CPI aimed to prevent and reduce drug related harm upgrading and operation of non-government alcohol and other drug treatment services (Nov).

Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) commenced as part of the Tough on Drugs strategy. NGOTGP aimed to fund the establishment, expansion, Prime Minister’s “Tough on Drugs” strategy commenced (Nov).

Diversion was placed on Ministerial Council of Drug Strategy agenda (Aug).

Evidence released that heroin overdoses had increased from 70 to 550 between 1979 and 1995, a 6 fold increase in the standardized rate of overdose (Sep 1998)

“Tough on Drugs” extended (Nov).


Sixth national household survey on drugs conducted: “National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1998.” Results illustrated that between 1995 and 1998 lifetime and recent use increased across all illicit drugs. Recent use of cannabis increased from 13.2% to 17.9%.

1997

Family Drug Support was formed after its founder Tony Trimmingham’s son died of a heroin overdose. Aimed to support families struggling with drug use issues.

National Health and Medical Research Council launched report: “A strategy for the detection and management of Hepatitis C in Australia” (Mar).


“Treatment Works” week established by the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (Jun).

Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy meeting held to discuss ACT heroin trial. Trial supported by Commonwealth health minister and health ministers from ACT, NSW, SA, Tas and Vic. Opposed by health ministers from NT, Qld and WA. i.e. meeting concluded 6-3 in favour of the trial (Jul).

The Australian Women’s Weekly and Channel Seven’s Today Tonight introduced the Australian public to naltrexone with the story subtitled “I woke up cured of heroin.” The story told of a middle class heroin addict who was miraculously cured from addiction after the magazine had flown her for naltrexone treatment in Israel (Jul).

Opposed by health ministers from NT, Qld and WA. i.e.

Ministerial Council on Drugs (ANCD) by the then Prime Minister to provide independent policy advice to the Prime Minister and Australian Government - Chaired by Major Brian Watters (Mar).

Rohypnol - more commonly known as the “date rape pill” – was reclassified as a Schedule 8 drug on the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule. This placed it in the same category as heroin, LSD and marijuana (Jun).

National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD) commenced as a three year project. Evaluation aimed to develop and implement a range of effective, evidence-based, best practice pharmacotherapy treatment options for people who were opioid dependent (Jul).

Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group published report: Estimates and Prevalence of the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic in Australia. This estimated that in 1997 there were 190,000 people infected with HCV, but prevalence was much higher (50-70%) amongst injecting drug users (Aug).

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National Heroin Supply Reduction Strategy and the National Supply Reduction Strategy for Drugs Other than Heroin which aimed to enhance interdiction at the international border, improve coordination, technology and best practice.

Launch of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) by the then Prime Minister to provide independent policy advice to the Prime Minister and Australian Government - Chaired by Major Brian Watters (Mar).

Prime Minister John Howard allocated $110 million to first stage of the IDDI (and $110 million for support measures – school and community initiatives) (Nov).

The Australian Drug Foundation established Somazone a website designed for and run by youth aged 12-25 (Nov).

Data showed that the number of fatal heroin overdoses climbed to 737 fatal heroin overdoses in 1998, a 23% increase since 1997. This sparked increased public concern and warnings of a national disaster (Dec).

Australian Treatment Outcome Study (ATOS) funded to conduct first large-scale prospective study of treatment outcome for heroin dependence to be conducted in Australia. Compared treatments of detoxification, methadone, and residential treatment (including TCs): (Month/Year???)

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) 3 year pilot study commenced to provide measures of drug consumption amongst police detainees and information on current and prior criminal behaviour and treatment utilisation. Pilot sites included Bankstown and Parramatta in NSW, Southport in Qld and East Perth in WA.

First Australasian Drug Strategy Conference (ADSC) held in response to recognition by the Australian and New Zealand Police Commissioners that drugs were a major policing challenge & that shared knowledge would facilitate best practice strategies.

Council of Australian Government-Ilicit Drug Diversion Initiative signed off including an agreement for a nationally consistent approach to the diversion of minor drug offenders to drug education and treatment. Prime Minister John Howard allocated $110 million to first stage of the IDDI (and $110 million for support measures – school and community initiatives) (Nov).

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Data showed that the number of fatal heroin overdoses climbed to 737 fatal heroin overdoses in 1998, a 23% increase since 1997. This sparked increased public concern and warnings of a national disaster (Dec).

Australian Treatment Outcome Study (ATOS) funded to conduct first large-scale prospective study of treatment outcome for heroin dependence to be conducted in Australia. Compared treatments of detoxification, methadone, and residential treatment (including TCs): (Month/Year???)

Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) 3 year pilot study commenced to provide measures of drug consumption amongst police detainees and information on current and prior criminal behaviour and treatment utilisation. Pilot sites included Bankstown and Parramatta in NSW, Southport in Qld and East Perth in WA.

First Australasian Drug Strategy Conference (ADSC) held in response to recognition by the Australian and New Zealand Police Commissioners that drugs were a major policing challenge & that shared knowledge would facilitate best practice strategies.

National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD) commenced as a three year project. Evaluation aimed to develop and implement a range of effective, evidence-based, best practice pharmacotherapy treatment options for people who were opioid dependent (Jul).

Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group published report: Estimates and Prevalence of the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic in Australia. This estimated that in 1997 there were 190,000 people infected with HCV, but prevalence was much higher (50-70%) amongst injecting drug users (Aug).

Evidence released that heroin overdoses had increased from 70 to 550 between 1979 and 1995, a 6 fold increase in the standardized rate of overdose (Sep 1998)
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing released second report by Collins and Lapsley titled “The social costs of drug abuse in Australia in 1988 and 1992.” Report concluded that the social cost of drug abuse in Australia in 1992 was at a minimum more than $18,845 million. Tobacco was the most costly drug, incurring 67 per cent of total costs, while alcohol accounted for 24 per cent and illicit drugs 9 per cent of total costs (Feb). ADCA Diversion workshop held involving fifty stakeholders from law enforcement, health and attorney generals departments and representatives from drug diversion programs. Workshop led to the identification of best-practice principles of diversion and called for an expansion of diversion programs in Australia (Oct). Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (ANCARD) replaced the Australian National Council on AIDS and was established as the peak advisory body to the federal government on HIV and AIDS. First Annual Remembrance Ceremony held in Canberra &quot;for those who lose their lives to illicit drugs”. This ceremony has been held annually since that time and has triggered many other ceremonies in Australia and throughout the world (Dec).</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>National Cannabis Task Force recommended that possession, unsanctioned cultivation, sale and non-therapeutic use of cannabis in any quantity should remain illegal but that all Australian jurisdictions consider removing criminal penalties for personal use/possession of cannabis. Launch of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation (Apr). Launch of Drug Free Australia as an unfunded national network promoting a drug free Australia. First National Hepatitis C Action Plan developed and endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council. Strategy aimed to minimise transmission and the social and personal impact of Hepatitis C (Oct). First voluntary Code of Conduct developed between industry and law enforcement regarding diversion of chemicals into illicit drug manufacture. Code was adopted by members of the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) and Science Industry Australia (SIA) and sought to cooperate with government and law enforcement agencies and prevent diversion of chemicals and equipment into illicit production of drugs.</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Manly meeting: Decision was made to assign greater role to law enforcement in administration of the National Drug Strategy. The National Drug Strategy Committee convened a National Task Force on Cannabis to produce papers summarising the current state of knowledge about cannabis (Apr). National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) established in Adelaide. Launch of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Second evaluation of NCADA: Prof Ian Webster (Chair). Report titled “No Quick Fix: An evaluation of NCADA 1992” concluded there was “no quick fix” to the drug problem and NCADA needed greater strategic direction e.g. introduction of a national drug strategic unit to oversee implementation. Third national household survey on drugs conducted: “National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1991.” Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing released a report by Collins and Lapsley, “Estimating the economic costs of drug abuse in Australia.” This estimated that in 1988 drug abuse cost the Australian community more than $14.3 billion, equivalent to 4.6% of gross domestic product for that year. Tobacco cost $9.7 billion, alcohol cost $3.9 billion and illicit drugs cost $1.2 billion.</td>
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| **1989** | National Health and Medical Research Council released first formal statement on Hepatitis C.  
Commonwealth Government funded first injecting drug user organisations.  
First Australian Hepatitis C antibody studies initiated. Showed a high prevalence of Hepatitis C amongst injecting drug users.  
Release of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Criminal Authority report: “Drugs, Crime and Society.” Report examined the efficacy and social costs of drug law enforcement and concluded that prohibition had not worked and was associated with considerable costs to users and society. Committee outlined a number of possible alternatives to the current policy, including harsher penalties, decriminalisation and regulation, but did not come to a consensus as to which alternative was best (May). |
Australian IV League (AIVL) began as unfunded national network representing drug users and drug user organizations.  
Australian National Council on AIDS established. |
| **1987** | National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Research began first Australian clinical trial of AZT, a promising anti-retroviral (Feb).  
Commonwealth government launched a $2.9m National AIDS Education Campaign, including the Grim Reaper television advertisement. AZT approved as a treatment, agreement between Commonwealth and States to share costs. |
| **1986** | National "Drug Offensive" media campaign launched (Apr).  
Two research centres established: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) in Sydney and National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) (then called the National Centre for Research into Prevention of Drug Abuse) in Perth.  
Federal government provided funding and national recognition to newly formed Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.  
First Needle Syringe Program (NSP) opened - Darlinghurst (Nov). |
| **1985** | NCADA – National Campaign Against Drug Abuse adopted at Special Premiers Conference. Campaign heralded a partnerships approach to illicit and licit drugs between federal and state and territory governments with the aim of minimizing harms caused by alcohol and others drugs.  
National Drug Strategy Committee (NDSC) established to lead policy development in conjunction with the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS).  
Methadone endorsed as an appropriate treatment intervention and first guidelines approved by the Australian Health Ministers’ Conference.  
First national household survey on drugs conducted: “Social issues in Australia, 1985.” |
### Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland
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2016 | Minister for Health Simon Corbell announced the ACT Government would provide $6m in additional funding over four years to strengthen drug treatment capacity. Key areas included:  - $690,000 annually for additional treatment capacity through Directions ACT, Toora Women Inc, Karralika Programs Inc, Ted Noffs Foundation, The Salvation Army and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation;  - $375,000 annually to increase the capacity of drug rehabilitation programs; and  - $115,000 annually to roll-out the naloxone program (May). Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2016 adopted which decriminalised peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment in the Australian Capital Territory. The Act added an exemption to the offence of supplying sterile injecting equipment in section 74 of the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008 (MPTG Act). The exemption is intended to support the implementation of a peer distribution program of sterile injecting equipment for the purpose of preventing the spread of blood-borne disease (Jun). | NSW Police Minister Troy Grant said that music festivals could be shut down if organisers failed to improve safety after recent drug overdoses (Jan). President of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation, Alex Wodak and emergency medical specialist David C Eldcott pledged to start a privately funded pill testing trial at music festivals in NSW. They said the trial would start with or without the blessing of the government (Feb). | Minister for Justice Troy Grant joined Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward hosted a round-table about drug courts (Feb). NSW Police and NSW Premier Mike Baird slammed proposed pill testing trials in NSW as “ridiculous” and “illegal”: “We are not going to be condoning in any way what illegal drug dealers are doing.” (Feb). | Queensland Health released a discussion paper: “Medicinal cannabis in Queensland: Draft Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 - Discussion paper.” This noted that the Qld proposed laws on medicinal cannabis had taken these into consideration medical cannabis developments in other jurisdictions (Cth, NSW and Vic) in drafting the Bill (Mar). The Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016 adopted. The act will commence on 1 March 2017. The act creates a new regulatory framework to allow medicinal cannabis products to be prescribed and dispensed to patients in Queensland. Specifically it provides 2 pathways for doctors to be authorised to prescribe medicinal cannabis:  - Patient-class prescribers: specialists who have an “as-of-right authority” to prescribe to groups of patients for a specified condition or symptom with specified medicinal cannabis products  - Single-patient prescribers: specialists or general practitioners who can apply for approval to prescribe for a particular patient. Medicinal cannabis will only be approved if:  - the patient has tried all of the conventional treatments available and these have failed OR  - the conventional treatment causes intolerable side effects; AND  - the doctor provides clinical evidence that a specific type of medicinal cannabis product is effective for the particular condition or symptoms (Oct). |

### The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2016: ACT, NSW, NT and Qld

- **ACT**: The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2016: ACT, NSW, NT and Qld

- **NSW**: First medical cannabis treatments were provided to NSW children with severe treatment-resistant epilepsy: using medicinal cannabis:  - Single-patient prescribers: specialists who have an “as-of-right authority” to prescribe to groups of patients for a specified condition or symptom with specified medicinal cannabis products  - Patient-class prescribers: specialists who have an “as-of-right authority” to prescribe to groups of patients for a specified condition or symptom with specified medicinal cannabis products

- **Northern Territory**: Roadside drug-driving testing commenced in the Northern Territory. Under the new testing, people who record a positive reading for driving under the influence of a drug on a first offence will receive a maximum penalty of 3 months imprisonment and/or a fine of $400 which will escalate for subsequent offences (Feb).

- **Queensland**: The Premier announced that the Terminal Illness Cannabis Scheme would be renamed the Medicinal Cannabis Compassionate Use Scheme, and that the scheme was being reviewed to consider whether it should be extended to non-terminal patients (May). BOCSAR data shows considerable regional variation in the detection of drug driving offences occur in NSW, with areas with highest detections being: Richmond-Tweed, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Newcastle and parts of western Sydney (Jun).

- **First medical cannabis treatments were provided to NSW children with severe treatment-resistant epilepsy: using medicinal cannabis:**

- **Improved the evidence base**

  - **By June 2016, implement an NT Alcohol and Other Drug research and evaluation strategy (Feb).**

- **Justice Legislation Amendment (Drug Offences) Act 2016 adopted. Key changes:**

  - New offences added of displaying or supplying a cocaine kit, water pipe or ice pipe.

  - Created an aggravated penalty for the manufacture or cultivation of a dangerous drug in the presence of
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<td>Epidiolex® - a GW Pharmaceuticals formulation of pure cannabidiol (CBD). 40 children are expected to take part as part of the compassionate access scheme (Jun). The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, and the Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Medical Research, announced that NSW has become the first Australian state authorised by the Commonwealth Government to conduct medicinal cannabis cultivation research. The cultivation research will be conducted in a new, state-of-the-art, high security facility (Jul).</td>
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<td>NSW Health statutory review of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Kings Cross (MSIC) received submissions to increase number of supervised injecting centres in NSW and to allow pregnant women and 16-year-olds to use them. Key rationales were: • &quot;Individuals under 18 are excluded from the part of the MSIC that is used for injecting.&quot; • &quot;It is likely that by continuing to exclude those under 18 from using the centre, they will inject somewhere else, in less safe circumstances. • &quot;Excluding pregnant women from any treatment facility, including the injecting room, does not prevent exposure of the foetus to drugs or alcohol. • &quot;There have been 25 instances in the last six years where staff at the centre have denied entry to a woman on the basis of pregnancy. It is possible that in turning a pregnant woman away, the foetus may be at risk of unmanaged withdrawal from drug dependency which may cause greater harm” (Jul).</td>
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<td>NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant attacked the proposal to allow pregnant women and 16-year-olds to access the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, arguing it was a &quot;ridiculous&quot; and &quot;offensive&quot; suggestion that was tantamount to &quot;touting for business to meet benchmarks and making pregnant women and children the target.&quot; He further noted: “not in our lifetime will we ever allow kids to utilise the heroin-injecting centre or pregnant women. It’s just absolute nonsense” (Aug).</td>
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<td>Created an aggravated penalty for the procurement of a child to commit a drug offence, with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, irrespective of the maximum penalty of any particular offence category. • Introduction of the requirement that offenders found guilty of serious drug offences including, commercial supply, manufacturing and cultivation in the presence of a child serve a minimum 70 per cent of their sentence in prison. • Add a provision making the possession of a firearm, ammunition or weapons as an aggravating factor • Increase penalty units for a number of offences including increasing the penalties for supplying a Schedule 2 dangerous drug (new section 5A) from 85 penalty units to 500 penalty units (May).</td>
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<td>MSIC Director Marianne Jauncey hit back at NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant calling his comments about ‘outing for business’ offensive and noting that calls to expand access to pregnant women and youth were broadly supported by medical and AOD specialists including the Royal Australasian College of Physician and National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (Aug).</td>
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<td>NSW Cross-Party Harm Minimisation Roundtable held, co-hosted by Mehreen Faruqi (Greens), Alex Greenwich (Independent), Jo Haylen (Labor) and Shayne Mallard (Liberal). The roundtable brought together politicians, health professionals, academics, police and drug users, in the aim of renewing the debate about harm minimization in NSW. Key issues discussed included drug checking services, expanded access to the Kings Cross supervised injecting facility, and the decriminalisation of drug possession and use. The group signed a letter to Premier Mike Baird and opposition leader Luke Foley calling for a state wide parliamentary summit on illicit drug use (Aug 11).</td>
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<td>Regulatory changes in NSW allowed doctors to apply to prescribe a broad range of cannabis-based medicines for people who have exhausted standard treatment options. Applications will be assessed by the Commonwealth TGA &amp; by a committee of medical experts on behalf of NSW Health (Aug).</td>
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<td>BOCSAR report, “trends in conditional discharges”, shows that between 2004 and 2015 there was a large increase in the use of section 10s (bond without a conviction) by NSW local courts, for offences including drug use and possession and drug manufacture/cultivate (Sep).</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, Part 6.4A passed to prohibit the display for sale (but not the sale) of ‘drug pipes’ in the ACT (Feb). Minister for Justice, Shane Rattenbury announced the Government had signed a Deed of Agreement with the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) regarding a proposed Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) for the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). It set out a process for engaging New Leader of the Opposition elected by NSW Labor: Luke Foley (Jan 5). NSW Opposition leader declares no need for medical cannabis trial: should go straight to prescribing medical cannabis (Jan). Labor declared the “war on ice” one of its top priorities and promised it would have an ice summit if re-elected (Jan). 19-year-old Tolga Toksoz died of a suspected overdose and five others were</td>
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<td>NT Ice Select Committee established. Terms of reference included examining: • The reliability of government data on ice use; • A comprehensive survey of the various government responses to the abuse of Ice in the Northern Territory; • Government and community responses to ice use in other states and some assessment of the effectiveness of these responses in terms of prevention,</td>
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<td>Two men died after reportedly smoking synthetic cannabis in Mackay. The Mackay emergency department reported this followed a rise in ED admissions: an average of one admission per day for synthetic drugs in the last six months (Jan). Qld Crime and Corruption Commission released a new report: “New Synthetic Drugs - Deceptive and Dangerous.” Report warned of the expansion of the synthetic drug market in regional communities in Qld</td>
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<td>staff in the development of an NSP model, including a joint working group to develop a model, a staff ballot process to determine support for any proposed model and a commitment not to implement a model that is unable to gain majority support from voting staff (Apr).</td>
<td>hospitalised at Sydney Festival 'A State of Trance' (Feb). Medical cannabis campaigner Dan Haslam passed away (Feb). Assistant Minister for Health Pru Goward announced a series of community education forums 'breaking the ice in our communities' delivered by the Australian Drug Foundation to support local communities dealing with methamphetamine (Feb). NSW Greens MP Jenny Leong introduced the Amendment (Sniffer Dogs—Repeal of Powers) Bill 2015 that sought to end the use of drug detection dogs without a warrant in NSW. (This lapsed in Nov 2015) (May). Mr Barry and Mrs Joy Lambert made a donation of $33.7 million to the University of Sydney to establish the Lambert Initiative, to explore the potential of the cannabis plant in treating a range of diseases (Jun). NSW Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research and Innovation (the Centre) was launched, funded with $12 million by the NSW Government: to develop understanding of the benefits and treatment options for medicinal cannabis. Inaugural director: NSW Chief Scientist &amp; Engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane (Jun). NSW children with severe treatment-resistant epilepsy will be provided with compassionate access to a cannabis-based medicine (Jul). Regulatory changes in NSW allow doctors to apply for prescriptions of a broader range of cannabis-based medicines. Applications from prescribing doctors will be assessed by the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Administration, and by a committee of medical experts on behalf of NSW Health (Aug). NSW Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GW Pharmaceuticals to facilitate access to Epidiolex® (a pharmaceutical preparation of CBD) for a trial with children with paediatric epilepsy (Oct). Sylvia Choi (aged 25) died at the Stereosonic music festival in Olympic Park after taking what police claimed mixed ecstasy with another substance, possibly MDMA in water. Another 120 people were</td>
<td>education, family and individual support and treatment modalities; &amp; The sources of Ice including cross border trafficking, local manufacture and derivation from legal pharmaceuticals and other legal precursors (Apr). Ice Select Committee, Breaking the Ice, report released. Key conclusions: • That while 'ice' is an emerging issue of concern, reports of an 'ice' epidemic sweeping across the Northern Territory are misleading. • While prevalent in the urban and regional centres of the Territory, there is no evidence of widespread 'ice' use in remote communities. • That the abuse of alcohol remains a far greater problem in the Territory, and that strategies to address 'ice' should not be implemented at the expense of alcohol-related harm initiatives. 13 recommendations were issued including that the NT Government should: • Ban the display and sale of drug paraphernalia; • Mandate real-time online recording of pseudoephedrine sales at pharmacies to aid data collection; • Put more money into residential and non-residential detox services, with an emphasis on services for people aged under 18, and access to prisoners; • Undertake a trial of waste water analysis to more accurately assess prevalence and distribution of ice use; • Undertake and publish a comprehensive review and evaluation of drug diversionary programs in the NT, and develop a strategy to enhance access to in the Northern Territory (Nov).</td>
<td>Change of government with Qld Labor Government elected under Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk with the assistance of an Independent. Key platforms included: • To reinstate the operation of drug courts for dealing with drug misuse and minor related offences • To establish a separately funded state-wide Health Promotion Service to promote health and wellbeing, expanding the range of early detection and early intervention services; • To commence a Commission of Inquiry into organised crime • To re-establish the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council (Feb). 20 people non-fatally overdosed at the Brisbane leg of the Stereosonic music festival, and were taken to Brisbane emergency departments. Queensland police reported being staggered at the numbers of overdoses. The overdoses followed two fatal overdoses at Stereosonic in Sydney and Adelaide (Dec).</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Interim evaluation of the ACT’s naloxone program showed that the program had been a success. For example, it found participants were able to be trained to administer take-home naloxone in appropriate circumstances and that there had been 23 successful overdose reversals (Feb). ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher praised the ACT naloxone program (Feb). Attorney-General Simon Corbell announced key changes to the ACT drug trafficking laws via the Criminal Code (Controlled Drugs) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2014. Included first evidence-informed reforms to ACT drug trafficking thresholds: • changing the trafficable quantities of four common drugs that trigger 'deemed supply' provisions; • switching from a pure based to a mixed based regime for assessing drug weight; and • adopting a uniform multiplier between trafficable, commercial &amp; large commercial quantities. The reforms followed advice from the Drug Policy Modelling Program and were heralded as better ensuring thresholds target drug traffickers, rather than drug users, as 'consistent with a harm minimisation approach.' The regulation also added 44 new psychoactive substances to schedule 1, making possession of each subject to serious criminal offences. New laws commenced 17 April 2014 (Mar). ACT Greens MP, Mr Shane Rattenbury, released a medical cannabis discussion paper and exposure draft law for community feedback: &quot;Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014&quot;. The bill seeks to enable a person to apply in writing to the Chief Health Officer for approval to possess, use and cultivate cannabis for medical purposes. The community consultation ran from July until treated for drug-related symptoms (Nov). NSW Health launched an interactive map of every public NSP outlet across NSW, type of facility e.g. staffed NSPs, vending machines (free or coin operated), disposal bins and hours of operation and range of equipment available (Dec).福建省 proposed in this bill. Research shows that these regimes are having a positive impact on road safety, with one Victorian study finding that the current rates of random testing are saving 20 lives per year and reducing total driving fatalities by up to 15% (Dec). NT Corrections Officers report that a ban on smoking in NT prisons has led to a shift to smuggling tobacco into the prisons, rather than cannabis or methamphetamine (Jan). The Northern Territory Government passed the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act 2014 on 20 March 2014. This Act allows for police to charge a person not only with &quot;supply to a person&quot; but for the aggravated circumstance of &quot;supplying to a place that was at the time of the offending an 'indigenous community'&quot; when it involves a schedule 2 drug e.g. cannabis or methamphetamine. An averment attesting that a place is an 'indigenous community' at the relevant time is deemed to be evidence of that matter stated. The Act increases the maximum penalty for such actions, from 5 to 9 years imprisonment (Mar).</td>
<td>Queensland Police launch a &quot;New Synthetic Drugs: Real Damage&quot; campaign, asking Queensland residents to anonymously report dealers or people in possession of new synthetic drugs (Feb). Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 adopted. Introduced new laws against &quot;out of control&quot; events, defined as an event involving 12 or more persons gathered together at a place and 3 or more persons associated with the event engage in out-of-control conduct at or near the event. Maximum penalties for organising or causing an out of control event include 1 year imprisonment and/or 110 penalty units (Feb). Queensland Police concluded the Gold Coast's biggest drug operation in history: Operation Kilo Fraction, a 19 month operation. Led to arrest of 152 people, including 37 alleged members of outlaw motorcycle gangs (Apr). Queensland Department of Health conducts a &quot;Request for Offer&quot; (RFO) for the provision of NGO out-client AOD services for July 2014 to June 2017 including NGO provided Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative sessions, the coordination of booking arrangements for these sessions, NGO Youth AOD out-client counselling and NGO Community AOD out-client counselling. This RFO did not include any currently Government operated services and there was no increase or decrease in funds allocated. Current providers of residential rehabilitation services funded by Queensland Department of Health were excluded from the RFO and have been directly procured (Apr). Qld Gov released Safe Night Out Strategy. Included actions to: • Introduce tougher penalties for those who are affected by alcohol or drugs and engage in anti-social and violent</td>
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<td>September (Jul).</td>
<td>A medical marijuana supplier, providing medical marijuana to a 2.5 year old girl with a genetic disorder, was raided after a tip off from Chief Minister Katy Gallagher. The Chief Minister stated: “As the law stands at the moment marijuana is a prohibited substance and I have responsibilities on me as Chief Minister under child protection laws, if nothing else, that that information had to be passed on” (Jul).</td>
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<td>behaviour in and around licensed venues and in public and expand police powers e.g. for drug operations involving tactical covert and overt strategies and drug detection dogs; and mandatory drug and alcohol testing for people charged with serious offences and trial of “sober safe centre” in Brisbane operated by Police</td>
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<td>The ACT Legislative Assembly referred the Greens Exposure Draft of the Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014 and related discussion paper to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services for its consideration. The Committee is required to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in June 2015 (7 Aug).</td>
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<td>Mandatory AOD Counselling session as part of bail conditions for anyone charged with violence offences while intoxicated</td>
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<td>Chief Minister Katy Gallagher wrote to federal Health Minister Peter Dutton i, proposing the National Health and Medical Research Council support an Australia-wide clinical trial and the Therapeutic Goods Administration consider how medical cannabis could be licensed for use (Aug).</td>
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<td>Safe Night Out Strategy required some legislative amendments that have been introduced to Parliament as the Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill (Jun).</td>
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<td>Attorney-General Simon Corbell launched a new report: “Evaluation of the ACT drug diversion programs” led by the Drug Policy Modelling Program and announced a series of reforms to the ACT police and court diversion system, including broadening the methods for payment of SCONs, prioritising space for AOD assessments of offenders in the courts and the development of a new ACT Police and Court Drug Diversion Strategy. The Attorney General Simon Corbell and ACT Chief Police Officer Rudi Lammers both also reinforced the importance of drug diversion programs and ensuring they were effectively targeted (Oct).</td>
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<td>Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill adopted as part of the Safe Night Out Strategy including a new offence of ‘Unlawful striking causing death’ punishable by a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with the offender required to serve 80% of sentence before applying for parole. The legislation also included a change to sentencing rules to no longer allow being intoxicated as a reason to reduce a person’s sentence. A change to the bail act that made it mandatory for all people charged with grievous bodily harm, common assault, affray or assault police must complete a “Drug and Alcohol Assessment and Referral Course” while on bail. The legislation also allowed for a trial of “Sober Safe Centres” where a person who is deemed by Police to be intoxicated and at risk of harming themselves or others or causing a public nuisance, they can be detained at a Sober Safe Centre for up to 8 hours. Also included in this bill was the change of classification for Steroids to be a “dangerous drug” thus increasing penalty for possession, trafficking and production. The Bill was passed in August 2014 with all activities operational by the end of December.</td>
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<td>Chief Minister Katy Gallagher made a request for the ACT to be involved in the NSW clinical trial of medical cannabis (Oct).</td>
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<td>Queensland Government releases finalised Queensland Plan including a goal that Queenslanders “will be physically and mentally healthy” with success being “We have reduced rates of lifestyle diseases caused by lack of exercise, poor diet,</td>
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<td>reform program. Key findings:</td>
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<td>• 50% of organisations indicated their operating budget was $1M or less;</td>
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<td>• Funding models were complex: with most having multiple funders;</td>
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<td>• Clients were becoming more complex;</td>
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<td>• Funding bodies were expecting more from organisations, e.g. performance reporting &amp; accreditation; &amp;</td>
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<td>• Some organisations had narrowed their client entry criteria to clients with less complex need because they could not afford salary levels of skilled staff. Recommendations included:</td>
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<td>• Funds provided at levels adequate to cover the real costs of service provision; &amp;</td>
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<td>• Compliance requirements that will support efficient, quality, evidence-based services (Nov).</td>
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<td>Evaluation of the Overdose Prevention &amp; Emergency Naloxone (OPEN) Project, that operated through the Kirketon Road Centre and Langton Centre released. Showed that between July 2012 and March 2014, 83 people at risk of opioid overdose attended the training and were provided take home naloxone. Interviews with 35 participants six months post training showed:</td>
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<td>• All but one of the participants felt they had learned new things and were more confident responding to an overdose situation immediately post training. Participants also felt more informed (24% increasing to 95%) and more confident to inject naloxone (51% increasing to 96%),</td>
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<td>• At least 30 opioid overdose reversals were reported by 18 of the 35 participants who provided follow-up interviews. There were no deaths reported in any of the reversed overdoses (Nov).</td>
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<td>NSW Greens MP David Shoebridge launches a &quot;sniff off: no more drug dogs&quot; campaign, aimed at ending the use of drug detection dogs without a warrant in public spaces in NSW. The campaign included a facebook site that reports the whereabouts of drug detection dogs in NSW (Nov).</td>
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<td>NSW Premier announced three Government-funded trials of medical cannabis and alcohol, smoking and drug abuse” (Aug).</td>
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<td>Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019 released. Key objectives include:</td>
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<td>• Reduced stigma and discrimination;</td>
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<td>• Reduced avoidable harm; &amp;</td>
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<td>• That people living with mental health difficulties or issues related to substance use have 1) lives with purpose, 2) better physical and oral health and live longer and 3) positive experiences of their support, care and treatment (Sep).</td>
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<td>A joint taskforce between Queensland Police and Queensland Corrections leads to arrest of 19 people alleged to be involved in trafficking drugs into and outside Queensland prisons (Oct).</td>
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<td>A two-year joint investigation between the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission and Qld Police Service into drug trafficking and outlaw motorcycle gangs closed following the arrest of 62 people, for 430 offences, and seizure of an estimated $2.9 million of drugs, predominantly methamphetamine (Dec).</td>
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2013

