

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2019

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline provides a list of key events, policy and legislative changes that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and 31 December 2019. Events are listed by jurisdiction, at the federal and state/ territory level. The first table includes events at the federal level. Events in the state and territories are split into two parts. The second table includes events from the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Events from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia are listed in the third table. The timeline will continue to be updated bi-annually. Please email through comments or suggested inclusions.

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| Year | Federal |
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| 2019 | <p>Large increase in peak bodies – including the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and the Ambulance Union State Council - formally endorsing a pill testing trial (Jan-Feb).</p> <p>QandA host a special episode on pill testing, drug law reform and drug policy. Panelists included Dr Marianne Jauncey, Dr David Caldicott, Acting Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith, Former AFP Police Commissioner Mick Palmer and Kerryn Redpath (Feb 18).</p> <p>New report released: “Alcohol and other drug use in regional and remote Australia: consumption, harms and access to treatment” in the aim of identifying trends in alcohol and other drug use in Regional and remote Australia. It showed that A) people living in Regional and remote areas of Australia were more likely than people living in Major cities to have consumed alcohol at quantities that placed them at risk of harm from an alcohol-related disease or injury; B) Levels of recent drug use were similar between remoteness areas, however the type of illicit drug used varied, with much more use of ecstasy and cocaine in cities and more use of cannabis in very remote regions; c) The burden increased with remoteness: Remote and Very remote areas experienced 2.1 and 2.7 times, respectively, the burden of disease attributable to alcohol use, compared with Major cities in 2011 and over the past decade, the rate of drug-induced deaths has increased at a faster rate in Regional and remote areas, up 41% since 2008, compared with a 16% increase in Major cities; D) Agencies in Remote and very remote areas had the highest rate of clients who sought treatment; and E) Clients who sought treatment in Regional and remote areas were more likely than clients in Major cities to travel 1 hour or longer to treatment services over the same period (Mar).</p> <p>Commonwealth Department of Health announced \$20 million to support GPS and other allied health professionals in regional and remote Australia to access professional development and specialist skills in addiction medicine (Mar).</p> <p>Scott Morrison elected as Prime Minister: with a minority Liberal/National Coalition Government (May).</p> <p>New data released: “Trends in substance use among Australian secondary school students 1996–2017.” This showed that use of alcohol among secondary students in Australia has declined since the 2000s, most markedly among those aged 12 to 15, and that in general use of illicit drugs has also declined. The main exception is cannabis and ecstasy (May).</p> <p>New research by Hughes et al released: “Criminal justice responses relating to personal use and possession of illicit drugs: The reach of Australian drug diversion programs and barriers and facilitators to expansion.” This found Australian police divert 55% offenders with a principal offence of use/possession away from courts, and that the biggest determinant of access to diversion is the state in which someone lives – as only 32% offenders in WA were diverted compared to 98% in SA. It outlined unanimous support for expanding diversion in Australia and 10 steps to do this, including a) ensuring all jurisdictions (particularly NSW & Qld) provide diversion for <i>all</i> illicit drugs, 2) switching from a discretionary to legislative models, such as the South Australian Police Drug Diversion Initiative, or a hybrid legislative & 3) considering newer models of therapeutic diversion delivery e.g. online versus face to face (Jun).</p> <p>The ACIC received an extra \$4.8 billion to extend wastewater analysis for 4 years in Australia (until June 2023) (Jun).</p> <p>New report published: National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program Report 7. This compared wastewater analysis results from Australia for 2018 against data from 25 other countries across Europe, USA, Canada and South Africa. This showed that Australia ranked second highest in terms of combined stimulant use after the USA taking into account use of amphetamines, methamphetamines, cocaine and MDMA. The next highest countries were the Netherlands, Iceland and Canada (at 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively). Australia was also second for methylamphetamine (behind USA) and MDMA (behind Netherlands) specifically, but reported relatively low cocaine consumption (ranked at 17th) (Jun).</p> <p>New report published: “Illicit Drug Data Report 2017-18.” This showed that in 2017–18, there were 112,827 drug seizures and 30.6 tonnes of illicit drugs seized nationally. The weight of illicit drugs seized nationally has increased 130.0 per cent over the last decade, from 13.3 tonnes in 2008–09 to a record 30.6 tonnes in 2017–18. ATS remained the second most seized illicit drugs (11,205kg). There were 148,373 recorded illicit drug offences in 2017-18 (154,650 in 2016-17) of which 90.3% = consumer and 9.7% = provider arrests. The number of clan labs continued to decrease from 463 in 2016-17 to 432 in 2017-18. Most were for meth/amphetamine but 22 laboratories were detected in 2017–18 producing GHB/GBL and 20 laboratories detected producing MDMA the highest number reported in the last decade (Jul).</p> <p>The Penington Institute released a new report: “Australia’s Annual Overdose Report 2019.” This analysed overdose deaths from 2001 until 2017. It showed: in 2017 there were 1,612 unintentional drug-induced deaths in Australia = > four unintentional drug-induced deaths per day, or one death every 5.4 hours; the no. of unintentional drug-induced deaths has increased significantly over the past 15 years, from 981 in 2001 to 1,612 in 2017 (a 64.3% increase) – outstripping both the rate of population growth (27.8%) and number of deaths due to the road-toll (1,246 in 2017); the rate of unintentional drug-induced deaths continues to increase in rural and regional Australia, with a 24% between 2011 to 2017 vs a 5% increase in capital cities; and opioids were the drug group most commonly identified in unintentional drug-induced deaths in 2017 (involved in 904 deaths, of which 358 = heroin and 344 = oxycodone / morphine / codeine), followed by benzodiazepines (involved in 583 deaths). But, analysis of trends showed a significant rise in deaths involving two main drug types: a) heroin and b) stimulants (including methamphetamine) (Aug).</p> <p>An Audit of the Commonwealth Department of Health achievements under the National Ice Action Strategy showed limited progress: “While Australian Government funding to the alcohol and other drug sector has increased and actions have progressed, there is no monitoring to assess whether progress is being made toward the Strategy’s goal of reducing the prevalence</p> |

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| | <p>of ice use and resulting harms across the Australian community. This reflects that the department does not have an evaluation approach in place for the National Ice Action Strategy and is not monitoring any progress towards the goals and objective” (Sep).</p> <p>Social Services Legislation Amendment (Drug Testing Trial) Bill 2019 introduced – the third iteration of the welfare drug testing provisions (11 Sep). Bill passed the house of representatives but not the senate (17 Oct).</p> <p>New NDARC report released: “Australian Drug Trends 2019: Key Findings from the Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) Interviews.” This found use of most illicit drugs was stable. 55% reported using heroin in 2019 compared to 54% in 2018 and 78% reported use of methamphetamine compared to 77% in 2018. The median price of heroin nationally was \$350 for one gram, significantly higher than the median price in 2018 (\$280). In contrast, the median price of crystal methamphetamine recorded in 2019 was the lowest recorded since 2003 (\$260) and a significant decrease from \$300 in 2018, and a further decrease from 2014 - \$500 (Oct).</p> <p>New NDARC report released: “Australian Drug Trends 2019: Key Findings from the Ecstasy and Related Drug Reporting System (EDRS) Interviews.” This showed recent use of ecstasy pills continued to fall (67% vs 75% in 2018) while recent use of ecstasy caps rose (77% in 2019 versus 72% in 2018). There was a significant increase in median days of ecstasy cap use from 6 days in 2018 to 8 days in 2019 (13% reported weekly use compared to 8% in 2018) and the median cost of an ecstasy capsule decreased from \$25 in 2018 to \$20 in 2019-the lowest median reporting price since reporting began in 2008. Cocaine use increased from 2017 to 2018 to 2019 (48% to 59% to 67%), with the largest per cent of participants reporting recent use since monitoring began. (This was particularly in NSW, Vic and SA). Recent use of methamphetamine was stable in the last 3 years (33%) with 18% consuming crystal (Oct).</p> <p>A new nasal spray form of naloxone – a life-saving antidote medicine used to treat a narcotic overdose in an emergency situation – was added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Until this form naloxone was only available in injectable forms, but the PBS listing of the nasal spray was intended to provide easier administration of this overdose antidote for people suffering an overdose and first responders, and to thus help save lives. The new format would cost <\$6.50 per script versus >\$48 without subsidy (1 Nov).</p> <p>Home Affairs release new Illicit Drug Action Plan with principal focus on ice. Notes strong demand, along with high domestic prices, provides a lucrative market for criminal groups. Also notes the devastating impacts across communities, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas and the significant challenge in tackling the methylamphetamine market due to its diverse supply. Notes some goals from 2015 have been achieved e.g. national dob in a dealer campaign, and others remain ongoing including consistent national precursor regulations and disrupting production and supply to rural and regional communities. Key strategies going forward: significantly expanding ABF saturation of mail, reviewing Cth laws, expanding gang squads, and more strategic AFP liaison in Sth East Asia (Nov 2019).</p> <p>An update to the National Quality Framework for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services (National Quality Framework) was released. This now includes strengthened clinical governance requirements and a list of accreditation standards specialist treatment service providers must meet (Nov).</p> <p>National Framework for Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Treatment 2019-2029 (The Framework) released. The Framework enables a shared strategic vision of the drug and alcohol treatment system and facilitates coordinated planning to provide the context for national and state and territory processes, programs and policies. The framework includes: Principles for effective treatment; Principles for effective treatment planning, purchasing and resourcing; and Principles for monitoring, evaluation and research. Re effective treatment this notes that all treatment in Australia should be a) person-centred, b) evidence-informed, c) equitable and accessible, d) non-judgmental, e) culturally responsive and f) holistic and coordinated. For example, every Australian should have an equal opportunity and right to seek and receive alcohol or other drug treatment at a time, location, cost, and treatment type that suits their needs and Australian alcohol and other drug treatment services should work closely with general health, mental health, social welfare and other relevant services to provide a holistic approach to treatment to address any co-occurring mental health, physical or social needs. Re effective treatment planning, purchasing and resourcing this notes that responsibility for planning and coordinating the availability and accessibility of alcohol and other drug treatment resides with both federal and state/territory governments and that siloed planning, purchasing and resourcing can result in treatment gaps and planning duplication. Key principles are thus to: a) engage all funders of AOD treatment, as well as funders and planners of other systems of care that impact on AOD treatment; b) engage all other stakeholders, including service providers, clients of treatment and their significant others, peak bodies, and community representatives; c) identify gaps, priority groups, and areas of emerging need, within the jurisdictional and regional context; d) take into account medium-term and long-term horizon; and e) take into account the capability and capacity of the workforces and the need for other services (health, social welfare, etc.) (Dec).</p> <p>Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Take Home Naloxone pilot commenced in NSW, SA and WA. This aimed to improve access and uptake of naloxone, by providing it for free and without a prescription, from a wide variety of locations including community and hospital-based pharmacies, alcohol and other drug treatment centres, needle and syringe programs, custodial release programs, first responders (police) and GP clinics. Plot commenced 1 December 2019 and will run through to 28 February 2021, with a final report expected in mid-2021 (Dec).</p> <p>New research released: “Trends in drug-induced deaths in Australia, 1997-2018”. This examined deaths relating to illicit drugs specifically – and excluded any related to alcohol or tobacco. The analysis showed there were 1,740 drug-induced deaths among Australians in 2018. The rate of deaths per 100,000 population has been increasing since 2006 but remains lower than the peak in 1999. Opioids were the main drug cited in drug-induced deaths (1,129 deaths in 2018) (Dec).</p> <p>New research released: “Trends in drug-related hospitalisations in Australia, 1999-2018.” This showed there were 60,627 drug-related hospital separations among Australians in 2017-18, equivalent to 0.5% of all hospital separations in Australia and that this was most common amongst those aged 20-29. In 2017-18 the greater proportion of drug-related hospital separations was attributable to amphetamines and other stimulants (57 hospitalisations per 100,000 people, 23% of drug-related hospitalisations), compared to 14% opioids. The rate of amphetamine-related hospitalization has further increased significantly since 2009 - 57 versus 13 separations per 100,000 people and 43% were for psychosis (Dec).</p> |
| 2018 | <p>New research released by Gabrielle Todd et al “Adults with a history of illicit amphetamine use exhibit abnormal substantia nigra morphology and parkinsonism.” This showed a) that illicit use of amphetamines in Australian adults was associated with abnormal substantia nigra morphology and subtle clinical signs of parkinsonism, b) that such changes were not observed in other control groups (e.g. groups that only used cannabis or ecstasy) and c) that these abnormalities were observed in adults with an average age of 30 years who had normal memory and cognition, used methamphetamine as little as five or more times, and been abstinent from methamphetamine for an average of two years. The results support epidemiological findings linking use of methamphetamine with increased risk of developing Parkinson’s disease later in life (Jan).</p> <p>The Hon. Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Social Services, re-introduced a second iteration of a bill on welfare drug testing – <i>Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2018</i>. The bill proposed to establish a mandatory drug testing trial of 5000 recipients of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) in three specified locations - Canterbury-Bankstown, New South Wales; Logan, Queensland and Mandurah, Western Australia (28 Feb).</p> |

