

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2013

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline provides a list of key events, policy and legislative changes that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and February 28 2013. Events are listed by jurisdiction, at the national and state/ territory level. All events added in the last six months are highlighted in **blue**.

Here we list events at the **federal level only**. For events in other jurisdictions please see the relevant timeline.

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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Year	Federal
2013	<p>New 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Australian Crime Commission released a new report: "Organised crime and drugs in sport." Highlighted growing PEID use, but also concluded that (1) that illicit drug use by professional athletes is more prevalent than is reflected in official sports drug testing program statistics; (2) some professional athletes are exploiting loopholes in illicit drug testing programs; and (3) that such drug use leaves players vulnerable to exploitation e.g. for match fixing and attracting organised crime (Feb).</p> <p>Renewed criticism of the AFL's illicit drugs policy and its' three strikes approach (Feb).</p> <p>Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek announced that two new treatments for chronic hepatitis C will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The two medications [boceprevir (Victrelis®) and telaprevir (Incivo®)] will benefit an estimated 130,000 patients (Feb).</p> <p>Government response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement's Inquiry into Commonwealth Unexplained Wealth Legislation tabled. 15 of 18 recommendations were agreed to in whole, including that the government look into expanding use of Australian Crime Commission coercive powers to provide evidence in support of unexplained wealth (Feb).</p> <p>Two new Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers from Sydney International Airport were arrested for alleged offences involving importation of pseudoephedrine, bribery, abuse of public office and other serious offences. This linked to the 2012 investigations and arrests (Feb).</p> <p>New anti-corruption measures came into force for Australian Customs and Border Protection Service. The measures included legal, mandatory requirement for all workers to report any suspected serious misconduct, corrupt conduct or criminal conduct (Feb).</p> <p>A joint investigation by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the New South Wales Crime Commission, the New South Wales Police Force and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service unveiled a suspected drug syndicate spanning the Eastern Border (NSW, Vic and Qld). It is alleged the group were attempting to import heroin and methamphetamine from China (Feb).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>
2012	<p>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).</p> <p>The ANCD's Asia-Pacific Drug Issues Committee commissioned the Burnet Institute and the National Drug Research Institute to determine the link between amphetamine type stimulant (ATS) use and transmission of blood borne viruses (BBV) in the South East Asian region (Jan).</p>

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).

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 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 methylenedioxypropylamphetamine (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 cannabinomimetics'. 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 of over \$2.5 million (Mar).

The 55th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) was held in Vienna, comprising of over 1200 participants from 120 countries, observers, international organisations and NGO's. Australia's resolution, titled 'Promoting international cooperation in responding to the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances' received significant support and was adopted by the CND, following minor amendments. This meant that novel psychoactive substances had been recognised as an issue of global significance and that there was a framework for increased global cooperation for this market (Mar 12-16).

Fairfax investigation revealed high level corruption amongst Australian Customs and Border Control: Customs has suspended or sacked 15 of its officers since 2010 in connection with misconduct or corruption allegations for offences including "possession of narcotics, lack of integrity, misuse of Commonwealth resources" (Mar).

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 Australian National Council on Drugs (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 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).

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).

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-Methylmethcathinone (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).

Report from Operation Polaris, a multi-agency investigation into crime on Sydney waterfronts, revealed the existence of extensive corruption and criminality. The report revealed that known organised criminals are targeting and exploiting workers on the waterfront and in the cargo supply chain and that this has resulted in subversion of employees and the importation 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) which was being used to track the movement of illicit substances to determine whether law enforcement authorities were interested in the cargo. The report also highlighted an entrenched culture to take no action when confronted with "unusual, improper illegal activity" and concluded that this was reinforced by an "insular and nepotistic workforce" and an "anti-law enforcement" attitudes (May).

The Federal Government unveiled responses to Taskforce Polaris. Responses included: (1) Introduce legislation to criminalise the provision of information from the Integrated Cargo 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 clearance of specific consignments; and (3) Expand the list of offences for which a Maritime Security Identification Card or Aviation Security Identification Card can be refused. The Federal Government also announced that new taskforces would be established to investigate organised crime on the waterfront in Melbourne and Brisbane. Melbourne's Task Force (Operation Trident) will begin on 1 July 2012 (May 25).