Second phase of ACT naloxone program commenced. Included provision of naloxone to at-risk detainees on release by Justice Health (Feb).

Drug Policies and Services Framework for the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2013 – 2015 adopted. Employed demand, harm and supply reduction strategies and performance measures including number of detainees accessing of ATOD services, number of overdoses and needle-stick injuries, inmate satisfaction with ATOD services and proportion of detainees receiving a Justice Health discharge plan on release (Aug).

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher released final status report on the Government's response to the Burnet Report. Noted that 46 recommendations from Burnet report had been fully or partially completed at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, but that:

- a trial needle and syringe program could not occur until union agreement was reached; &
- the merit and feasibility of providing a regulated tattooing program was still being considered (Oct).

Final Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood-Borne viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre adopted. Included provision of regulated access to sterile injecting equipment subject to union agreement (Oct).

New South Wales

New South Wales State Attorney-General Greg Smith opened the state's third drug court, in central Sydney (Feb).

Nineteen individuals, including the national president of the Hells Angels, the vice president of the Rebels and other high-ranking members of the Comancheros motorcycle gang were arrested following a 21 month investigation into the supply of drugs, guns and explosives to organised crime groups within NSW. The operation, known as Strike Force Alistair, was led by the NSW Police Force Organised Crime Squad and the NSW Crime Commission, with assistance from the Gangs Squad and is one of the biggest operations in the state's history. Also seized were pistols, rifles, ammunition, counterfeit cash, 2 clandestine laboratories and an estimated $6 million worth of drugs (Mar).

Intoxicated Persons (Sobering Up Centres Trial) Act 2013 No 15 adopted. Introduced a trial of sobering up centres for people intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs. Included 1) a compulsory model run by NSW police that detains people for 4-8 hours at costs; and 2) a voluntary model run by NGOs (Apr 3).

NSW Parliament General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 released report on their inquiry into the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Key recommendations:

- That the Minister for Health write to the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing, expressing in principal support for the expansion of access to approved cannabis pharmacotherapies
- That the NSW Government introduce an

Northern Territory

The Northern Territory Government announced that it was getting hard on drugs in response to research that there has been significant increase in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine across the nation. The Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Methamphetamine) Act 2013 was introduced and received assent on 19 October 2013. The Act subsequently commenced to have effect from 11 November 2013. This amendment removed methamphetamine from schedule 2 of the Act and placed it in schedule 1. This increased penalties for the possession or supply of trafficable and commercial quantities of the drug. For example the maximum penalty for trafficable quantities (2.0g or more) increased from 5 years imprisonment to 14 years or more (dependent on the nature of the offence) (Oct).

Queensland

The Newman Government released their six month action plan. Actions included:

- Establishment of the Queensland Mental Health Commission;
- Reform Queensland Health’s grants and service delivery contracts;
- Commence a review to streamline contracts with nongovernment organisations (NGOs) reducing the number of individual contracts;
- Release the government’s youth strategy (Jan).

Newman Government released Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland (Feb).

Qld Police closed their most extensive drug investigation in recent years. Operations Juliet Cheshire and Juliet Cheshire 2 spanned a total of 18 months and sought to disrupt trafficking of methylamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), cocaine, and cannabis into the Fortitude Valley entertainment precinct. A total of 76 people were charged with 283 offences including 32 offences of trafficking dangerous drugs, 105 charges of supply dangerous drugs and 16 charges of major possession. Approximately $2.5 million worth of drugs and several firearms were also seized (Feb).

Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No 1) 2013 adopted. Added 35 new synthetic drugs, including NBOMe, MDPV, 4-MEC, MDAI & 2-DPMP, to Schedule 2 of the Drug Misuse Act (Apr).

Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Act 2013 adopted. This:

- introduced a scheme for recovering
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|      | amendment to the **Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985** to add a complete defence to the use and possession of cannabis, so as to cover the authorised medical use of cannabis by patients with terminal illness.  
• That the NSW Ministry of Health and Department of Attorney General and Justice give further and detailed consideration to the issues surrounding lawful supply of crude cannabis products for medical purposes (May).  
Sixth report on Drug Use in the Inmate Population (DUIP) released. Showed a steady and significant decline in use of drugs in NSW prisons, from 62% in 2001-02 to 37% in 2009-10. This was much greater than the decline in rates of pre-prison drug use (at 84% & 73% respectively in 2001-02 and 2009-10) (Jun).  
17-year old Henry Kwan died after taking NBOME (a synthetic LSD-like drug) and jumping off a third floor balcony - thinking he could fly (Jun 6).  
NSW Government introduced a temporary ban on 19 synthetic drugs (Jun 9).  
Highlighted that drug used by Henry Kwan – NBOMe – was not on temporary banned list (Jun 16).  
NSW Government’s General Purpose Standing Committee No.2’s Inquiry into Drug and Alcohol Treatment issued it’s final report. Key recommendations:  
• Consider expanding the Drug Court program beyond Sydney & Hunter;  
• Consider expanding the availability of naloxone;  
• Increase funds to Life Education;  
• Match drug treatment funds to treatment demand using the Drug and Alcohol-Clinical Care and Prevention Planning Model; &  
• That if naltrexone implants are approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, that the NSW Government fund a randomised control trial of naltrexone implants (Aug).  
**Drugs and Poisons Legislation Amendment (New Psychoactive and Other Substances) Act 2013** adopted. Prohibited the manufacture, supply, sale or advertising of ‘unexplained wealth’;  
• provide a reverse onus of proof, so any person who accumulated wealth that does not seem commensurate with his/her lifestyle and livelihood would bear the onus of proving that the wealth was legitimately acquired; and  
• introduced serious drug offender confiscation orders, enabling forfeiture of all property whether obtained legally or illegally unless deemed as ‘protected property’ (May).  
Newman Government review released of Youth Justice Strategy (Jun).  
Announcement of the inaugural QLD Mental Health Commissioner Dr Lesley van Schouboeck to commence 1 July 2013. A whole-of-government strategic plan for Mental Health and AOD is to be developed within 12 months (Jul).  
Queensland police recruit real estate agents to help them find and dismantle clandestine drug laboratories: using a training program that teaches property managers how to spot laboratories and collect evidence during inspections.  
Included key objective of reducing rates of lifestyle diseases caused by lack of exercise, poor diet, alcohol, smoking and drug abuse (Dec).  
Queensland Needle and Syringe Program (QNSP) data indicate a continual increase (approx. 28% per year) in the number of people who reported obtaining needles and syringes to inject ‘ice’: from 7,921 in 2009 to 10,132 in 2011 13,028 in 2012 (Jul).  
Consultation occurred on the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Strategic Plan: including an AOD specific forum organised by QNADA (Sep).  
**Criminal Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013** adopted. Introduced new requirement that all drug traffickers serve at least 80% of their term of imprisonment before being eligible for parole and increased maximum penalty for aggravated supply e.g. drug trafficking to anyone aged 16 or under (from 25 years to... |

Caitlin Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program – Last updated 15 December 2016. For comments email: caitlin.hughes@unsw.edu.au
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<td>all psychoactive substances (subject to appropriate exemptions) – maximum penalty of $2,200 or two years imprisonment. This supplemented existing provisions to ban use and trafficking of specific named 'prohibited drugs' through Schedule 1 of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act and their analogues. The Act also removed requirement for analogues of prohibited drugs to have psychotropic properties (Sep 24). Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2013 added 45 new psychoactive substances (including synthetic cannabinoids, 2C-X and NBOMe) to the list of prohibited drugs in the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act; along with threshold quantities for trafficable, commercial and large commercial trafficking offences (Sep). New NDARC research released: &quot;Engagement with criminal justice system among opioid-dependent people.&quot; Examined all entrants to opioid substitution therapy (OST) for opioid dependence in NSW between 1985 and 2010 and their criminal justice contact and showed that a minority of opioid-dependent people are responsible for most CJS contact: 67.4% of CJS charges due to 20.8% cohort (Sep) NSW cannabis clinic expanded to include synthetic cannabinoid users (Oct). NSW Government released response to the inquiry on the use of cannabis for medical purposes. They supported recommendation one; that they write to the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing, expressing in principal support for the expansion of access to approved cannabis pharmacotherapies, but rejected all other recommendations, including considering lawful supply of crude cannabis products for medical purposes. The government argued that it &quot;does not support the use of unregulated crude cannabis products for medical purposes as the potency and safety cannot be guaranteed&quot; and that this decision would not prevent access to appropriate medical treatment for any patient in NSW&quot; (Nov). NSW health authorities introduce first Australian pop-up rapid testing site to</td>
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<td>life imprisonment (Aug).</td>
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2012

ACT Greens issued a bill for reform of the infringement system relating to road traffic offences: Road Transport (General) (Infringement Notices) Amendment Bill 2012 (Feb).

ATODA released a discussion paper calling for the extension of reforms of the ACT Infringement Scheme from roadside drug to other infringement schemes, including the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice scheme (Mar).

Government response to the report, Human Rights ACT 2004 (ACT): The First Five Years of Operation, tabled. Noted the positive achievements and desire to build upon this (Mar).

ACT Infringements System Reform introduced for road traffic offences: (1) Options to pay fines through installments; (2) A system of community work and social development programs, which people on low income or with special circumstances can undertake in lieu of payments; (3) Options to waive fines in special circumstances (May).

ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher released the Draft Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood-Borne Viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2012-2014. Strategies included:

- A proposal for a trial needle and syringe program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre – on a one-for-one syringe basis. The trial will constitute the first Australian prison-based NSP.
- That detainees have screening and vaccinations for all those coming into the AMC.
- That detainees within the AMC have ready access to full-strength household bleach and information and education about how to prevent and manage BBVs (Aug).

High level of media debate about the proposed NSP at the AMC (Aug).


As part of 2012-13 budget the ACT

**New South Wales**

NSW Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee launched: “Inquiry into law reform issues regarding synthetic drugs.” The inquiry sought to examine law reform issues regarding the prohibition of synthetic drugs and to consider the adequacy of current NSW legislation. Submissions were received from Feb-Apr (Feb 16).

First phase of the Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) in NSW prisons opened, with space for 62 male inmates (Feb).

Former NSW Health Minister, John Della Bosca, said the ‘war on drugs’ has failed, & called for another drug summit to reassert Australia’s approach to drug policy (Apr).

The NSW Youth Drug and Alcohol Court was axed. NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, said the program was too expensive. The closure occurred without consultation (Jul 1).

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, tabled the NSW Law Reform Commission’s report on the Bail Act. Of note, the report outlined there had been many reversals of the presumption of bail for drug trafficking offences. Recommendations of the report:

- A new Bail Act should be drafted in plain English language, so as to be readily understandable, and with a clear and logical structure;
- The scheme of presumptions, exceptions and exceptional circumstances in the current legislation should be replaced with a uniform presumption in favour of release applicable to all cases except those covered by an entitlement to release & appeal.
- The authority must consider: (a) The entitlement of every person in a free society to liberty and (b) The presumption of innocence.
- In decisions on bail, a person must not be detained unless a custodial sentence is likely (Jun).

NSW drug education unit abolished (Jun).

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government announced in the 2012-13 Budget they will expand prisoner rehabilitation programs

**Northern Territory**

The Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) announced that the NT Government had agreed to fund a peak AOD body for the NT: the Alcohol and Other Drugs Association of the Northern Territory (AADANT) (Jan 31).

**Justice (Corrections) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2011** entered into operation. This introduced two new sentencing options: Community Custody and Community-Based Orders. This gave the Courts the power to order offenders into rehabilitation, education and training, and community work programs as an alternative to imprisonment (Feb).

The NT adopted into law the new Poisons Standard (SUSMP) under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, including the Schedule 9 prohibition on synthetic cannabinoids: Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012 (Apr).

NT Country Liberal Party elected, under Chief Minister Terry Mills (after 11 years of labor rule). Key policy platforms included:

- Mandatory drug testing for anybody arrested for an assault on or about a licensed premises;
- Tougher bail conditions for any crime that poses a risk to the general public;
- Tougher penalties for offenders who breach bail (Aug 27).

The Australian Medical Association’s Northern Territory branch says it would consider supporting the decriminalisation of a range of drugs (Sep).

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Association of the Northern Territory (AADANT) became an incorporated body and held their first Policy Forum for the AOD Sector (Nov 30).

**Queensland**

First Report of the Queensland Mental Health Commission Advisory Committee released: on formation of a mental health commission. (NB. Model was rejected by Newman government) (Jan).

“Investigate into severe substance dependence: a model for involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation” lapsed due to likely dissolution (Feb).

Queensland Liberal National Party (LNP) elected, under Premier Campbell Newman.

Key policy platforms included:

- Establish a permanent major crime squad, based on the Gold Coast:
- Take a hardline approach to drug traffickers & dealers who target children with tough sentencing laws;
- Introduce tough new unexplained wealth and drug trafficker declarations;
- Drug traffickers to serve at least 80% of their sentence before being eligible for parole;

Passage of legislation for the establishment of the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) (March 2013) with commencement 1 July 2013.

The Federal Government announced that a Task Force would be established to examine organised crime on the Brisbane waterfront. This will begin in early 2013 (May).

A heroin distribution network operating in south-east Queensland, with alleged links to Balkan crime groups, was detected following an 18-month covert investigation codenamed Operation Storm. The investigation was conducted by the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CQC), Queensland Police Service, New South Wales Drug Squad and the Australian Federal Police said the network has operated for six years (2006-2012) (May).