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| | <p>New research released: "The methamphetamine market: Police detainee perspectives." This research, based on interviews with 4,400 police detainees in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Sydney found that in 2015-16 58% of police detainees reported they used methamphetamine in the last 12 months (compared to 29% in 2010) and that 42% reported being dependent on the drug. Recent methamphetamine users reported consuming 14 days out of the last 30 days, using an average of 3 times a day and a quantity of 0.4 grams i.e. 1.2g per day (Apr).</p> <p>Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs held a second inquiry into Social Services Legislation Amendment (Drug Testing Trial) Bill 2018. This led to two public hearings in Bass Hill NSW and Logan QLD and receipt of 29 public submissions (Mar-May).</p> <p>Bill by Senator David Leyonhjelm, Liberal Democratic Party, proposed to remove Commonwealth barriers to the legalisation and taxation of cannabis, with no restrictions on the production or advertising of cannabis (May).</p> <p>Australian Greens proposed to legalise cannabis for adult use in a tightly regulated market. Key proposals include a) establishment of an Australian Cannabis Agency that would be act as a single wholesaler, and issue all licenses for production and sale, b) retail sales outlets with strict age limits, requirements for plain packaging and bans on all advertising and c) options for cultivation for personal use (May).</p> <p>The Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum endorsed the National Quality Framework (NQF) for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services. Ministers noted the implementation of the NQF will set a nationally consistent quality benchmark which consumers can expect from drug and alcohol treatment providers, both government and non-government funded. Arrangements for the NQF include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government funded treatment service providers will be required to comply with the NQF, through contractual and/or jurisdictional arrangements. • Providers not receiving government funding will be required to meet the NQF through regulatory or other processes as determined by jurisdictions as appropriate (Jun). <p>Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum established an Opioid Issues Working Group, with the access and availability of Naloxone in Australia the first issue to be examined (Jun).</p> <p>New national approval process for medical cannabis unveiled: replacing dual approval process via states and Commonwealth, with single nationally consistent online access pathway via TGA (Jul).</p> <p>The National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs (NCCRED) was established to support clinical research into new treatment options, training of health professionals and evaluating treatment effectiveness for people using methamphetamine or other emerging drugs of concern. This is a consortium led by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, with the National Drug Research Institute, the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction and St Vincent's Health Australia and directed by Dr Nadine Ezard (Sep).</p> <p>The Cth Department of Health provided funding to expand the Victorian Ambulance Project to establish and maintain a National Surveillance System for Alcohol and other Drug Misuse and Overdose.</p> |
| 2017 | <p>The Cracks in the Ice website was launched, to provide publicly accessible, factual and evidence-based information for community groups, local councils, concerned parents and friends, teachers, students and frontline service providers relating to ice. A smartphone app was developed in Jan 2018 (Apr).</p> <p>First round of 40 Local Drug Action Teams (LDAT) - one key recommendation of the National Ice Taskforce - announced across Australia. The LDATs are supported by the Australian Drug Foundation and seek to develop locally focused and responsive action plans to reduce the impact of drugs, with a particular focus on the drug ice. They involve local councils, service providers, police, sporting groups, and NGOs and use a range of strategies such as local health promotion, community-led education and mentoring, early intervention and prevention programs. 220 LDAT were promised over 3 years (Mar).</p> <p>First national wastewater report released: covering 51 sites (12 in Qld, 10 in NSW, 8 SA and 7 Vic) and 54% of the Australian population. Confirmed methylamphetamine had the highest consumed illicit drug tested across all regions in Australia (Cannabis was not included in testing). Also showed high levels at several regional sites including in Qld, Vic and Tas (Mar).</p> <p>National cost-effectiveness evaluation "Australian police diversion for cannabis offences: Assessing program outcomes and cost-effectiveness" found that cannabis expiation and cannabis caution were six to 15 times cheaper than provision of a traditional criminal justice response (charge) for cannabis use/possess offences, without leading to increased drug use or subsequent offending (Jun).</p> <p>New bill debated: <i>Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017</i>. Schedule 12 of this bill proposed to introduce a mandatory drug testing trial for 5000 new recipients of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance and that any trial participants who test positive to a specified illicit drug (methamphetamine, cannabis, opioids) would be subject to income management for a period of 24 months and may be required to submit to drug treatment. The bill was referred the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee (the committee) for inquiry and report by 4 September 2017 (22 Jun).</p> <p>The National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline became operational and is one of the resources promoted through the National Drugs Campaign, providing direct access to information, counselling support and services (Jul).</p> <p>Penington Institute released a new report: "Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2016." This analysed overdose deaths from 2004 until 2014 and showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaths due to accidental overdose grew substantially from 705 to 1,137 between 2004 and 2014: a 61% increase. • Contrary to stereotypes Australians aged 40-49 were the most likely to die of a drug overdose. • Large increases in overdose deaths in rural and regional were driving the overall increase. • WA was the worst state for overdose deaths per capita with 5.8 per 100,000 in 2014 followed by NSW with 5.1 per 100,000 (Jul). <p>National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 released: first decade long drug strategy. The central objective remained harm minimisation: to build safe, healthy and resilient Australian communities through preventing and minimising alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related health, social, cultural and economic harms among individuals, families and communities, with the strategy noting "this consistent approach to the national drug policy framework has earned high international regard for its progressive, balanced and comprehensive approach and has made considerable achievements." Key priority actions included: a) enhancing access to evidence-informed, effective and affordable treatment services and support; b) developing new data collections and sharing data and research that supports evidence-informed approaches and early warning of emerging priorities; c) increasing participatory processes that facilitate collaboration between government, the community and non-government sector; and d) enhancing systems to facilitate greater diversion into health interventions from the</p> |

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| | <p>criminal justice system, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, young people and other at-risk populations who may be experiencing disproportionate harm (Sep).</p> <p>The Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee (the committee) inquiry into the <i>Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017</i> received 63 submissions and held two public hearings in Sydney and Melbourne. Serious concerns were raised by multiple groups including: the Australian Council of Social Service; National Employment Services Association; Drug Policy Modelling Program; UnitingCare; Catholic Social Services Australia and Catholic Health Australia; The Kirby Institute; Cohealth; National Drug Research Institute; Australian Drug Law Reform Initiative; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League; Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies; and the Public Health Association Agency. Key issues raised were: a) a lack of evidence to support the use of drug testing; b) the cost, availability and reliability of drug testing; c) the lack of availability of treatment services to meet potential increased demand; d) the potential to increase stigma, poverty and crime in the trial regions and e) lack of rigorous research methodology for the trial. Of note, critics stated that there is no evidence that drug testing will achieve the desired outcome. Submissions referred to drug testing of welfare recipients introduced in the USA and New Zealand where only small numbers of those tested returned positive test results. For example, one trial in New Zealand of 8001 participants had only 22 positive test results: 0.27% of participants. Others noted proposed drug testing would capture both recreational and drug dependent people, which would unnecessarily increase demand on drug treatment services and that existing drug treatment services were already significantly under-resourced (meeting only 50% of demand). In response, on Aug 30 the Government announced a \$10 million fund would be available to provide additional assistance to drug treatment services in the three drug testing sites (Sep).</p> <p>The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights considered the <i>Social Services Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform) Bill 2017</i> and raised concerns that Schedule 12 (welfare drug testing provisions) interfered with and limited the rights to privacy, bodily integrity, social security and equality and non-discrimination. For example, they stated "drug testing is an invasive procedure and may violate a person's legitimate expectation of privacy. Further, the measure requires the divulging of private medical information to a firm contracted to conduct the drug testing. A person may need to provide evidence of their prescriptions and/or medical history to the company to avoid false positives that, for example, detect prescribed opioids. Finally, the use of a card in purchasing essential goods after a person's benefit is quarantined will disclose that a person receives quarantined social security payments." They further noted that the limits on the right to privacy did not appear justified: "The initial analysis identified that, first, the measure appears to be overly broad. The randomised drug test is not reliant on any reasonable suspicion that a person has a drug abuse problem and that if they test positive once, even if it was the first time they had used an illicit drug or it was a false positive, their payments are quarantined for two years, during which period they must use a cashless welfare card" and that less rights restrictive ways could be undertaken to achieve the central objective such as by encouraging (voluntary) treatment and investing in additional treatment and referral services(Oct).</p> <p>New NDARC research released "Drugs and the Internet". This monitored trends over time in the availability and type of substances sold via the internet on the darknet looking specifically at the period January 2017 until June 2017. Fourteen marketplaces were actively monitored during the time period, but AlphaBay and Hansa were shut down by a joint international law enforcement operation in July 2017. Alphasbay (up until closure) and Dream Market continued to be the largest marketplaces at the end of the monitoring period, recording the largest number of unique vendors during this time. Hansa (up until closure) was the third largest marketplace monitored during this period. Substantial downtime was recorded across the remaining marketplaces (including Dream Market) following the law enforcement seizures. By December 2019 11 of the 14 marketplaces monitored had closed, either as a result of suspected exit scams, security breaches, or law enforcement seizures – an unprecedented number of market closures in such a short time (Dec).</p> <p>The Senate, on the motion of the government, agreed to remove Schedule 12 from the Welfare Reform Bill (trial of mandatory drug testing) (Dec 7).</p> |
| 2016 | <p>The Office of Drug Control (ODC) established in the Commonwealth Department of Health to regulate and provide advice on the import, export and manufacture of controlled drugs as well as the domestic cultivation of medicinal cannabis. Key roles: to administer the <i>Narcotic Drugs Act 1967</i> and parts of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 and the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958 that relate to drugs (Feb 15).</p> <p>New research released: "Drug Use Monitoring in Australia: An expansion into the Pilbara." This sought to supplement traditional DUMA analysis of police detainees in metropolitan areas with analysis in regional areas – here Pilbara. 51 police detainees in South Hedland were interviewed and compared with a sample of 209 Perth detainees. The findings indicated that illicit drug use was significantly lower among those interviewed in the regional setting, but that alcohol use was higher and many asserted alcohol contributed to their current detention (Feb).</p> <p>The Federal Parliament of Australia passed landmark legislation, <i>Narcotic Drugs Amendment Act 2016</i>, to allow the controlled cultivation of cannabis in Australia for medicinal and related scientific purposes via a national licensing scheme. The act came into effect on 30 Oct 2016, with a detailed regulatory framework enabling applications for licenses and permits for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medicinal cannabis products. Key rules included that first set of cultivation or manufacture licenses would be issued for one year only and that licensees must be judged as 'fit and proper person' including having previous business experience, no convictions for a serious offence in the last 5 years against Cth/State/Territory law and being a person of good repute (Feb 24).</p> <p>National Dob in a Dealer campaign launched, a campaign with Crime Stoppers that asks local communities to report drug dealers and drug-related activity and "stop the manufacture, supply and dealing of drugs in Australia". This ran from Feb 2016 until March 2017 and was further extended in 2018.</p> <p>New research by Degenhardt et al released: "Estimating the number of regular and dependent methamphetamine users in Australia, 2002-2014". This estimated that in 2012-13 there were a total of 268 000 regular methamphetamine users and 160 000 dependent users aged 15-54 years in Australia and that this number had increased substantially over the last 12 years (Mar).</p> <p>New research by Ritter and Stoove released: "Alcohol and other drug treatment policy in Australia" This concluded that Australia needs to double its investment in alcohol and drug resources to meet unmet treatment needs (Mar).</p> <p>TGA rescheduling of naloxone commenced enabling purchase of naloxone over-the-counter in pharmacies (S3) (Feb 1).</p> <p>New commentary by Lenton et al (Australia reschedules naloxone for opioid overdose) highlighted new challenges for full and effective implementation of naloxone over the counter (OTC) in Australia: including the cost of obtaining naloxone OTC. For example, they noted that under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, five minijets of naloxone cost A\$37.70, or A\$6.10 on concession, which could be a significant barrier to many consumers especially for opioid users who are often financially disadvantaged (Mar).</p> <p>Parliamentary Drug Summit held in Canberra, co-hosted by Senator Richard Di Natale (Greens), Sharman Stone MP (LNP) and Melissa Parke MP (ALP). Summit brought together International and Australian representatives with expertise in health, NGO, justice, personal addiction and academia to share experiences and recommendations around harm</p> |