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 revenue. Since 2002 proceeds of crime has been a key source of funding crime prevention initiatives, drug treatment provision, illicit drug diversion programs and law enforcement 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 (NOPSAD) 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 Claire announced that the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service had commenced trialing 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 4I (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 (FaHCSIA) to be used in the implementation of FaHCSIA's Breaking the Cycle Initiative (Aug).

New Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) report released: 'Initiation into drug use.' Assessed police detainees' reasons for initiation or non-initiation into illicit drug use, and reasons 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).

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

	<p>to reduce the incidence of fatal opioid overdoses (Dec).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 June 2009 and May 2010 (Dec).</p> <p>Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare announced a new Customs Reform 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).</p> <p>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).</p>
2011	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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, 'Meow-Meow'); Methcathinone; Ketamine; and Phenylpropanolamine. This is the first time the interim regulations have been utilised (Apr).</p> <p>IGCD noted the emergence of new and existing synthetic analogue drugs (analogues) 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Australian Federal Police made the largest recorded seizure of methamphetamines: 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).</p> <p>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</p>

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 Authority be encouraged to take a firmer stand on the reporting of matters that reinforce negative attitudes and perpetuate stigma and discrimination associated with people who inject drugs (Jun).

New head of the Australian Lawyers Alliance, Greg Barns, said Australia should consider decriminalisation, even for heroin and crystal methamphetamine (Jul 1).

The Therapeutic Goods Authority scheduled eight synthetic cannabinoids: JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-122, JWH-200, JWH-250, CP47,497, AM-694 & cannabicyclohexanol. The synthetic cannabinoids, 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 (6 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).

2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report released. Key findings were slight increases, relative to 2007, in the proportion of the population aged 14 and over who reported recent illicit drug use (from 13.4% to 14.7%). From 2007 to 2010 the major area of reported increase was cocaine (1.6% to 2.1%) and cannabis (9.1% to 10.3%, albeit remaining lower than during 1995-2004). Reported recent use of ecstasy decreased (from 3.5% to 3.0%) countering upward trend since 1995 (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

	<p>Strategy; Research and Data; and Workforce Development (Aug).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>High Court ruling: MOMCILOVIC 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 Momcilovic, 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 Momcilovic and ordered a re-trial (Sep).</p> <p>Largest seizure of pure safrole in Australian history: approximately 288 litres, enough to make approximately 2.3 million ecstasy tablets. The safrole 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).</p> <p>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-iodo-aminoindane. Involved AFP, SA Police, the Australian Crime Commission (ACC), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Vietnamese Police (Sep).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Guidelines for DOHA funding in 2012-13 released and applications opened for the first set of Federal Government's flexible funds (Nov 14).</p> <p>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 pseudoephedrine (Nov 29).</p> <p>Regulation 4H of the <i>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</i> (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 methylamphetamine, or any other drug mentioned in Schedule 4' and 'that is used to draw or inhale smoke or fumes resulting from heating the drug in the device, in a crystal, powder, oil or base form' (Dec 10).</p>
2010	<p>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).</p> <p><i>Two Serious and Organised Crimes Acts adopted: Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious and Organised Crime) Acts (No. 1 and No. 2).</i> 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Joint operation between Australian Federal Police and Cambodian National Authority on Combating Drugs (NACD) resulted in the detection and burning of 15 tonnes of Safrole oil in Cambodia. The AFP estimated that once converted to ecstasy this would have had a street value of \$6 million (Feb).</p> <p>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. Interviews revealed 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</p>

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 \$89.4 million (110%), but there were large reductions in service provision and funding by Indigenous community-controlled organisations and a 50% turnover in projects and organisations. Key recommendations included more capacity building, increasing non-recurrent funding and that all levels of government re-commit to the principle of Indigenous community control of service provision (Apr).

Minister for Indigenous Health and Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon announced funding of \$13 million to establish a 45 bed residential rehabilitation service near Cooktown that will be accessible to people across the Cape York region. The site was chosen to complement the existing detoxification centre in Cooktown (Apr).

A strategic review of the Department of Health and Ageing portfolio administrative arrangements commenced. The review was commissioned by the Federal Government, and sought to examine the alignment of resources within the portfolio to ensure it was best placed to implement and manage the government's key health and ageing priorities and programs, including the National Health Reform agenda, as well as position the portfolio to respond to emerging health and ageing challenges over the medium and longer term (Jun).