The Crime and Misconduct Commission’s Proceeds of Crime team restrained the assets of the purported leader of the heroin distribution network (arrested through Operation Storm). The order covered assets including 2 properties, 5 cars and a boat.
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|      | Government announced the establishment of a Throughcare Unit to better support prison detainees returning to the community and co-ordinate their service delivery and case management. A total of $1.12 million has been provided over two years (Jun). The ACT Labor Party and the ACT Greens (Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA) signed a parliamentary agreement that they would "establish a needle and syringe exchange program at the AMC medical centre." This was one of the conditions made in order to form a minority government, following the 2012 ACT Election (Nov 2). The Human Rights Amendment Bill 2012 was adopted, adding section 27A Right to education to the act. This entered into force on 1 Jan 2013 (Aug). Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health tabled the report "The Review of the Need to Expand Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Services in the ACT, 2012" and the Health Directorate response to the report in the ACT Legislative Assembly. Key conclusions from the report:  
- There is no strong evidence of a need to increase the number of residential rehabilitation beds in the ACT;  
- There is evidence of barriers for many people to accessing treatment and support services, including residential rehabilitation programs, which need to be removed. Recommendations included:  
- Providing referrers, prospective clients and family members / friends of those with alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) problems, with more detailed information about the eligibility criteria, structure and content of programs and expectations of those who participate in programs  
- Improve intake, transition and aftercare support (Aug). | including through the new Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment program (Jun). The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government announced that the Grafton Correctional Centre, a minimum and medium security prison on the far north coast of NSW, will be downsized (from 243 to 64 inmates) to become a transient and remand centre (Jun). Over-dose Prevention Education and Naloxone (OPEN) project commenced in Sydney: Kirketon Road Centre. The goal was to reduce mortality and morbidity amongst PWID, particularly by educating PWID and their carers about opioid overdose prevention and management and prescribing take-home naloxone (Jun). Mental Health Act Review Discussion Paper released with submissions invited until Dec 2012 (Sep). Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Kings Cross and Railways Drug Detection) Bill 2012 adopted. This authorised the use by police officers of dogs for general drug detection (without warrant) at any public place in the Kings Cross precinct & extended powers to use dogs across the entire railway network (Oct 29). Inquiry commenced by a Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee into "Drug and alcohol treatment": evaluating current polices with a particular focus on deterrence, treatment and rehabilitation (Nov). Inquiry commenced by a Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee into "The use of cannabis for medical purposes". Key issues include the efficacy and safety of using cannabis for medical purposes; if and how cannabis should be supplied for medical use; the legal implications and issues and any other related matters. A total of 122 submissions were received. The inquiry is due to report in May 2013 (Nov). NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015 adopted. As part of this the NSW Coalition Government committed to expand Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) access. Key strategies:  
- more outlets for NSP distribution  
- more automatic dispensing machines a Darwin hotel room. The PMMA tablets were being marketed as 'ecstasy' (Dec). The Northern Territory announced their Alcohol and other drug Court Tribunal would be cut (Dec). | worth an estimated $216,195 (Aug). Queensland State Budget 2012-2013 released. Outlined a number of areas of major cuts, including:  
- Loss of 14,000 FTE positions from the public service.  
- Queensland Health’s Grant program cuts of $120 million over four years.  
- Court Diversion and Referrals program cuts of $5.015 million in 2012 – 2013 and $10.226 million in 2013 – 2014. Of particular note Premier Newman announced that post ten years of operation the Queensland drug courts would no longer be funded (the Murri and special circumstances courts were also de-funded) (Sep). QNADA released a new Policy Position – “The role of AOD in the Qld Mental Health Commission.” This supported the Newman Government’s proposed establishment of a Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC). But, while arguing inclusion of AOD within QMHC would be beneficial, it advocated for specialist AOD input:  
- Due to the specialist nature of AOD treatment services and its’ unique policy framework, ongoing reform of the sector from within the QMHC will be best achieved by the assigning of responsibility and leadership to a designated position, such as a Deputy Commissioner for AOD (Sep). Queensland Health contracted Siggins Miller to conduct “Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Residential Service Sector Mapping and Review Project.” QNADA released a position paper on “recovery and harm minimisation.” This argues that in the Australian context the primary goal of treatment and prevention should remain harm minimisation (Sep). Queensland Government released the discussion paper: “Establishment of the Queensland Mental Health Commission.” This outlined the proposed model for the QMHC (with one month for feedback) (Oct). A new Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch located within the Health Services and Clinical Innovation Division came into existence. Responsibility for the |
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<td>that allow 24hr access &amp;</td>
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<td>AOD agenda, which had rested in one unit (the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Strategy Unit), was split across this and another branch within the Health Services and Clinical Innovation Division, under the rationale of better integrating the AOD agenda across the division. Accordingly responsibility is split across the branches for Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Chief Health Officer in 4 separate teams:</td>
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<td>permitting people who obtain</td>
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<td>• Lead responsibility for ongoing AOD policy and AODS treatment is delivered by the Partnerships and Programs Team (Planning and Partnerships Unit, Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch)</td>
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<td>equipment from NSP outlets to</td>
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<td>• AOD Prevention is delivered by the Intergovernmental Partnership Team (Preventive Health Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch)</td>
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<td>distribute that equipment to peers without criminal penalties (Dec).</td>
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<td>• Opioid treatment and monitoring is delivered by the Medicines, Regulation and Quality Team (Health Protection Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch)</td>
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<td>• Needle Syringe Programs are delivered by the Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmitted Infection team (Communicable Diseases Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch)(Oct).</td>
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<td>Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2012 introduced outlining:</td>
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<td>• Introduction of a new ‘aggravated supply’ offence in the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 for drug traffickers who target children. Offenders are liable to a max penalty of life imprisonment for a schedule 1 drug and 25 yrs for a schedule 2 drug and</td>
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<td>• The conditions for the cessation of the Queensland’s Drug Court by 30 June 2013 and transitional arrangements. A gradual approach to the termination of the Drug Court has been adopted to allow offenders, currently subject to an intensive drug rehabilitation order under the Drug Court Act 2000, time to complete their order (Nov).</td>
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<td>Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012 tabled, to establish:</td>
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<td>• a Mental Health Commission and</td>
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<td>• a Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Council (Nov).</td>
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<td>Youth Justice (Boot Camp Orders) and Other</td>
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| 2011 | The Minister for Community Services released a discussion paper "Towards a diversionary framework for the ACT". This acknowledged the need for a much more whole of government approach to diversion (Feb). Knowledge Consulting report released: "Report of the Independent Review of Operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre." Report examined the first 12 months of operation and noted concerns about a lack of coordination of some drug policies and procedures (Mar). New report released: "Health Status of Young People in the ACT". Report showed the use of illicit substances by young people decreased. For example, lifetime use amongst those aged 12-17 decreased from 20.3% in 2005 to 14.8% in 2008, continuing the downward trend since 1996 (37.5%). Use of at least one substance in the last week also declined: from 4.8% in 2005 to 3.7% in 2008 (Apr). Burnet report (2010-2011) tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly: "External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre." Key findings were: • High prevalence of lifetime and current illicit drug use at the AMC and evidence of trafficking of drugs into the prison. • Reports of at least one case of in-prison transmission of HCV within the new AMC. • Several positive program activities at the AMC went some way to fulfilling drug policy objectives. However, these constituted ‘pockets of effectiveness.’ Report made 69 recommendations inc: • Development of a specific drug policy | NSW Premier Kristina Keneally opened the state’s second Drug Court in Toronto, citing the success of the Paramatta drug court. A third drug court was promised if Labor won re-election (Mar). New Liberal Premier Barry O’Farrell elected (28 Mar). New report released by the NSW Auditor-General: "Effectiveness of cautioning for Minor Cannabis Offences”. Key conclusions: • 39,099 people cautioned. • Cautioned people reoffended less than those charged. Yet: • Youth were less likely to be cautioned in 2009-10 than 2000-01 • Huge variation in caution rates between police commands e.g. 74% in Eastern suburbs vs. 26% in Parramatta. Recommended reviewing barriers to cautioning, particularly for young offenders (Apr). New crime squad will be established on Sydney Harbour to target drug trafficking and organized criminal through NSW ports. A key motivator was declining levels of inspections by Australian Customs and Border Control: just 3.6% of shipping containers over the last 12 months. Operation Polaris, led by Detective Superintendent Peter McErlain will comprise 25 NSW Police officers, 15 AFP agents, and operatives from the NSW and Australian Crime Commissions (May). Mental Health Minister Kevin Humphries made headlines when he was photographed with a synthetic cannabinoid, Kronic, on Oxford Street: "Why is this MP buying a bag of weed?" The Minister highlighted concerns the product could have a potency up to 100 times greater than marijuana and cause | The Northern Territory Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) initiated moves to establish a formal AOD Peak for the Northern Territory: the Alcohol and Other Drugs Association of the Northern Territory (AADANT). NT Drug Summit: "Forging the Future – Practical Responses to Contemporary Issues" (Apr 13). A large two day police operation in the aim of deterring drug and alcohol distribution to the Northern Territory resulted in the seizure of $2385 in cash and 367 grams of cannabis. Operation revolved around 48 hr road blocks on both Larapinta Drive and the Tanami Highway and was undertaken by the Alice Springs Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk, Drug Intelligence Unit and Dog Operations Unit, members of the Darwin Remote Community Drug Desk and Hermannsburg Police and Southern Traffic operations (May). Regulations amending the Misuse of Drugs Act banned a total of 18 substances used to manufacture synthetic cannabis (including Kronic) (12 Aug) A further five substances were added to the banned list of synthetic cannabis (31 Aug). NT Attorney General released the “Review of the Northern Territory Youth Justice System.” Key findings: • NT youth offending is trending upwards in a number of areas • The no. of young people involved in the justice system is small but is increasing. • Young people in detention are more likely to be on remand than serving sentences Key recommendations included: | Eight years post freezing the assets of Charles Edward Cannon, a convicted methamphetamine trafficker, the Qld Supreme Court made a landmark proceeds of crime ruling: State of Qld v Cannon [2011] QSC 075 (03/1166) Brisb Applegarth J 8/04/2011. The ruling marked the end of the state’s longest and largest proceeds of crime battle and meant that Cannon, who it was alleged had earned $27 million through his methamphetamine business, was ordered to pay back $4.2 million in crime proceeds to the Qld government (Apr). Qld Government announced intention to put forward a new bill: ‘Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2011’ to ban 15 synthetic cannabinoids and to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to revise the definition of banned ‘analogues’. The new law proposes to address the rise of new ‘legal’ substances that mimic known illicit substances, and eliminate the current requirement that an analogue is only banned when there is proof that the new substance has a similar chemical structure and effect to scheduled dangerous drugs. Under the proposal any substance that is ‘intended’ to have a substantially similar pharmacological effect as known illicit drugs will be banned. The proposed bill will be subject to consultation by stakeholders including the Sentencing Advisory Committee (Jun). Queensland Drug Action Plan 2011-2012 released. Plan seeks to reduce cannabis use and heavy drinking by 11% by 2012 (Jun). Crime and Misconduct Commission issue a ‘schools alert’ about GHB, due to recent peaks in supply and use (Sep). QNADA released a new report: “Building Capacity in Alcohol and Drug Services – The Queensland Experience – A Tough but
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<td>framework for the AMC;</td>
<td>hallucinations and psychosis (14 Jun).</td>
<td>• Increase investment in police diversion, and expand diversion programs</td>
<td>Perfect Confluence” (Oct). Premier Anna Bligh announced that the Queensland Government would establish an independent Mental Health Commission (the Commission) from 1 July 2012 to drive improved performance, coordination and transparency in the delivery of mental health services in Queensland (Oct). The Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Strategy Unit (AODTSU) became part of the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Directorate (see also (Oct). Queensland Mental Health Commission Advisory Committee was established (Nov). “Inquiry into severe substance dependence: a model for involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation” launched by the Health and Disabilities Committee of the Queensland Parliament. The inquiry sought to report on a model for the involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation of persons with severe substance dependence, including examining the potential benefits and costs of implementing a model for the involuntary medicalized detoxification of persons with severe substance dependence and examining initiatives in other Australian and international jurisdictions (Dec).</td>
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<td>Consultations with relevant stakeholders to identify feasibility of a trail NSP at the AMC &amp; appropriate models for its delivery;</td>
<td>NSW Government announced ban on the sale and use of synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. From 8 July 2011 cannabinoids will be listed under Schedule 1 of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (along with cannabis and heroin etc) and require retailers and consumers to arrange for safe destruction of all supplies (28 June). Former assistant director investigations for the NSW Crime Commission, Mark Standen, was found guilty of conspiring to import and supply 300kg of pseudoephedrine and conspiring to pervert the course of justice. During the trial Crown prosecutor Tim Game, SC, alleged that given thirty years of involvement in law enforcement agencies, including Australian Customs, Australian Federal Police and intimate involvement in gathering intelligence on drug syndicates and money laundering, it was harder to imagine a ‘greater breach of trust’. He was later sentenced to 22 years imprisonment: HR v Standen [2011] NSWSC 1422 (8 December 2011) (Aug and Dec). The finding that Mark Standen was involved in organized crime sparked renewed calls for a Royal Commission of the NSW Crime Commission (Aug). NSW Police Minister Mike Gallacher rejected calls for a full Royal Commission, but established a special commission of inquiry into the NSW Crime Commission to review the commission’s structure and accountability (Aug). NSW 2021 plan released. NSW 2021 is the 10 year strategic plan setting immediate priorities for action and guiding resource allocation in conjunction with the NSW Budget. Key priority actions include: establish dedicated metropolitan drug treatment facilities focused on treatment and rehabilitation; encourage greater use of non-custodial punishment for less serious offenders and create availability and access to diversionary program; review treatment and intervention programs to identify ways to increase completion rates; improve the way government agencies share information to deliver integrated services and</td>
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<td>Exploration of a model for provision of naloxone to prisoners at release;</td>
<td>• Establish a new unit with responsibility for administering all youth justice system services</td>
<td>• Develop a new youth justice strategy (Oct).</td>
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<td>Swiffer pharmacotherapy provision: &lt;48 hours after requesting induction (Apr).</td>
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<td>Mr Michael Moore, CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) was engaged by the ACT Government, to respond to the Burnet Report by: assessing barriers and enablers to implementation of an NSP in the AMC; &amp; investigating models for delivery (May).</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, become Chief Minister of the ACT (May). Petition signed by 86% of the Alexander Maconochie Centre’s correctional officers called on the ACT Legislative Assembly to reject any proposal for a needle and syringe program at the AMC. Put together by the Community and Public Sector Union it stated that “our working environment in the AMC is already dangerous enough and we will actively fight any proposal to make it worse by introducing needle syringes into our workplace.” Petition was tabled by opposition Liberal corrections spokesman Jeremy Hanson (21 Jun).</td>
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<td>Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA tabled the ACT Government’s final response to Burnet Report (evaluation of drug policies and services at the AMC), arising actions and timelines. The ACT Government announced no immediate disagreement with any of the 69 recommendations. Instead, 20 were agreed to in full, including the need to develop a drug strategy for the AMC and to improve the governance structure overseeing policies and services. Another 26 recommendations were agreed to in principle, including exploration of the development and implementation of a program to provide Naloxone to at-risk prisoners on release (28 Jun). Under local medicines laws the ACT Government automatically adopted the decision of the Therapeutic Goods Authority</td>
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<td>to prohibit from 6 July eight synthetic cannabinoids. This made manufacturing, possession, supply and/or use within the ACT illegal from 8 Jul (amnesty on prosecution was provided until Aug 8) (Jul). Public Health Association of Australia report released: &quot;Balancing access and safety: meeting the challenge of blood borne viruses in prison - report for the ACT Government into the implementation of a NSP at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.&quot; Report made 7 recommendations including that the ACT Corrections Management Act 2007 be amended to require the establishment of an NSP at the AMC. Key evidence to support this was the high number of IDU in the prison (a third of inmates had reported injecting drugs) and that an unregulated NSP already operated, controlled by prisoners not health workers. Three models for an NSP were put forward: • Model 1: A contained NSP; • Model 2: Equipment provision from existing AMC health centre; • Model 3: ‘One for one’ exchange vending style machines (Jul). ACT Government provided 6 weeks of public consultation on the PHAA Report views and recommendations (Jul-Sep). Following the 6 July scheduling by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of eight synthetic cannabinoids, the ACT adopted the changes under local medicines laws. This made it illegal from 8 July to manufacture, obtain, possess, supply, sell and/or use products containing synthetic cannabis in the ACT (Jul). Practice directions for a new ACT Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (YDAC) were adopted. The program, starting as a two year trial on 1 Dec 2011, sought to provide a pre-sentence diversionary opportunity for children and young offenders with a demonstrable alcohol or drug problem (Jul). Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2013 and ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020 adopted. Both include roadside drug testing initiatives (Nov). Street Law Report released - &quot;The Downward Spiral: How a fine can management of offenders; assist in diverting people with mental health problems out of the criminal justice system and into services which meet their needs (Sep). Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the New South Wales Crime Commission released. The report by retired judge David Patten found no evidence that any members are engaged in criminal activity, but concluded that the existing accountability mechanisms were inadequate. Key recommendations included that an Inspector be appointed to oversee the NSW Crime Commission, ensure compliance with the law, assess the effectiveness of procedures and deal with complaints of misconduct (Nov). Attorney General, Greg Smith SC announced the establishment of the first dedicated alcohol and drug rehabilitation prison facility in NSW, which will provide an Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) for male and female inmates. The first phase will involve a 62-bed unit for male inmates at John Morony Correctional Centre, to open in February 2012. Eligible offenders will be sentenced inmates with a documented history of problematic drug and/or alcohol use, with a minimum or medium security classification (Nov). Attorney General, Greg Smith SC announced the establishment of the second metropolitan drug court: at the Downing Centre Local Court, opposite Hyde Park (Nov). Figures obtained by the NSW Greens though Parliamentary questioning showed that NSW police sniffer dogs were wrong 4 out of 5 times when they indicate people had drugs on them. This led Greens MP David Shoebridge MLC to conclude the high error rate, and high level of public humiliation, showed the program must be halted (Dec).</td>
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<td><strong>Government released for public comment its proposed bill for roadside drug testing. The Road Transport (Drug Driving) Bill 2010 was argued to be a comprehensive bill that would fit within existing policies on human rights and harm minimisation (27 May).</strong> Former ACT Supreme Court judge Ken Crispin published a book, &quot;The Quest for Justice,&quot; which questioned the war on drugs. In it he states that treating illicit drug use as a criminal justice problem has not and will never work (May). The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association Australian Capital Territory Inc (ATODA), was launched as the new independent peak body for the ACT ATOD sector. It provides for members from both the non-government and government sectors (18 Jun). ACT Human Rights Commissioner provided her opinion that the opposition bill for roadside drug testing was non-compliant with the ACT Human Rights Act since it failed the proportionality test: it would Impinge on human rights but did not guarantee doing so would lead to justifiable community benefit. She also argued that there was conflict with the ACT drug legislation, as the ACT had decriminalised possession of personal supply of cannabis yet random roadside drug testing would impose serious criminal sanctions on the use of cannabis.</td>
<td><strong>NSW Health funded KPMG to conduct a new independent evaluation into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. Media reports increasing use of an ecstasy-like stimulant – mephedrone or miao miao – following increased border seizures and accounts of use in dance scenes including Newcastle where it was reported to have been sold for $2 a hit (Mar). Arrests for possession and use of cocaine in NSW increased 55% from 486 in 2008 to 753 in 2009 prompting calls by the NSW Bureau of Crime Research and Statistics that more cocaine was getting into the country (Apr). An integrated mental health, drug and alcohol and community health facility – the O’Brien Centre – was opened at St Vincent’s Hospital. The centre aimed to provide a more coordinated one-stop approach to meeting needs e.g. detox, opioid treatment, anxiety disorder units and mental health workers (May).</strong></td>
<td><strong>Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk targeted cannabis and amphetamine trafficking on major routes and highways entering and exiting the Northern Territory. Review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Service Components of the Northern Territory Emergency Response - Final Report released. This noted that while the Northern Territory Intervention (introduced 21 June 2007) expanded some AOD services due to fears that it would lead to more demand for AOD detoxification/services, there were a number of problems with the process. Key problems included:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• The absence of involvement of the NGO sector in the discussions. For example, while the AOD Working Group (established in Nov 2007) was consulted this did not include representation from this sector. <strong>Swift timelines led to some poor decision making which was not in the best interest of the NT AOD services e.g. emphasis upon expansion rather than capacity of organisations. Recommended:</strong>&lt;br&gt;• That the operation of an independent peak body be funded for all AOD programs in the NT regardless of the nature of the organisation in which they operate. That a long term cooperative plan for the development of AOD services in the Northern Territory was having a disproportionately negative impact on vulnerable populations, including those with serious AOD issues (Nov).**</td>
<td><strong>Crime and Misconduct Commission enquiry into claims Gold Coast police officers have been involved with organised crime gangs, including outlaw bikies, importing drugs and dealing them through big Gold Coast nightclubs (Feb).</strong> Crime and Misconduct Commission Report released &quot;Illicit drug markets in Queensland: A strategic assessment.&quot; Report identified that methyl-amphetamine continued to pose the highest risk to the Qld community, but was likely to pose a decreasing risk in the future due to law enforcement activities. But, the risk of two drugs was deemed to be increasing: cocaine due to increased supply/use and ecstasy due to changes in patterns of use namely use of multiple tablets in a session (Feb). Queensland’s chief health officer, Dr Jeannette Young, announced that doctors had to be more careful when prescribing drugs containing pseudoephedrine (PSE), which could be used in the production of illicit amphetamines. Data from pharmacy audits, data from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and information from the Queensland Police Service State Drug Investigation Unit had indicated increased repeat and bulk prescriptions (Apr). Criminal Organisation Act 2009 commenced. Act seeks to increase Qld police powers to disrupt &amp; restrict the activities of organisations involved in serious criminal</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>of cannabis (29 Jun).</td>
<td>Supervised Injecting Centre had &quot;not met its goal of providing a pathway for users to access services to end their addiction&quot; and he wanted proof that the centre was helping to end addiction before he would consider calls for the centre to be made permanent (16 Jun). The Greens candidate for the federal seat of Wentworth, Matthew Robertson called on the NSW Government and Opposition to end the trial period for the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) and make it permanent (27 Jun). BOCSAR released new report: &quot;Trends in property and illicit drug crime around the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Kings Cross: An update.&quot; Report concluded there was no evidence that the MSIC had caused a negative impact on robbery, property crime or drug offences in Kings Cross (Sep). KPMG evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) from 2007-2010 released. Core findings were that since introduction MSIC had received approximately 70,000 visits per year and: • managed 3,426 overdose events with no deaths onsite; • provided a gateway to drug treatment and other services, with 8,508 referrals (3,871 to drug treatment) since commencement; &amp; • reduced problems with public injecting, as evidenced by a decrease in reported sighting of public injecting from 55% in 2000 to 27% in 2010 (Sep 14). Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Medically Supervised Injecting Centre) Bill 2010 adopted. This removed the trial status of the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, thereby enabling the centre that had been operating since May 2001, to become a permanent fixture. The bill was adopted with 22 votes of support and 15 against (4 Nov). NSW Director of Public Prosecutions Nick Cowdery QC, who is set to retire in March 2011, released his own legislative agenda that included decriminalising drug use, possession and small-scale trafficking. He said that the current approach to illicit drugs activity. The Act enables the Police Commissioner to apply to the Supreme Court to declare an organisation a 'criminal organisation' for a 5 year period; to enact control orders against individual members, such as preventing association with any member of a 'criminal organisation'; to provide for public safety and fortification removal orders; and to create a new offence of contravening a control order, which carries a maximum penalty of 3 years' jail for the first offence &amp; 5 years' jail for subsequent offences (15 Apr). Operation Warrior, the largest organised crime investigation in the Crime and Misconduct Commission's history detected a national poly-drug syndicate (methamphetamine, ecstasy and cannabis) linked to outlaw motorcycle gangs that crossed south-east Queensland, North Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne. Large quantities of drugs were also seized including 3544 ecstasy tablets and 25 litres of precursor GBL (capable of producing 60 litres of GHB) (May). Inquiry into addressing cannabis-related harm in Queensland received public submissions and held public inquiries. Chief Justice of Queensland, Paul de Jersey, addressed the 12th International Criminal Law Congress in Brisbane spoke of the benefits of considering creative solutions to illicit drugs. He commended the Swiss response to the heroin problem, through heroin prescription and provision of supervised injecting rooms, and the Portuguese decriminalisation of illicit drug use (Oct).</td>
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<td>Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) (Random Drug Testing) Amendment Bill 2009 passed by the opposition party (Liberals) and the Greens for testing of cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines (30 Jun). The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 adopted. Specific aims were minimising harm, improving health and social well-being, developing evidence-based policies and implementing the Strategy Action Plan in a manner that respects, protects and promotes human rights. 66 strategic priorities were specified based on the size and severity of the problem, evidence of effectiveness of interventions and the environmental factors that facilitate or impede effective implementation. Key interventions included: • Implement a local warning system regarding drug market &amp; drug-related harms; • Ensure prisoners &amp; other detainees can access the same community-based AOD programs in &amp; post detention; • Develop a specific policy framework to support consumer participation in drug treatment &amp; support services; &amp; • Implement national clinical guidelines for the management of drug use during pregnancy, birth &amp; early years (Jun). Amanda Bresnan MLA for the ACT Greens released a new paper ‘Implementing a Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre’ for public consultation. The paper proposed that a needle syringe program be introduced into the ACT prison (Jul). Repeal of Part 9 of the Drugs of Dependence Act 1989 led to end of the Treatment Referral Program (TRP) program (Aug). ACT Chief Minister, Mr Stanhope, said that in light of the New South Wales Government’s decision to formalise an injecting room in Sydney’s Kings Cross, he will now consider the idea of introducing a needle syringe program in the new Alexander Maconochie Centre (Sep). Paper ‘Implementing a Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre’ for public consultation, (Sep).</td>
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| 2009 | **Human Rights ACT 2004 (ACT): The First Five Years of Operation Report released.** Concluded that the Human Rights Act has improved the quality of law-making in the Territory by ensuring human rights concerns are given due consideration in the framing of new legislation and policy (Jun). Workshops on Strategic Directions and Governance for the ACT AOD Sector held at University House, ANU, Canberra: resolved to establish an incorporated ACT ATOD Peak body. Resolution subsequently endorsed by the ACT ATOD services Executive Directors Group (Jul 27-28). Draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 released for public review. | **The NSW Supreme Court ruled that the NSW Department of Human Services had been in serious abuse of their position in demanding that parents who use cannabis were unfit to care for a child, and ordered the return of two removed children (Jan).** **NSW Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act enacted which provides for the involuntary treatment of persons with a severe substance dependence.** The act is being trialed for an initial period of 18 months in Auburn, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Lithgow, Parramatta and Penrith council areas and The Hills Shire. Under the act health workers, family members and other interested parties may be involved in the treatment process. | **The Prison In-Reach Program commenced at Darwin Correctional Centre. The program consists of five multi-disciplinary team members who offer comprehensive alcohol and other drug assessments, intensive counseling, group work and aftercare support to all prisoners at DCC and the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre (Jan). New Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) and Drug Operation Unit (DOU) established in Katherine, in the goal of reducing cross-border supply of licit and illicit substances in the the Northern Regional Police Command, including East Arnhem, Nhulunbuy, Groote Eylandt and the Milingimbi areas. This followed the success of the Prison In-Reach Program.** | **The Courier Mail commenced a three month series of articles called "The Drugs Scourge" which aimed to "spur public debate and drive government action on ecstasy and amphetamine use." Key articles included "drugs menace uncovered," "bars, clubs awash with drugs" and "drug users' Russian roulette." The Courier Mail campaigned to get pill presses banned (Mar). Queensland Legislative Assembly referred a paper by Drug Free Australia "Cannabis: suicide, schizophrenia and other ill-effects" to the Social Development Committee for investigation and report. The enquiry was explicitly asked to consider: The risks associated with cannabis use,** |}

Caitlin Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program - Last updated 15 December 2016. For comments email: caitlin.hughes@unsw.edu.au

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<td>ACT Government released the adult health services plan for Canberra’s new prison: Alexander Maconochie Centre. The plan allowed the provision of bleach but not a needle syringe program for inmates. The</td>
<td>Crimes Amendment (Drink and Food Spiking) Bill 2008 adopted. Bill created a new summary offence of spiking a person’s drink or food with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (max penalty</td>
<td>Northern Territory Government announced a &quot;new era in corrections&quot;. Key to this was the development of a new Darwin Correctional Precinct that would include:</td>
<td>particularly for youth; &amp; Strategies to reduce cannabis use in Queensland (20 May).</td>
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<td>Draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy released for public comment and consultation (Dec). Opposition police spokesman Jeremy Hanson tabled a bill - Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) (Random Drug Testing) Amendment Bill 2009 - seeking to give police powers to conduct roadside drug testing for cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines, similar to provisions in place in other Australian jurisdictions. Consideration of the Bill was deferred (Dec).</td>
<td>refer a severely drug or alcohol dependant person to a medical practitioner for assessment. Individuals will be involuntarily detained for treatment (for an initial period lasting up to 28 days) provided they meet the following criteria:</td>
<td>• an 800 bed Correctional Centre with additional capacity for a further 200 beds;</td>
<td>Telecommunications Interception Act 2009 commenced. Act enabled use of telecommunications interception by Qld Police Service and Qld Crime Commission to target criminals involved in serious and organised crime (18 Jun). A two-year joint operation between Queensland Police and the Australian Crime Commission claimed to have smashed a Goldcoast based drug-trafficking syndicate that included senior members of the Finks outlaw motorcycle club. The operation culminated with the arrest of 41 people after two Finks clubhouses and the homes of members and associates were raided (Nov).</td>
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<td>Draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy released for public comment and consultation (Dec).</td>
<td>• that they have a severe substance dependence, &amp;</td>
<td>• a 30 bed Secure Mental Health and Behavioural Management Facility (MHBMF); and</td>
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<td>• care, treatment or control of the person is necessary to protect the person from serious harm &amp;</td>
<td>• a 46 bed Supported Accommodation and Program Centre for community based offenders (Feb). Following an internal departmental review the Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program and withdrawal treatment services introduced a new time effective treatment approach to case management. Under the new approach clients attend an eight-session relapse prevention program followed by a four-session coping skills program. Completion of $4M capital redevelopment of Banyan House. This enabled the centre that was first established in 1978 to be converted into a modern residential rehabilitation centre. New arrangements to support withdrawal service options introduced in Alice Springs. These arrangements were based on a partnership between Drug and Alcohol Services Association (DASA) and Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Central Australia (ADSCA) in the aim of streamlining referral pathways, enhancing medical supervision and support and assisting clients to access services they need.</td>
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<td>• the person is likely to benefit from treatment for his or her substance dependence but has refused treatment &amp;</td>
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<td>• no other appropriate and less restrictive means for dealing with the person is reasonably available. The trial will be evaluated by KPMG (Feb). Research by BOCSAR into the link between methamphetamine and violence found that after adjusting for a number of risk factors for re-offending (e.g. age, sex, Indigenous status), offenders with a prior conviction for an amphetamine offence were no more likely than those with no prior drug offences to be subsequently charged with a violent offence (Feb).</td>
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<td>NSW Health commenced a state-wide Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeships program in the non-government sector. The program aimed to increase the number of tertiary qualified Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol workers in the non-government sector (Jun). Draft NSW Youth Health Policy released 2010-2015 for consultation (Dec).</td>
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<td>NSW Health commenced a 4 month statewide social marketing campaign aimed at warning people aged 18-25 of the dangers of club drugs: &quot;$Don't let drugs use you this summer party season.&quot; NSW Health partnered with festival organizers e.g. Homebake and used posters and advertisements in street press, music and festival websites, nightclubs and outdoor music events (Dec).</td>
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<td>Draft NSW Youth Health Policy released 2010-2015 for consultation (Dec).</td>
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strategy stated that the position would be reviewed, as part of a comprehensive evaluation, 18 months after the prison was commissioned (Mar).