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| | <p>minimisation and drug law reform. Led to call for Australia to put health and community safety first in illicit drug policy; to remove criminal sanctions for personal drug use; to expand investment in drug treatment and to pursue an open debate on more effective policies (Mar 2).</p> <p>Australian country statement at the United Nations 59th Commission on Narcotic Drugs noted that "Australia opposes the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including in relation to drug-related crimes" and that Australia would "continue to press for a global ban on the death penalty and actively engage in promoting a public health approach to illicit drug use which considers a proportional response to minor or non-violent drug related crimes" (Mar).</p> <p>Australian country statement at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) reiterated that "Australia will continue to press for a global ban on the death penalty in all circumstances, including in relation to drug-related crimes" (Apr).</p> <p>Stereosonic music festival organisers announced it was cancelling its 2016 trip to Australia following two fatal overdoses at their events in Sydney and Adelaide in late 2015 (Apr).</p> <p>DPMP research released by Chalmers et al: "The stigmatisation of 'ice' and underreporting of methamphetamine use in general population surveys." Found stigmatisation of drug use (methamphetamine in particular) may lead to under-reporting of use in the national drug strategy household survey (Jun).</p> <p>A national pilot wastewater analysis program announced, funded through \$3.6 million from Proceeds of Crime. The program will be run by the Australian Crime Commission and monitor levels of methylamphetamine, MDMA and cocaine (Jun).</p> <p>Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission was established following the merge of the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and CrimTrac (Jul 1).</p> <p>Data from the Kirby Institute revealed record numbers of Australians treated for Hepatitis C since listing of new generation treatments on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schemes. For example, 22,470 Australians had commenced Hepatitis C treatment since PBS listing in May 2015, compared to 2,000-3,000 people treated annually prior to the listing (Jul).</p> <p>New research by Hughes et al released: "Trafficking in multiple commodities: Exposing Australia's poly-drug and poly-criminal networks." This provided the first analysis of the scale, trends and harms of Australian poly-drug traffickers (traffickers that trade in multiple illicit drugs), showing that compared to traffickers that trade in one drug (mono-drug traffickers), poly-drug traffickers import larger quantities of drugs, are more involved in other forms of organized crime and are more resilient to police (Aug).</p> <p>Illicit Drug Data Report 2014-15 released. This showed that the number of border detections increased for most drug types. Of note the number and weight of heroin, cocaine and MDMA detections at the Australian border increased. The report also included for the first time results from wastewater analysis. This indicated that methylamphetamine use in the community had increased linearly from 2009 to 2015, and that levels of use were much higher than suggested by estimates from the NDSHS (Aug).</p> <p>The Senate passed a motion led by Greens Leader Richard Di Natale calling on the Federal Government to address the rising rates of harm associated with drug use by implementing and appropriately resourcing evidence-based harm reduction policies, including:(i) greater access to needle and syringe programs across the country with an urgent roll-out of trials inside prisons, (iii) promoting awareness of the life-saving opioid reversal drug Naloxone, and highlighting its availability over the counter in pharmacies, and(iv) working with state and territory governments to cease the use of drug sniffer dogs at festivals and urgently introduce trials of pill testing for the upcoming festivals season. The motion passed the Senate without objection from Labor or Liberal Senators (Aug).</p> <p>2016 Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) reported a resurgence in the Australian ecstasy market as well as a shift towards higher purity crystal forms of the drug. Regular stimulant users reported increased availability and purity of crystal and non-crystal forms of ecstasy in Australia. They also reported a shift in forms of use with increased use of crystal and capsules. Of note, prevalence of crystal ecstasy increased from 39% in 2013 to 57% in 2016 (Sep).</p> <p>New research released by Roche and McEntee: "Ice and the outback: Patterns and prevalence of methamphetamine use in rural Australia" This showed that those living in rural locations have significantly higher levels of recent use of methamphetamine in general and crystal methamphetamine in particular and that this is concerning given the pre-existing health and social vulnerabilities of those living in rural Australia. The article notes the need for prevention efforts targeting rural workplaces and primary care settings. The authors also noted drug networks may be spreading from major cities to smaller communities, and that this may reflect deliberate targeting of rural communities by illegal distribution networks (Dec).</p> <p>The Greens Party unveiled a new drugs policy that ended opposition to legalisation of illicit drugs. The new drugs policy included three principles: 1) the current punitive approach to drug use has failed to stop illicit drugs use; 2) the legal framework for drugs and other substances used for non-medical purposes should be informed by evidence of the extent and nature of the harm likely to be caused; and 3) education is a vital tool in reducing both harm from and demand for drugs, including legal drugs such as alcohol and tobacco. The policy also calls for a new independent national regulatory authority to assess and reduce the harm of illicit drugs (Dec).</p> |
| 2015 | <p>New research by Degenhardt et al. "Experience of adjunctive cannabis use for chronic non-cancer pain" found 13% of their sample of 1500 chronic pain patients were using cannabis in addition to prescribed opioids and that many of those reported they got more pain relief from cannabis than conventional medicines (Jan).</p> <p>Indonesian President Joko Widodo denied the final appeal for Bali Nine offenders, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, to avoid the death penalty (Jan).</p> <p>ANZ Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation met to consider ANZ Food Standards approval A1039 for the use of low THC hemp products in food. The application was rejected on the basis of ongoing law enforcement concern about the impact on drug driving enforcement and the use of the cannabis leaf design normalizing and trivializing the use of cannabis (Jan).</p> <p>Silkroad website founder Ross Ulbricht found guilty on seven counts including drug trafficking and money laundering (Feb).</p> <p>The Centre of Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance released the first interactive drug education game for teenagers: "Pure Rush." The program aims to inform adolescents about the potential harms of cannabis, methamphetamine, hallucinogens and pills through a game format (Feb).</p> <p>Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee commenced an Inquiry into the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014 with a call for public submissions (Feb).</p> <p>The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Psychoactive Substances and Other Measures) Bill 2014 was adopted. The bill amends the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i> (the Code) to ban the importation of all substances that have a psychoactive effect that are not otherwise regulated or banned. It was intended to fill the regulatory gap before new psychoactive substances are controlled under other parts of the Criminal Code or the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations. The maximum penalty for an offence will be imprisonment for five years, 300 penalty units (currently equivalent to \$51,000) or both. The measures will enter into force when it is proclaimed or six months after Royal Assent (Feb 23).</p> |

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| | <p>Federal Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement initiated an inquiry into crystal methamphetamine (ice). Terms of reference included to examine 1) the role of Commonwealth law enforcement agencies in responding to the importation, manufacture, distribution and use of methamphetamine and its chemical precursors; 2) the adequacy of Commonwealth law enforcement resources; 3) the involvement of organised crime in methamphetamine related criminal activities; and 4) the nature, prevalence and culture of methamphetamine use in Australia (Mar).</p> <p>National Ice Taskforce launched by Prime Minister Tony Abbott. The taskforce was led by Ken Lay APM, former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, and tasked with establishing a National Ice Action Strategy to tackle ice (crystal methamphetamine). The taskforce called for public submissions until 20 May 2015 (Apr).</p> <p>Bali Nine offenders, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, were executed in Indonesia (Apr).</p> <p>Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2013-14 released. Noted that the number of illicit drug seizures and arrests were the highest on record. Of particular concern the number and weight of ATS end-product (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border were the highest and second highest on record and the number of national ATS seizures and arrests were the highest on record. That said, trends in the number of ATS clan lab detections had decreased for the second year (May).</p> <p>Law Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC – the peak ministerial law enforcement body in Australia) agreed to work towards more nationally consistent controls over precursor chemicals and equipment and that they would arrange public consultation on a range of possible options (May).</p> <p>A range of new hepatitis C treatments were added to the pharmaceutical benefits scheme (PBS), including Viekira Pak® with a cure rate of more than 90%. Treatments became available May 1 2016 (Mar).</p> <p>New research by Ritter et al, released: "Health expenditure on alcohol and other drug treatment in Australia (2012/2013)." This found that alcohol and other drug treatment spending in Australia amounted to \$1.2 billion in 2012/2013: just under one per cent of health care spending in Australia. States/territories accounted for 51% of all expenditure (Aug).</p> <p>The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) announced its decision to place "naloxone when used for the treatment of opioid overdose" on Schedule 3, commencing 1 Feb 2016, thereby allowing over-the-counter (OTC) purchase. This made Australia the second country, after Italy (in 1995), to have naloxone formally available OTC. Key reasons for the decision were: 1) that naloxone is a well-tolerated life-saving medicine with minimal side effects; 2) international experience and the outcomes of a trial conducted in the Australian Capital Territory support the view that easier availability of naloxone is likely to decrease the proportion of opioid overdoses which result in death in Australia; and 3) that there are few inherent risks with use of naloxone (Nov 4).</p> <p>Final Report of the <i>National Ice Taskforce</i>, chaired by Ken Lay, released following face-to-face consultations across the country and over 1,300 written submissions. Report concluded that ice use was causing significant harms across Australia, but that in spite of the best efforts of Australian law enforcement that the ice market remained high and very resilient to law enforcement (due to the capacity to both import and domestically manufacture supplies). The taskforce thus concluded that ice is "not something we can simply arrest our way out of" and recommended that governments focus action on reducing the demand for ice and reducing the harm it causes: via expanded prevention and treatment responses. Made 38 recommendations including; to increase investment in alcohol and other drug specialist treatment services; develop a comprehensive, evidence-based two-year prevention communication plan focusing on ice; review diversionary programmes to determine best practice approaches, and consider options for improving and expanding existing arrangements; prioritise building a national cooperative scheme on unexplained wealth; piloting a Swift and Certain Sanctions programme for ice offenders on probation, drawing on lessons learned from US HOPE models; introduce a simplified governance model to support greater cohesion and coordination of law enforcement, health, education and other responses to drug misuse in Australia; to establish a national wastewater analysis capability; and to establish an illicit drug monitoring clearinghouse for national data (Dec).</p> <p>Commonwealth government issued a response to the National Ice Taskforce. Included \$300m in new funds across five areas: support for families and communities; targeted prevention; investment in treatment and workforce; focused law enforcement; and better evidence and research. Specific responses included: \$241.5 million for the delivery of further treatment services; \$24.9 million to help families and communities, including via up to 220 new Community Drug Action Teams; and \$18.8 million to enhance our evidence base, deliver new guidelines and improve the quality of data and research on ice and other illicit drugs (Dec 5).</p> <p>National Ice Action Strategy released: with objective to prevent people from using ice in the first place, help those who are using to stop, and to reduce the harms the drug is causing to users and the community. Strategy had five key areas: support for families and communities; targeted prevention; investment in treatment and workforce; focused law enforcement; and better evidence and research. Also noted that a new Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum would be developed in 2016 to oversee the National Ice Strategy and National Drug Strategy: consisting of health and justice Ministers with responsibility for alcohol and drug policy who would report directly to COAG (Dec 11).</p> <p>A one stop portal for evidence-based drug prevention resources and information – Positive Choices – was launched. The site was developed at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in collaboration with the National Drug Research Institute to provide a central access point for school communities: teachers, students and parents. It includes drug education resources, fact sheets, webinars and games (Dec).</p> <p>A change to funding arrangements for the national community response to Blood Borne Viruses (BBV) and Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI) led to threat of closure of AIVL, the Australian agency representing people who use drugs. But closure was averted following large community response including a #SaveAIVL Campaign and letters to MPs (Dec).</p> |
| 2014 | <p>Joint Task Force (Task Force Eligio), that was established to focus on high-threat money laundering, seized \$550 million in drugs, \$30 million worth of assets, \$26 million in cash and arrested 105 people. The taskforce was led by the Australian Crime Commission and involved the Australian Federal Police and the Australian Transaction and Reporting Centre (AUSTRAC), in partnership with State and Territory police, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Commonwealth regulatory and law enforcement partners and international agencies including the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (Jan).</p> <p>2014 Government Services Report showed perceptions of illegal drugs as a problem in Australia decreased from 45% to 37% (2011-12 to 2012-13) (Feb).</p> <p>New DPMP research released: "Australian threshold quantities for drug trafficking." Provided the first evaluation of threshold designs throughout Australian states. Showed a number of problems in threshold designs, including that users of drugs, particularly MDMA, consume or purchase for their personal use alone more than the current threshold quantity that triggers a charge of "deemed supply" and sanction of up to 15 years prison. Recommended increasing a number of quantities (Mar).</p> <p>New NDARC research showed growth in number of Australian retailers on the 'dark web' even after the closure of Silk Road 1.0 in Oct 2013 and a shift in nature of demand: reduction in</p> |

demand for new psychoactive substances (NPS) and increase in demand for traditional illicit substances (Mar).

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

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

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

New guidelines issued: National Guidelines for Medication-Assisted Treatment of Opioid Dependence (Apr).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New strategies adopted: Seventh National HIV Strategy; Fourth National Hepatitis C Strategy; and Second National Hepatitis B Strategy (Jul).

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) rejected the application to add sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) an antiviral medication for Hepatitis C with a treatment time of just 12 weeks to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), arguing it was too expensive (Aug).

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

ANCD release new report: "Medicinal use of cannabis: background and information paper" (Aug).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New NDARC research released: "Young adult sequelae of adolescent cannabis use: an integrative analysis." The study pooled data from four large Australasian longitudinal studies and showed that frequent cannabis use in adolescence was linked with reduced odds of high-school completion and degree attainment and substantially increased odds of later cannabis

dependence, use of other illicit drugs and suicide attempt (Sep).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS) was released. This showed recent use of any illicit drug (excluding pharmaceuticals) remained stable between 2010 and 2013 (at 12%). However, there was a significant decrease in recent use of ecstasy (from 3.0% to 2.5%) and while recent use of methamphetamine remained stable (at 2.1%), the recent use of ice (or crystal methamphetamine) more than doubled, from 22% in 2010 to 50% in 2013 (Nov).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Provisions commenced on 10 December 2014 (Dec).

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

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

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

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

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).

Renewed criticism of the AFL's illicit drugs policy and its' three strikes approach (Feb).

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).

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).

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).

New report released by ANCD's National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC): "An economic analysis for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders: Prison vs. Residential Treatment". This report analysed the costs and benefits of addressing Indigenous offenders convicted of non-violent crime related to drug and alcohol use using residential rehabilitation treatment, as compared to prison. This showed that residential rehabilitation cost \$18,385 per person, compared to \$114,832 for prison. Moreover, once additional benefits of treatment were factored in, treatment could save \$111 458 per offender (Feb).

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).

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).

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

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

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

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

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

Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2011-12 released. The report highlighted that in 2011-12 the number and weight of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and cocaine border seizures had increased to the highest in the last decade. The number of national arrests for these drugs had also increased to the highest (ATS) and second highest (cocaine) in the last decade (May).

The Criminal Code Amendment Regulation 2013 (No. 1) and the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Serious Drugs, Identity Crime and Other Measures) Act 2012 made the following amendments to Part 9.1 of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Code Regulations:

- the lists of drugs, plants and precursors were transferred to the Criminal Code Regulations 2002 to provide for quicker listing of substances. The controlled drug list and border-controlled drug list were also updated to reflect current substances of concern in Australia, including new substances and analogues;
- conditions and criteria for listing controlled and border-controlled substance in regulations were established;
- the emergency determination mechanism was improved by extending the listing period to allow for appropriate analysis and testing of substances; &
- the criteria that must be satisfied before an emergency determination can be made were refined (May).

Calls for a national ban on synthetic drugs following NBOMe related death of Sydney teenager Henry Kwan and NSW temporary ban on 19 substances (Jun).

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

Review of the Australian drug and alcohol prevention and treatment sector commenced, led by Prof Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program. This 12 month project will clarify Australian drug and alcohol treatment and prevention funding; current and future service needs; the gap between met and unmet demand; & future planning and funding processes (Jul).

First systematic analysis of Australian cannabis THC and CBD potency published by Dr Swift et al. Showed most Australian cannabis had high THC and low CBD potency. Moreover, the mean potency of Australian THC was 14.88, which is similar, if not slightly higher than in other parts of the world (e.g. US and UK) (Jul).