Task Force Polaris was established to investigate organised crime on the waterfront in Sydney. It comprised 49 criminal investigators & intelligence analysts from the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Australian Crime Commission, NSW Police & NSW Crime Commission (Jun).

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2008-09 released. Report noted that the total number (but not weight) of national drug seizures had increased 70% between 1999-2000 and 2008-09 and that trends in relation to cocaine and Amphetamine-Type Stimulants (ATS) remained a concern. In particular, the report noted the threat posed by ATS remains high due to the record number of related national seizures, arrests and clandestine laboratory detections in 2008–09 (Jun).

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland and Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O'Connor announced the Government would invest an additional \$38.5 million to combat organised crime through the establishment of a Criminal Intelligence Fusion Centre within the Australian Crime Commission and new analytical technologies to assist the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) (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 Inaugural National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference was held in Adelaide. It was hosted and organized by NIDAC and attracted over 550 participants (Jun).

The first national report on prisoner health in Australia released. Key findings include that 70% had used illicit drugs and over half had consumed alcohol at risky levels during the 12 months prior to entering prison. The report was carried out by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and used data from a number of sources including the AIHW census of public and private prisons (Jun).

Launch of Criminal Intelligence Fusion Centre. The centre seeks to share data and bring together analysts from Commonwealth agencies including the Australian Federal Police, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink, Customs and Border Protection and State and Territory law enforcement authorities so as to track and analyse money flows, identify high risk cash flows, patterns of crime and the individuals, businesses and corporate structures that may be involved in criminal enterprises including drug trafficking in Australia and overseas (Jul).

Launch of the Australian Crime Commission's Criminal Intelligence Fusion Centre. The centre seeks to share data and bring together analysts from Commonwealth

agencies including the Australian Crime Commission, Australian Federal Police, Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink, Customs and Border Protection, the Department of Defence, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Attorney-General's Department, the Australian Securities and Investment Commission and State and Territory law enforcement authorities so as to track and analyse money flows, identify high risk cash flows, patterns of crime and the individuals, businesses and corporate structures that may be involved in criminal enterprises including drug trafficking in Australia and overseas (Jul).

The Australian Federal Police in collaboration with NSW Police and Customs seized 240 kilograms of cocaine, the fifth largest cocaine seizure in Australia. The cocaine, with an estimated street value of \$84 million was found in a shipment of pavers from Mexico (Jul).

Former AFL player Ben Cousins' documentary "Such is Life" aired on public television. The documentary, which attracted more than 2 million viewers, provided a controversial insight into his battle with illicit drug use (Aug).

A joint Four Corners/The Age investigation – "Crime Incorporated" – screened on national television. The show interviewed high ranking police experts including Australian Crime Commission (ACC) CEO John Lawler, former operations manager for the ACC, Michael Purchas, former Victorian detective inspector, Jim O'Brien, and Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Simon Overland about Australia's fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. The show revealed how Operation Hoffman, a two year multi-agency investigation led by the ACC, exposed an international drug importation syndicate with links to the Comancheros outlaw bikie gang, Chinese triads, waterfront workers and corrupt Australian officials. Mr O'Brien asserted that Australia is only making a small dent into organised crime, due to the sophistication of international drug importation syndicates, a lack of resources and political will (Aug).

The Australian Greens Party formally adopted Justice Reinvestment as part of its justice policy (Aug).

Minority Labor Government formed with support of Greens HAdam BandtH and independents HAndrew WilkieH, HRob OakeshottH and HTony WindsorH. Julia Gillard sworn in as Prime Minister (Sep).

Research by the Drug Policy Modelling Program found that Australian news media could influence youth attitudes to illicit drug use. The study that 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, following a tip-off from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (Oct).

Launch of two ANEX position papers: "With conviction: the case for controlled needle and syringe programs in Australian prisons" and "Lifesavers: a position paper on access to Naloxone Hydrochloride for potential opioid overdose witnesses" (Oct).

Draft National Drug Strategy 2010-2015 released for public feedback (Nov).

A joint Australian Federal Police and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service operation made the fifth largest heroin seizure. 168 kilograms, believed to be worth approximately \$60 million, were found in a container of wooden doors shipped from Malaysia. Three people were arrested (Nov).