The report of the 2007 External Review of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Service System, undertaken by Siggins Miller on behalf of ACT Health, was released. Reviewers considered the current arrangements, the changing needs of the population, the issues affecting the AOD service system, and its capacity to address them. Reviewers recommended enhancing the system capacity for pharmacotherapy for pharmacotherapy clients, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, rehabilitation and relapse prevention, plus building AOD literacy, workforce development and governance and accountability. ACT Health initiated a consultation process with stakeholders to discuss the report’s findings and recommendations.

Liberal MLA Steve Pratt tabled legislation to introduce roadside drug testing in the ACT. The Government responded that it would not rush into introducing such a proposal and that it was examining the evidence from other jurisdictions and would consult with the community on the issue (Apr).

Discussion Paper: Review of the Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977 released by the ACT Government. Paper aimed to get community views on issues such as how to introduce roadside drug testing in the ACT, what drugs should be tested for, whether drug testing should be compulsory for all drivers detected for drink driving and whether offences should the same as for drink driving. The ACT Government provided two months to receive feedback (May).

The ACT AOD Sector Project announced that the First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector Conference would be held as part of Drug Action Week 2008 (May).

Proposed ACT legislation for the introduction of roadside drug testing lapsed (Oct).

Legislation passed allowing police to carry out undercover controlled operations to target drug cartels, money laundering and terrorist cells: the ACT Crimes (Controlled
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<td>Operations) Act 2008 (18 Aug). ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2007 was passed. The act consolidated four acts and regulations on medicines, poisons and prohibited substances. The act repealed the Poisons and Drugs Act 1978, the Poisons Act 1993, the Public Health (Prohibited Drugs) Act 1957 and amended the Drugs of Dependence Act 1989 to provide a more unified and workable scheme (Aug). ACT Government released its Draft Mental Health Services Plan 2008 – 2013 for public consultation (Sep). Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT Inc (ADFACT) announced its intention to operate - in partnership with ACT Corrective Services and ACT Corrections Health – a therapeutic community in Canberra’s new prison Alexander Maconochie Centre (Dec). ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group was established with the assistance of funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing National Comorbidity Project’s Improved Services Initiative.</td>
<td>the trial status was a barrier to its effective practice and meant it remained a political football (Jul). NSW Police run series of forums on ice, targeting children aged 12-18. The series aimed to reduce reported use amongst teenagers, change perceptions that use was glamorous and tell parents about the signs their child was using (Aug). The Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office commenced discussions with stakeholders regarding the Opioid Treatment Strategic Plan 2010–2015 (Aug). 2nd BOCSAR report on trends in property and illicit drug-related crime in Kings Cross released. Report showed very little difference in the incidence of robbery and property crime in Kings Cross versus the rest of Sydney with both having declined. There were differences in regards to use/possess offences, with less heroin use/possess and deal/traffic offences but more cocaine use/possess offences in Kings Cross (cfed to Sydney). But spatial analysis was unable to conclude whether this was due to the MSIC or other factors associated with Kings Cross (Sep). First women charged in NSW with large-scale supply of Oxycodone, the prescription drug known as “hillbilly heroin” (Sep). Two children were taken into foster care after the NSW Department of Community Services (DOCS) reported concerns over their parents’ use of cannabis. This followed demands by DOCS that the parents remain “drug free” and provide random urine samples (Sep).</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>ACT Draft Adult Corrections Health Services Plan 2007-2010 released. Noted that needle syringe exchange should be considered and ACT Health planned to consider the merits of a trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (Jul). ACT drug user group - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) – re-opened (Jul). ACT Corrective Services Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Strategy 2006 - 2008 adopted. Strategy aimed for harm minimisation, demand reduction and effective clinical management for substance misusers (Sep).</td>
<td>offenders who attended the drug court were 17% less likely to be reconvicted for any offence and 30% less likely to be reconvicted for a violent offence than drug dependent offenders sentenced to imprisonment through the traditional court. The program was also proven to save $2 million a year when compared to the traditional response (Nov). Outcry over a brochure titled “A users guide to speed” was displayed to year 8 students attending a NSW sponsored community information day (Nov).</td>
<td>Substance Abuse Committee formed to provide strategic advice (Jun). Northern Territory Intervention adopted. Included widespread alcohol restrictions, increased policing, medical examinations of all Indigenous children and reforms to welfare system (Jun). Legislation for Northern Territory Intervention passed - Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 (Aug). The NT incorporated PSYCHECK into its clinical practice to improve screening and brief intervention for high prevalence mental health disorders in alcohol and other drug services. Establishment of an AOD Working Group (Nov).</td>
<td>Queensland Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Dec). Amendments to the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987 the it illegal to publish or possess documents containing instructions about the manufacturing or illicit drugs (punishable with up to 25 years imprisonment) and supply any items for illicit drug use (punishable with up to 15 years imprisonment) (??). The Ice Breaker Strategy Taskforce completed its report to the Qld Government. Key recommendations included a targeted young adult illicit drug campaign, legislation banning the retail display and supply of ice pipes, a 3-year pilot study at 2 hospital emergency departments for ATS responses and expansion of Alcohol and Drug Adolescent Withdrawal Service outreach services (Jun).</td>
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<td>that the cumulative effect of amendments to the NSW Bail ACT was that NSW “now has the toughest bail laws in Australia” (Oct).</td>
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<td>NSW MERIT: Health Outcomes study completed. Study demonstrated that by program exit at three months, levels and types of illicit drug use and associated risk behaviours were significantly reduced and levels of physical and psychological health had improved. At exit 39% participants were abstinent from all illegal drugs &amp; the frequency of use reduced across all drugs. Most notably daily use decreased from 45% to 11% for cannabis &amp; from 24% to 1% for heroin (Nov).</td>
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<td>Amendments to the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW) banned the possession of recipes for drug manufacturing and the possession of certain precursors and apparatus used for manufacturing illicit drugs. Penalties included $2,200 or 2 years imprisonment for possession of drug manufacturing recipes, $110,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment for possession of the precursors and a maximum of 10 years imprisonment for possession of apparatus for the manufacture of drugs (Nov).</td>
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<td>2006 Report on “ACT Government Expenditure on Preventing and Responding to Drug Abuse, 2004-05” estimated ACT Government expenditure on drug abuse in 2004-05 was $85.094 million, 3.2% of the total ACT budget for the year. Of this 22% was spent in the health sector, 77% in the law enforcement sector and 1% on emergency services (Mar). Final report on trial of the syringe vending machines released. Concluded trial had gone well and been accepted by community and recommended expansion of syringe vending machines in the ACT (Jun). ACT drug user group - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) – closed (Jul).</td>
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<td>NSW HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006-2009 adopted. In response to fears of higher potency of hydroponic cannabis NSW Premier Iemma and his cabinet officers introduced tougher legislation for hydroponic cannabis. Amendments to the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW) included: • A max penalty of $220,000 and/or 10 years imprisonment for the cultivation of 5-49 plants for individuals; • A max penalty of $385,000 and/or 15 years imprisonment for the cultivation of 50-199 plants; • A max penalty of $550,000 and/or 20 years imprisonment for the cultivation of 200 or more plants; The new penalties were 5 times greater than for non-hydroponic cultivation. Maximum penalties were also increased for the theft of electricity to power hydro houses ($11,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment) (Feb).</td>
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<td>First Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) established in Alice Springs in a joint operation between the Commonwealth, Northern Territory, South Australian and Western Australian governments to coordinate and target the trafficking of licit and illicit substances/alcohol in the cross-border regions (Jan). NT Road Safety Taskforce Report 2006 found that the risk of being killed in the NT was 3 times greater than anywhere else in Australia and indeed greater than in all other nations in the developed world. 48% of fatal crashes were alcohol-related and a Drug-Use Monitoring in Australia pilot in NT indicated one in three people detained for driving offences tested positive to illicit drugs. Taskforce called for laws to test for drug-driving (Jun).</td>
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<td>Amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 prohibited the sale or display of ice pipes or bongs and made such offences punishable with a $10,500 fine (Jan). Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies Inc (QNADA) commenced (May). QMERIT (Queensland Magistrate’s Early Referral into Treatment) program introduced (Jul). Fourth Queensland Drug Strategy 2006-2009 released (Oct). Criminal Code (Drink Spiking) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2006 adopted. Bill created a new offence of spiking a person’s drink with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment) (Oct). Qld Premier and Minister for Health established an Ice Breaker Strategy Taskforce chaired by Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young to oversee the</td>
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<td>community attitudes towards the service released (Mar). MSIC reported that pharmaceutical opioids had become the most commonly injected drug category, used for 40% all injecting episodes (Apr). Amendments to the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW) banned the sale, supply and display or water and ice pipes and made them punishable with $2200 and/or 2 years imprisonment (May). NSW Ombudsmen report released: Review of the Police Powers (Drug Detection Dogs) Act 2001. This reviewed use of the drug detection dogs over their first two years of operation. Key findings:  - Prohibited drugs were only located in 26% of the searches following an indication.  - Only 1.38% of all indications involved a prescribed ‘deemed supply’ quantity of a prohibited drug.  - No evidence that the use of drug detection dogs disrupted low-level street dealing in a sustained manner.  - No evidence of a deterrent effect on drug users. Review concluded: Despite the best efforts of police officers, the use of drug detection dogs has proven to be an ineffective tool for detecting drug dealers and that there should be a review of whether the legislation should be retained (Oct). Stimulant Treatment Program (STP) commenced in Darlinghurst and Newcastle to provide clinical interventions for people with co-morbid mental health and stimulant drug-related problems (Nov). Prisoner at the NSW Corrective Services complex in Surry Hills – Gary Kelso – died after failing to receive medical attention while in heroin withdrawal (Nov). 1st BOCSAR report on trends in property and illicit drug-related crime in Kings Cross released. Report showed similar patterns of theft and property offences in Kings Cross and broader Sydney (both declining) and similar trends for most use/possess and dealing/trafficking offences. Report development and implementation of a Queensland Government’s Ice-Breaker Strategy to reduce uptake, use and harms associated with methamphetamine use (Dec). Queensland Corrective Services Drug Strategy adopted. Strategy enshrined “a zero-tolerance approach to drug use within a context of harm minimization” and included  - supply reduction initiatives e.g. drug testing, staff searches, and use of drug detection dogs and ionscan devices  - demand reduction initiatives e.g. provision of range of treatment options plus drug treatment units and a Drug Free Incentive Program (DFIP)  - harm reduction initiatives e.g. pharmacotherapy maintenance treatment for eligible short term offenders and peer education on the harms associated with drug use, their effects and issues concerning overdose and unsafe injecting practices.</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Trial of syringe vending machines commenced at the Civic, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Phillip Community Health Centres (Feb). &lt;br&gt; <em>Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis for Medical Conditions Trial) Amendment Bill 2005</em> sponsored by a Greens member Dr Deb Foskey as an exposure draft 18 Oct 2005 - lapsed. &lt;br&gt; Criminal Code (Serious Drug Offences) Amendment Act 2004 came into force, reducing eligibility criteria for the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) scheme. The new criteria included a maximum of 5 to 2 cannabis plants and excluded all hydroponically grown plants (May). &lt;br&gt; ACT Minister for Health, Simon Corbell MLA, announced that he would propose to his Cabinet colleagues that the new Canberra prison – Alexander Maconchie Centre – have a needle syringe program (NSP) as part of its comprehensive health plan (Nov).</td>
<td>MSIC interim evaluation report no. 1 on operation and service delivery released (May). &lt;br&gt; MSIC reported they had started to see increases in injection of pharmaceutical opioids (mostly morphine and oxycodone) (Aug).</td>
<td>Profile of Services and Interventions Project commissioned (Jan). &lt;br&gt; Report on Profile of Services and Interventions released (Jul).</td>
<td>Project STOP commenced by Pharmacy Guild of Queensland – used online database to track sales of pseudoephedrine. Project STOP was a partnership between Qld Police and the Pharmacy Guild (Nov). &lt;br&gt; <em>Police Powers and Responsibilities (Drug Detection Dogs) Amendment Act 2005</em> passed to enable police use of drug detection dogs without a warrant on persons, vehicles and things in public places, licensed premises, and at sporting and entertainment events (Nov).</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Human Rights Act adopted in the ACT (Mar). &lt;br&gt; <em>Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis for Medical Conditions) Amendment Bill 2004.</em> Presented by Ms Kerrie Tucker (Greens). Date presented: 30 June 2004 (5th Assembly). Defeated 25 August 2004. &lt;br&gt; Third ACT drug strategy released: Alcohol, Tobacco &amp; other Drugs Strategy 2004-2008. This included an action plan for implementation (Aug). &lt;br&gt; <em>ACT Drugs of Dependence Act 1989</em> amended to allow supply of needle and syringes through vending machines (Aug).</td>
<td>NSW Premier announced trial of medical use of cannabis had stalled because while the government had examined a number of options, the preferred delivery method – a metered-dose inhaler or spray – was years away from being available and the NSW (and federal) government opposed any means that allowed growing in backyards i.e. decriminalisation of cannabis cultivation or purchase on the black market (Apr). &lt;br&gt; MERIT completed roll-out to all Area Health Services in NSW (Jun).</td>
<td>Alcohol and Other Drug Program convened forum for drug and alcohol treatment agencies to advise on the improvement of service delivery and outcomes (Mar). &lt;br&gt; New NT health strategy adopted - &quot;Building Healthier Communities: A framework for health and communities services 2004-2009.&quot; Framework had six priority areas included strengthening families and tackling substance abuse through increasing availability and quality of treatment services for substance abuse (Apr ???). &lt;br&gt; Health Advisory Council established, chaired by Dr Charles Kilburn, as part of the Building Healthier Communities strategy. Council aimed to provide the NT health minister with community views on the effectiveness of current health (including drug and alcohol) policies/services, and issues of concern (Apr). &lt;br&gt; Northern Territory Police Remote Communities Drug Strategy commenced (later named the Remote Area Drug Strategy). This was a proactive strategy targeting the supply of illicit drugs.</td>
<td>New user group established - Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN) (Jul).</td>
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<td>Northern Territory Police Remote Community Drug Desk (RCDD) established to coordinate and implement the Remote Communities Drug Strategy. The RCDD is comprised of strategic officers of the Drug Enforcement Section who pool intelligence from local level policing initiatives and undertake strategic and tactical operations aimed at disrupting the distribution of drugs to and within remote communities (May). Drug Dog Detection Unit established within NT police (Dec). Release of the Select Committee on Substance Abuse in the Community Report: Confronting the Confusion and Disconnection. The report concluded that there were significant shortfalls in the Northern Territory Government’s response to substance abuse, particularly within remote communities and that there was insufficient coordination for substance abuse for the three main substances of abuse: alcohol, petrol and cannabis. Key recommendations were to increase coordination between government agencies, to identify and address the gaps in service delivery and that a community audit be conducted to assess the needs, assets, resources and views of each remote community, with the goal of prioritizing future programs on the basis of the community audit. Drug detection dogs commenced operation (Dec).</td>
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<td>Court Alcohol and Drug Assessment Service evaluation completed by Morgan Disney and Associates – key recommendation: need to increase program access and improve services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Jun). ACT Standing Committee on Health released report “Access to Needles and Syringes by Intravenous Drug Users.” Report recommended that the Government install injecting equipment vending machines across the whole of the ACT and that it provide injecting equipment exchange in the ACT prisons (Aug). ACT Government announced $250,000 to implement priority areas of drug strategy</td>
<td>NSW Premier Carr announced that a draft exposure bill would be introduced at the earliest opportunity to provide for a 4 year trial of medical use of cannabis. It was proposed that patients would register with an Office of Medical Cannabis in the NSW Department of Health and that the trial would be tightly restricted to individuals who met strict medical conditions and were aged 18 or over and were not pregnant or on parole. This had in principle support from the Opposition Leader, John Brogden MP provided cultivation and distribution were tightly regulated. Details of how THC would be legally supplied to registered users remained to be established by the Government (May 20). Provisional support from Prime Minister for 4 Margot Laughton, an Indigenous grandmother, became first person to have her home declared a drug premises. She was evicted from her Territory Housing unit in Darwin (Jan). A private member’s bill – <em>Legislative Assembly Members (Random Drug Testing) Bill 2003</em> – was introduced to the NT Legislative Assembly by Mr Stephen Dunhum MLA. The bill sought mandatory annual illicit drug testing for members of the legislative assembly. Bill subsequently lapsed. Establishment of the NT Clinical Advisory Illicit Drugs Court Diversion Program introduced (Mar)</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Alcohol Tobacco and other Drug Taskforce established to devise a new drug strategy (Aug). New ACT drug user group established - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA).</td>
<td>Use of drug detection dogs commenced (22 Feb). The Ryde Needle Syringe Program was closed by the NSW Minister for Health after local media attention to unused needle and syringes being found in the grounds of the local primary school (Mar). MSIC trial extended additional 12 months to enable operation during evaluation (Oct). Launch of the NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2003-2006 (Nov).</td>
<td>Committee Criminal Property Forfeiture Act 2002 introduced, giving the DPP the power to apply to the court for an unexplained wealth declaration against a person, and reverse the onus of proof to prove assets are legally obtained. The act allows that assets from organized crime and drug trafficking to be seized, without need for conviction of criminal wrong doing.</td>
<td>COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Jan) New user group established - Network Against Prohibition Northern Territory (NAPNT) (Mar). Report from Taskforce on Illicit Drugs. Concluded that compared to the rest of Australian the drug situation remained very distinct in NT. E.g. alcohol remained the major drug of concern. The Taskforce argued that the evidence on methadone was now substantial and strongly recommended amending the NT Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act to enable pharmacotherapies for the treatment of opioid dependence for maintenance and withdrawal. Other recommendations included better Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002 adopted allowing the court to confiscate property derived from criminal activity such as drug trafficking without charge or conviction.</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>COAG-IDD agreement signed (May)</td>
<td>NSW Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy adopted to tackle drug and crime in Cabramatta and across the state. This included a new criminal justice plan including new laws and a new police station in Cabramatta and local crime prevention. Strategy was supported by funding of $18.6 million over four years (Mar). A NSW Police Officer involved in the fatal shooting of Jim Hallinan was dismissed after testing positive to cannabis (Mar). Medically Supervised Injecting Centre opened in Kings Cross as 18 month trial (1 May 2001). Research by Maher and Dixon showed police crackdowns in Cabramatta were associated with displacement of the drug market and considerable public health risks to users including increased oral and nasal storage of heroin, decreased use of needle and syringe equipment and increased risk taking in injecting (May). The Police Integrity Commission report on the shooting of Ron Levi recommended the immediate introduction of random drug testing of all NSW Police Officers (Jun). Government’s Police Powers (Drug Premises) Act 2001 commenced giving police the power to search and close down drug houses, arrest drug dealers and lookouts operating from drug houses and advertising of treatment services, more training of treatment personnel and that NSPs be expanded in the NT (May). Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act repealed (Jun). Misuse of Drugs Act amended - introduced new rulings on drug premises orders. Enabled houses or business where there was evidence of supply or possession of drugs to be declared “drug premises” and for police to enter and search such premises and anyone on the premise without warrant for 12 months (Jul). Methadone maintenance program first provided in the Northern Territory, 33 years after methadone was first provided in Australia (Sep). Northern Territory Illicit Drug Pre-Court Diversion Program introduced (Dec).</td>
<td>Labor party released three point tough on drugs election policy. Included zero tolerance on drug production and distribution, compulsory treatment for drug-related offenders and a drug prevention strategy (Mar). Country Liberal Party introduced Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act. Act gave police new powers to define, “move on” and arrest people for ‘anti-social’ behaviour and to signpost houses as anti-social (Jun). Change of government – NT election won by Labor party (Aug). Taskforce on Illicit Drugs established with the mandate of examining trends, and using national and international evidence to advise on the role of pharmacotherapy treatments and on the optimum responses for youth and other priority groups (Nov).</td>
<td>COAG-IDD agreement signed (Mar) Police Diversion for Minor Drug Offences and Drug Court Program introduced (Jun) Drugs Misuse (Amphetamine Offences) Amendment Act 2001 passed. Act reclassified amphetamine and methyl amphetamine from schedule 2 to schedule 1 dangerous drugs and increased maximum penalties for possession, supply and trafficking from 20 to 25 years. Cited rationale was the increasingly serious problem of amphetamine use and manufacturing in Queensland (Sep). The 2nd Youth Drug Summit - involved 50 young people. Recommended that needed more incentives to obtain work, more youth specific withdrawal options and flexibility in treatment (23 &amp; 24 October).</td>
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| 2000 | Advisory Committee established to oversee Supervised Injecting Place trial (Feb)  
SIP trial postponed by ACT Government for 18 months (until election) following budget negotiations between the minority Liberal Government and independents (Jul)  
Court Alcohol and Drug Assessment Service (CADAS) introduced, following discussions between Chief Magistrate and ACT Health (Oct) | arrest any person in or entering or leaving a drug house (Jul).  
Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 into Cabramatta Policing tabled its report and 25 recommendations. Report identified major deficiencies in policing in Cabramatta e.g. increasing neglect of drug-related crime which it attributed to questionable management practices (Jul).  
Random drug testing introduced in NSW Police Force. This supplemented the mandatory drug testing of officers involved in critical incidents (Sep).  
Police Powers (Drug Detection Dogs) Act adopted, giving police the powers to use a drug detection dog (or sniffer dog) in an authorized place (including a pub, sporting event or outdoor festival) or by warrant to aid in their detection of drug offenders. This followed their trial for general duty policing during the Sydney Olympics and made NSW the first state to adopt such provisions. In adopting the act the (then) Minister for Police, the Hon. Michael Costa MLC stated: "The bill is aimed primarily at detecting and prosecuting persons committing offences relating to the supply of prohibited drugs and plants. ... It is clear that the activity envisaged is drug dealing" (Dec). | COAG-IDDI agreement signed in NSW and the first program – the Adult Cannabis Cautioning Scheme was introduced (Apr)  
Inquiry by the Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 into Cabramatta Policing was established. As part of inquiry Detective Sergeant Tim Priest claimed organised crime was rampant and police were being pressured to ignore the drug market (Jun).  
Lismore MERIT Pilot Program and Youth Drug and Alcohol Court were introduced (Jun - Jul)  
Report released by Working Party on the Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes. Report agreed that THC can be useful in treating nausea, vomiting and appetite loss in patients with HIV and in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. But that crude cannabis cannot nor is likely to ever be prescribed in Australia. Recommended that | The National Liberal Party proposed to extend mandatory sentencing to drug trafficking offences  
Queensland Government introduced a Drug Court (Jun). |
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<td>further trials be conducted into administration of THC via non-oral routes and development of new synthetic cannabinoids. They further recommended that until medical cannabinoids become available individuals found obtaining, possessing or using cannabis should be exempt (for compassionate reasons) from criminal prosecution, provided they had a prior medical certification that they had a condition that might benefit from cannabis use (Aug). NSW Heroin Overdose Prevention and Management Strategy released involving $670,000 (Nov). First NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2000 – 2003 adopted (Nov). Framework for Action - NSW Drugs and Community Action Strategy (Dec).</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Report on Evaluation of ACT Drug Strategy 1995-97 released. ACT drug user group - Australian Capital Territory IV League (ACTIV League) disbanded Dual Diagnosis: Stopping the merry-go-round a report of findings from a review of mental health and alcohol and other drug problems in the ACT (Apr). Canberra Injectors Network, CIN was funded as new ACT drug user group (Jul). Second ACT drug strategy released: From Harm to Hope: ACT Drug Strategy 1999 (Sep). Supervised Injecting Place Trial Act 1999 passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly (Dec).</td>
<td>NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan admits in an interview with Britain’s Daily Mail that “we are not winning on the drugs front” and that drugs are the “root of most crime” (Jan). Photograph of a teenage boy engaged in injecting drug use in a lane-way in Redfern, appeared on the front page of a Sydney Newspaper and sparked debate over the effectiveness of NSW drug policy (Jan 31). Minister for Health, Hon A Refshauge MP, closed down the Redfern needle exchange outlet, and ordered a review of the $9 million statewide needle exchange program (Feb). Premier, Hon B Carr MP, announced his government would hold a drug summit if re-elected (Feb). NSW Drug Court trial commenced (Feb). Labor government re-elected under Premier Carr (Mar). Tolerance or T Room injecting room opened by a group of clergy, social workers and health professionals in the Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross (4-12 May). NSW Drug Summit held in NSW Parliament. Summit was attended by 135 NSW Parliamentary delegates; 2 Federal parliamentary delegates; 80 non-Parliamentary delegates; and 45 associate</td>
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<td>Queensland Drug Summit held with a focus on youth issues. Involved 70 delegates – politicians, youth workers, youth and community workers. Resulted in establishment of 24 projects state-wide in partnership with three peak youth and indigenous bodies (16-17 March). Third Queensland Drug Strategy launched: ‘Beyond a Quick Fix: Queensland Drug Strategic Framework 1999/2000 to 2003/2004.’ Focus of strategy was on youth and early intervention (Jun). Queensland Drug Coordinating Committee (QDCC) established to coordinate and oversee implementation of Queensland drug strategy. Inter-governmental committee, YADA (Youth Alcohol and Drug Action), established by QDCC to consider youth drug issues (Nov)</td>
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<td>delegates (17-21 May). NSW Government response outlined in Government Action Plan. 172 recommendations from summit were adopted and 7 key strategic areas endorsed e.g. enhanced prevention and early intervention, fast-tracking new treatments, better case management and breaking the drugs-crime cycle. This included plans to introduce state-wide trials of a Cannabis Cautioning Scheme and Early Court Intervention Pilot (subsequently named MERIT) and an injecting room (Jul). NSW Government committed $176 million towards the implementation of Drug Summit recommendations and established a new Office of Drug Policy to provide leadership and coordination. Working Party on the Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes established. This followed calls by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Law Society of New South Wales for people with illnesses such as cancer and AIDS to be prescribed cannabis for pain relief (Aug). Legislation for injecting centre – MSIC passed – Drug Summit Legislative Response Bill (1999) (Nov)</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Discussions began around trialling a 'supervised injecting place' (SIP) and Supervised Injecting Place Trial Advisory Committee was established.</td>
<td>Mandatory drug and alcohol testing introduced for NSW police officers involved in critical incidents e.g. police shootings (Jul). NSW Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues inquiry into hepatitis C released report 'Hepatitis C: the Neglected Epidemic.' This made 132 recommendations including to expand prevention and control strategies, adopt a NSW strategy on Hepatitis C and to advocate for increased national attention to the prevalence and response(s) to Hepatitis C (Nov). Ethnographic research into heroin use in the Cabramatta drug market published in report: &quot;Running the Risks: Heroin, Health and Harm in South-West Sydney. Report documented the patterns and contexts of heroin use, risk taking behavior, income generation and the impacts of street law enforcement activities.</td>
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<td>Brisbane Lord Mayor’s Illicit Drug Task Force convened</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>ACT Government formally sought and obtained support at the MCDS meeting for a heroin trial (Jul) Commonwealth Government declined to authorise importation of heroin to support the trial (Aug) Canberra Injectors Network, CIN – established by drug users with aim of providing peer-based education.</td>
<td>Four Corners report on the Cabramatta outlined its decline from being a multi-cultural melting pot to the heroin capital of Australia, as evidenced by the highly visible street dealing and use. Four Corners argued that in spite of five years of police efforts the drug trade had flourished, bringing with it violence, death and police corruption (Apr). Woods Royal Commission report concluded that a war on drugs approach contributed towards police corruption. Recommended increased attention to alternate approaches – increased focus on harm minimisation strategies, increasing public education, expanding methadone availability and establishing a supervised injecting facility (May). Legislative Council’s Standing Committee on Social Issues was asked to inquire into Hepatitis C (HCV) and its implications for the community (May).</td>
<td>Introduction of mandatory sentencing in NT for minor offences</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Heroin Pilot Task Force recommended that a trial proceed (Jan)</td>
<td>Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in NSW, collecting data on illicit drug market trends</td>
<td>Cannabis expiation scheme introduced</td>
<td>Party drug “Fantasy” or “GHB” hit front page news after a mass overdose at a Broadbeach venue in the Gold Coast put eight people on life-support systems (Oct).</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>NCEPH/AIC team released report</td>
<td>First ecstasy-related death reported – 15</td>
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<td>Second Queensland Drug Strategy released</td>
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<td>recommending that a heroin trial proceed and provided a detailed plan for a phased series of studies that would begin with a trial of heroin prescription for 40 patients. It also recommended that 3 months of consultation be undertaken to disseminate findings of report (Jun). ACT Government established a 29-member Heroin Pilot Task Force chaired by Mr Kevin Waller AM to consult with the community and make recommendations about whether or not the trial should proceed and how the feasibility research might best be implemented (Jul). ACT Government released its first drug strategy – ACT Drug Strategy 1995-97 (Sep).</td>
<td>year old Anna Wood (Oct). Formation of the ‘Anna Wood Drug and Alcohol Project’ which sought to provide more abstinence based drug education in schools. Evaluation of the Needle Syringe Vending Machines at Kings Cross, Rozelle and Parramatta released. Report concluded that the machines were used by a broader range of injectors compared to those who used the staffed service at the community health centres, and that there was an increase in inquiries about hepatitis C issues due to information provided at the machines. Cabramatta police began high profile buy-bust interventions aimed at high and mid level deals in efforts to reduce heroin market.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) expiation scheme for cannabis offences introduced - enabled cannabis offenders possessing &lt;25 grams of cannabis or &lt;5 plants to avoid a criminal conviction by payment of a $100 fine</td>
<td>First NSW Drug Strategy released 12 month trial of Needle Syringe Vending Machines commenced at Kings Cross, Rozelle and Parramatta</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Select committee of the ACT Legislative Assembly proposed expiation scheme for cannabis and a heroin trial National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) began a study to determine heroin trial feasibility (1991-1995)</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Misuse of Drugs Act NT 1990 adopted. This entered into force in Nov.</td>
<td>User group - New South Wales Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) formed</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>1989 Drugs of Dependence Act (DODA) The Treatment Referral Program (TRP) post sentencing diversion program for illicit drug-related offenders commenced under the DODA (Mar) Select committee appointed to report on HIV, illegal drugs and prostitution First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened in ACT</td>
<td>User group - Northern Territory Users Forum (TUF) formed First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened in NT</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Commission established as a result of the Fitzgerald Inquiry Changes to Drugs Misuse Act (as amended) 1989 enabled supply of needles &amp; introduction of Needle and Syringe Exchange Program in Qld</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act (Cth) passed creating a legislative assembly and giving it limited powers of self-government User group - Australian Capital Territory IV League (ACTIV League) formed</td>
<td>Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs (later called Needle Syringe Programs) were widely implemented in NSW</td>
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<td>Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct (Fitzgerald Inquiry) report released User group - Queensland IV AIDS Association (QuIVAA) formed</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>ACT Drug Indicators Project pilot commenced (1987-1989). Project linked individual record data from the drug treatment and criminal justice systems in the aim of increasing understanding of the incidence, character and treatment and criminal justice responses to illicit drug use.</td>
<td>NSW Government amended the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 legalising possession of needle and syringes and established Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs (later called Needle Syringe Programs) AIDS and Drug Information Collective formed as lobby group</td>
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<td>Changes to Drugs Misuse Act (as amended) 1987 established a new offence for inappropriate disposal of needles and syringes (Sep)</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened - Darlinghurst (Nov) NSW Government established drug store-based needle and syringe distribution scheme (Dec)</td>
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<td>Drugs Misuse Act 1986 adopted Possession of needles and syringes decriminalised First distribution programs of single syringes commenced</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 adopted</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>The SA Government issued a public health warning following spate of heroin-related overdose deaths: 10 deaths, 8 of which were due to heroin alone and two to heroin and fentanyl (Aug).</td>
<td>The Minister for Corrections, Dr Vanessa Goodwin, launched ‘Breaking the Cycle: A Safer Community: Strategies for Improving the Throughcare for Offenders 2016-2020’. Key goals in relation to AOD were:</td>
<td>Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016 adopted. This included a state-based scheme to allow the lawful cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis products for use by a limited cohort of patients with particular medical conditions and symptoms (to be prescribed in regulation at a later date). Children with severe intractable epilepsy will be given the first access to medicinal cannabis products in early 2017 (26 Apr).</td>
<td>WA Government announced a new 2016 “Western Australian Meth Strategy”. Key steps include:</td>
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<td>Criminal Assets Confiscation (Prescribed Drug Offenders) Amendment Act 2016 adopted. The act, the declared drug trafficker law, targets repeat offenders and allows for the confiscation of all declared drug trafficker’s property, whether or not established as lawfully acquired and whether or not there is any proof about the property. Assets and property can be restrained pending prosecution of matters before the court. A dealer will be declared a prescribed drug offender if found guilty of three indictable drug offences over ten years – excluding time in jail – or found guilty of one offence involving trafficking a commercial quantity e.g. 500g of amphetamine or 2.5kg of cannabis. Confiscated assets will be paid into a Rehabilitation Fund and used to fund programs and facilities for the benefit of victims, offenders and other crime prevention initiatives (Aug).</td>
<td>Premier Will Hodgman and the Minister for Health Michael Ferguson announced that specialist medical practitioners would be able to prescribe medicinal cannabis for people with serious or chronic illnesses in Tasmania from 2017, via a Controlled Access Scheme (CAS). Key details of the scheme:</td>
<td>SA Police figures showed that 5569 drivers returned a positive drug test 2015-16 in SA – almost as many as the 5817 caught over the 0.05 blood-alcohol limit, and that since 2010-11, drug-driving detections have more than tripled from 1832, while the number of positive alcohol tests has almost halved from 10,072 (Dec).</td>
<td>Support for frontline workers and expanding the WA Police meth teams to target methamphetamine supply;</td>
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<td>SA Police figures showed that 5569 drivers returned a positive drug test 2015-16 in SA – almost as many as the 5817 caught over the 0.05 blood-alcohol limit, and that since 2010-11, drug-driving detections have more than tripled from 1832, while the number of positive alcohol tests has almost halved from 10,072 (Dec).</td>
<td>SA Road Safety Minister Peter Malinauskas announced tough new laws will be introduced for drug driving: including for a first offence a automatic driver’s licence suspension of three or six months (instead of the current penalty excludes license suspension for a first offence), a minimum of 12 months suspension for a second offence and a minimum of 24 months suspension for a third offence (Dec).</td>
<td>Victoria Government announced a new funding package ($28.5 million) to support the roll out of medical cannabis including:</td>
<td>52 extra dedicated rehabilitation spaces for methamphetamine;</td>
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<td>The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2016: SA, Tas, Vic and WA</td>
<td>The Minister for Corrections, Dr Vanessa Goodwin, launched ‘Breaking the Cycle: A Safer Community: Strategies for Improving the Throughcare for Offenders 2016-2020’. Key goals in relation to AOD were:</td>
<td>• the establishment of an Office of Medicinal Cannabis to oversee manufacturing and all clinical aspects of the medicinal cannabis framework and an Independent Medical Advisory Committee;</td>
<td>A pilot specialist meth clinic to provide rapid assessment, early intervention and treatment including outpatient withdrawal within the Next Step Drug and Alcohol Service in East Perth.</td>
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<td>WA Police announced a new South Australian Methamphetamine Strategy. The strategy included a focus on reducing supply; strengthening management measures and a focus on reducing demand;</td>
<td>• a new medical cannabis cultivation trial, and further product development and the development of clinical, public and manufacturing evidence material;</td>
<td>SA Police announced a new South Australian Methamphetamine Strategy. The strategy included a focus on reducing supply; strengthening management measures and a focus on reducing demand;</td>
<td>• A new Ice Helpline linking directly to its existing alcohol and other drug support line;</td>
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<td>WA Police announced a new South Australian Methamphetamine Strategy. The strategy included a focus on reducing supply; strengthening management measures and a focus on reducing demand;</td>
<td>• research grants to build the evidence base for medicinal cannabis;</td>
<td>WA Police announced a new South Australian Methamphetamine Strategy. The strategy included a focus on reducing supply; strengthening management measures and a focus on reducing demand;</td>
<td>Proposed legislation for involuntary drug treatment (May).</td>
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<td>• the establishment of a hardship fund to help make medicinal cannabis more affordable for parents doing it tough (Apr).</td>
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<td>WA Police announced a new South Australian Methamphetamine Strategy. The strategy included a focus on reducing supply; strengthening management measures and a focus on reducing demand;</td>
<td>Wastewater analysis of methamphetamine levels in Perth, Bunbury and Geraldton showed that about 1.6 kilograms of methamphetamine was being consumed in the metropolitan area each week, or 1.6 tonnes annually. It further showed levels were highest in Bunbury: with levels that were double that seen in Perth and Geraldton (Oct).</td>
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<td>Independent Medical Advisory Committee on Medicinal Cannabis (the Committee) established, chaired by Professor James Alexander Angus AO, to advise on matters including product availability (which medicinal cannabis products should be approved medicinal cannabis products), patient eligibility and other clinical matters (Oct).</td>
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<td>Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Search Powers) Act 2016 adopted, enabling new search powers to target known drug transit routes in rural/regional areas. Specifically it gives police powers to declare a designated area of up to 5 square kilometres a “a drug detection area” if there reasonable grounds to suspect that the area is being used or is likely to be used for the transportation of prohibited drugs, prohibited plants or controlled precursors and to conduct a search of trucks and vehicles in that area for a period of up to 14 days (Nov).</td>
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<td>2016-17 Victorian State Budget provided a $57.6 million in new funds to respond to Ice and other drugs included:</td>
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<td>The WA Government announced that from 1 November 2016 it will be legal for medical cannabis to be grown in WA and for a doctor to prescribe, and a pharmacist to dispense medicinal cannabis. This is in line with new Cth laws enabling access to medical cannabis, via the Narcotic Drugs</td>
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<td>• $5.5 million for further training and support for frontline workers</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>19-year-old Stefan Woodward fatally overdosed, following collapsing at the Stereosonic music festival in Adelaide, and 22 others were hospitalised for AOD issues (Nov).</td>
<td>Senator Nick Xenophon called for an inquest into deaths at Stereosonic music festival (including that in NSW and that in SA): including the responsibility of the organisers, the role of police and health professionals and also any warnings that should have been given (Dec).</td>
<td>Victorian Government established the Department of Health &amp; Human Services (DHHS): bringing together the former Department of Health, former Department of Human Services and Sport and Recreation Victoria. (Jan 1).</td>
<td>WA Minister for Mental Health Helen Morton announced that the Government is spending an extra $84M in 2015 on drug and alcohol services (Feb).</td>
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<td>SA Health Minister Jack Snelling announced new measures may be introduced at music festivals in a bid to prevent further drug-related deaths: including mandatory warnings over public address systems about the dangers of illicit drugs at such festivals on days of extreme heat, and better drug education campaigns. But he ruled out pill testing as this could send the wrong message (Dec).</td>
<td>Attorney-General Martin Pakula appointed lawyer Dr Ian Freckelton, QC, as Special Commissioner to the Victorian Law Reform Commission's review into the use of medicinal cannabis (Jan).</td>
<td>Dr Ian Freckelton, QC held nine public consultations in metropolitan and regional Victoria about medical cannabis and released an issues paper that garnered 99 submissions about:</td>
<td>WA Police Minister Liza Harvey announced a joint State and Federal police task force to address WA’s methamphetamine trade (Feb).</td>
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<td>• How to define the exceptional circumstances in which a person should be allowed to use medicinal cannabis</td>
<td>Two Comanchero OMCG charged with methamphetamine trafficking after police seized almost 8KG of methamphetamine (Feb).</td>
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<td>• How the law could be amended to enable patients to obtain medicinal cannabis while continuing to prevent unauthorised access (Mar).</td>
<td>The Mental Health Commission and the Drug and Alcohol Office amalgamated on 1 July, 2015. The joined organisation is called the Mental Health Commission (Jul).</td>
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<td>• meth transport teams that are deployed to key transport hubs, to conduct searches of vehicles, truck, trains and aircraft entering WA,</td>
<td>WA Police launched a “Meth Enforcement Action Plan” to target the supply of methamphetamine in the communities. Key actions:</td>
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<td>• establishment of dedicated meth teams in organised crime squads, targeted at high level dealers;</td>
<td>• meth transport teams that are deployed to key transport hubs, to conduct searches of vehicles, truck, trains and aircraft entering WA,</td>
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<td>• an intelligence Meth Desk to</td>
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- $1.8 million in additional investment for NSPs
- $4.5 million to assist the Victoria Police’s Forensic Drug Branch in profiling clandestine drug labs
- $15 million for new drug and booze buses (Mar).