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| | <p>The Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) released a report: "Survey of secondary school principals on the use of alcohol and other drugs in schools". The report stemmed from a survey which canvassed the opinions of over two hundred Australian secondary school principals regarding the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs in schools (Jul).</p> <p>The AOD Quality Framework Project commenced led by Prof Dan Lubman, Turning Point Drug and Alcohol Centre. This 12 month project seeks to better understand and improve service quality and inform future planning through development of a quality framework for Australian Government funded AOD treatment services (Jul).</p> <p>NDARC releases first findings from new internet drug monitoring program. Shows that Australian retailers on the deep web offered traditional illicit substances for prices similar to those of street dealers or friends: but that prices advertised by online international retailers were substantially cheaper (Aug).</p> <p>New report released from the Drug Policy Modelling Program: "Government drug policy expenditure in Australia - 2009/10". Found that Australian governments spent approximately \$1.7 billion in 2009/10 on illicit drugs and that 64% was directed at law enforcement, compared to 22% treatment, 10% prevention and 2% harm reduction. Also showed relative expenditure on harm reduction had decreased from 2002/03: from 3.9% of expenditure to 2.2% (Aug).</p> <p>A multi-agency law enforcement operation targeting criminal organisations using the South Pacific as a transit point and staging area for their activities seized approximately 750 kilograms of cocaine in Vanuatu bound for Australia. Agencies involved included the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and United States Drug Enforcement Administration (Aug).</p> <p>New research from NDARC: "Global burden of disease attributable to illicit drug use and dependence: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010." This showed that Australia had one of the highest burdens of disease attributable to illicit drug use. Other countries included USA, UK and Russia (Aug).</p> <p>ANCD released a series of reports on employment participation for people experiencing AOD problems including: "<i>ANCD Employment Participation Survey: Full Report</i>"; and "<i>Working Together for Greater Social Inclusion: ANCD Employment Services Roundtable Report</i>". Showed that criminal convictions were still the biggest barrier to employing AOD users (Aug).</p> <p>ANCD Position Paper: "Pre-employment Criminal Record Checks" called for a rethink on use of pre-employment criminal record checks in Australia, after a 600% increase in decade (Aug).</p> <p>ANCD Position Paper: "Drug testing" overviewed the rationale for using drug testing in treatment settings, in workplaces, in schools, among welfare beneficiaries and in homes. They conclude that there is valid medical reasons for drug testing in drug treatment settings, but that there is little satisfactory evidence to support the use of drug testing in schools or workplaces and no evidence that drug testing welfare beneficiaries will have any positive effects for those individuals or for society (Aug).</p> <p>The ANCD's National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) released a position statement: "Funding of alcohol and other drug interventions and services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people" in response to changes in government policy that were leading to an erosion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control of AOD services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Community control was affirmed and supported by NIDAC (Aug).</p> <p>New BOCSAR report released: Trends in property and illicit drug crime around the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in Kings Cross: 2012 update. This re-affirmed that trends in property crime and illicit drug crime incidents were the same in Kings Cross LAC and the rest of Sydney after the opening of the MSIC (Sep).</p> <p>Liberal Government elected, under PM Tony Abbott (Sep).</p> <p>ANCD released "Needle Syringe Programs position paper" which noted with concern the closure of a number of NSPs and reduction in funds. The report put forward 12 recommendations including that all Australian governments renew commitment to the use and expansion of NSPs and that there is an immediate introduction of a prison based NSP in all states (Oct).</p> <p>Australian Crime Commission and New Zealand Customs Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing both countries to share information and intelligence on the highest criminal risks (Oct).</p> <p>The FBI shut down the original Silk Road site and arrested the alleged founder and main operator Ross Ulbricht (Oct 2).</p> <p>A multi-agency taskforce, Operation Diamondback, seized 1.9 tonnes of a pseudoephedrine and vanilla powder mixture: a novel concealment method used to traffick precursor chemicals from Canada to Australia. A total of 10 people were also arrested including 8 Canadian nationals during the 18-month investigation (Oct).</p> <p>Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA) defunded by Liberal Government (Nov).</p> <p>Third Inter-Government Committee on Drugs (IGCD) Stakeholder Forum held. Noted demand for illicit drugs, particularly of methamphetamine a key concern (Nov).</p> <p>New report released by ANCD's Asia-Pacific Drugs and Development Issues Committee: "The link between amphetamine-type stimulants use and the transmission of blood-borne viruses in the Southeast Asian region." Identified key gaps in data on ATS rates of use, but also significant public health concern. Showed ATS users were exposed to multiple HIV risks due to 1) high risk behaviours such as polydrug use and injecting drug use, and 2) low health service utilisation. Recommendations included: enhance capacity to enable more precise prevalence estimates of ATS use; invest in rapid assessment and response strategies to ATS; and adapt existing harm reduction services, such as drop-in centres and needle and syringe programs, to better meet the needs of ATS users (Dec).</p> <p>Peter Phillip Nash was arrested in Brisbane over alleged involvement in moderating Silk Road (an online drug market) (Dec).</p> <p>Law, Crime and Community Safety Council (LCCSC) established as the new peak law enforcement body in Australia and New Zealand, bringing together Ministers from the Commonwealth, each state and territory and New Zealand with portfolio responsibility for law and justice, police and emergency management. This replaced the Standing Council on Law and Justice (SCLJ) and the Standing Council on Police and Emergency Management (SCPEM) and was given the mandate of fighting crime and promoting best practice in laws, criminal justice and community safety in Australia and New Zealand (Dec).</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 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).</p> |

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

TGA ruling added a new group entry to Schedule 9 (prohibited substances) for 'synthetic 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, 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 an 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 to reduce the incidence of fatal opioid overdoses (Dec).

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

A two year joint investigation by Customs and Border Protection, Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity and the Australian Federal Police unveiled a suspected drug ring operating out of Sydney Airport. As of Dec 2012 eight people had been arrested, including two Australian Customs and Border Protection Service officers, an officer of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, and two suspected drug couriers, with further arrests likely. It is alleged that at least 10kg of pseudoephedrine was imported into Australia, in June 2009 and May 2010 (Dec).

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

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| | <p>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 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p> |

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 Strategy; Research and Data; and Workforce Development (Aug).

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

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

High Court ruling: 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).

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| | <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, scarring 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 limited direct exposure to IDUs and high exposure to "inaccurate" media and government policy on IDU (Feb).</p> <p>Regulation 4G of the <i>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</i> came into effect, prohibiting the importation of tablet presses without the approval from the Minister for Home Affairs or an authorised person (1 Mar).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Report released: "<i>Situational Analysis of drug and alcohol issues and responses in the Pacific 2008-09</i>" 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</p> |

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 (OCRCP 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 Headquarters. A 'Letter of Intent' to establish a Pakistan Transnational Team on Drugs and Crime, was also signed (3 Dec).

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).

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

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

14 new substances added to Schedule 4 of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*: 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 *Poisons Standard* or the *Criminal Code Act 1995*) and addressed an increased market demand for alternative synthetic drugs and drugs marketed as party pills (14 Dec).

Ketamine moved from Schedule 8 to Schedule 4 of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (14 Dec).

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

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).

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).

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| | <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 clinicianH (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 tablet presses a prohibited import. The announcement occurred at the meeting of the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management in Perth (Jun).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 <i>causes</i> of problematic drug use and responding to drug related <i>harms</i>," 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p> |

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Australian Industrial Relations 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 is obtained urine testing could be introduced instead of oral testing (Aug).

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

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

New book "Drug Use and Mental Health: Effective Responses to Co-Occurring Drug and Mental Health Problems" edited by Professor Steve Allsop showed that people with serious co-occurring drug and mental health problems 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Report on National Prison Entrants' Bloodborne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey 2007 released. Report showed 55% of prisoners had histories of injecting drug use (IDU). Prisoners who were IDU had much higher rates of HCV and Hepatitis B with e.g. 58% male IDU and 78% female IDU were HCV positive compared to 9% and 2% for non-IDU. IDUs also had much higher rates of prior prison experience (83% compared to 48%), particularly repeat prior experiences (Oct).

Mission Australia survey of young people aged 11-24 showed between 2007 and 2008 concern for drugs had risen from 20.1% to 26.0% making drugs one of the top three issues of concern to young people. And in four jurisdictions drugs had become the primary issue of concern: ACT, NT, SA and Vic (Nov).

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| | <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 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 latter fellow West Coast Eagles star, Ben Cousins was sacked by his club, following his arrest for a drug charge (the charge was subsequently dropped) (Oct).</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> |

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| 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 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</p> |

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| | <p>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</p> |

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| | <p>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 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> |

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| | <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 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 and prior criminal</p> |

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| | <p>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 triggered many other ceremonies in Australia and throughout the world (Dec).</p> |

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| 1995 | <p>Fifth national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1995."</p> <p>National review of the provision of methadone in Australia.</p> <p>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).</p> |
| 1994 | <p>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.</p> <p>Launch of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation (Apr).</p> <p>Launch of Drug Free Australia as an unfunded national network promoting a drug free Australia.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 1993 | <p>Re-launch of NCADA as the National Drug Strategy (NDS).</p> <p>First National Policy on Methadone adopted.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Australian Medical and Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs (AMPSAD) renamed as the Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) (Nov).</p> <p>The Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform launched the "Charter for Drug Law Reform" which called for an end to prohibition (Nov).</p> <p>Fourth national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1993."</p> <p>The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances came into force in Australia.</p> <p>The final Australian jurisdiction implemented Needle Syringe Programs making it a national policy.</p> <p>National drug education campaign on amphetamines: "Speed catches up with you."</p> |
| 1992 | <p>Manly meeting: Decision was made to assign greater role to law enforcement in administration of the National Drug Strategy.</p> <p>The National Drug Strategy Committee convened a National Task Force on Cannabis to produce papers summarising the current state of knowledge about cannabis (Apr).</p> <p>National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) established in Adelaide.</p> <p>Launch of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform.</p> |
| 1991 | <p>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.</p> <p>Third national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1991."</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 1990 | <p>National Centre for HIV Social Research established.</p> <p>Commonwealth Government ratified the United Nations Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.</p> <p>First national census of clients of treatment service agencies (COTSA) conducted (Mar).</p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council released first formal statement on Hepatitis C.</p> |
| 1989 | <p>National HIV/AIDS Strategy launched – emphasis on prevention and harm reduction.</p> <p>Commonwealth Government funded first injecting drug user organisations.</p> <p>First Australian Hepatitis C antibody studies initiated. Showed a high prevalence of Hepatitis C amongst injecting drug users.</p> <p>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).</p> |
| 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> |

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| | Australian National Council on AIDS established. |
| 1987 | National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Research began first Australian clinical trial of AZT, a promising anti-retroviral (Feb). Commonwealth government launched a \$2.9m National AIDS Education Campaign, including the Grim Reaper television advertisement. AZT approved as a treatment, agreement between Commonwealth and States to share costs |
| 1986 | National "Drug Offensive" media campaign launched (Apr). Two research centres established: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) in Sydney and National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) (then called the National Centre for Research into Prevention of Drug Abuse) in Perth. Federal government provided funding and national recognition to newly formed Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations. First Needle Syringe Program (NSP) opened - Darlinghurst (Nov). |
| 1985 | NCADA – National Campaign Against Drug Abuse adopted at Special Premiers Conference. Campaign heralded a partnerships approach to illicit and licit drugs between federal and state and territory governments with the aim of minimizing harms caused by alcohol and others drugs. National Drug Strategy Committee (NDSC) established to lead policy development in conjunction with the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS). Methadone endorsed as an appropriate treatment intervention and first guidelines approved by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference. First national household survey on drugs conducted: "Social issues in Australia, 1985." |