The Australian Federal Police targeted drug importations via the postal system on a national day of action timed to precede Schoolies Week and the holiday season. In total, 38kg of drugs were captured (Nov).

High Court decision: *State of South Australia v Totani & Anor* [2010] HCA 39. The High Court, by 6-1 majority, held s 14(1) of the *Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008* (SA) to be constitutionally invalid. By requiring courts to place control orders on members of 'criminal enterprises' without rights to review whether they had ever engaged in criminal conduct or were likely to do so, executive powers were deemed to impinge upon normal judicial procedures (Nov).

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).

The HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2010 by National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research found that HIV prevalence amongst injecting drug users remained low, with 1.2% of those attending needle syringe programs (NSPs) in 2009 testing positive to HIV antibodies. Hepatitis C prevalence remained much higher, but amongst those attending NSPs prevalence decreased between 2008 and 2009 from 62% to 50% (Nov).

Operation Unification, a joint initiative of Crime Stoppers, Police and the ANZPAA Crime Forum, urged the community to 'dob in a drug lab.' The community was told to report if they saw telltale signs including unusual chemical odours coming from a premises, chemical drums, frequent visitors and premises with blacked out windows (Nov).

The Commonwealth Government, led by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, released the first commonwealth Organised Crime Response Plan (OCRP 2010-11). The response plan sets out an approach by which Commonwealth agencies including ACC, AFP and AUSTRAC will respond to threats identified in the Australian Crime Commission's classified Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA), including Amphetamine-Type Stimulants, one of three priority risks (Nov).

Ethan Nadelman completed a national speaking tour, advocating for heroin prescribing, prison NSPs and more ready access to naloxone for use by bystanders in cases of opioid overdoses (Nov-Dec).

Australia and Pakistan joined forces signing a Memorandum of Understanding: Combating Narcotics Drugs and Developing Narcotics Control Cooperation at the AFP

	<p>Headquarters. A 'Letter of Intent' to establish a Pakistan Transnational Team on Drugs and Crime, was also signed (3 Dec).</p> <p>The Federal Government requested that the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing establish an Expert Advisory Group on Mental Health to provide advice to the Federal Government on mental health reforms (Dec).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>14 new substances added to Schedule 4 of the <i>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</i>: Acetylcodeine; 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 <i>Poisons Standard</i> or the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i>) and addressed an increased demand for alternative synthetic drugs and drugs marketed as party pills (14 Dec).</p> <p>Ketamine moved from Schedule 8 to Schedule 4 of the <i>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</i> (14 Dec).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 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).</p> <p>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 of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. A series of three invitation-only Roundtables and follow-up working groups were employed, 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).</p>
2009	<p>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).</p> <p>New Ministerial Advisory Committee formed on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections (Mar).</p> <p>"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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 clinician.H (May).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p>

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 (PJC-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 *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 national population-based planning model for drug and alcohol service planning; (2) to estimate the need and demand for drug and alcohol services across Australia; and (3) to calculate the resources needed (Nov).

2009 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 on 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 absenteeism 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).

2008	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>2020 Summit held in Canberra. Summit brought together experts from around Australia to develop new ideas/policy directions for Australia by year 2020 (Apr).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>First National Corrections Drug Strategy 2006-2009 endorsed (May).</p> <p>MCDS endorsed the First National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy 2008-2011 (May).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The Australian Industrial Relations Commissions 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 formers 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</p>
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	<p>is obtained urine testing could be introduced instead of oral testing (Aug).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 tended 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture (<i>National Precursor Strategy</i>) received recurrent funding of \$1.068m.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
2007	<p>National Drugs Campaign 2007 – "Where's your head at"? & "Talking with your kids about drugs."</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Launch of the Australian 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</p>