The Victorian Law Reform Commission’s Medicinal Cannabis report was tabled in Parliament with the government accepting all 42 recommendations, two accepted in principle. It announced that it would legalise access to medicinal cannabis in exceptional circumstances from 2017 (Oct 6).

Victorian Parliament’s Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee Inquiry established into illicit and synthetic drugs and prescription medication. Terms of reference included assessing:
- the effectiveness of drug treatment programs in Victoria;
- the effectiveness of Victorian government investment into illicit drug supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction strategies and programs;
- the effectiveness of drug detection programs including roadside testing and deployment of drug detection activities at events;
- the effectiveness of laws and regulations relating to illicit and synthetic drugs; and
- practices of other Australian states and territories and overseas jurisdictions and their approach to drug law reform and how other positive reforms could be adopted to Victorian law (Nov).

The Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 released. The plan outlines a 10 year roadmap to reshape mental health, alcohol and other drug services in WA (including in correctional settings) including the investment required to achieve the optimal mix and level of mental health, alcohol and other drug services in the short (by the end of 2017), medium (by the end of 2020) and long term (by the end of 2025) to best meet the identified needs of the population. The plan was developed by the Mental Health Commission, the former Drug and Alcohol Office, with the input from the Department of Health and Department of Corrective Services, stakeholders, consumers, carers and families, expert reference groups and...
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<td>2014</td>
<td>South Australian police detect largest known drug lab in state. The lab detected in Walker Flats included an industrial pill press, 60L chemicals and over 100,000 ecstasy pills worth approximately $30m (Feb). SA Labor party re-elected with support of Independent MP Geoff Brock (Mar).</td>
<td>Tasmania elected a Liberal majority Government, following Labor Party rule for a period of 16 years. Key policy platforms: • To abolish suspended sentences, including for serious drug offences; • To break the cycle of youth crime; • To establish a serious and organised crime squad in the Tasmania Police (Mar). Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration commenced a parliamentary inquiry into “Legalized medicinal cannabis”. Terms of reference included focus on: 1) efficacy and safety of natural botanical medicinal cannabis flower and extracted cannabinoids for medical purposes; 2) legal implications and barriers to growing and commercialisation of cannabis flower and extracted cannabinoids in Tasmania; and 3) the potential impact on agricultural or other sectors within Tasmania (Jul). Interim report released on parliamentary inquiry into legalisation of medical cannabis in Tasmania. Key conclusions: • Current legislation does not reflect the reality that a lot of people use cannabis for medical purposes. • The unregulated environment means there is no quality control • Tasmania has the capacity and expertise to extract pure cannabinoids to produce a high quality pharmaceutical product Key recommendations: • The government immediately introduce legislation to protect individuals who use medicinal cannabis for medical purposes.</td>
<td>Yarra City Council proposed trial of first needle and syringe vending machines in Victoria (Jan). The Victorian Minister for Mental Health, Mary Wooldridge, backed needle syringe vending machine trial in Victoria: saying too many people were sharing syringes &amp; the Government was committed to stopping the spread of blood-borne viruses (Jan). Herald Sun campaigned against vending machines in Victoria: e.g. “Taking a jab in the dark” (Feb). Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Act 2014 adopted. This extended the meaning of drug of dependence to include analogues of certain drugs, and added to Schedule 11 five classes of synthetic cannabinoids, as well as five specific synthetic cannabinoids and 21 other synthetic substances such as NBOMe, 2-CB and DMAA (Feb). Attorney-General Robert Clark introduced Sentencing Amendment (Baseline Sentences) Bill 2014, to increase baseline/median sentences for a range of indictable offences, including a new median sentence for trafficking in a large commercial quantity of 14 years imprisonment (up from 7 years imprisonment) (Apr). Pennington Institute established, led by Professor David Penington (Apr). Turning Point and Ambulance Victoria report showed methamphetamine related ambulance call-outs increased in metropolitan Melbourne from 107 in 2008-09 to 1112 in 2011-12 (May).</td>
<td>WA Police Organised Crime Squad arrested 17 people and seized $20 million worth of drugs and assets following a 10 month investigation into a drug ring operating across WA, SA and NSW. It is alleged the network used a WA based trucking company to transport and distribute cannabis and methylamphetamine into WA (Jan). New prevention guidelines adopted: Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Guidelines 2014 - a guide to support professionals leading in the area of AOD prevention (Feb). Sector peak bodies launched a new ‘Green Book’ directory listing alcohol and other drug, as well as community mental health services (Feb). Alcohol and Drug Authority Amendment Bill 2014 introduced. Aim: amalgamation of the Mental Health Commission and the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, under the new name “Mental Health Commission” (May). An Organised Crime Squad operation led to seizure of more than $8M worth of methamphetamine in a series of raids at Kewdale, Munster and Bibra Lake and arrest of 6 people (May). 33 additional new psychoactive substances were listed in Schedule 9 of the Poisons Act 1964. Included NBOMe &amp; 4-MEC (Jun). A joint operation between the Australian Federal Police, Western Australia Police, the Australian Crime Commission and Australian Customs and Border Protection led to the largest seizure of methamphetamine in WA: 90kg. Six men were also arrested (Oct).</td>
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|      |                 | cannabis from criminal charge  
- The government develops a legislative framework to enable the medical use of cannabis  
- The government engages with companies with expertise to progress cultivation, extraction and processing of cannabinoids (Nov) | Sentencing Amendment (Baseline Sentences) Act 2014 adopted: increasing median sentence for trafficking in a large commercial quantity of 14 years imprisonment (up from 7 years imprisonment) (Aug).  
Opposition Leader, the Hon. Daniel Andrews announced that, if elected, the Labor Party would put the issue of medical cannabis to the Victoria Law Reform Commission, with the aim of finding a path to legalisation of cannabis for medical purposes (Aug 24).  
The Coalition Government announced the introduction of a Bill to facilitate clinical trials of medical cannabis: Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Clinical Trials) Bill (Aug 28).  
Criminal Organisations Control and other Acts Amendment Act 2014 (No. 55 of 2014) adopted. This introduced automatic forfeiture of all property owned or controlled by a person convicted of a serious drug offence (e.g. trafficking in a large commercial quantity) and removed the need for courts to prove an offender’s property came from the proceeds of crime or was used to commit a crime. Exceptions that will not be forfeited include:  
- tools of trade required in earning income;  
- property used primarily as a means of transport;  
- items of necessary clothing (Aug).  
Reforms commenced to Victorian adult non-residential alcohol and drug treatment services. Key changes included:  
- A 24 hour central intake service and referral system;  
- 16 catchments (9 metropolitan and 7 regional) with localized intake and assessment;  
- Reduction in treatment types to six different streams (Sep 1).  
Key conclusions were:  
- Media accounts of “an ice crisis, epidemic or pandemic” were not borne out in the data;  
- The prevalence of development of new set of problems including opening up the risk that people would self-medicate, with no licensing or limit to quantity. The Police Commissioner has said Tasmania Police will not seek to criminally pursue terminally ill users of cannabis” (Nov).  
Tasmanian Health Minister Michael Ferguson ruled out any changes to the current laws:  
“Advice from Tasmania Police is it’s not necessary and could potentially create a new set of problems including opening up the risk that people would self-medicate, with no licensing or limit to quantity. The Police Commissioner has said Tasmania Police will not seek to criminally pursue terminally ill users of cannabis” (Nov).  
Tasmanian Minister for Health released report: “Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania.” The report was commissioned in response to reports of increasing drug use, particularly methamphetamine in the north west, & led to stakeholder and community forums and review of available data. Key conclusions:  
- There was very little objective data in relation to the prevalence of drugs is available for the North West region;  
- There is no objective evidence to suggest a significant increase in methamphetamine consumption in North West Tasmania;  
- Alcohol continues to be far and away the number one drug of concern, with cannabis use remaining the illicit drug of greatest use and concern (Nov).  
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WA Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 launched for consultation (until 30 March 2015). The plan was informed by evidence based national modelling tools (the National Mental Health Service Planning Framework and the National Drug and Alcohol Service Planning Model) to outline the optimal mix of services required to meet population demands. Key goals included:  
- Develop and commence a pilot community coordination program to assist people to navigate the mental health, alcohol and other drug service system;  
- Increase the proportion of the Mental Health Commission budget spent on mental illness prevention and mental health promotion from 2% to 3%, and increase the hours of service dedicated to alcohol and other drug prevention from 108,000 to 192,000 hours; &  
- Have established a comprehensive suite of universal and targeted mass reach campaigns that promote mental health, prevent mental illness and reduce harmful alcohol and other drug use (Dec).  
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Caitlin Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program – Last updated 15 December 2016. For comments email: caitlin.hughes@unsw.edu.au
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- Methamphetamine use had remained stable, but there was a significant rise in the use of potent crystal methamphetamine forms, particularly by youth aged 20-29.

**Issued 52 recommendations, including:**

- A methamphetamine action plan;
- A Ministerial Council on Methamphetamine;
- That any government funded awareness or education campaigns be targeted at current or potential high-risk users;
- Development of non-tertiary treatment options to respond to users who are not dependent but are experiencing significant amphetamine-related harm; &
- Expanding the Victorian drug court to Melbourne, Geelong, Sunshine and Gippsland (Sep).

**Victorian Government launched a range of methamphetamine responses including:**

- A multi-media campaign targeting youth "What are you doing on ice?"
- 11 new Passive Alert Detection (PAD) dogs to help detect clandestine laboratories and dealers in regional and metro Vic
- $2.7 million over four years for community skills building forums for families affected by ice
- $1.85 million in funding for harm reduction initiatives (Sep).