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2019: ACT, NSW, NT and Qld

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| 2019 | <p>ACT Government gave the green light for a second pill testing trial in the ACT. It will be held at the Groovin the Moo festival on 28 April and be run by Pill Testing Australia (formerly STA-SAFE) and independently evaluated by ANU. On announcing the decision, the government stated: "Governments have a responsibility to not only try and prevent drug use but also to support initiatives that reduce the harms associated with drug use. Pill testing does not make taking illicit drugs safe and our message to the community will always be, don't take drugs. However, pill testing provides a health intervention at the point when someone is making the decision to take a pill. By making this service available at music festivals there is the potential to save lives" (Feb 18).</p> <p>The ACT Legislative Assembly referred the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2018 to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services with a requirement to report back by 6 June 2019 (Feb).</p> <p>Findings of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services inquiry into the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2018 released. The committee was broadly favourable of the change, but noted the limits of an own cultivation model: "There is a portion of the population who would use cannabis but do not necessarily want to, have the facilities or the expertise to cultivate their own cannabis plants." "To realise the intent of the Bill of legalising individual use of cannabis it is important to provide options apart from individual, home based, cultivation." Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That, subject to the following comments and amendments, the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018 be supported. • That a cannabis drug driving test that determines impairment be adopted. • That group cultivation (also known as cannabis social clubs) be permitted where the number of | <p>Alex Ross-King, 19, died at the FOMO music festival in Paramatta. This marked the fifth young person to die at a Sydney music festival in four months (Jan 12),</p> <p>NSW Coroner announced an inquest would be held into the five NSW festival deaths that occurred in 2018 and 2019 (Jan 15).</p> <p>NSW Police commence pilot use of on-the-spot fines (\$400) instead of arrest for simple possession of drugs other than cannabis at music festivals. Threshold limits for this include 0.25g MDMA/Ecstasy in capsule form; 0.75g MDMA/Ecstasy in any other form e.g. pill; and 1g cocaine or amphetamine (Jan 26).</p> <p>New research released: "Trends and offending circumstances in the police use of drug detection dogs in New South Wales." This analysed all criminal incidents involving police use of drug detection dogs between June 2008 and June 2018 and showed that in spite of increased police powers to target supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply offences were detected in only 4.8% of all criminal incidents (compared to 86.4% for use/possession). • The most commonly detected drugs were cannabis and MDMA/ecstasy. <p>The research showed that this was a consequence of where drug dogs were deployed, as dogs were mostly deployed in recreational or public settings, but when deployed at residential settings suppliers were detected in 52.5% occasions (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Government announced new licensing scheme for festivals would only apply to 14 'high risk' music festivals, defined as "those where a serious drug related illness or death has occurred in the past three years or where the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority has determined, or where expert advice from NSW Health and NSW Police indicate that there may be a significant risk of serious drug related illness or death". Each will require a safety management plan, designed to "deal with the evolving challenge of illegal drug use at their festivals' and 'to help ensure we don't see a repeat of the five festival deaths in 2018.'</p> | <p>Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Reducing Addictive Behaviours (the Committee), inquiring into how best to prevent or mitigate the harms that stem from addictive behaviours in the NT, released interim report. This followed receipt of received 33 public submissions and holding of public hearings in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and a visit to see the Canadian cannabis legalization and regulation. Key issues identified in the NT were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High AOD related highs in the NT; • Insufficient funding for treatment providers; • Unaddressed but underlying social disadvantage; • Need for expand alternatives to incarceration. <p>The Committee also noted many more innovative approaches were being taken in other parts of the globe. It noted that based on the Committee's initial review of the evidence, some of the core elements that will be considered when developing these options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of harm reduction initiatives for Territorians who persist with drug use, acknowledging that not every user is willing or able to abstain. NSPs and pill testing are examples of initiatives that have a sound evidence base for reducing harms. • Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act to allow for clearer and more uniform decriminalisation, removing the inconsistencies that currently exist in the application of police discretion. Spain and the Netherlands have taken a similar step by allowing 'cannabis clubs'98 to operate with impunity. • Development of systems to improve coordination, avoid unnecessary duplication of services and ensure the most effective distribution of resources, especially for remote communities. • More extensive involvement of Aboriginal people and organisations in the design and delivery of programs for Aboriginal | <p>Queensland AOD Treatment and Harm Reduction Outcomes Framework released. This is the first of its kind in Australia and seeks to support alcohol and other drugs services to be able to monitor and improve their outcomes. The framework was developed in recognition that measuring the impact of AOD treatment and harm reduction in the lives of clients and communities is essential to ensuring that organisational practice standards continue to improve. The THROF is intended for services to use as a guide to self-identify a range of client, organisational and system outcome indicators, which they consider most relevant to their service model for implementation. The framework includes universal outcomes, such as that a) all clients should feel welcomed and respected and b) that treatment types offered are congruent with assessment and client preference and additional outcomes such as that clients report improvement in social, cultural or community support where indicated (Mar).</p> <p>Two people died (a 24 year old man and 22 year old woman) at the Rabbits Eat Lettuce music festival near Warwick in Queensland (Apr).</p> <p>Queensland Police seized 766kg MDMA in Loganlea south of Brisbane – the largest MDMA seizure in Queensland and third largest MDMA seizure in Australia. Two UK citizens aged 51 and 40 and a 26-year-old Qld man were arrested. An additional 200kg of ice was seized in Auckland the week prior, as well as two men – a 60-year-old man and 49-year-old man both from the UK (Aug).</p> <p>Four people died from suspected drug overdoses in Brisbane and six more were hospitalized that are suspected to be GHB related. This follows a spate of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in Perth (Dec 13).</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | <p>people in the group is between 2-10 and the cannabis is cultivated on the premises of one of the members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That appropriate measures for overturning convictions relating to possession and cultivation of cannabis for personal use be considered. • That strong public information about the provisions of the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018 proceed or coincide with the implementation of the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018. • That the ACT Government intervene in any prosecution by the Commonwealth of ACT residents who cultivate or possess cannabis to defend the intent of the Bill (Jun). <p>On 25 September 2019, the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), voted 10:7 to approve a law legalising personal cultivation, possession and use of cannabis for recreational purposes. The draft law had been introduced as a Private Member's Bill in December 2018. The Background Note to the Act describes the objective as a "harm minimisation approach", acknowledging that "the outright prohibition model of drug policy is not working". The Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Act 2019 is scheduled to enter into force on 31 January 2020. It would exempt people over 18 years old from penalties for cultivation of up to two plants per person (maximum four plants per household) kept in part of the home not generally accessible by the public, and for possession of up to 50g of dried cannabis herb or 150g of "fresh" cannabis. This replaces, for adults only, the "simple cannabis offence notice" (monetary fine) currently issued to some people for self-administration, possession or cultivation of cannabis, but maintains existing youth therapeutic and non-therapeutic diversionary schemes for cannabis use, possession and cultivation, including the simple cannabis offence notice (SCON) scheme (Sep).</p> | <p>The "high risk" were identified as Defqon.1 FOMO, Days Like This and Laneway (Feb). NSW Coroner delivered findings into a cluster of opioid-related deaths in NSW and recommended that the premier host a drug summit and consider decriminalization of use and possession to reduce drug-related harms (Mar).</p> <p>The Federal Liberal National Government announced investment of \$3 million over two years to assist in the development of a residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility in Dubbo (Mar).</p> <p>NSW Parliamentary Inquiry conducted into the impact and implementation of the Liquor Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019 and the Gaming and Liquor Administration Amendment (Music Festivals) Regulation 2019. Key findings: a) there had been insufficient consultation into both regulations; b) the implementation of the festival licensing scheme had caused uncertainty in the NSW music festival industry; c) that the new regulations be disallowed & d) that the NSW Government should establish a regulatory roundtable with industry and other to consult on all future matters (May-Aug).</p> <p>Women who tested positive for cannabis through roadside drug testing was let off on a 'passive smoking defence' after she claimed she had recently visited her terminally ill neighbor who had smoked medical cannabis in her presence. This was deemed a landmark case as it was the first time passive smoking has been accepted as a defence (May).</p> <p>NSW Coronial Inquest held by Magistrate Harriet Grahame, Deputy State Coroner, into the deaths of six patrons at NSW music festivals. Hearings were held 8-19 July, 10-13 Sep, and 19-20 Sep, and included evidence from NSW Police, on-site medical teams, families, friends, researchers. It sparked intensive media coverage (July & Sep).</p> <p>New research released by Michael Grewcock and Vicki Sentas entitled "Rethinking strip searching by NSW Police" which found strip searches were used 2774 times in the 12 months to 30 November 2006 compared to 5,4835 in the 12 months to 30 June 2018, an almost 20 fold increase in less than 12</p> | <p>Territorians (Mar).</p> <p>On Wednesday 20 March 2019, the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory dissolved the Select Committee on a Northern Territory harm Reduction Strategy for Addictive Behaviours (Mar).</p> | |

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| | <p>New research released by Dr Olsen et al: "ACT pill testing trial 2019 – program evaluation." This was an independent evaluation of the 2019 Groovin the Moo festival pill testing trial. Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ACT Pill Testing Trial was implemented as planned & provided harm reduction information to 234 patrons and it identified seven substances containing a potentially dangerous substance, N-ethyl pentylone; the service was well received by patrons and stakeholders. For example, most patrons rated the clarity of the information provided as good or very good and reported they would use the service again; the service impacted positively on patron knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. For example, participants were more willing to use healthcare providers, brief intervention providers/peer counsellors, home pill testing kits, and written harm reduction materials after attending the service and all those who had a very dangerous substance detected disposed of that drug in the amnesty bin; the program produced valuable information about illicit drug availability in Canberra, including the identification of a substance previously unidentified in the ACT. <p>They thus recommended developing further pill testing services both in the ACT and other parts of Australia (Dec).</p> <p>The ACT Supreme Court Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List (DASL) (formerly referred to as the ACT Drug and Alcohol Court) commenced – a first for the territory. This will involve up to 35 offenders during the trial period (Dec 3 until June 2021) (Dec 3).</p> | <p>years and that 91% of strip searches were for reasons of suspicion of possession of drugs. They concluded that the definition of a strip search in NSW was too vague, that strip searches cause harm, that some strip search practices go beyond the law and that legal frameworks surrounding strip searches in other states provide much clearer protections (Aug 22).</p> <p>Law Enforcement Conduct Commission held hearing into the police use of strip-search of young people at NSW music festivals. The inquiry showed a 16 year old girl was strip-searched at Splendor in the Grass after a false drug detection dog indication, without a parent or guardian present – a breach of police procedures and that at the Lost City music festival only 5 of 30 searches had support people present (Oct & Dec).</p> <p>The NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice' report by lawyers recommends decriminalisation of drug use and/or expanding diversion (Oct).</p> <p>NSW Coronial Inquest findings released. Key findings: Nathan Tran, 18, Diana Nguyen, 21, Joseph Pham, 23, Callum Brosnan, 19, Alexandra Ross-King, 19, and Joshua Tam, 22, all died from MDMA toxicity or complications of MDMA use at music festivals between December 2017 and January 2019. But common contributing factors included a) a significant police presence including drug detection dogs at each of the festivals, b) poly-drug use – particularly consumption of alcohol as well as MDMA, c) a lack of knowledge about the potential dangers of MDMA, and d) heat.</p> <p>Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce pill testing – both front-of house services at festivals and a permanent off-site drug checking facility; Expand peer-delivered harm reduction and reduction services; Remove drug detection dogs at festivals; Limit the use of strip searches to circumstances where there is a reasonable suspicion of supply’; Decriminalise personal drug use; Hold a drug summit to develop evidence-based drug policy (7 Nov). <p>NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller</p> | | |

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| | | <p>engaged in a high-profile campaign defending the use of strip-searches. In a front-page interview with Sydney's Daily Telegraph he said young people should have "a little bit of fear" of police (Nov).</p> <p>A 24 year-old Melbourne man, died of a suspected drug overdose at the Strawberry Fields music festival near the Victorian border (Nov).</p> | | |
| 2018 | <p>Green light given for pill testing trial at Groovin Moo (Apr 26).</p> <p>First Australian pill testing trial conducted at Groovin Moo, University of Canberra by the independent Safety Testing Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) consortium (Apr 29).</p> <p>Results from first Australian pill testing trial at Canberra's Groovin the Moo festival released. Found that than 80% of participants (70 out of the trial's 83 participants) believed they had bought MDMA, but only 42 of the 70 pills contained some MDMA, and 32 contained a high purity MDMA. 42% participants said they would modify their behaviour, 12% indicated they would use less drugs and 18% said they wouldn't use illicit drugs. The report concluded: "The pilot demonstrated that such an intervention is possible and that people are willing to use the service, despite the limitations arising from the tight timelines, inauspicious physical infrastructure and the lack of dissemination strategies on site during the festival" (Jun).</p> <p>ACT Labor backbencher Michael Pettersson bill proposed legalising cannabis for personal use, via removing cannabis possession of less than 50g by an adult as an offence and allowing people legally have four cannabis plants (Sep).</p> <p>ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021 released, with 43 actions. Key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore opportunities to expand on pill testing at events in the ACT; • To investigate the feasibility, need, effectiveness and appropriateness of establishing a medically supervised injecting facility in the ACT. <p>Other actions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve access to sterile injecting equipment and disposal; • To expand access to hepatitis and | <p>Roadside drug testing expanded in NSW to include tests for cocaine (Jul 1).</p> <p>Joseph Pham (aged 23) and Diana Nguyen (aged 21) died from drug-related overdoses at defqon.1 festival in Penrith. 7 others were hospitalised (including 3 in intensive care) during the festival (Sep 15).</p> <p>The NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, vowed to "shut down" Defqon.1 after the suspected overdoses, and maintained opposition to pill testing over concerns this would send a 'green light' (Sep 16).</p> <p>NSW Premier established a NSW Safety Festival panel, involving NSW Police Commissioner, Mick Fuller APM, NSW Chief Medical Officer Dr Kerry Chant and Chair of the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority Philip Crawford, to provide advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether new offences or increased penalties are required to stop drug dealers endangering lives; • How music festival promoters and operators can improve safety at their festivals; and • Whether improved drug education is required to address the increase in illegal drug use in our community. <p>Any consideration of the merits of pill testing was outside the terms of reference (Sep 18).</p> <p>Fair Treatment – Long walk to treatment launched led by Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT. This campaign involve a walk with a baton from Dubbo to NSW Parliament in the aim of highlighting the large gaps in treatment for people in rural/regional areas. The walk commenced Oct 15 and ended Nov 2 and involved 500,000 steps – the travel distance it would take a person in regional NSW to reach drug treatment (Oct-Nov).</p> <p>NSW Safety Festival Committee report</p> | <p>Select Committee on a Northern Territory Harm Reduction Strategy for Reducing Addictive Behaviours (the Committee) was established to investigate how best to prevent or mitigate the harms that stem from addictive behaviours in the NT (May).</p> <p>NT government announced it will introduce legislation allowing for the cultivation of industrial hemp and will explore options around growing medical cannabis (May).</p> | <p>A new Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court opened, filling a long-standing gap after the LNP and Premier Newman axed the Queensland drug courts in 2012. One key difference from the earlier drugs courts was that this is open to people dependent on alcohol as well as illicit drugs (29 Jan).</p> <p>Qld Government release new report: "Changing attitudes, changing lives Options to reduce stigma and discrimination for people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use." This outlined 18 options for reform regarding systemic issues to address stigma and discrimination for people experiencing problematic alcohol and other drug use, and their families. This included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A) Exploring options for the development of evidence-based mass media campaigns to reduce stigma and discrimination experienced by people who use alcohol and other drugs; B) Exploring a range of strategies to enhance the engagement of individuals and families with a lived experience of problematic alcohol and other drug use in policy and service planning C) Initiating discussions about the risks and benefits of decriminalisation for personal use and/or possession of illicit drugs; D) Introducing processes that require an assessment of potentially discriminatory provisions as part of law reform and legislative review projects; E) Health care and social services, across a range of settings, work to ensure that a welcoming environment that respects the dignity and worth of all clients. <p>The report was informed by independent research undertaken by the Drug Policy</p> |