	<p>implementation of policies and programs, at all community levels and for different settings and sectors (Feb).</p> <p>National Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Strategy Consultation Paper released (Mar).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 a 12 match suspension for a third offence (Mar).</p> <p>National roll out of Project STOP – tracking sales of pseudoephedrine (Apr).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>CounsellingOnline service rolled out as a national program, endorsed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The service was operated by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug 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).</p> <p>Andrew Johns, former captain of the National Rugby League, 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).</p> <p>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 winnable 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 later 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).</p> <p>Coalition Government released “Tough on Drugs” election policy involving compulsory welfare quarantining for people who have been convicted of criminal drug offences involving hard drugs, assistance for jobseekers and uniform national illicit drug offences (Nov).</p> <p>Labor Government elected under Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (Nov).</p> <p>The Council Of Australian Governments increased funding for Indigenous substance and alcohol rehabilitation and treatment services: \$100 million (Dec).</p>
2006	<p>Restrictions introduced on sale of medications containing pseudoephedrine requiring that all medication be stored away from the public and sold by pharmacists (Jan).</p> <p>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 of licit and illicit substances (Jan).</p> <p>COAG Mental Health Package announced (Feb).</p> <p>Dr John Herron appointed as Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) (Feb).</p> <p>Four Corners Report: “The Ice Age” heralded the beginning of media attention into methamphetamine (Mar).</p> <p>National Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Drug Use During Pregnancy, Birth and the Early Development Years of the Newborn released (Mar).</p> <p>Restrictions increased on sale of medications containing pseudoephedrine: Products with higher concentrations of pseudoephedrine required a doctor’s prescription (Apr).</p> <p>Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) made available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (Apr).</p> <p>National Cannabis Strategy 2006-2009 endorsed (May).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>MCDS endorsed development of a National Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Strategy. Consultation paper for strategy to be developed by the National Drug</p>

	<p>Research Institute and the Australian Institute of Criminology (May).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Two new sets of guidelines introduced by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing: Management of Patients with Psychostimulant Toxicity: Guidelines for Emergency Departments and Management of Patients with Psychostimulant Toxicity: Guidelines for Ambulance Services (May).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>National Leadership Forum on Ice held in Sydney (Dec).</p> <p>The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program expanded to include Footscray in Victoria and Darwin and Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.</p>
2005	<p>Report released: "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).</p> <p>National Drugs Campaign 2005 – "Speed", "Ecstasy", "Marijuana" (Apr).</p> <p>Trial of retractable needles and syringes cancelled after evaluation showed they could increase public health risks (May).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>MCDS agreed not to endorse the development or use of drug testing kits for personal use at the point of consumption (May).</p> <p>Ketamine was rescheduled on the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule from a Schedule 4 to Schedule 8 drug (May).</p> <p>Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (Jul).</p> <p>The second National Hepatitis C Strategy 2005-2008 was adopted (Jul).</p> <p>Inquiry established into the manufacture, importation and use of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs in Australia (Nov).</p> <p>Project STOP pilot developed in partnership between QLD Police and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to track sales of pseudoephedrine and prevent their illicit diversion (Oct).</p> <p>The <i>Law and Justice Amendment (Serious Drug Offences and Other Measures) Act 2005</i> (the SDO Act) introduced the model serious drug offences (developed by the then Model Criminal Code Officers' Committee) in Part 9.1 of the Commonwealth <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i> (the Criminal Code). The SDO Act also moved existing offences under the <i>Customs Act 1901</i> for the import/export of controlled substances and placed them in the Criminal Code. This ensured all serious drug offences were in a central statute, keeping the Customs Act as primarily a regulatory statute (Dec).</p> <p>Australian Customs implement Stridor Strike Teams to target illicit drug precursor imports. The teams, comprised of officers from intelligence, investigations and enforcement operations, sought to devise innovative approaches to 'target' development and to provide a more flexible and agile response to illicit drug precursor importations (2005-2007).</p>
2004	<p>Soft gelatin Temazepam capsules removed from the Australian market following evidence of harms from injecting Temazepam (Feb and Mar).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Report on barriers to treatment released: "Barriers and Incentives to treatment for illicit drug users." Report concluded that lack of access to treatment, long waiting lists and lack of support by health professionals. Report recommended improving national coverage of treatment services, monitoring the gap between demand and supply, and diversifying responses to meet different needs and comorbidity issues (Apr).</p> <p>Report released: "<i>Indigenous drug and alcohol projects: elements of best practice</i>" 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).</p>