New Penington Institute report released, “Impacts of methamphetamine in Victoria: a community assessment”. The report was commissioned by the Victorian Department of Health to analyse trends, undertake key information interviews and collaborate with the University of South Australia to undertake the state’s first waste water analysis of the levels of methamphetamine. The wastewater analysis showed methamphetamine levels were substantially higher in Melbourne than in regional Victoria: something which was counter to some key informant perceptions. Report concluded that the perceived methamphetamine problem may be slightly inflated in regional Victoria, but that the methamphetamine issue was genuinely alarming many people and that response...
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|      | AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA) closed following withdrawal of funding from the SA Government. This also led to closure of the SA injecting drug users group – SAVIVE (the South Australian Voice for IV Education) as it was run through ACSA (Jul). South Australian Injectors Network (SAIN) commenced as a new independent unfunded group; commenced with a facebook page but no offices (Jul). OCSAR report shows a 75% increase in recorded drug offences in SA between 2007 and 2011: predominantly supply/production. Contrary to declining trend in offences in rest of state (Sep). Following a two-year investigation into outlaw motorcycle gangs, the South Australian Police has confiscated more than | Advocacy Tasmania Inc (ATI) released their Consumer Engagement Program Service Development Plan 2013. The priority areas were:  
- Consumer capacity building – including developing and managing a consumer register detailing consumer contacts and topics of interest  
- Service provider consultancy – such as developing tools to formally measure effectiveness of the consumer engagement program  
- Sharing the vision across the sector – such as by providing regular updates of consumer engagement activity across the sector on the ATDC e-news  
- Support systems-level consumer engagement – including supporting the development of a Tasmanian consumer | New Victorian drug strategy released: “Reducing the alcohol and drug toll. Victoria’s plan 2013 – 2017.” The strategy contained a 15 point plan, including:  
- Better referral of drug users to education and treatment, through expanding existing court-diversion initiatives and building a more systemic approach to diversion provision: by drug, age and population groups  
- Improved harm-reduction services and targeted prevention, through increasing the use and availability of naloxone as an emergency response to opioid overdose  
Plan also outlined new advisory and decision making arrangements:  
- A ministerial committee  
- An executive group (comprising key | WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2012–2016 released (Jan). Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 came into force to introduce a comprehensive definition of drug paraphernalia and new offences concerning the sale and display for sale of drug paraphernalia. This extended the definition of ice pipes or cannabis-smoking paraphernalia to include “anything made or modified to be used in smoking cannabis” and any “device capable of being used for the administration of a prohibited drug by means of the inhaling of the smoke or fumes resulting from the heating or burning of the drug in a crystal, powder, oil or base form.” It also introduced a separate penalty scheme for adults and youth, with more severe penalties where a person sells drug |
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|      | $150 worth of drugs connected with the Descendants motorcycle gang. Included: 21 kg methamphetamine and 21,000 ecstasy tablets and $120,000 cash (Nov). Liberal opposition substance abuse spokesman Duncan McFetridge announced that if elected they would reduce the amount of cannabis for which a person received only a fine - and is not charged - from 100g to less than 25g (Nov). The Controlled Substances (Offences) Amendment Act 2013 adopted. Made it an offence for a person to manufacture, promote, sell or supply "controlled drug alternatives": substances intended to have pharmacological effects similar to a controlled drug or to be a legal alternative to a controlled drug. Maximum penalties included:  
- $15,000 and/or 4 years imprisonment for manufacturing;  
- $10,000 or imprisonment for 2 years for promoting  
Law commenced Feb 2014 (Dec). | Minister for Health released the first specific prevention strategy: “Everybody’s Business: A Strategic Framework for Implementing Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Approaches in Averting Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Use.” Key rationales included:  
- The neglect of prevention, and of the raft of prevention strategies that could be employed; and  
- The potential cost-effectiveness of prevention (Mar).  
New Tasmanian drug strategy released: Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2013-2018. Key priorities included:  
- Support preventative and developmental health approaches to alcohol, tobacco & other drugs use;  
- Increase the range and availability of, and access to, appropriate services for individuals experiencing problematic drugs use including for individuals with diverse, complex and high needs;  
- Strengthen evidence-based awareness-raising, education initiatives and early interventions in a range of targeted settings, population groups and developmental transition points (Apr).  
Department of Health and Human Services released a consultation paper entitled A Continuum of Care to Prevent Youth Offending and Re-Offending (Apr).  
Report on the Inquiry into alternatives to youth detention released by Commissioner for Children Tasmania. Key recommendations for government:  
- Consider the adoption of a Justice Reinvestment Framework for the youth justice system in Tasmania; &  
- Establish a youth drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation service;  
- Establish the equivalent of Court Mandated Diversion (CMD) options, focused on and applicable to young offenders with illicit drug and/or alcohol problems (Jul).  
The Tasmanian Parliamentary Inquiry into the hemp industry report and recommendations were released (Oct). | Victorian Government executives from Departments of Health, Justice, Human Services, Education and Victoria Police)  
- An alcohol and drug advisory board  
- (comprising ≤ 12 non-government leaders, experts and stakeholders)  
Also outlined was a plan to establish an alcohol and drug research and innovation fund with a focus on applied research (Jan).  
Minister Wooldridge released a new Adult Alcohol and Drug (AOD) Screening and Assessment Tool designed to minimise duplication of screening and assessment, streamline intake, improve clients’ experience, and inform treatment planning, referral and pathways. The tool had been successfully piloted at 8 AOD agencies and comprised three steps: (1) a self-complete initial screen by the client, (2) comprehensive assessment, (3) review. The tool will be mandated from 2014 for all Department of Health funded agencies (Feb).  
Victorian Police Minister Peter Ryan announced new road laws (‘cocktail’ laws) would be introduced for drivers under the influence of both alcohol and illicit drugs. The minimum penalty for a first offence will be higher than the penalty for either drug or drink driving alone: 20 penalty units ($2800) and a 12 months license suspension (Mar).  
Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Andrew Crisp argues there has been too much emphasis upon drugs as a law and order issue and that the Victorian Government should treat drugs as a health issue (Jul).  
Victorian Government released a report: New directions for alcohol and drug treatment services: A framework for reform. This outlined why the Victorian AOD treatment system is reforming, the vision for the new system and process for reform (Aug).  
Victorian Coalition Government launches two year naloxone provision and training program: called the Community Overdose Prevention and Education (COPE) program. The program is run by ANEX with key goals to:  
- provide at-risk drug users, family, | First take-home naloxone program established in WA by the Drug and Alcohol Office of WA Health and the WA Substance Users Association (Apr).  
Social Inclusion Action Research Group (SIARG) launched first position paper: “Reducing stigma and discrimination relating to alcohol and other drugs in Western Australia”. The SIARG was formed through a partnership between the WA Drug and Alcohol Office and WANADA with the purpose of planning, implementing and evaluating initiatives aimed at promoting the social inclusion of, and reducing the stigma and discrimination experienced by people with AOD use problems or those affected by someone else’s use (Jun).  
First convictions obtained in WA in connection with Silk Road: two brothers who bought cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis from Silk Road were convicted of possessing drugs (6.8g of cannabis, 0.7g of cocaine and seven ecstasy pills) with intent to sell and supply (Sep).  

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|      |                |          | friends & frontline service personnel (e.g. primary care providers, NSPs and Medicare Local staff) with knowledge and ability to respond to and administer naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose; &
|      |                |          | increase GP knowledge of naloxone to support increased prescribing of naloxone to people at high risk of an opioid overdose (Aug). Victorian Parliament commenced a new inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines, particularly ice, in Victoria. Terms of reference included to: • examine the channels of supply of methamphetamine • examine the nature, prevalence and culture of methamphetamine use • examine the links between methamphetamine use and crime • review the adequacy of past and existing state and federal strategies for dealing with methamphetamine use (Sep).
|      |                |          | A multi-agency taskforce involving joint waterfront taskforces in Brisbane (Jericho), Sydney (Polaris) and Melbourne (Trident) and other agencies led to the seizure of more than 200kg of methamphetamine that was concealed in the tyres of a medium sized truck, delivered to Melbourne. Three people were also arrested (Oct).
|      |                |          | Victorian Government released an Advertised Call for Submission (ACS) for stage 1 delivery of Victorian Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services. Stage 1 focused on delivery of adult non-residential treatment services (Oct).
|      |                |          | Ambulance Victoria reports that ambulance calls related to ‘ice’ or methamphetamine have risen 110% - from 282 to 592 - between 2010-11 and 2011-12 and that the unpredictable and violent behavior of ice users is causing concerns for ambulance workers (Oct).
<p>|      |                |          | Victorian Coroners Court data shows that between 2000 and 2010, a total of 120 prisoners overdosed and died within two months of being released from jail, or on a post-release corrections-based order (Oct). Magistrate Tony Parsons of Victoria’s drug |</p>
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<td>SA Police commenced raids in Murray Bridge for MDPV and arrested four people (Jan 24). SA Police investigation targeted at MDPV led to seizures of manufacturing equipment and drugs: two encapsulating machines, 10,000 empty capsules, 1,250 grams of MDPV, 320g of DMMC, and 300g of Ephedrine (Feb 2). New report released by the Office of Crime and Statistics Research: &quot;The South Australian drug court: A recidivism study&quot;.</td>
<td>Tasmania adopted into law the new Poisons Standard (SUSMP) under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, including the prohibition of MDPV: Poisons (Adoption of Uniform Standard) Order 2012 (Jun). The Alcohol and Drug Service implemented iPatient Manager (iPM), to improve the management of information for clinicians (Jul). Minister for Health, Michelle O’Byrne released &quot;A Review of Opioid Prescribing in Tasmania - A Blueprint for the Future&quot; (Jul). Minister for Health, Michelle O’Byrne released the &quot;Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program, Policy and Clinical Practice Standards&quot; (Aug). Discussion paper released: Review of the Tasmanian Alcohol and Drug Dependency Program, Policy and Clinical Practice Standards (&quot;ADDA&quot;) (Sep).</td>
<td>court calls for the establishment of special drug rehabilitation prisons as per NSW to reduce the rate of overdoses after prisoners are released (Oct). Victorian health officials issued an urgent warning on the use of synthetic drugs after three men were admitted to intensive care with severe health problems (e.g. seizures) after use of a synthetic drug purchased from a sex shop: “Marley” (Nov). Victoria Police data revealed a 8.8% increase in drug offences during 2013: attributed to increased police productivity and increased use/possess of methamphetamine (Nov). Needle syringe program operators report rise in illegal steroid users obtaining free injecting equipment: with steroids now third biggest drug of choice, behind heroin and meth/amphetamines amongst those collecting equipment (Nov). Synthetic cannabinoind “Marley” was added to Schedule 11 of the poisons list: with penalties of up to 15 years prison for trafficking (Dec).</td>
<td>WA Police issued a warning about a new drug: MDPV (3,4 methylenedioxyamphetamine). They noted that “the substance has been linked to an increase in drug induced casualties in hospitals in the eastern states, including reported fatal overdoses in South Australia and Victoria” (Jan 12). New ‘synthetic drug’ MDPV (3,4 methylenedioxyamphetamine) was added to Schedule 9 (Prohibited Substances) of the Poisons Act 1964 (WA), making it illegal from Feb 10. MDPV is structurally related to cathinone or MDMA and has effects including anxiety, paranoia, acute cardiovascular and central nervous system toxicity (Feb 8). WA Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project (NVEEP) coordinated by the Drug and Alcohol Office launched a new campaign: “Stimulants can mask how drunk you really are” (Feb). Brochures on the WA AOD treatment services were translated into 13 different languages: Arabic, Dari, English, French, Indonesian, Italian, Karen, Kirundi, Somali, Vietnamese, Chinese, Swahili, and Dinka.</td>
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findings: | | | | The brochures were developed by the Drug and Alcohol Office to address known barriers to AOD treatment amongst people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds (Mar).
- The no. of diversions has increased steadily over the ten year period | | | The Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2011 came into effect, changing the way in which courts sentence a person convicted of:
- The compliance rate across 10 yrs was 81%, with only a slight drop from 81.5% in 2009-10 | | a. Selling or supplying prohibited drugs and/or plants to a child, | b. Manufacturing or cultivating prohibited drugs or plants in circumstances which endanger the life, health or safety of a child under the age of 16 years.
- 24% of offenders had been diverted more than once | | c. Manufacturing or cultivating prohibited drugs or plants, or possessing Category 1 or 2 items (precursors), in circumstances which caused bodily harm to a child under the age of 16 years. | The changes in sentencing for a) and b) include the defined penalties of:
- suspended imprisonment;
- conditional suspended imprisonment;
- or
- a term of imprisonment.
- Individuals who comply with their diversion are significantly less likely to re-offend - 2 yrs after their first diversion offence 25% of non-compliers had re-offended vs. only 18% of compliers (May). | | d. a discretionary or mandatory term of imprisonment for up to two years, or a term of imprisonment.
Two new reports released from OCSAR on the "Evaluation of the 6-month drug treatment program". Key findings: | | | The changes in sentencing for c) [and for subsequent offences under a) and b)] include a mandatory term of imprisonment of 12 months and 6 months respectively (Mar 24).
- The program completion rate was 40.1% (and rate of successful completion was 29.5%). | | First transitional house in the Kimberley opened to assist people receiving AOD treatment who are at risk of homelessness: Milliya Rumurra. Located in Broome, the house will provide shelter, ongoing case management, and an ID card with identifying markers for long term permanent housing, and skills development e.g. financial management & training (May).
- The proportion of positive drug tests decreased significantly throughout the program: from 70.1% at baseline to 9.8% after 5 months and 0.0% at 6 months. | The 2012/13 WA State Budget was announced. Included largest investment in mental health and drug and alcohol services in WA’s history: $655.2 million. Key measures included:
- $5 million over two years to trial a new mental health court diversion and support program servicing Perth metropolitan magistrates’ courts, which aims to limit re-offending and improve mental health outcomes for people in the justice system
- $2.77 million over four years for drug and alcohol services to support the
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|      | pilot program commenced: an 18 month pilot (Nov). | Consequently the review noted there remains some considerable work to be undertaken to fully implement the plan but the significant capacity improvements in the sector will be lost unless ongoing funding is secured (Dec). | reforms include:  
- Person-centred, family and culturally inclusive, recovery-oriented treatment – that involves clients in treatment planning and identifies goals, strengths and weaknesses and tailors services to fit needs;  
- Integrated pathways – that connect individuals with services to address health, social or economic needs;  
- Intervention at the earliest possible point;  
- (Multiple) bridges to treatment – from the multiple NSPs and primary health centres funded throughout Victoria and improved screening of forensic AOD clients.  
Key actions in 2012 include piloting common screening and assessment tools across 5 treatment sites; the redevelopment of the pharmacotherapy system; and expansion of access to NSPs and counselling services in growth corridors and regional areas (Jun).  
2012-13 State Budget allocated funding for a new 500-bed medium-security male prison, to be located at Ravenhall in Melbourne’s north-west, and an additional 395 permanent beds at existing prisons across Victoria (Jun).  
Victoria police charged two prison officers in connection with an alleged drug ring at the Barwon prison (Jul).  
The Victorian Opposition called for an inquiry into drug trafficking in the state’s prison system (Jul).  
The Department of Health commenced consultations across Victoria about the AOD treatment reform. Organisations including the Victorian Alcohol and Other Drug Association (VAADA) and the Association of Participating Service Users (APSU) were used to support and co-facilitate input (Jul-Aug).  
The Youth Cohort Study: Young people’s pathways through AOD treatment services. Study recruited 150 young people using AOD treatment services (aged 16-21 years) was completed (Aug).  
Roundtable on fentanyl convened by ANEX in Wodonga after a surge in overdoses amongst drug users injecting the opiate | long term recovery outcomes for people exiting alcohol and other drug residential treatment programs and their families.  
- $1.04 million in 2013/14 to continue funding the Australian Medical Procedures Research Foundation’s Fresh Start Recovery Program, while work is progressed to achieve registration of the naltrexone implant with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (May).  
The Department continued to expand its prison capacity to meet the growing demand in 2011-12. Recently completed and current construction forms part of the largest building program to be undertaken in WA corrections history, including a prison specifically designed for Indigenous prisoners.  
The Illicit Drug Support Plan 2012 – 2015, a supporting document to the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2011-2015, was released. This outlines the priority areas and strategies for the coming years. The priority areas:  
- Cannabis and synthetic cannabinoids.  
- Amphetamines and ATS (inc ecstasy).  
- Heroin and other opioids.  
Other focus areas include:  
- Poly drug use.  
- Other prescription drugs.  
- Emerging drugs.  
- Transmission of blood-borne viruses (Sep).  
Two brothers were charged with possession with intent to sell after being caught with multiple packages of cannabis and ecstasy purchased through the online marketplace Silk Road (Sep).  
The West Kimberley Regional Prison was opened by Corrective Services Minister Murray Cowper. Informed and overseen by Indigenous people this was specifically designed to be culturally sensitive to Indigenous offenders, using for example self-care units to enable grouping on the basis of family ties or language (Nov).  
The Mental Health Bill 2012 was tabled in Parliament (Nov). |
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<td>(Aug). Victorian Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Principles Consultation paper released (Sep). The Australian Medical Association and the Australian Greens call for a safe injecting facility in Melbourne (Oct). Amendments to Schedule 11 of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 added eight synthetic cannabinoids and five synthetic stimulants (including MDPV, 4-MMC/mephedrone and BZP) permanently to the list of prohibited substances. The 8 synthetic cannabinoids were previously subject to a temporary 12 month ban (Nov 8). Victorian Government discussion paper released: ‘Practical Lessons, Fair Consequences: Improving Diversion for Young People in Victoria’ (Aug). Victoria Police undertook a two month operation (Operation TAXA) focused on short term disruption of commercial scale cannabis cultivation. Led to the execution of 48 search warrants, 20 arrests and the seizure of almost 7,000 cannabis plants as well as associated equipment. The operation received significant media attention in Victoria (Aug-Oct). Report from the Victorian Auditor General released: “Prison Capacity Planning”. Key findings: • A 38% increase in prisoner numbers over the past decade (2002-2012) and a heavy reliance on temporary beds has resulted in the existing prison infrastructure nearing its capacity limits. • Male prisoners are more affected: since May 2011, the male prison system has been operating close to or above 95% utilisation. • Overcrowding is leading to adverse effects on other parts of the CJS e.g. increasing prisoners are held in police cells. • Prisoner support programs and health services have not kept pace with the growth in prisoner numbers (due largely to a lack of funds). • The rate of serious incidents per prisoner e.g. assaults and self-</td>
<td>2011 Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) survey released: showed a decline in illicit drug use among WA school students (Dec).</td>
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| 2011 | Announcement that from 1 July SA pharmacies would switch from voluntary to mandatory real-time online reporting of pseudephedrine sales. Switch followed concern over pharmaceutical shopping & recognition only 60% pharmacies reported sales (Mar). New wastewater study released: “Population drug use in Australia: A wastewater analysis” A study of 15 sewage treatment plants showed temporal and regional differences in illicit drug use in South Australia: MDMA was much more commonly detected in regional centres such as Port Lincoln & Port Augusta, than the city (Apr). SA announced a ban on the possession, sale or intent to supply of seventeen synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. Ban was introduced by Government Gazette (Controlled Substances (Prohibition of Synthetic Cannabis) Notice 2011), pending evaluation of their harmful properties by the Controlled Substances Advisory Council and consideration of whether the substances be added to the Controlled Substances Act (Jun 17). The Controlled Substances Advisory Council evaluated the harmful properties of synthetic cannabinoids. The council ruled that the harmful effects were similar to those of cannabis and hence supported their inclusion in the Controlled Substances (General) Regulations 2000 (using the same threshold quantities as for cannabis). This came into effect 23 Jun (Jun 21). The Controlled Substances Advisory Council also made three other rulings:  
• To ban the ‘synthetic MDMA-like substances’ 3,4 New discussion paper released: “Everybody’s business – A discussion paper for the development of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATODs) Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Strategic Framework” with 6 weeks for public input. Key messages:  
• Substance use must be understood within the context of many factors – cultural, socioeconomic and political – that can be influenced by government decisions.  
• Government policy responses in relation to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs have traditionally focused upon individual factors. This needs to be broadened.  
• Socially inclusive communities and resilient individuals and families are less likely to engage in harmful substance use. Potential strategies identified:  
• Develop a model/s for cross-sector collaboration to support social inclusion.  
• Support and advance the actions identified in the National Health Preventative Strategy.  
• Develop a mechanism to ensure that all government policy with an impact upon substance use and misuse – e.g. social inclusion, housing,– is informed by an understanding of their potential influence on the substance use (i.e. some form of alcohol, tobacco and other drug impact assessment) (May). Launch of statewide Drug Education Network’s resource centre and website. Website sought to fill need for internet and 24 hour information provision (Jun). The Minister for Health approved an | Severe Substance Dependence Treatment Act came into effect, thereby enabling involuntary drug treatment and detention for up to 14 days, where this is necessary as a matter of urgency to save the person’s life or prevent serious damage to the person’s health (Mar). New report released by the Victorian Auditor-General: “Managing Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Services”, Report noted that the state allocated $135.7 million for AOD prevention and treatment activities in 2010–11 (81% for treatment & 19% for prevention activities). Key findings:  
• The department has no assurance that objectives are being achieved.  
• Treatment services remain difficult for clients to access and navigate.  
• 31 internal reviews have been conducted since 1999. But few have been acted on.  
• The poor track record has resulted in scepticism among service providers. Key recommendations:  
• Implement a whole-of-government AOD prevention strategy  
• Address the fragmentation and inconsistency of service provision.  
• Revise the treatment service mix so that services funded align with need (Mar). Sentencing Further Amendment Act 2011 adopted. This extended the abolition of suspended sentences to a range of ‘significant offences’ including trafficking in a large commercial quantity of a drug of dependence and trafficking in a commercial quantity of a drug of dependence (Apr). GHB overdose victim videoed by Herald Sun at 11am on a Sunday morning, drawing new | Mental Health Minister Helen Morton announced that an additional $1.5 million would be provided to support the work of Dr George O’Neill’s Fresh Start Recovery Programme until June 30 2012. They also announced that independent researchers have been contracted by the State Government through DAO to assess steps needed to prepare the application for registration of naltrexone implant treatment with the TGA (Mar). Explosion of a clandestine drug laboratory at a public housing unit, that injured five adults sparked public concern (Mar). Police Minister Rob Johnson announced the government would crack down on drug manufacturers who expose children at risk (Mar). WA Police Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2011-2014 adopted (Apr). WA Police announced they had cracked a major drug syndicate that had been using the interstate road freight transport industry to traffic cannabis from South Australia into Western Australia. The operation conducted with SA Police, Kalgoorlie police and Australian Customs and Border Protection led to the seizure of 29 kg of cannabis, $25,000 and arrest of three truckies and a Gypsy Jokers bikie gang associate (Apr). Increased media attention to synthetic cannabinoids, such as Kronic, following revelations in The Western Australian of widespread use, especially at mining sites: "One in ten miners uses legal high". Key evidence put forward was the finding by the WA government drug testing centre, ChemCentre, that of 80 recent tests of WA |
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<td>methylenedioxyxprovalerone (MDPV) and methcathinone;</td>
<td>extension to the Tasmanian Drug Strategy (TDS) 2005-2009 to the end of 2012 (15 Jun).</td>
<td>attention to GHB use in Melbourne. Paramedics confirmed that Melbourne was the GHB capital, with rates of use increasing in Melbourne but declining elsewhere and that ‘drug’ overdoses are at their highest levels since the heroin epidemic of 1999-2000 (Apr).</td>
<td>mineworkers an average of 10% across all mine sites and up to 30% across some sites tested positive to Kronic. Assertions were made this was in large part because the drugs were seen as safe and were not commonly detectable (May).</td>
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<td>To make prescribed thresholds quantities for all new MDMA-like substances consistent with the existing MDMA (prescribed amounts e.g. trafficable quantity = 2g MDPV;</td>
<td>The Minister for Health approved an extension to the Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009 to the end of 2013.</td>
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<td>Attorney General announced the provision of $3.9 million through the Criminal Confiscation Assets Program to local governments and non-profit community groups to re-direct confiscated assets to 28 programs directed at drug use, drug related crime and crime victims (May).</td>
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<td>To ban MMDMG - a new precursor for manufacturing MDMA.</td>
<td>The Controlled Drugs, Controlled Precursors and Interpretation under the Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Act 2001 was reviewed in the goal of ensuring Tasmania Police had the capacity to appropriately deal with emerging drug issues. This led to amendments, under the Misuse of Drugs Order 2011 including:</td>
<td>A Sunday Herald Sun investigation exposed that the Richmond housing estate had become a public ‘shooting gallery,’ and site of rampant drug dealing: ‘Shame of our Needle Town’ (Apr).</td>
<td>Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for WA 2011-15 adopted. Five strategic areas were specified:</td>
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<td>These came into effect 23 Jun (Jun 21). The South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2011-2016 was adopted. Five key objectives were put forward, namely to:</td>
<td>• Aligning the Interpretation of the Schedule of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 2001 to that contained in the Poisons Act 1971, in an effort to appropriately capture the broad range of derivative drugs now entering the illicit drug market.</td>
<td>After a decade long legal battle Tony Mokbel pleaded guilty to three drug charges: trafficking a large commercial quantity MDMA between February and August 2005; urging an undercover police officer to import a commercial quantity of MDMA in the same year; and trafficking a large commercial quantity of methylamphetamines in the mid 1990s. A plea deal reached between the Director of Public Prosecutions and Mokbel’s defence team resulted in him avoiding trial on other drug charges arising from four separate police operations dating back to 2000. Mokbel has admitted he was the main man behind the manufacture and distribution of the multimillion-dollar drug trafficking enterprise, consisting of at least 10 people, known as &quot;The Company&quot;. A spreadsheet of drug transactions between July 2006 and June 2007, known as &quot;The Bill&quot;, shows that The Company’s gross turnover during that time was more than $4 million. He was sentenced in July 2012 to 30 years in prison, with a non-parole period of 22 years (Apr 2011 and Jul 2012).</td>
<td>• focusing on prevention;</td>
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<td>1. Reduce illicit drug use and its associated harms;</td>
<td>• Increasing the number of Controlled Drugs banned under the Act, including synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic and Spice, and the Methcathinone derivative drug known as Israelis.</td>
<td>Long-standing suppression orders that prevented media coverage of Mokbel case for 24 months and the unedited screening of tv show &quot;Underbelly&quot; within Victoria removed. Victorian Attorney-General Robert Clark ordered a review of suppression orders due to concerns that secrecy may be undermining the principle of open justice (Apr).</td>
<td>• intervening before problems become entrenched;</td>
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<td>2. Reduce the rate of alcohol-related harm;</td>
<td>• Increasing the number of Controlled Precursors under the Act, from 13 controlled precursors to 53 controlled precursors (Aug).</td>
<td>Yarra City Council voted 6-1 in favour of a trial of a medically supervised injecting facility in Richmond’s Victoria street, and outlined intent to lobby for State Government support for a trial (May 17).</td>
<td>• effective law enforcement approaches;</td>
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<td>3. Reduce drug-related harm to young people and families of those with substance misuse issues;</td>
<td>A six-month operation undertaken by Tasmania Police uncovered a motorcycle gang-related methylamphetamine trafficking operation worth $450,000. To date 12 offenders had been charged, with further charges expected (Aug).</td>
<td>Victorian Premier Ted Ballieu said he would</td>
<td>• effective treatment and support services;</td>
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<td>4. Reduce harm from substance misuse among Aboriginal people;</td>
<td>Funding was reduced to primary NSPs through the cessation of provision of free sterile water (for reasons of cost-saving). JointForces a quarterly e-bulletin started. This sought to promote cross-sector linkages and collaboration between the Tasmanian Alcoholic, Tobacco and other Drug (ATOD) and Mental Health (MH) sector (Nov).</td>
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<td>• strategic coordination and capacity building (May).</td>
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<td>5. Improve the timeliness of monitoring systems so trends in alcohol and other drug misuse are detected as early as possible</td>
<td>A six-month operation undertaken by Tasmania Police uncovered a motorcycle gang-related methylamphetamine trafficking operation worth $450,000. To date 12 offenders had been charged, with further charges expected (Aug).</td>
<td>Young man admitted to Royal Perth Hospital post Kronic ingestion with paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia, an extremely fast heartbeat (Jun).</td>
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<td>One priority action of the strategy was to trial the provision of naloxone to opioid users to assess whether peer administration can assist in reducing fatal overdoses (Dec).</td>
<td>First fatal overdose reported from 3,4 methylenedioxyxprovalerone (MDPV). The deceased was a man, aged 40, from Murray Bridge (Dec).</td>
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<td>WA Government became first state to announce ban on the possession, sale or intent to supply of seven synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. People were given four days to dispose of any supplies, before the substances were added to the Poisons Act 1964 on Friday, June 17. Ban followed a review of harms of synthetic cannabinoids by the Drug and Alcohol Office, WA Police, Department of Health and the ChemCentre (Jun 13).</td>
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<td>First fatal overdose reported from 3,4 methylenedioxyxprovalerone (MDPV). The deceased was a man, aged 40, from Murray Bridge (Dec).</td>
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<td>First charge a possession of a synthetic cannabinoid. Man was found in possession of 6 gms of Kronic (21 Jun).</td>
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<td>WA Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee completed their Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia. One of three reports released was titled: “Changing patterns in illicit drug use in Western Australia” (Jun).</td>
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<td>not support the proposal by Yarra Council for a medically supervised injecting room in Richmond, saying it would send the wrong message and that improved law enforcement and education were needed instead (May 18). New measures introduced in efforts to address drug trafficking and use at the Richmond housing estate: four new CCTV cameras were installed and a police command post established (May). Bill introduced – ‘Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Drugs of Dependence) Bill 2011’ – to increase government responsibility to new and emerging ‘legal’ substances such as synthetic cannabinoids. Under the proposal the Governor would have regulation-making power to ban substances that are deemed to pose a significant risk to the health of consumers or public safety, for a 12 month period, until the substances can be proscribed into legislation and Commonwealth regulations (28 Jun). Development of a whole of government Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy commenced. The objectives were to: • Decrease the current rates of alcohol and other drug abuse in Victoria. • Reduce the amount of harm that alcohol and other drug abuse causes in the community. • Increase access to treatment options so that people with an alcohol or drug problem can get help when they need it. To enable input into the development, a community consultation document was released: ‘Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy: Community Consultation’ which led to over 120 written submissions (Aug). Victorian Government established an independent advisory group to provide expert advice on AOD issues and to inform the development of the new Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy. Advisory group included representatives from: Victoria Police, Australian Hotels Association, Master Grocers Australia, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Victoria), Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council, Australian Drug Foundation, VAADA, and City of Greater Police Minister Rob Johnson announced a law and order crackdown: ‘we are declaring war on drugs’ (Jul). Labor’s Cannabis Control Act repealed, making it a criminal offence to use, possess or grow cannabis in WA. Under the new laws people apprehended with up to 10 grams of cannabis or a smoking implement may be issued a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) and diverted to a one hour cannabis intervention session. Successful completion will mean the offender will avoid receiving a criminal conviction. New laws came into effect August 1 (Aug). Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill proposed by Police Minister Rob Johnson assented to. Key aspects included: • A mandatory minimum term of 12 months jail for any adult found guilty of causing harm to a child during the production of illegal drugs; • A mandatory minimum term of 12 months jail for a second or subsequent offence that exposes a child to harm during the production of illegal drugs; • A comprehensive definition of drug paraphernalia and related offences (Nov). Australian Lawyers Alliance national director Tom Percy QC labeled the proposed legislation ‘desperate’, ineffective and ‘an admission of failure’ of the states inability to control clandestine drug laboratories growth in WA (Aug). Western Australian Police launched a special strike force, Operation Kukri 2, to rescue children living among volatile clandestine drug labs (Aug). Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill adopted – with the support of both sides of parliament (Nov). WA ten year strategic policy for mental health released: “Mental Health 2020: Making it personal and everybody’s business” (Nov). WA Police Air Wing conducted a one week operation involving reconnaissance flights to locate cannabis crops from the air. It led to the removal of 1287 cannabis plants from the South West District (Dec).</td>
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Caitlin Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program – Last updated 15 December 2016. For comments email: caitlin.hughes@unsw.edu.au
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<td>SA Police Corporate Business plan 2010-2011 adopted. Included the strategy of focussing on possession and use of illicit drugs (Jun). Independent MLC Ann Bressington tabled a new bill. The Controlled Substances (Simple Cannabis Offences) Bill 2010 proposed to reduce the expiable amount under the current Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme from 100g to 25grams cannabis, in an effort to reduce the potential for dealers to avoid criminal prosecution (Sep).</td>
<td>Amendments to the <em>Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act</em> 1970 were introduced to increase the penalties for drug driving in Tasmania, in-line with penalties imposed for drink driving offences. Additionally, a person who commits any alcohol or drug driving related offence will be deemed to have committed a subsequent offence, if that person has previously been convicted for either offence (Jan). Southern District Drug Investigation Services (DIS) concluded a major investigation concerning the sale and distribution of amphetamines and cannabis. The investigation resulted in 14 people being charged with trafficking offences, and 13 people being charged with the sale of controlled drugs (Feb). Review of Opioid Prescribing practices in Tasmania commenced. The project seeks to reduce the harm caused through the misuse of pharmaceutical opioids in Tasmania (Aug). New report released: “Tasmanian Drug Strategy (TDS) 2005-2009: Report of actions and achievement,” based on stakeholder consultations with government, local council and community sector</td>
<td>Opposition leader Ted Baillieu said if elected he would ‘ban the bong’ to send a clear message to young people about the harmful effects of cannabis (Jan). Push by a doctor from the Royal Melbourne Hospital's neurology department to trial Sativex - a liquid marijuana-based mouth spray- to ease the symptoms and pain of MS sufferers. Push followed evidence that Sativex could alleviate loss of movement control &amp; pain &amp; imminent regulatory approval in the UK &amp; Spain (Jan). Evidence from the 2008 Drug Use Monitoring in Australian survey of police detainees reported 48% detainees in Footscray tested positive to heroin (compared to a national rate of 11%) (Feb). Supreme Court of Appeal: <em>R v MOMCILOVIC</em> [2010] VSCA 50 found that s 5 of the <em>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act</em> 1981 (the <em>Drugs Act</em>), was inconsistent with Victoria’s Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. The court declared that section 5 of the <em>Drugs Act</em>, which declares that an occupier of premises in which drugs are found is deemed to be in possession of those drugs unless he/she ‘satisfies the court to the contrary’, cannot</td>
<td>Reports by the 2008-09 Illicit Drug Data Report that ecstasy pills in Western Australia had become the cheapest in the country – at as little as $17 per pill and that there had been 78 clan lab seizures in WA in 2008-09 - a 160% increase from 2007-08 (Jun). The WA Government announced it was establishing a Mental Health Commission (Feb). WA Police commenced use of passive drug detection dogs at entertainment precincts and train stations. Policy aimed to clamp down on substance abuse in entertainment precincts (Jul). WA Drug and Alcohol Office along with the Road Safety Council and Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies launched a new drug driving campaign. This campaign will attempt to combat the high proportion (1 in 3) of those, either driver or rider, who have died in a car accident and tested positive for illicit drugs (Sep). WA Drug and Alcohol Office launched a new advertising campaign as part of the latest phase in the Alcohol Think Again campaign. It targets the belief that getting drunk is acceptable and comes at a time where the...</td>
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organisations. Key findings were:

- The TDS was deemed an important overarching strategic framework that coordinates Tasmanian activity to alcohol, tobacco & other drugs;
- The aims and priorities of the TDS were considered still relevant;
- Yet, concerns were raised about:
  - Limited awareness of the TDS, its significance & relationship to other strategies (especially the NDS & actions emanating from the TDS);
  - That the review was being conducted during a very volatile time of national reform; and
  - The lack of data available to enable a more comprehensive evaluation of the TDS to be conducted;

Recommendations were:

- The IAWGD should consider reviewing its communication strategy and procedures;
- The new TDS should align with the new NDS, even if this means delaying the release of the TDS;
- The new TDS should identify key performance data, to enable evaluation of effectiveness (Aug).

The IAWGD sought approval of the Minister for Health to extend the Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009 to the end of 2012. Key reasons were that this would enable time for the IAWGD to progress some matters raised in the review of the TDS while national health reforms were clarified and relevant Tasmanian initiatives finalised (Nov).


The review was conducted in two-stages by the Department of Police and Emergency Management on behalf of the Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs (IAWGD). Key conclusions were:

- The aims of the Plan had been met, and had helped lead agencies to implement & coordinate action to psychostimulants;
- The Plan had contributed towards declines in psychostimulant use;
- Lead agencies generally supported the be interpreted consistently with "the presumption of innocence under s 25(1) of the Charter". In so doing, the Court rejected arguments advanced on behalf of the Attorney-General that the infringement of the presumption of innocence by s 5 of the Drugs Act was a ‘reasonable limit [which] can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.’ But the court upheld the conviction against Momcilovic and concluded that the declaration of inconsistent interpretation under the Charter did not affect the validity of s 5 (Mar).

Reports by the 2008-09 Illicit Drug Data Report that the price of cocaine in Victoria had dropped to $20 (May).

Victorian Drug & Alcohol Prevention Council released the report, "2009 Victorian Youth Alcohol and Drug Survey" which measured use of and attitudes towards alcohol and drugs among 16-24 year old Victorians. Between 2004 and 2009 self-reported lifetime use of any illicit drug decreased from 51.7% to 41.3% and recent use decreased from 31.4% to 25.6% (May).

A public sentencing survey was conducted in response to a Coalition election promise that they would provide Victorians with the opportunity to have direct input into future sentencing. The survey was conducted for one month and used 17 hypothetical case studies including on murder, manslaughter, rape and two categories of drug trafficking. The survey generated a total of 18,562 responses and indicated the harshest sentences were reserved for murder and drug trafficking in a large commercial quantity (Jul-Aug).

Release of report by the Burnet Institute: “The Potential and Viability for Establishing a Supervised Injecting Facility in Melbourne.” Report funded by the Yarra Drug and Health Forum reviewed evidence from 76 supervised injecting facilities (SIF) throughout the world and concluded the facilities led to public health benefits and improved public amenity and community well-being. The report concluded that fixed or mobile SIFs could be suitable for Melbourne. But they recommended that attaining SIFs would require an advocacy strategy to gain community and political
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<td>support and investigation of the viability of integrating a SIF within existing Victorian harm reduction and treatment services (Jun).</td>
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<td>Yarra Drug and Health Forum commenced advocacy for a mobile supervised injecting van for Melbourne. They argued this would best meet residential concern about public injection, particularly surrounding the housing commissions in Fitzroy and Collingwood (Jun).</td>
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<td>Statewide expansion of the Court Integrated Services Program was announced. This followed evaluations of the pilot program (introduced in July 2006) which showed reductions in reoffending and estimates of $5 million in savings (up to $5.9 for every dollar invested) (Jun).</td>
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<td>Victoria Police developed a proactive strategy to address illicit drug use at dance events by conducting a training trial to enable Passive Alert Dogs to detect unlawful use/possession of 1, 4 Butanediol and GBL. Both precursor chemicals were sold and consumed as GHB and had contributed to a recent increase in overdoses in Victorian dance festivals.</td>
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<td>Victoria Police expanded the provision of Crime And Traffic Connecting on Highways (CATCH) training to law enforcement agencies from other states and territories.</td>
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<td>Victorian Alcohol and Drugs Association released a report, <em>Review of the cost of Counselling Consultancy and Continuing Care (CCCC) drug and alcohol services</em>, which provides evidence for significant structural underfunding across the Victorian Alcohol and Other drug sector. They recommended a number of measures to address this problem with one being the Department of Health funding the full cost of CCCC (Aug).</td>
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<td>Inquiry into the Impact of Drug-Related Offending On Female Prisoner Numbers – Interim Report released by the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee. Report showed female prisoners had increased by 27% from 2008 to 2009 (compared to only 3% for males). Concluded this reflected a shift towards increased use of imprisonment as a first resort for females on remand and</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Statutes Amendment (Transport Portfolio-Alcohol and Drugs) Act 2009 adopted. Legislation increased penalties for individuals convicted of drug driving offences. Under the new law any driver who has expiated or been convicted of 2 or more drug driving offences in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of application for a new license will be referred to a Driver Assessment Clinic. License provision will be refused to any driver found to be drug dependent until such time as they can prove they are no longer dependent on drugs (Mar). Attorney-General Hon. Michael Atkinson made the first declaration of a ‘criminal enterprise’ under the Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008. The declaration</td>
<td>A failure to recognise that the causes of female drug-related offending are often more complex (than for males), and requires systematic approaches to address frequent histories of trauma, mental health issues and debt (Oct). After a two year investigation targeting a number of alleged organised crime syndicates involved in the production of cannabis, the largest single operation in Victoria Police's history was conducted. 'Operation Entity' sought to reduce the supply of cannabis through high-level market disruption, and involved: &gt;630 Victoria Police members, Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Office of Public Prosecutions, AUSTRAC, Australian Taxation Office, State Revenue Office, New Zealand Police, Australian Crime Commission and a number of power companies. Police executed 69 search warrants on cannabis grow houses across Victoria; 9296 cannabis plants were seized; 43 persons arrested; millions of dollars in criminal assets have been restrained to date; and a number of 'Persons of Interest' were identified by DIAC amongst those arrested (Nov 23).</td>
<td>Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009 – 2019 adopted which recognised the link between mental health and harmful D and A use, and need for early identification of and response to co-morbid problems in an integrated networked system (Feb). The Victorian Department of Human Services released a “Discussion Paper on the Forensic Drug Treatment System” in the aim of improving treatment outcomes for forensic clients (Feb). Newly appointed Victoria Police Commissioner Simon Overland said police could not win a drug war and he would support the decriminalisation of some drugs “if there was evidence that was the best way to go” (Mar).</td>
<td>WA Premier Mr Barnett revealed tackling WA’s drug problem would be at the forefront of his government’s agenda, declaring that ‘Labor had a tolerance of drug-taking’ … ‘we are going to change that’ (Jan). Death of Gemma Thoms, a 17 year teenager, after she took 3 ecstasy tablets before entering the Perth Big Day Out music festival. Friends said she had panicked at the sight of police searching festival goers (Feb 1). Media surrounding the death of Gemma Thoms criticised the heavy-handedness of police at music events and reignited debate on the risks of particular methods of drug law enforcement, especially the use of sniffer dogs (Feb).</td>
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applied to the Finks Motorcycle club, for reasons including that members had 173 convictions for drug offences (14 May).

Control orders against two Finks Motorcycle club members (Donald Hudson and Sandro Tortani) requested under s14(1) of the Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008. Magistrates Court issued court order against Mr Hudson prohibiting him from associating with other persons who are members of declared organisations. Order against Mr Tortani adjourned after he initiated proceedings in the SA Supreme Court that s14(1) of the Act was invalid (May-Jun).

Adoption of the Controlled Substances (Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Cannabis) Amendment Act 2008 resulted in a number of regulatory changes. Legislative changes to the Schedules of the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 1996 Act led to the banning of an additional 60 chemicals that could be used in illicit drug manufacturing. Legislative changes to the Controlled Substances Act 1984 also created new offences in relation to possession of a controlled precursor or any prescribed equipment intending to use it to manufacture a controlled drug (Section 331) and possession of prescribed equipment and/or prescribed quantities of controlled precursors without reasonable excuse (Section 33LB). Both offences became punishable with up to $15,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment (Sep).

New legislation on sale of equipment for hydroponic growth of cannabis was adopted. "Hydroponics Industry Control Act 2009" in the aim of "preventing criminal infiltration of the hydroponics industry." Under the new legislation all individuals who buy proscribed hydroponic equipment will have to submit 100 points of ID at the point of sale and all hydroponic dealers will be required to ensure all buyers pass appropriate tests regarding their criminal histories. They are also required to maintain records for every transaction involving prescribed equipment, and forward all information to the Commissioner of police by way of an online transaction monitoring system. Legislation enacted March 2010 (Oct).


The Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement Studies released the Review of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Act 2005 (the review). A key finding was that the penalties for drug driving (section 6A) were lenient in comparison to those for drink driving (section 6) (Jun).

New governance structure amalgamated the Alcohol and Drug Service, Mental Health Services, Forensic Services, Forensic Mental Health Service and Correctional Primary Health Service into the Statewide and Mental Health Services Unit (Jul).

Transfer of Part 3 of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act (ADDA) 1968 to the Poisons Act 1971 passed both houses of Parliament. The transfer involved the prescribing and supply of certain substances, in particular Schedule 8 substances and their prescribing by all health professionals able to prescribe these substances. Also included in the transfer was the requirement for notification of drug dependent persons and the conditions under which such persons may be prescribed Schedule 8 substances under an authority of the Secretary of DHHS. The consolidation of all prescribing aspects of such substances in one piece of legislation was intended to assist practitioners in understanding their requirements and ensure consistency in practice (Sep).

An interim review of the actions against the Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan was conducted at the end of 2009. The review indicated a commitment to the aims of the Action Plan by Lead Agencies and those Agencies reported significant activity against the objectives of the Plan. The IAWGD extended the Action Plan until October 2010, in line with the development of the next phase of both the National Drug Strategy and the Tasmanian Drug Strategy. A more comprehensive review of the Action Plan was expected to be undertaken in the first Victorian Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Related Drugs Strategy 2009-2012 adopted. The strategy has five priorities: prevention and early intervention; treatment; workforce development; justice and law enforcement; and new knowledge collection and dissemination (Apr).

Twenty-six people were taken to hospital after reportedly overdosing at a Melbourne rave on GHB. This followed 30 overdoses at a Festival Hall event and 10 at a Summadayne music festival (Apr).

Dutch music festival promoters cancelled their upcoming Melbourne rave saying there were too many people who took GHB at Melbourne music events and it was tarnishing the reputation of festival organisers (Apr).

Victoria Police commenced a pilot program aimed at improving the detection of contraband on roads. The program Crime And Traffic Connecting on Highways (CATCH) brought in an additional $317,000 worth of illegal GHB and other contraband over the 6 month trial (July-Dec 2009).

More than 100 Melbourne-based drug couriers were identified smuggling heroin from Vietnam for seven major crime syndicates. The couriers identified by a taskforce involving Victoria Police, Australian Customs and Australian Federal Police were recruited from the Western suburbs to pay off gambling and business debts. Most were Vietnamese (Jul).

Report from the Youth Drug Reporting System (YDRS) released: "Social contexts of substance use for vulnerable 13 –15 year olds in Melbourne". Report sought to enhance understanding of the patterns and meanings of illicit drug use among hard-to-reach youth populations. This identified that substance use played a central role in the lives of young people but that few young people viewed their drug use as problematic and most wanted to be seen as competent, not vulnerable (Oct).

Victorian Police expand drug driving testing with provision of extra 25,500 drug testing kits and 25 secondary testing machines (Nov).

Victorian Premier John Brumby promised to In an Australian first, WA Police trialied use of drug amnesty bins at music concerts. After 3 mths trial was deemed a failure. WA Police found amnesty bins tied up a lot of resources and were rarely used (Mar-Jun).

Media reports of brown Afghan heroin on the streets in Perth (Mar).

The "Review of Western Australian Drug Driving Laws" by the Centre for Automotive Safety Research identified problems with the drug testing kits (the Cozart Drug Detection System). The kits were giving false negatives, particularly for THC. Given such problems the reviewers recommended delaying the general roll out of drug driving testing in WA and that a further 12 month trial be undertaken with new drug testing kits (Apr).

Radio announcements used to spread knowledge particularly amongst Indigenous communities about drug diversion programs in Western Australia. This was designed to increase uptake of diversion programs (Apr).

Parliamentary inquiry by the Education and Health Committee established into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia. Terms of reference included establishing the impact and social costs of AOD problems to the WA community, the adequacy of current training for medical and other health professionals in AOD issues and the adequacy, accessibility and appropriateness of services for school-aged students, treatment and prevention services (May).

Submissions occurred June 2009-June 2010. Inaugural conference held "Making it Happen: responding to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) issues across the sectors" which brought together more than 500 delegates from government and non-government alcohol and drug agencies. Conference was hosted by the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, Palmerston Association, Department for Child Protection, and Department of Corrective Services, Department of the Attorney General and the Mental Health Division (Dep of Health) (11-13 May).
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|           | Adelaide Advertiser conducted an investigation into drug consumption patterns in Adelaide clubs and concluded that "cash-strapped clubbers were shunning high-priced alcohol" at bars in favour of cheaper illicit drugs such as ecstasy (Oct). SA Supreme Court decision: Totani & Anor v The State of SA [2009] SASC 301. Declared s 14(1) of Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008 invalid (Nov). Trial of 24 hour needle syringe vending machines commenced at two existing needle syringe program sites in Murray Bridge and Noorluna. The 12 month trial involving the provision of with 8 x 1ml syringes for $2.00 was initiated by Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (30 Nov). Serious and Organised Crime (Unexplained Wealth) Act 2009 adopted which allowed for the creation and enforcement of 'unexplained wealth orders' and amendments to the Criminal Assets Confiscation Act 2005. Under the new law the state no longer had to prove that the defendant had committed a serious offence in order to confiscate wealth. Instead an order of unexplained wealth can be applied (when current and/or past assets exceed lawfully obtained wealth) and confiscated (Nov). Adoption of legislation that included measures to prevent the trafficking of drugs and alcohol into the APY Lands (Dec). | second half of 2010 (Sep). | launch an investigation into claims of increased drug use at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre amid concern about the amount of contraband smuggled into Victoria's largest women's jail and increasing overdoses (Nov). Launch of a new interactive website “Bluebelly” that seeks to reduce harm for users of ecstasy, meth/amphetamines and cocaine. Harm reduction information including stories and tips is updated and added to collaboratively by hosts and registered users (Nov). Victoria Police detectives seized 260 litres of a liquid industrial solvent being masked as a "harmless" party drug by crime syndicates. A drought of gamma hydroxybutyrate (commonly known as GHB, GBH, grievous bodily harm, fantasy or liquid ecstasy) had prompted syndicates to turn to gamma butyrolactone (GBL) and similar chemicals (Dec). Severe Substance Dependence Treatment Bill 2009 introduced for debate. Bill proposed to repeal the Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act 1968 and enable the detention and treatment of persons with a severe substance dependence for up to 14 days under the following conditions:  
- The person has a severe substance dependence;  
- Immediate treatment is necessary and urgent to save the person's life or prevent serious damage to the person's health;  
- The treatment can only be provided by admitting them to a treatment centre; and  
- There is no less restrictive means reasonably available to ensure treatment is provided (Dec). | WA Liberal party provided $500,000 funding for Dr George O’Neill’s struggling Naltrexone clinic on the condition that he appoint an independent researcher to determine the steps needed to attain registration of the Naltrexone implants with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (May). Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia (May). As part of the 2009-10 budget the WA Liberals announced a new Custodial Infrastructure Program: the most significant custodial expansion in WA history. The program is estimated to cost $655 million and will provide an additional 1,657 prisoner beds across the Western Australian prison system by the end of 2014. As part of this two new prisons will be constructed: the West Kimberley Regional Prison (150 beds) and the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison (350 beds) (May). WA police commenced use of sniffer dogs (Jun). Discussion paper released by WA Law Reform Commission into Court intervention programs. Paper recommended and has asked for comment on the idea of expanding eligibility criteria for drug diversion through mainstream courts and drug courts (Jun). Unlicensed Driving Vehicle Sanctions introduced. Sanctions range from 28 day roadside impoundment to court imposed sanctions for repeat offenders including impoundment for up to 3 or 6 months duration. Law has potential to impact upon individuals who have their license suspended under the cannabis infringement notice scheme. Enacted 1 July. WA Drug and Alcohol Office introduced a bi-annual newsletter summarizing drug and alcohol trends in WA: Pulsecheck (Aug). Northbridge entertainment precinct was declared a “designated public area” within which police could stop and search any person without provision of reasonable suspicion, subject to the adoption of the Prohibited Behaviours Bill. The new ruling was designed to reduce anti-social behavior |
Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009 tabled. Proposed changes to the law include:
- the introduction of a new limit for possession of 10 grams of cannabis or less – down from the existing 30 grams;
- a requirement for all first time cannabis offenders (adult and juvenile) found in possession of 10 grams of cannabis or less and/or a smoking implement with traces of cannabis to attend a mandatory cannabis intervention session; and
- that cannabis cultivation be a criminal offence (Dec).