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| | <p>HIV education and prevention;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement a real-time prescription monitoring remote access portal by March 2019; • To expand drug diversion; & • To introduce a drug and alcohol court (Dec). | <p>released. This noted music festivals contribute to local economies and are highly valued by the community, but that current regulatory approaches are ad hoc and inconsistent. It also noted the need to increase targeted harm reduction at such settings and how policing itself can be a risk: with some festival attendees hurriedly consuming drugs to avoid police detection.</p> <p>Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a new category of liquor licence specific to music festivals; • Require organisers to develop and adhere to a Safety Management Plan for their event, supported by a two-tiered system of risk, with variable regulatory conditions, similar to liquor licence planning; • Strengthen drug and alcohol harm reduction for festival goers; • Develop best practice guidelines for event organisers on harm reduction approaches and messages; • Trial the use of Criminal Infringement Notices (on-the-spot fines) instead of Court Attendance Notices for drug possession offences at or in the vicinity of music festivals, so that people detected for drug possession have the option to pay the fine and thereby avoid court and a criminal conviction; & • Creation of a new offence that means people who are dealing drugs for profit at festivals will be held responsible for any deaths they cause (Oct 24). <p>NSW Special Commission of Inquiry established into the Drug Ice – chaired by Dan Howard. Rapidly expanded to look at the use of other ATS including MDMA (Nov).</p> <p><i>Community Protection Legislation Amendment Bill 2018</i> adopted. Amended the Crimes Act 1900 to insert a new offence at section 25C of supply of drugs (other than plants) causing death. A person will be guilty of the new offence if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person supplies a prohibited drug to another person for financial or material gain (not social supply between friends); • The drug is self-administered by another person (whether or not the | | <p>Modelling Program as well as the views of people with a lived experience of problematic alcohol and other drug use, their families and friends; Queensland government agencies; non-government organisations; and consultation with the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council. (Mar).</p> |

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| | | <p>person to whom the drug was supplied); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The self-administration of the drug causes or substantially causes the death of that other person. <p>Maximum penalty: 20 years imprisonment.</p> <p>Safeguards on the offence are that proceedings for the offence may only be instituted by or with the approval of the Director of Public Prosecutions and it will be necessary for the prosecution to prove that the accused knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that supplying the prohibited drug would expose another person to a significant risk of death as a result of the self-administration of the drug (Nov 21).</p> <p>Callum Brosnan (aged 19) died from a suspected drug overdose and 13 people were hospitalised (three in a critical condition) post the Knockout Games of Destiny Dancy Party at Homebush (Dec 8).</p> <p>NSW Ministry of Health released new "Guidelines for Music Festival Organisers: Music Festival Harm Reduction" to support event organisers to deliver safer music festivals. A set of interim guidelines were published in December 2018 to ensure advice was available during the peak summer festival period. The interim guidelines were subsequently revised and updated in consultation with music festival organisers, onsite medical providers, venue managers, peer-based harm reduction services, NSW Ambulance and experts. The guidelines combined existing event planning guidance with harm reduction strategies and covered topics such as emergency vehicle access, sanitation, water provision, cooling measures and sun safety, chill out spaces, and prevention and management of sexual assault (Dec).</p> | | |
| 2017 | <p>ACT government gave STA-SAFE permission to test drugs at the Spilt Milk festival at Canberra's Commonwealth Park as a harm reduction measure. The ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris said the ACT Government had carefully pill testing schemes in countries like New Zealand and Canada, and that the evidence showed there was no evidence that pill testing increased illicit drug use and instead</p> | | | |

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| | <p>that pill testing had numerous harm reduction benefits: "Young people would be informed about what's really in their pills and how potent they are, and it creates an opportunity to remind them of the risks before they make the final decision to take a drug" (Sep 22).</p> <p>ACT pill testing trial shelved. This was first attributed to purported problems with paperwork, but later to Commonwealth intervention by Canberra Liberal Jeremy Hanson on the basis of the festival occurring on Commonwealth land.</p> | | | |
| 2016 | <p>Minister for Health Simon Corbell announced the ACT Government would provide \$6m in additional funding over four years to strengthen drug treatment capacity. Key areas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$690,000 annually for additional treatment capacity through Directions ACT, Toora Women Inc, Karralika Programs Inc, Ted Noffs Foundation, The Salvation Army and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation; • \$375,000 annually to increase the capacity of drug rehabilitation programs; and • \$115,000 annually to roll-out the naloxone program (May). <p><i>Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2016</i> adopted which decriminalised peer distribution of sterile injecting equipment in the Australian Capital Territory. The Act added an exemption to the offence of supplying sterile injecting equipment in section 74 of the <i>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008</i> (MPTG Act). The exemption is intended to support the implementation of a peer distribution program of sterile injecting equipment for the purpose of preventing the spread of blood-borne disease (Jun).</p> <p>ACT government announced that it would establish a medical cannabis scheme as a "priority" and "as soon as practicable" (Aug).</p> | <p>NSW Police Minister Troy Grant said that music festivals could be shut down if organisers failed to improve safety after recent drug overdoses (Jan).</p> <p>President of the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation, Alex Wodak and emergency medical specialist David Caldicott pledged to start a privately funded pill testing trial at music festivals in NSW. They said the trial would start with or without the blessing of the government (Feb).</p> <p>Minister for Justice Troy Grant joined Minister for Mental Health Pru Goward hosted a round-table about drug courts (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Police and NSW Premier Mike Baird slammed proposed pill testing trials in NSW as "ridiculous" and "illegal": 'We are not going to be condoning in any way what illegal drug dealers are doing,' (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Greens MP Jenny Leong reintroduced the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Sniffer Dogs—Repeal of Powers) Bill 2016, arguing that "the evidence is in and it is clear that this program, first introduced under the former Labor Government and continued and expanded under this Liberal Coalition Government, is a failure", and that the continued use of drug detection dogs is an infringement of basic civil liberties. (Bill lapsed in Aug 2016) (Mar).</p> <p>The Premier announced that the Terminal Illness Cannabis Scheme would be renamed the Medicinal Cannabis Compassionate Use Scheme, and that the scheme was being reviewed to consider whether it should be extended to non-terminal patients (May).</p> <p>BOCSAR data showed considerable regional variation in drug driving offences across</p> | <p>Roadside drug-driving testing commenced in the Northern Territory. Under the new testing, people who record a positive reading for driving under the influence of a drug on a first offence will receive a maximum penalty of 3 months imprisonment and/or a fine of \$400 which will escalate for subsequent offences (Feb).</p> <p>NT Government response to Breaking the Ice report released: "Tackling Ice in the Northern Territory." Key actions included <u>Reduce supply via:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the <i>Misuse of Drugs Act</i> to enhance search and seizure powers on drug trafficking routes • Monitor sales of chemicals and equipment to make it harder for people to manufacture ice • Taskforce NEMESIS – screening of major passenger flights and all drug routes into the NT – targeting of known drug suppliers/ importers into the NT <p><u>Reduce harm via:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial the HOPE (Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement) strategy, which applies swift sanctions for unlawful drug use, to increase offenders' ability and motivation to participate in behavioural change processes • Investigate a trial of needle and syringe vending machines • Develop an online toolkit to support families and communities to better understand and address the problems caused by ice <p><u>Improving the evidence base</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By June 2016, implement an NT Alcohol and Other Drug research and evaluation strategy (Feb). | <p>Queensland Health released a discussion paper: "Medicinal cannabis in Queensland: Draft Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 - Discussion paper." This noted that the Qld proposed laws on medical cannabis had taken these into consideration medical cannabis developments in other jurisdictions (Cth, NSW and Vic) in drafting the Bill (Mar).</p> <p>The Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016 adopted. The act will commence on 1 March 2017. The act creates a new regulatory framework to allow medicinal cannabis products to be prescribed and dispensed to patients in Queensland. Specifically it provides 2 pathways for doctors to be authorised to prescribe medicinal cannabis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient-class prescribers: specialists who have an "as-of-right authority" to prescribe to groups of patients for a specified condition or symptom with specified medicinal cannabis products • Single-patient prescribers: specialists or general practitioners can apply for approval to prescribe for a particular patient. <p>Medicinal cannabis will only be approved if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the patient has tried all of the conventional treatments available and these have failed OR • the conventional treatment causes intolerable side effects; AND • the doctor provides clinical evidence that a specific type of medicinal cannabis product is effective for the particular condition or symptoms (Oct). |

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| | | <p>NSW, with areas of highest detections being Richmond-Tweed, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Orange, Newcastle and parts of Western Sydney (Jun).</p> <p>First medical cannabis treatments were provided to NSW children with severe treatment-resistant epilepsy: using Epidiolex® - a GW Pharmaceuticals formulation of pure cannabidiol (CBD). 40 children are expected to take part as part of the compassionate access scheme (Jun).</p> <p>The Hon Niall Blair MLC, Minister for Primary Industries, and the Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Medical Research, announced that NSW has become the first Australian state authorised by the Commonwealth Government to conduct medicinal cannabis cultivation research. The cultivation research will be conducted in a new, state-of-the-art, high security facility (Jul).</p> <p>NSW Health statutory review of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Kings Cross (MSIC) received submissions to increase number of supervised injecting centres in NSW and to allow pregnant women and 16-year-olds to use them. Key rationales were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Individuals under 18 are excluded from the part of the MSIC that is used for injecting." • "It is likely that by continuing to exclude those under 18 from using the centre, they will inject somewhere else, in less safe circumstances." • "Excluding pregnant women from any treatment facility, including the injecting room, does not prevent exposure of the foetus to drugs or alcohol." • "There have been 25 instances in the last six years where staff at the centre have denied entry to a woman on the basis of pregnancy. It is possible that in turning a pregnant woman away, the foetus may be at risk of unmanaged withdrawal from drug dependency which may cause greater harm" (Jul). <p>NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant attacked the proposal to allow pregnant women and 16-year-olds to access the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, arguing it was a "ridiculous" and "offensive" suggestion that was tantamount to "touting for business to meet benchmarks and making</p> | <p><i>Justice Legislation Amendment (Drug Offences) Act 2016</i> adopted. Key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New offences added of displaying or supplying a cocaine kit, water pipe or ice pipe. • Created an aggravated penalty for the manufacture or cultivation of a dangerous drug in the presence of a child. • Created an aggravated penalty for the procurement of a child to commit a drug offence, with a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, irrespective of the maximum penalty of any particular offence category. • Introduction of the requirement that offenders found guilty of serious drug offences including, commercial supply, manufacturing and cultivation in the presence of a child serve a minimum 70 per cent of their sentence in prison. • Add a provision making the possession of a firearm, ammunition or weapons as an aggravating factor • Increase penalty units for a number of offences including increasing the penalties for supplying a Schedule 2 dangerous drug (new section 5A) from 85 penalty units to 500 penalty units (May). | |

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| | | <p>pregnant women and children the target." He further noted: "not in our lifetime will we ever allow kids to utilise the heroin-injecting centre or pregnant women. It's just absolute nonsense" (Aug).</p> <p>MSIC Director Marianne Jauncey hit back at NSW Deputy Premier Troy Grant calling his comments about 'touting for business' offensive and noting that calls to expand access to pregnant women and youth were broadly supported by medical and AOD specialists including the Royal Australasian College of Physician and National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (Aug).</p> <p>NSW Cross-Party Harm Minimisation Roundtable held, co-hosted by Mehreen Faruqi (Greens), Alex Greenwich (Independent), Jo Haylen (Labor) and Shayne Mallard (Liberal). The roundtable brought together politicians, health professionals, academics, police and drug users, in the aim of renewing the debate about harm minimization in NSW. Key issues discussed included drug checking services, expanded access to the Kings Cross supervised injecting facility, and the decriminalisation of drug possession and use. The group signed a letter to Premier Mike Baird and opposition leader Luke Foley calling for a state wide parliamentary summit on illicit drug use (Aug 11).</p> <p>Regulatory changes in NSW allowed doctors to apply to prescribe a broad range of cannabis-based medicines for people who have exhausted standard treatment options. Applications will be assessed by the Commonwealth TGA & by a committee of medical experts on behalf of NSW Health (Aug).</p> <p>BOCSAR report, "trends in conditional discharges", shows that between 2004 and 2015 there was a large increase in the use of section 10s (bond without a conviction) by NSW local courts, for offences including drug use and possession and drug manufacture/cultivate (Sep).</p> | | |
| 2015 | <p>Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, Part 6.4A passed to prohibit the display for sale (but not the sale) of 'drug pipes' in the ACT (Feb).</p> <p>Minister for Justice, Shane Rattenbury announced the Government had signed a Deed of Agreement with the Community and</p> | <p>NSW Leader of the opposition elected by NSW Labor: Luke Foley (Jan 5).</p> <p>NSW Opposition leader declares no need for a medical cannabis trial – should go straight to prescribing medical cannabis (Jan).</p> <p>Labor declared the "war on ice" one of its top priorities and promised it would have an</p> | <p>NT Ice Select Committee established. Terms of reference included examining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reliability of government data on Ice use; • A comprehensive survey of the various government responses to the abuse of Ice in the Northern Territory; | <p>Two men died after reportedly smoking synthetic cannabis in Mackay. The Mackay emergency department reported this followed a rise in ED admissions: an average of one admission per day for synthetic drugs in the last six months (Jan).</p> <p>Qld Crime and Corruption Commission</p> |