	<p>The National Drug Strategy: Australia's integrated framework 2004-2009 adopted (Jun).</p> <p>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 demand and harm reduction strategies (Jul).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>MCDS endorsed development of a National Cannabis Strategy (Nov).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) established as the principal advisory group to the Commonwealth government on Indigenous drug and alcohol issues (Dec).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Abolition of the National Drug Strategy National Expert Advisory Committees.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
2003	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 submission by MSIC and Kirketon Road Centre to the NSW Health Department and the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council to remove capsules from the market (Jun).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>National Drug Strategy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan 2003 – 2009 released (Aug).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>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 <i>prior</i> 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (ANCAHRD) replaced by the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH).</p> <p>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 temazepam gel capsules found most had suffered complications including abscesses, cellulitis, skin ulcers, nerve damage and distal limb amputation.</p> <p>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.</p>
2002	<p>Australian police agencies (commencing with NSW Police) started to deploy drug detection dogs as a mainstream strategy for drug law enforcement (Feb).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Interim evaluation of the National Hepatitis C Strategy: "The Road Not Taken: Review of the National Hepatitis C Strategy" (Jul).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 amphetamine type substances such as MDMA and methylamphetamine.</p> <p>The Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) pilot program extended, enabling continued monitoring of drug use amongst police detainees at the pilot sites, plus the introduction of three new sites in Brisbane Qld and Adelaide and Elizabeth in SA.</p>
2001	<p>Heroin shortage reported in Sydney. Both injecting drug users and key informants noted that heroin availability had reduced, purity decreased and price increased (Jan).</p> <p>National Drugs Campaign 2001 – "Lost Dreams" and "Ad within an Ad" (Mar).</p> <p>Australia's first Medically Supervised Injecting Centre commenced as a pilot in Kings Cross, NSW (Mar).</p> <p>National Action Plan on Illicit Drugs 2001 – 2002-03 endorsed by the MCDS (Jul).</p> <p>Report released: "<i>Heroin overdose: prevalence, correlates, consequences and interventions</i>" 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).</p> <p>Report released: "<i>Structural determinants of youth drug use</i>" from the Australian National Council on Drugs concluded that there is a need to acknowledge that youth</p>

	<p>drug use is affected by a range of macro-environmental factors, including socio-economic gaps, urban planning, social capital & values and beliefs, and that failure to address these factors will limit capacity to reduce drug use (Sep).</p> <p>Report released: <i>"Evidence supporting treatment: the effectiveness of interventions for illicit drug use"</i> 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).</p> <p>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation established to address prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research into the misuse of alcohol and petrol, paint and glue (Oct).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 & 90s were restricted to schedule 4 and pack sizes of 30s were restricted to Schedule 3 or S3R.</p>
2000	<p>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.</p> <p>Launch of first Australian Hepatitis C strategy: National Hepatitis C Strategy 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 (Jun).</p> <p>National Minimum Data Set on Alcohol and other drugs treatment services established (Jul).</p> <p>The Australian Standard Classification of Drugs of Concern (ASCDC), 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).</p> <p>Buprenorphine (as Subutex®) was registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (Oct).</p> <p>The number of opioid related deaths in Australia exceeded 1000 for the first time. The Australian Bureau of Statistics showed a total of 1116 deaths occurred in 1999, a rate of 101.2 per 100,000 population aged 15-54.</p> <p>Drug Use Careers of Offenders (DUCO) study commenced. Funded by the Australian Government Attorney General's Department under the National Illicit Drugs Strategy and managed by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the first study examined the link between drugs and crime amongst adult sentenced male inmates (Dec).</p>
1999	<p>Naltrexone registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use as part of a comprehensive treatment program for alcohol dependence (Jan).</p> <p>Launch of Commonwealth Department of Health report: "Hepatitis C: A Review of Australia's response." This reviewed the prevalence of Hepatitis C and the performance of the National Hepatitis C Action Plan. Report recommended that Australia adopt a National Hepatitis C Strategy (Jan).</p> <p>National School Drug Education Strategy adopted (May).</p> <p>Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (ANCARD) replaced by the Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (ANCAHRD) (Sep).</p> <p>National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund (NDLERF) established to support evidence-based research into drug law enforcement (Oct).</p> <p>Council of Australian Government-Illicit 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).</p> <p>The Australian Drug Foundation established Somazone a website designed for and run by youth aged 12-25 (Nov).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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???)</p> <p>Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) 3 year pilot study commenced to provide measures of drug consumption amongst police detainees and information on current</p>