A viral video, called Camel Girl was released onto YouTube as part of the Drug and Alcohol Office's 2009/10 night venues and entertainment events campaign. It was designed as a 'cult' viral video to raise awareness of the importance of drinking water and rehydrating at festivals and received over 45,000 unique views by March 2010 (24 Dec).

WA Collaboration for Substance Use and Mental Health (WACSUMH) established to bring together partners in the mental health, AOD, health and other related sectors to progress work around workforce development, the creation of a care pathway and the progression of promotion and prevention initiatives.

2008

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<td>2008</td>
<td>Evaluation of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative (PDDI) was completed. Report showed there had been a total of 4,689</td>
<td>An independent Review of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services in Tasmania was completed. The review identified numerous</td>
<td>Legislation on compulsory drug testing within Victoria Police extended to include all members in “selected units” e.g. drug</td>
<td>Aboriginal Drug Court day program commenced at Perth Drug Court. Program ran one afternoon per week and provided</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>youth and adults diverted during the first 4 years. On average 67% offenders compiled, but compliance was higher amongst youth and offenders diverted for the first time. Key impacts included short and long term reductions in drug use and offending and improvements in social functioning. But impacts were not homogenous and in some offenders use and offending increased. Evaluators concluded the program appeared successful but also recommended changes including providing feedback to police and modifying the referral system (Mar). Amendments to the Summary Offences Act 1953 banned the sale of equipment used to consume illegal drugs, e.g. bongs, ice pipes and cocaine kits, and made such offences punishable by up to $10,000 or two years' imprisonment for an individual and $50,000 for a body corporate (Jun).</td>
<td>amended deployment of passive drugs using drug detection dogs. The amendments also allowed deployment of passive drug detection dogs for general duties: screening potential users and dealers inside and outside nightclubs, pubs, concerts, festivals and, major sporting events, on board public transport and at train and bus stations. The amendments also allowed police to establish and conduct specific drug-detection screening operations on identified drug-transit routes and to use drug detection dogs, electronic drug detection systems or emerging technology, e.g. odour-detecting devices &amp; swabbing wands to detect for the presence of controlled drugs, precursors or plants. This entered into force Oct 2008 (Jul).</td>
<td>powers to screen for illicit drugs using drug detection dogs. The amendments allowed deployment of passive drug detection dogs for general duties: screening potential users and dealers inside and outside nightclubs, pubs, concerts, festivals and, major sporting events, on board public transport and at train and bus stations. The amendments also allowed police to establish and conduct specific drug-detection screening operations on identified drug-transit routes and to use drug detection dogs, electronic drug detection systems or emerging technology, e.g. odour-detecting devices &amp; swabbing wands to detect for the presence of controlled drugs, precursors or plants. This entered into force Oct 2008 (Jul).</td>
<td>Amendments to the Controlled Substances Act 1981 to mandate a sales, storage and record-keeping regime for nominated precursor chemicals and equipment to prevent their diversion to the manufacture of illicit drugs in clandestine laboratories (Jun).</td>
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| 2008 | Controlled Substances (Drug Detection Dogs) Amendment Bill 2008 adopted, increasing police powers to screen for illicit drugs using drug detection dogs. The amendments allowed deployment of passive drug detection dogs for general duties: screening potential users and dealers inside and outside nightclubs, pubs, concerts, festivals and, major sporting events, on board public transport and at train and bus stations. The amendments also allowed police to establish and conduct specific drug-detection screening operations on identified drug-transit routes and to use drug detection dogs, electronic drug detection systems or emerging technology, e.g. odour-detecting devices & swabbing wands to detect for the presence of controlled drugs, precursors or plants. This entered into force Oct 2008 (Jul). | $17.1 million allocated in the 2008-09 Tasmanian Budget towards implementation of the recommendations of the alcohol, tobacco and other drug services review (Jul). Media reports that Tasmania’s drug rehabilitation system was in crisis with new clients being unable to receive treatment (Jul). First Needle Syringe Vending Machine trialed in Devonport (Jul). | | }

Caitlin Hughes, Drug Policy Modelling Program – Last updated 15 December 2016. For comments email: caitlin.hughes@unsw.edu.au
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<td>people who live or come from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Region. The service provides residential rehabilitation and a mobile outreach for people who misuse petrol, alcohol, cannabis and other substances (Aug). Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008 adopted. Legislation introduced new provisions that gave the government, acting though the attorney general and state police commissioner, powers to declare 'criminal enterprises': any organisation which represents a risk to public safety and order of the State and where members associate for the purpose of organising, planning, facilitating, supporting or engaging in serious criminal activity. The legislation also allowed for the introduction of control orders on individuals to prohibit offenders from associating or communicating with other members of organized crime groups, prohibit possession of dangerous weapons and/or prevent access to specified venues and introduced offences of criminal association (Sep). Amendments to the Controlled Substances Act 1984 made possession of 30 different pieces of equipment involved in amphetamine or cannabis manufacturing or cultivation e.g. high intensity lamps, carbon filters, tablet presses and distilling devices and possession of documents containing instructions for the manufacture or cultivation of illicit substances punishable with $10,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment (Oct). Evaluation of Youth CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) showed that during the 13 month pilot there had been very low referrals (only 71, of whom 51 were put onto the program) and only half participants completed the program. But the program was associated with reductions in drug-related harm and reductions in criminal offending (down from 3.1 to 1.5 events in 6 months pre and post completion). The reviewers concluded the program was “likely to meet its objectives,” but questioned the viability given the low referral numbers. This was attributed in part to mixed stakeholders views as to the merits of the program (Nov). Reporting increased the capacity to monitor the prescribing of these medications (as required by legislation) and to provide more accurate advice to patients (Jul). Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services, Future Service Directions – a five year plan, 2008/09 – 2012/13 adopted. Key initiatives include: • Developing a whole of government alcohol &amp; drug harm reduction strategy • Establishing a consumer participation framework to ensure that consumers have input into the planning, development &amp; delivery of services and • Undertaking a review of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act, 1968, to establish a legislative framework that reflects contemporary models of service provision (Dec).</td>
<td>centre and service focused by making links into, through and out of treatment clearer and more integrated, and prioritising prevention and earlier intervention, removing barriers to services and improving the quality, consistency and responsiveness of services and interventions. Specified strategies included: • Ensuring routine dual diagnosis screening for all young people entering treatment • Stronger support and training resources for GPs to intervene earlier and • Redeveloping funding and reporting systems to promote service flexibility and innovation (Dec).</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>SA Government requested an assessment of the threat posed by organised crime to the South Australian community that included the identification of legislative barriers that facilitate organised crime. SA Premier Rann unveiled his intention to introduce a comprehensive set of laws designed to make a major dent into organised crime in South Australia. The proposed set of laws covered more coercive powers of investigation, confiscating unexplained wealth, laws against association with criminal members and toughened controls on precursor chemicals and equipment for drug manufacturing (Jul). South Australia Police announced the creation of a Crime Gang Task Force to enforce the states new organised crime laws (Aug).</td>
<td>Review of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Treatment Services in Tasmania commenced. Court mandated drug diversion program introduced (Aug). Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009 adopted to reduce supply &amp; demand of psychostimulants and develop guidelines for safer environments of use (Nov). The Tasmanian Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses Action Plan 2007 – 2008 was endorsed by the Minister for Health and Human Services, with the goal of minimising the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B and other drug related harms to injecting drug users and to the wider community. A number of initiatives commenced at Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) contact points to improve the provision of education, brief intervention and referral for people who inject drugs. These include increased education and training of NSP workers, the implementation of operational guidelines and practice standards throughout NSP primary outlets, and improved permit training and accreditation for NSP workers. Under the plan DHHS also provided hepatitis C blood awareness and drug safety education in prisons, youth detention facilities, schools, and to people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. DHHS continued to support the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) with an addition to the program on Hobart’s Eastern Shore and a trial of needle and syringe dispensing machines in Devonport and Invermay rolled out in 2008-09.</td>
<td>New Mental Health and Drugs Division commenced operation and the Minister for Mental Health convened Victoria’s first drug taskforce on ‘ice’ and amphetamines to guide the State Government’s strategy (Mar). Discussion paper released titled “Towards a New Blueprint for Alcohol And Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Services” (Mar). Earlier identification of drug harms project (EIDHP) commenced by the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. The project sought to provide an early warning system to Victorian policy makers through an information collection system that on a bi-monthly basis draws together insights from interviews with key stakeholders and surveillance data including ambulance attendances, treatment data and the pattern of needle and syringe distribution (Mar). Victorian Government released report on “Dual diagnosis: Key directions and priorities for service development” (Jun). Victoria Police adopted an Illicit Drug Strategy 2007-2011 involving three approaches: disruption; targeting repeat offenders; and reducing re-offending through the use of treatment and diversion programs. The strategy outlined the need for new tools to facilitate planning and performance monitoring. These included a drug attribution model (to collect and analyse information on the drug problem) and a drug harm index (to quantify the amount of harm being caused by drugs) that were proposed to be developed in the first year of the strategy (Jul). Discussion paper released on the ”Victorian amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and related drugs strategy 2007–2010” (Sep). After six years of negotiation on drug testing, the Police Regulation Amendment Bill 2007 was adopted. Bill gave Victoria Police Commissioner the restricted power to drug and alcohol test Victoria Police members, but only following critical incidents e.g. police shootings (Oct). A review titled &quot;Ectasy, ketamine &amp; GHB: A</td>
<td>WA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (May). WA Illicit Amphetamine Drug Summit held to identify and develop strategies to respond to amphetamines (3 July). WA Illicit Amphetamine Summit – Government Action Plan adopted. Included 49 initiatives arising from Drug Summit. Review of Cannabis Infringement Notice (CIN) scheme tabled in WA Parliament. Review recommended continuing with the CIN scheme, but expanding the scheme to juveniles (with compulsory cannabis education), reducing the quantity of cannabis to which the scheme applied (from 30 to 15 grams), removing eligibility for cultivation of any plants, and increasing fines for non-compliance (Nov). Criminal Code Amendment (Drink and Food Spiking) Bill 2007 adopted. Bill created a new offence of spiking a person’s drink or food with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (maximum penalty 3 years imprisonment or 12 months and a $2,000 fine for summary offence) (Nov).</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Evaluation of first set of Drug Summit Initiatives completed. Concluded 2/3 initiatives had proceeded well and that initiatives had added value and capacity in SA response to drugs. Also noted need to improve management (Feb). South Australian Drug Strategy 2005-2010 adopted (Feb). SA Justice Portfolio Drug Indicators Project – first annual report released. This identified five performance targets:  • Increased resilience of SA youth;  • Prevention of illicit drug use;  • Reduce drug related offending and severity of offending;</td>
<td>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009 (TDS) adopted. Strategy priorities community safety, prevention and reduction and improved access to treatment. On 1 July new legislation was enacted creating an offence of driving a motor vehicle with illicit drugs in the body. The Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Act 2005 provides authority for police to conduct oral fluid (saliva) tests on drivers (roadside drug testing) to detect the presence of cannabis and amphetamines (Jul).</td>
<td>Victorian Government GHB education initiative (Mar). Amendments to the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act banned the display or sale of cocaine kits and imposed penalties of $6,300 for individual offenders or $31,500 for businesses (May). Victoria Police Organised Crime Strategy 2005-2009 introduced. Core aims were: developing a greater capacity to identify, measure, prevent, disrupt and deter organised crime; and better focusing resources and powers on major criminal threats (Dec).</td>
<td>Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2005-2009 adopted Strong Spirit Strong Mind- WA Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2005-09 adopted Baseline evaluation of Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme completed Conditional Suspended Imprisonment Order (CSI) for use in drug court introduced (May) Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1982 increase regulation of the supply of precursor chemicals and apparatus. This gave legislative backing to a previously voluntary Code of Conduct to minimise the use of precursor chemicals in the generation of methamphetamine.</td>
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| 2004 | SA Parliament Legislative Review Committee released report on the Cannabis Expiation Scheme (Regulations under the Controlled Substances Act 1984 and 2002). Report considered whether a one non-hydroponic plant limit undermined the original intention of the CEN scheme. The committee concluded it didn't since it enabled an average user to produce enough to supply them for a year, but also reduced risk of exploitation by crime syndicates (Feb). CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) introduced (Jun). South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services established as peak body for drug and alcohol NGOs in SA. | | \begin{itemize} 
  \item Final evaluation of the VGDI (Feb).
  \item Koori Drug Diversion introduced
  \item 11 people were taken to hospital after overdosing on GHB, Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, at the Two Tribes dance party at Rod Laver Arena (Mar).
  \item Use of drug detection dogs in nightclubs piloted by Victoria Police (May).
  \item Report on Rural and Regional Service System Review released: “Rural pathways: A review of Victoria’s drug treatment system in rural and regional Victoria” (Jul).
  \item Report on Victoria’s youth drug treatment system released: “Youth Service System Review” (Sep).
  \item Transport Accident Commission commenced anti-drug driving advertisements (Nov).
  \item Victoria Police commenced a pilot of roadside drug saliva testing for cannabis and amphetamines. Pilot targeted heavy vehicle drivers, rave party patrons and general public (Dec).
 \end{itemize} | | Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme introduced, for use or possession of up to 30g cannabis, possession of a smoking implement or cultivation of up to 2 non-hydroponic cannabis plants. Under the scheme eligible offenders will have the option to avoid a criminal conviction by paying a fine or attending a cannabis education session. Failure to pay will result in a further fine and/or suspension of drivers license (Mar). YPOP (Young Person’s Opportunity Program) and IDP (Indigenous Diversion Program) introduced |
<p>| 2003 | Initial Criminal Justice Illicit Drugs Performance Indicators report presented to the Criminal Justice Leadership Group (May). SA Government expanded response to drug summit: another 14 initiatives and $1.86 million (Sep). | | Voluntary agreement adopted between the Victorian Government, Australian Hotels Association, the Nightclub Owners Association and Restaurant and Catering Victoria to provide free or low-cost drinking water on licensed premises (Jun). Koori Alcohol and Drug Plan 2003-04 released as precursor to a strategy (Sep). First Service System Review (SSR) of Victoria’s drug treatment system completed. Connect Us (an early intervention partnership program) initiated and funded | Cannabis Control Act 2003 amended the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 to allow cannabis infringement notices to be issued (Jan) POP (Pre-sentence Opportunity Program) introduced (Mar) PSO (Pre-Sentence Order) for use in drug court introduced (Sep) STIR (Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime) introduced (Nov) |</p>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>SA Labor Party elected (Feb)</td>
<td>SA Premier announced the Social Inclusion Initiative and established a Social Inclusion Unit (located in the Department of Premier and Cabinet) to adopt a more integrated and effective response to complex issues. One of first target areas was drugs (Mar). SA Police launched the 'SAPOL Illicit Drug Strategy – Preventing drug use – reducing crime.' This was the first drug strategy adopted and recognized the strong links between drugs and crime and need for coordinated action (May). SA Drug Summit held. Summit was preceded by 24 community consultations across the State with 917 people participating. Summit identified new directions for SA, particularly regarding responses to amphetamines and processes of reintegrating drug users. Gave rise to 51 recommendations (24 – 28 June). SA Justice Portfolio Drug Indicators Project initiated to identify potential performance indicators to measure success in “protecting the community from the consequences of drug trafficking and abuse” (Jul). CEN scheme amended through Controlled Substances (Expiation of Simple Cannabis Offences) Regulations 2002 (No. 170 of 2002) which maintained a limit on one plant for personal use but banned cultivation of hydroponic plants (Sep). Initial response of SA Government was devised by the Social Inclusion Board. It was outlined in the “Tackling Drugs – Government and Communities Working Together” report and included 7 priority areas e.g. building resilience in young people and increased support for Aboriginal people, 21 initiatives and provision of $12 million for first four years. Also established an Inter-Ministerial Committee led by Hon Led Stevens to implement initiatives. Response was devised by the Social Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council, Tasmania (ATDC) established (12 Sep).</td>
<td>Drug Court introduced (May) Rural Outreach Diversion introduced Preliminary Evaluation of the VGDI concluded with positive results – 30 initiatives implemented (Oct).</td>
<td>WA Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002-2005: Putting People First adopted (Aug) 2000 (Dec) - The Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 (CPCA) - permits the State to apply to have all assets of a convicted drug trafficker seized.</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>COAG-IDDI agreement signed and SA Police Drug Diversion Initiative (PDDI) introduced (Jun) Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme amended (Controlled Substances (Expiation of Simple Cannabis Offences) Regulations 1987): Number of cannabis plants attracting a fine reduced from three to one (Nov)</td>
<td>Tasmanian Drug Strategic Plan (TDSP) 2001–2004 adopted. Hobart City Council adopted its inaugural AOD strategy: &quot;Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2001&quot;. This coincided with a period of heightened concern over youth illicit drug use.</td>
<td>Safe Needle Disposal Strategy launched including a syringe help-line (Jan) Cautious with Cannabis education session developed at Moreland Hall for Cannabis Cautioning referrals (and other referrals) Victoria Government allocated $2 million to develop a Koori drug and alcohol strategy and established a Koori Drug Strategy Advisory Committee (KDSAC) to undertake the development (Sep). Two reference groups were established into Temazepan Injecting (with Victorian Drugs Policy and Services Branch). Kit on problem and dangers of Temazepan Injecting mailed out to each Victorian doctor and pharmacy. Kit urged them to stop prescribing and supplying temazepam gel capsules because of health risks if injected (Nov).</td>
<td>Trial of needle and syringe vending machine in Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital (Mar) WA Community Drug Summit. Recommended new governance structure, increased early intervention, more treatment, particularly detoxification and to look at ways of introducing a new prohibition with civil penalties scheme for cannabis use/possession (13-17 Aug). WA Government established Working Party on Drug Law Reform chaired by John Prior to examine how to set up prohibition with civil penalties scheme. Evaluation of the Needle Syringe Vending Machine at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital reported an increase in the number of fitpacks dispensed, no change in the numbers discarded and a decrease in the number of people entering the hospital at night. New Drug Aware website, funded by the Drug and Alcohol Office, piloted for young people wanting credible online information on drugs (2001),</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>South Australia's Drug Court commenced (May) Illicit Drug Working Party established by the Health Department to develop a comprehensive approach to illicit drug issues.</td>
<td>Tasmanian Government signed the COAG-IDDI agreement and introduced Police Drug Diversion Program (Feb) Visit from the International Narcotics Control Board to inspect poppy industry (Apr) Therapeutic use of cannabis investigated by Parliament of Tasmania, Committee on Community Development</td>
<td>Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) released report. Concluded that community support for a trial injecting facility was high in all locations with the exception of Dandenong and recommended proceeding with trials (Mar) Resident group Footscray Matters called for a referendum on trials and said Government was ignoring community views. Traders – Myer and David Jones – said they were likely to leave if city didn’t become a drug free area (Jun). Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Injecting Facilities Trial) Bill 2000 (Vic) introduced into parliament (Jun). Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Injecting Facilities Trial) Bill 2000 (Vic) not enacted after the opposition announced it would vote against the bill (Aug) Victorian Labor Government made commitment to expand methadone and drug diversion and signed the COAG-IDDI</td>
<td>COAG-IDDI agreement signed and All Drug Diversion (police scheme) launched (Oct) WA first Drug Courts launched (Drug Court Regime and Children's Court Drug Court) (Nov). First mobile NESP site opened in Bunbury. Launch of NVEEP (Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project) a project aimed at preventing alcohol and drug-related harm at entertainment events and venues in WA. NVEEP is a joint project between the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO), Racing Gaming and Liquor, WA Police, Nightclub Owners’ Association, Australian Hotels Association, Events Industry Association and the National Drug Research Institute. Specific aims included: developing and implementing venue practices and policies that promote responsible attitudes towards drugs; and implementing environmental strategies to reduce drug-related harm.</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Evaluations of the CEN scheme demonstrated evidence of net-widening and suggested that some people were exploiting the scheme by cultivating and selling cannabis. Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme amended: Number of cannabis plants attracting an expiation notice reduced from ten to three (Jun).</td>
<td>Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett announced support for heroin trial (Jan). Herald Sun newspaper introduced a &quot;heroin toll&quot; – a daily toll of the number of drug overdose deaths in Victoria. The heroin toll ran alongside the toll of road crash deaths in Victoria in every Herald Sun newspaper (Feb). Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett held a premiers meeting involving the NSW, SA and WA Premiers and ACT health minister on heroin trial (Mar). Victorian Election – New Labor Government. Incoming Labor government made a commitment to examine feasibility of establishing five supervised injecting facilities in areas known for drug use – inner city Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Dandenong and St Kilda (Sep). Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) appointed under the Chair Dr David Penington to consult with proposed locations and to assess the feasibility of implementing a trial (Nov). Government announced intention to establish a drug court. Second action plan, 'Together Against Drugs Strategy 1999–2001', launched.</td>
<td>(CPCA) - permits the State to apply to have all assets of a convicted drug trafficker seized. This was the first state to introduce such a law (Dec).</td>
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| 1997 | Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme modified by the introduction of the Expiation of Offences Act, 1996. This introduced a range of options for payment of expiation fees including payment by instalments and community service, enabled those served with an expiation notice the option of choosing to be prosecuted in order to | User group established - Tasmanian Users Health + Support League (TUHSL). | Cannabis Cautioning Program trial – Victoria Police (July 1997 to Jan 1998). Victorian Parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee (PCPC) Report concluded there was "some merit in suitably regulated and controlled safe houses" for injecting | WA first Drug Strategy, 'Together Against Drugs,' released
WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office formed Western Australia's heroin overdose prevention strategy initiated
First fixed NESP site opened in Perth (Sep). |
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) established (Feb).</td>
<td>Introduction of HIV/AIDS Preventive Measures Act established regulatory framework for NSPs in Tasmania - (Needle Availability Program) First official Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced</td>
<td>Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in Victoria, collecting data on illicit drug market trends Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) established as a brokerage service, to increase access for forensic clients to drug and alcohol services. The Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) was established to increase access and engagement of young people in drug treatment, rehabilitation and outreach services. New surveillance project commenced: &quot;Surveillance of drug related events attended by ambulance in Melbourne.&quot; Run by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre the project uses ambulance patient care records to collate information on drug-related events (both illicit and licit) attended by Melbourne ambulances.</td>
<td>New user group established – Western Australia Substance Users Association (WASUA) (May). Drug Aware program, funded by the Drug and Alcohol Office, commenced to provide young people with prevention and harm reduction messages about illicit drug use.</td>
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<td>1994</td>
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<td>First Specialist Methadone Services (SMS) established in Victoria</td>
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<td>Amendments to The Poisons Act 1964 legalised the provision of needles and syringes to drug users</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Select Committee report recommended streamlining the Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme</td>
<td>Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre commenced service provision Premier’s Drug Advisory Council (PDAC) established to examine drug use, with a focus on illicit drugs (chaired by Professor Penington)</td>
<td>Premier’s Task Force on Drug Abuse established in Premier’s Department</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Heroin overdose prevention strategy established</td>
<td>Tasmania’s first Drug Strategy adopted Alcohol and Drug Foundation of Tasmania, peak body for NGOs disbanded Interdepartmental Committee on Drugs and Alcohol established</td>
<td>Premier’s Drug Advisory Council Report – recommended cannabis decriminalisation and diversion (Mar) Cannabis decriminalisation failed to win support – liberal backbenchers opposed (Jun) Turning the Tide – Victorian Drug Strategy released. Included $100 million over three years for a range of projects (Jun) Victorian Government introduced new parliamentary committee - Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee (PCPC) – to oversee implementation of Turning the Tide and inform public debate on current issues (Dec)</td>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>Pilot Tasmanian Methadone Program (1 Dec)</td>
<td>Liberal government elected under Premier Jeff Kennett (Oct)</td>
<td>Formation of the Western Australian Lions Drug Education Foundation</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Select Committee established to report on drugs of dependence</td>
<td>Redevelopment of specialist treatment services began under Labor government</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Select Committee established to report on drugs of dependence</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>First SA Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced - Clean Needle Program (NSP)</td>
<td>First Victorian Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>User group - IV League of South Australia formed</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>User group - IV League of South Australia formed</td>
<td>User group - Victorian Intravenous AIDS Group (VIVAIDS) launched (Aug)</td>
<td>User group - Western Australia IV Equity (WAIVE) formed First Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs established in WA (Jul)</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Cannabis Expiation Notice (CEN) scheme introduced for minor cannabis offences. Enabled use of infringement notices for simple cannabis offences including cultivation of up to ten plants for personal use.</td>
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<td>1985</td>
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<td>Victoria’s first Drug Strategy released Start of the official Victorian Methadone Program</td>
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Methadone Program rolled out state-wide post favourable review

- department heads
- no. of government departments reduced from 22 to 13, (then to 8 in 1996). Led to merger of Health and Community Welfare Services to “Health and Community Services”
- employment contracts became limited-term and able to be terminated with 4 wks notice (Nov)