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| | <p>Public Sector Union (CPSU) regarding a proposed Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) for the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). It set out a process for engaging staff in the development of an NSP model, including a joint working group to develop a model, a staff ballot process to determine support for any proposed model and a commitment not to implement a model that is unable to gain majority support from voting staff (Apr).</p> | <p>ice summit if re-elected (Jan).</p> <p>19-year-old Tolga Toksoz died of a suspected overdose and five others were hospitalised at Sydney Festival 'A State of Trance' (Feb).</p> <p>Medical cannabis campaigner Dan Haslam passed away (Feb).</p> <p>Assistant Minister for Health Pru Goward announced a series of community education forums 'breaking the ice in our communities' delivered by the Australian Drug Foundation to support local communities dealing with methamphetamine (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Greens MP Jenny Leong introduced the Amendment (Sniffer Dogs—Repeal of Powers) Bill 2015 that sought to end the use of drug detection dogs without a warrant in NSW. (This lapsed in Nov 2015) (May).</p> <p>Mr Barry and Mrs Joy Lambert made a donation of \$33.7 million to the University of Sydney to establish the Lambert Initiative, to explore the potential of the cannabis plant in treating a range of diseases (Jun).</p> <p>NSW Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research and Innovation (the Centre) was launched, funded with \$12 million by the NSW Government: to develop understanding of the benefits and treatment options for medicinal cannabis. Inaugural director: NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane (Jun).</p> <p>NSW children with severe treatment-resistant epilepsy will be provided with compassionate access to a cannabis-based medicine (Jul).</p> <p>Regulatory changes in NSW allow doctors to apply for prescriptions of a broader range of cannabis-based medicines. Applications from prescribing doctors will be assessed by the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Administration, and by a committee of medical experts on behalf of NSW Health (Aug).</p> <p>Nigel Pauljevic (aged 26) died from a suspected drug overdose at the defqon.1 music festival in Penrith and 8 others were hospitalised (Sep).</p> <p>NSW Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GW Pharmaceuticals to facilitate access to Epidiolex® (a pharmaceutical preparation of CBD) for a trial</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government and community responses to Ice use in other states and some assessment of the effectiveness of these responses in terms of prevention, education, family and individual support and treatment modalities; & The sources of Ice including cross border trafficking, local manufacture and derivation from legal pharmaceuticals and other legal precursors (Apr). <p>Ice Select Committee, Breaking the Ice, report released. Key conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That while 'ice' is an emerging issue of concern, reports of an 'ice' epidemic sweeping across the Northern Territory are misleading. While prevalent in the urban and regional centres of the Territory, there is no evidence of widespread 'ice' use in remote communities. That the abuse of alcohol remains a far greater problem in the Territory, and that strategies to address 'ice' should not be implemented at the expense of alcohol-related harm initiatives. <p>13 recommendations were issued including that the NT Government should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban the display and sale of drug paraphernalia; Mandate real-time online recording of pseudoephedrine sales at pharmacies to aid data collection; Put more money into residential and non-residential detox services, with an emphasis on services for people aged under 18, and access to prisoners; Undertake a trial of waste water analysis to more accurately assess prevalence and distribution of ice use. Undertake and publish a comprehensive review and evaluation of drug diversionary programs in the NT, and develop a strategy to enhance access to in the Northern Territory (Nov). <p><i>Traffic and other Legislation Amendment Act 2015</i> adopted enabling powers to conduct random drug testing to drivers on Northern Territory roads: for cannabis, ecstasy and methamphetamines. On introducing the bill it was noted that "this amendment will bring the Northern Territory up to date with other jurisdictions. All other jurisdictions... have</p> | <p>released a new report: "New Synthetic Drugs - Deceptive and Dangerous." Report warned of the expansion of the synthetic drug market in regional communities in Qld (likely due to the shortage of traditional illicit drugs), and the increased involvement of organised crime groups in distributing them (Jan).</p> <p>Change of government with Qld Labor Government elected under Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk with the assistance of an Independent. Key platforms included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reinstate the operation of drug courts for dealing with drug misuse and minor related offences To establish a separately funded state-wide Health Promotion Service to promote health and wellbeing, expanding the range of early detection and early intervention services; To commence a Commission of Inquiry into organised crime To re-establish the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council (Feb). <p>20 people non-fatally overdosed at the Brisbane leg of the Stereosonic music festival, and were taken to Brisbane emergency departments. Queensland police reported being staggered at the numbers of overdoses. The overdoses followed two fatal overdoses at Stereosonic in Sydney and Adelaide (Dec).</p> |

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| | | <p>with children with paediatric epilepsy (Oct). Sylvia Choi (aged 25) died at the Stereosonic music festival in Olympic Park after taking what police claimed mixed ecstasy with another substance, possibly MDMA in water. Another 120 people were treated for drug-related symptoms (Nov). NSW Health launched an interactive map of every public NSP outlet across NSW, type of facility e.g. staffed NSPs, vending machines (free or coin operated), disposal bins and hours of operation and range of equipment available (Dec).</p> | <p>successfully implemented random roadside drug testing regimes similar to that which is proposed in this bill. Research shows that these regimes are having a positive impact on road safety, with one Victorian study finding that the current rates of random testing are saving 20 lives per year and reducing total driving fatalities by up to 15%" (Dec).</p> | |
| 2014 | <p>Interim evaluation of the ACT's naloxone program showed that the program had been a success. For example, it found participants were able to be trained to administer take-home naloxone in appropriate circumstances and that there had been 23 successful overdose reversals (Feb). ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher praised the ACT naloxone program (Feb). Attorney-General Simon Corbell announced key changes to the ACT drug trafficking laws via the Criminal Code (Controlled Drugs) Legislation Amendment Regulation 2014. Included first evidence-informed reforms to ACT drug trafficking thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> changing the trafficable quantities of four common drugs that trigger 'deemed supply' provisions; switching from a pure based to a mixed based regime for assessing drug weight; and adopting a uniform multiplier between trafficable, commercial & large commercial quantities. <p>The reforms followed advice from the Drug Policy Modelling Program and were heralded as better ensuring thresholds target drug traffickers, rather than drug users, as 'consistent with a harm minimisation approach.' The regulation also added 44 new psychoactive substances to schedule 1, making possession of each subject to serious criminal offences. New laws commenced 17 April 2014 (Mar). ACT Greens MP, Mr Shane Rattenbury, released a medical cannabis discussion paper and exposure draft law for community feedback: "Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014". The bill seeks to enable a person to</p> | <p>The New South Wales Government supported all of the General Purpose Standing Committee No.2's Inquiry into Drug and Alcohol Treatment recommendation. In particular noted the government would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> closely observe the results of the naloxone trials in NSW (due for completion in July 2014) and the ACT to determine if naloxone should be expanded in Sydney; & encourage NHMRC to prioritise funding research into naltrexone implants, and if necessary seek private funds for a limited local trial (Feb). <p>BoCSAR report release: "Why is the NSW prison population growing?" Examined the cause of a large increase in imprisonment from late 2012 to early 2014 and concluded that the key causes were firstly, an increase in the rate of arrest for crimes involving aggravated sexual assault, serious assault resulting in injury, aggravated robbery, drive while licence disqualified or suspended and deal/traffic in non-commercial quantities, and secondly an increase in the proportion of offenders sentenced to prison, particularly for offences involving importation of illicit drugs and aggravated sexual assault. It noted that this was likely to reflect a change in policing and/or sentencing, rather than any change in the rate of actual offending (Apr). The Haslam family from Tamworth launched an online petition to the NSW Premier and NSW Health Minister calling for the decriminalization of medicinal cannabis in NSW. The campaign was motivated to help their terminally ill son, Daniel Haslam, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer and found</p> | <p>NT Corrections Officers report that a ban on smoking in NT prisons has led to a shift to smuggling tobacco into the prisons, rather than cannabis or methamphetamine (Jan). The Northern Territory Government passed the <i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act 2014</i> on 20 March 2014. This Act allows for police to charge a person not only with "supply to a person" but for the aggravated circumstance of "supplying to a place that was at the time of the offending an 'indigenous community'" when it involves a schedule 2 drug e.g. cannabis or amphetamine. An averment attesting that a place is an 'indigenous community' at the relevant time is deemed to be evidence of that matter stated. The Act increases the maximum penalty for such actions, from 5 to 9 years imprisonment (Mar).</p> | <p>Queensland Police launch a "New Synthetic Drugs: Real Damage" campaign, asking Queensland residents to anonymously report dealers or people in possession of new synthetic drugs (Feb). Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 adopted. Introduced new laws against "out of control" events, defined as an event involving 12 or more persons are gathered together at a place and 3 or more persons associated with the event engage in out-of-control conduct at or near the event. Maximum penalties for organising or causing an out of control event include 1 year imprisonment and/or 110 penalty units (Feb). Queensland Police concluded the Gold Coast's biggest drug operation in history: Operation Kilo Fraction, a 19 month operation. Led to arrest of 152 people, including 37 alleged members of outlaw motorcycle gangs (Apr). Queensland Department of Health conducts a "Request for Offer" (RFO) for the provision of NGO out-client AOD services for July 2014 to June 2017 including NGO provided Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative sessions, the coordination of booking arrangements for these sessions, NGO Youth AOD out-client counselling and NGO Community AOD out-client counselling. This RFO did not include any currently Government operated services and there was no increase or decrease in funds allocated. Current providers of residential rehabilitation services funded by Queensland Department of Health were excluded from the RFO and have been directly procured (Apr). Qld Gov released Safe Night Out Strategy.</p> |

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| | <p>apply in writing to the Chief Health Officer for approval to possess, use and cultivate cannabis for medical purposes. The community consultation ran from July until September (Jul).</p> <p>A medical marijuana supplier, providing medical marijuana to a 2.5 year old girl with a genetic disorder, was raided after a tip off from Chief Minister Katy Gallagher. The Chief Minister stated: "As the law stands at the moment marijuana is a prohibited substance and I have responsibilities on me as Chief Minister under child protection laws, if nothing else, that that information had to be passed on" (Jul).</p> <p>The ACT Legislative Assembly referred the Greens Exposure Draft of the <i>Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014</i> and related discussion paper to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services for its consideration. The Committee is required to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in June 2015 (7 Aug).</p> <p>Chief Minister Katy Gallagher wrote to federal Health Minister Peter Dutton i, proposing the National Health and Medical Research Council support an Australia-wide clinical trial and the Therapeutic Goods Administration consider how medical cannabis could be licensed for use (Aug).</p> <p>Attorney-General Simon Corbell launched a new report: "Evaluation of the ACT drug diversion programs" led by the Drug Policy Modelling Program and announced a series of reforms to the ACT police and court diversion system, including broadening the methods for payment of SCONs, prioritising space for AOD assessments of offenders in the courts and the development of a new ACT Police and Court Drug Diversion Strategy. The Attorney General Simon Corbell and ACT Chief Police Officer Rudi Lammers both also reinforced the importance of drug diversion programs and ensuring they were effectively targeted (Oct).</p> <p>Chief Minister Katy Gallagher made a request for the ACT to be involved in the NSW clinical trial of medical cannabis (Oct).</p> | <p>benefits from using cannabis (Apr).</p> <p>NSW Nationals MP Kevin Anderson, member for Tamworth, announced his intention to introduce a Private Members Bill to approve the use of cannabis by terminally ill patients (May).</p> <p>The NSW Parliamentary Research Service issued an issues backgrounder on "Medical cannabis" (Jun).</p> <p>Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment Act 2014 adopted. Introduced a number of reforms, including a requirement to collect data on the use of drug detection dogs and a review of police guidelines for searching and detaining a person during drug dog operations (Jun).</p> <p>NSW Premier Mike Baird met the Haslam family, announcing he was touched by the plight of Daniel Haslam, and was 'sympathetic' to decriminalizing medical cannabis but wanted issues of supply to be dealt with (Jul).</p> <p>Final phase of the Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) opened in NSW prisons with a new 48-bed facility specifically for female inmates. This offered drug treatment and education, vocation and employment programs for female inmates with a documented history of drug and/or alcohol abuse and at least 12 months before their release (Aug).</p> <p>NSW Premier announced that a clinical trial for medical cannabis would be established & that a Working Group had been formed to set up the trial: due to report back by the end of 2014 (Sep 16).</p> <p>Changes to the NSW Bail Act (Bail Amendment Bill 2014) mean that alleged offenders, including anyone charged with the manufacture or supply of commercial quantities of a prohibited drug, will be refused bail, unless they 'show cause' as to why they should be released (Sep).</p> <p>NSW Premier opened inaugural medical cannabis symposium in Tamworth (Nov).</p> <p>19-year-old woman, Georgina Bartter, died of a suspected ecstasy overdose, at Harbourlife dance music festival (Nov).</p> <p>New report released: "Responding to alcohol and drug related harms in NSW: Mapping the NSW non-government alcohol and other</p> | | <p>Included actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce tougher penalties for those who are affected by alcohol or drugs and engage in anti-social and violent behaviour in and around licensed venues and in public and • Expand police powers e.g. for drug operations involving tactical covert and overt strategies and drug detection dogs; and mandatory drug and alcohol testing for people charged with serious offences and trial of "sober safe centre" in Brisbane operated by Police • Mandatory AOD Counselling session as part of bail conditions for anyone charged with violence offences while intoxicated • Safe Night Out Strategy required some legislative amendments that have been introduced to Parliament as the <i>Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill</i> (Jun). <p><i>Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill</i> adopted as part of the Safe Night Out Strategy including a new offence of 'Unlawful striking causing death' punishable by a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with the offender required to serve 80% of sentence before applying for parole. The legislation also included a change to sentencing rules to no longer allow being intoxicated as a reason to reduce a person's sentence. A change to the bail act that made it mandatory for all people charged with grievous bodily harm, common assault, affray or assault police must complete a "Drug and Alcohol Assessment and Referral Course" while on bail. The legislation also allowed for a trial of "Sober Safe Centres" where a person who is deemed by Police to be intoxicated and at risk of harming themselves or others or causing a public nuisance, they can be detained at a Sober Safe Centre for up to 8 hours. Also included in this bill was the change of classification for Steroids to be a "dangerous drug" thus increasing penalty for possession, trafficking and production. The Bill was passed in August 2014 with all activities operational by the end of December.</p> <p>Queensland Government releases finalised Queensland Plan including a goal that Queenslanders "will be physically and mentally healthy" with success being "We</p> |