	<p>and prior criminal behaviour and treatment utilisation. Pilot sites included Bankstown and Parramatta in NSW, Southport in Qld and East Perth in WA.</p> <p>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.</p>
1998	<p>MCDS approved National Heroin Supply Reduction Strategy and National Supply Reduction Strategy for Drugs Other than Heroin which aimed to enhance interdiction at the international border, improve coordination, technology and best practice.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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)</p> <p>"Tough on Drugs" extended (Nov).</p> <p>National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 to 2002-03 released (Nov).</p> <p>National Heroin Supply Reduction Strategy and the National Supply Reduction Strategy for Illicit Drugs other than Heroin merged and replaced with National Supply Reduction Strategy for Heroin and other Illicit Drugs (Nov).</p> <p>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%.</p>
1997	<p>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.</p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council launched report: "A strategy for the detection and management of Hepatitis C in Australia" (Mar).</p> <p>Third evaluation of National Drug Strategy "Mapping the Future" by Prof Single and Prof Rohl. Noted confusion over term harm minimisation and insufficient role of NGO sector and fragmented management (Apr).</p> <p>"Treatment Works" week established by the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (Jun).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Prime Minister John Howard blocked ACT heroin trial (19 Aug).</p> <p>Diversion was placed on Ministerial Council of Drug Strategy agenda (Aug).</p> <p>Prime Minister's "Tough on Drugs" strategy commenced (Nov).</p> <p>Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) commenced as part of the Tough on Drugs strategy. NGOTGP aimed to fund the establishment, expansion, upgrading and operation of non-government alcohol and other drug treatment services (Nov).</p> <p>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 through projects that promoted and supported the establishment of community driven drug illicit prevention and early intervention initiatives (Nov).</p> <p>National Heroin Signature Program commenced to physically and chemically profile border seizures of heroin and their packing materials to generate strategic and tactical forensic drug intelligence.</p>
1996	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>First Annual Remembrance Ceremony held in Canberra "for those who lose their lives to illicit drugs". This ceremony has been held annually since that time and has</p>

	triggered many other ceremonies in Australia and throughout the world (Dec).
1995	Fifth national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1995." National review of the provision of methadone in Australia. Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform was formed following a high number of heroin overdose deaths between Christmas and Easter of that year (Apr).
1994	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.
1993	Re-launch of NCADA as the National Drug Strategy (NDS). First National Policy on Methadone adopted. Commonwealth funding for implementation of the NDS provided to law enforcement for the first time. Proportion of Commonwealth funds (matched with equal state funds) scheduled to increase to 3% in 1993-94, 7% in 1994-95 and 10% in 1995-96. Australian Medical and Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (AMPSAD) renamed as the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) (Nov). The Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform launched the "Charter for Drug Law Reform" which called for an end to prohibition (Nov). Fourth national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1993." The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances came into force in Australia. The final Australian jurisdiction implemented Needle Syringe Programs making it a national policy. National drug education campaign on amphetamines: "Speed catches up with you."
1992	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.
1991	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.
1990	National Centre for HIV Social Research established. Commonwealth Government ratified the United Nations Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. First national census of clients of treatment service agencies (COTSA) conducted (Mar). National Health and Medical Research Council released first formal statement on Hepatitis C.
1989	National HIV/AIDS Strategy launched – emphasis on prevention and harm reduction. 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).
1988	<p>First evaluation of NCADA by 5 person taskforce. Report titled "Report of the NCADA Task Force on Evaluation (1988)" concluded had been considerable progress – expansion of treatment services, community awareness and better monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Australian IV League (AIVL) began as unfunded national network representing drug users and drug user organizations.</p> <p>Second national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1988."</p> <p>Australian National Council on AIDS established.</p>
1987	<p>National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Research began first Australian clinical trial of AZT, a promising anti-retroviral (Feb).</p> <p>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</p>
1986	<p>National "Drug Offensive" media campaign launched (Apr).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Federal government provided funding and national recognition to newly formed Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.</p> <p>First Needle Syringe Program (NSP) opened in act of civil disobedience - Darlinghurst (Nov).</p>
1985	<p>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.</p> <p>National Drug Strategy Committee (NDSC) established to lead policy development in conjunction with the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS).</p> <p>Methadone endorsed as an appropriate treatment intervention and first guidelines approved by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference.</p> <p>First national household survey on drugs conducted: "Social issues in Australia, 1985."</p>