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| | | <p>drugs sector.” The report was commissioned by NADA and NSW Ministry of Health, as a prelude to the Partnerships for Health NGO reform program. Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% of organisations indicated their operating budget was \$1M or less; • Funding models were complex: with most having multiple funders; • Clients were becoming more complex; • Funding bodies were expecting more from organisations, e.g. performance reporting & accreditation; & • Some organisations had narrowed their client entry criteria to clients with less complex need because they could not afford salary levels of skilled staff. <p>Recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds provided at levels adequate to cover the real costs of service provision; & • Compliance requirements that will support efficient, quality, evidence-based services (Nov). <p>Evaluation of the Overdose Prevention & Emergency Naloxone (OPEN) Project, that operated through the Kirketon Road Centre and Langton Centre released. Showed that between July 2012 and March 2014, 83 people at risk of opioid overdose attended the training and were provided take home naloxone. Interviews with 35 participants six months post training showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All but one of the participants felt they had learned new things and were more confident responding to an overdose situation immediately post training. Participants also felt more informed (24% increasing to 95%) and more confident to inject naloxone (51% increasing to 96%). • At least 30 opioid overdose reversals were reported by 18 of the 35 participants who provided follow-up interviews. There were no deaths reported in any of the reversed overdoses (Nov). <p>NSW Greens MP David Shoebridge launches a “sniff off: no more drug dogs” campaign, aimed at ending the use of drug detection dogs without a warrant in public spaces in NSW. The campaign included a facebook site that reports the whereabouts of drug detection dogs in NSW (Nov).</p> <p>NSW Premier announced three Government-</p> | | <p>have reduced rates of lifestyle diseases caused by lack of exercise, poor diet, alcohol, smoking and drug abuse” (Aug).</p> <p>Queensland Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan 2014-2019 released. Key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced stigma and discrimination; • Reduced avoidable harm; & • That people living with mental health difficulties or issues related to substance use have 1) lives with purpose, 2) better physical and oral health and live longer and 3) positive experiences of their support, care and treatment (Sep). <p>A joint taskforce between Queensland Police and Queensland Corrections leads to arrest of 19 people alleged to be involved in trafficking drugs into and outside Queensland prisons (Oct).</p> <p>A two-year joint investigation between the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission and Qld Police Service into drug trafficking and outlaw motorcycle gangs closed following the arrest of 62 people, for 430 offences, and seizure of an estimated \$2.9 million of drugs, predominantly methamphetamine (Dec).</p> |

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| | | <p>funded trials of medical cannabis and cannabis products to explore the role of cannabis and cannabis products in providing relief for patients with a range of debilitating or terminal illnesses (including severe paediatric epilepsy, chemotherapy induces nausea and vomiting). The trials are expected to commence in 2016. Also released was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for medical practitioners • A Terminal Illness Cannabis Scheme to enable NSW Police to show discretion to not enforce the law against registered adults and carers (Dec). | | |
| 2013 | <p>Second phase of ACT naloxone program commenced. Included provision of naloxone to at-risk detainees on release by Justice Health (Feb).</p> <p>Drug Policies and Services Framework for the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2013 – 2015 adopted. Employed demand, harm and supply reduction strategies and performance measures including number of detainees accessing of ATOD services, number of overdoses and needle-stick injuries, inmate satisfaction with ATOD services and proportion of detainees receiving a Justice Health discharge plan on release (Aug).</p> <p>ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher released final status report on the Government's response to the Burnet Report. Noted that 46 recommendations from Burnet report had been fully or partially completed at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, but that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a trial needle and syringe program could not occur until union agreement was reached; & • the merit and feasibility of providing a regulated tattooing program was still being considered (Oct). <p>Final Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood-Borne viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre adopted. Included provision of regulated access to sterile injecting equipment subject to union agreement (Oct).</p> | <p>New South Wales State Attorney-General Greg Smith opened the state's third drug court, in central Sydney (Feb).</p> <p>Nineteen individuals, including the national president of the Hells Angels, the vice president of the Rebels and other high-ranking members of the Comancheros motorcycle gang were arrested following a 21-month investigation into the supply of drugs, guns and explosives to organised crime groups within NSW. The operation, known as Strike Force Alistair, was led by the NSW Police Force Organised Crime Squad and the NSW Crime Commission, with assistance from the Gangs Squad and is one of the biggest operations in the state's history. Also seized were pistols, rifles, ammunition, counterfeit cash, 2 clandestine laboratories and an estimated \$6 million worth of drugs (Mar).</p> <p>Intoxicated Persons (Sobering Up Centres Trial) Act 2013 No 15 adopted. Introduced a trial of sobering up centres for people intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs. Included 1) a compulsory model run by NSW police that detains people for 4-8 hours at costs; and 2) a voluntary model run by NGOs (Apr 3).</p> <p>NSW Parliament General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 released report on their inquiry into the use of cannabis for medical purposes. Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Minister for Health write to the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing, expressing in principal support for the expansion of access to approved cannabis pharmacotherapies • That the NSW Government introduce an amendment to the <i>Drug Misuse and</i> | <p>The Northern Territory Government announced that it was getting hard on drugs in response to research that there has been significant increase in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine across the nation. The <i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Methamphetamine) Act 2013</i> was introduced and received assent on 19 October 2013. The Act subsequently commenced to have effect from 11 November 2013. This amendment removed methamphetamine from schedule 2 of the Act and placed it in schedule 1. This increased penalties for the possession or supply of trafficable and commercial quantities of the drug. For example the maximum penalty for trafficable quantities (2.0g or more) increased from 5 years imprisonment to 14 years or more (dependent on the nature of the offence) (Oct).</p> | <p>The Newman Government released their six month action plan. Actions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Queensland Mental Health Commission; • Reform Queensland Health's grants and service delivery contracts; • Commence a review to streamline contracts with nongovernment organisations (NGOs) reducing the number of individual contracts; • Release the government's youth strategy (Jan). <p>Newman Government released Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland (Feb).</p> <p>Qld Police closed their most extensive drug investigation in recent years. Operations Juliet Cheshire and Juliet Cheshire 2 spanned a total of 18 months and sought to disrupt trafficking of methylamphetamine, MDMA (ecstasy), cocaine, and cannabis into the Fortitude Valley entertainment precinct. A total of 76 people were charged with 283 offences including 32 offences of trafficking dangerous drugs, 105 charges of supply dangerous drugs and 16 charges of major possession. Approximately \$2.5 million worth of drugs and several firearms were also seized (Feb).</p> <p>Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No 1) 2013 adopted. Added 35 new synthetic drugs, including NBOME, MDPV, 4-MEC, MDAI & 2-DPMP, to Schedule 2 of the Drug Misuse Act (Apr).</p> <p>Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Act 2013 adopted. This:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduced a scheme for recovering 'unexplained wealth'; |

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| | | <p><i>Trafficking Act 1985</i> to add a complete defence to the use and possession of cannabis, so as to cover the authorised medical use of cannabis by patients with terminal illness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the NSW Ministry of Health and Department of Attorney General and Justice give further and detailed consideration to the issues surrounding lawful supply of crude cannabis products for medical purposes (May). <p>Sixth report on Drug Use in the Inmate Population (DUIP) released. Showed a steady and significant decline in use of drugs in NSW prisons, from 62% in 2001-02 to 37% in 2009-10. This was much greater than the decline in rates of pre-prison drug use (at 84% & 73% respectively in 2001-02 and 2009-10) (Jun).</p> <p>17-year old Henry Kwan died after taking NBOME (a synthetic LSD-like drug) and jumping off a third floor balcony - thinking he could fly (Jun 6).</p> <p>NSW Government introduced a temporary ban on 19 synthetic drugs (Jun 9).</p> <p>Highlighted that drug used by Henry Kwan – NBOMe – was not on temporary banned list (Jun 16).</p> <p>NSW Government’s General Purpose Standing Committee No.2’s Inquiry into Drug and Alcohol Treatment issued it’s final report. Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider expanding the Drug Court program beyond Sydney & Hunter; Consider expanding the availability of naloxone; Increase funds to Life Education; Match drug treatment funds to treatment demand using the Drug and Alcohol-Clinical Care and Prevention Planning Model; & That if naltrexone implants are approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, that the NSW Government fund a randomised control trial of naltrexone implants (Aug). <p><i>Drugs and Poisons Legislation Amendment (New Psychoactive and Other Substances) Act 2013</i> adopted. Prohibited the manufacture, supply, sale or advertising of all psychoactive substances (subject to appropriate exemptions) – maximum penalty of \$2,200 or two years</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a reverse onus of proof, so any person who accumulated wealth that does not seem commensurate with his/her lifestyle and livelihood would bear the onus of proving that the wealth was legitimately acquired; and introduced serious drug offender confiscation orders, enabling forfeiture of all property whether obtained legally or illegally unless deemed as ‘protected property’ (May). <p>Newman Government review released of Youth Justice Strategy (Jun).</p> <p>Announcement of the inaugural QLD Mental Health Commissioner Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck to commence 1 July 2013. A whole-of-government strategic plan for Mental Health and AOD is to be developed within 12 months (Jul).</p> <p>Queensland police recruit real estate agents to help them find and dismantle clandestine drug laboratories: using a training program that teaches property managers how to spot laboratories and collect evidence during inspections.</p> <p>Qld Government released: “<i>The Queensland Plan: a 30-year vision for Queensland</i>”, outlining draft strategic vision for Qld. Included key objective of reducing rates of lifestyle diseases caused by lack of exercise, poor diet, alcohol, smoking and drug abuse (Dec).</p> <p>Queensland Needle and Syringe Program (QNSP) data indicate a continual increase (approx. 28% per year) in the number of people who reported obtaining needles and syringes to inject ‘ice’: from 7,921 in 2009 to 10,132 in 2011 13,028 in 2012 (Jul).</p> <p>Consultation occurred on the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Strategic Plan: including an AOD specific forum organised by QNADA (Sep).</p> <p><i>Criminal Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013</i> adopted. Introduced new requirement that all drug traffickers serve at least 80% of their term of imprisonment before being eligible for parole and increased maximum penalty for aggravated supply e.g. drug trafficking to anyone aged 16 or under (from 25 years to life imprisonment) (Aug).</p> |

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| | | <p>imprisonment. This supplemented existing provisions to ban use and trafficking of specific named 'prohibited drugs' through Schedule 1 of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act and their analogues. The Act also removed requirement for analogues of prohibited drugs to have psychotropic properties (Sep 24).</p> <p>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2013 added 45 new psychoactive substances (including synthetic cannabinoids, 2C-X and NBOMe) to the list of prohibited drugs in the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act; along with threshold quantities for trafficable, commercial and large commercial trafficking offences (Sep).</p> <p>James Munro (aged 23) died of a suspected ecstasy overdose at the Defqon.1 festival (Sep).</p> <p>New NDARC research released: "Engagement with criminal justice system among opioid-dependent people." Examined all entrants to opioid substitution therapy (OST) for opioid dependence in NSW between 1985 and 2010 and their criminal justice contact and showed that a minority of opioid-dependent people are responsible for most CJS contact: 67.4% of CJS charges due to 20.8% cohort (Sep)</p> <p>NSW cannabis clinic expanded to include synthetic cannabinoid users (Oct).</p> <p>NSW Government released response to the inquiry on the use of cannabis for medical purposes. They supported recommendation one; that they write to the Commonwealth Minister for Health and Ageing, expressing in principal support for the expansion of access to approved cannabis pharmacotherapies, but rejected all other recommendations, including considering lawful supply of crude cannabis products for medical purposes. The government argued that it "does not support the use of unregulated crude cannabis products for medical purposes as the potency and safety cannot be guaranteed" and that this decision would not prevent access to appropriate medical treatment for any patient in NSW" (Nov).</p> <p>NSW health authorities introduce first Australian pop-up rapid testing site to combat rise in HIV (Nov).</p> | | |

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| 2012 | <p>ACT Greens issued a bill for reform of the infringement system relating to road traffic offences: Road Transport (General) (Infringement Notices) Amendment Bill 2012 (Feb).</p> <p>ATODA released a discussion paper calling for the extension of reforms of the ACT Infringement Scheme from roadside drug to other infringement schemes, including the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice scheme (Mar).</p> <p>Government response to the report, <i>Human Rights ACT 2004 (ACT): The First Five Years of Operation</i>, tabled. Noted the positive achievements and desire to build upon this (Mar).</p> <p>ACT Infringements System Reform introduced for road traffic offences: (1) Options to pay fines through installments; (2) A system of community work and social development programs, which people on low income or with special circumstances can undertake in lieu of payments; (3) Options to waive fines in special circumstances (May).</p> <p>ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher released the Draft Strategic Framework for the Management of Blood-Borne Viruses in the Alexander Maconochie Centre 2012-2014. Strategies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposal for a trial needle and syringe program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre – on a one-for-one syringe basis. The trial will constitute the first Australian prison-based NSP. • That detainees have screening and vaccinations for all those coming into the AMC. • That detainees within the AMC have ready access to full-strength household bleach and information and education about how to prevent and manage BBVs (Aug). <p>High level of media debate about the proposed NSP at the AMC (Aug).</p> <p>ACT Comorbidity (Mental Health and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Problems) Strategy 2012-2014 released (Aug).</p> <p>As part of 2012-13 budget the ACT Government announced the establishment of a Throughcare Unit to better support prison detainees returning to the community and co-ordinate their service delivery and</p> | <p>NSW Legislative Assembly Legal Affairs Committee launched: "Inquiry into law reform issues regarding synthetic drugs." The inquiry sought to examine law reform issues regarding the prohibition of synthetic drugs and to consider the adequacy of current NSW legislation. Submissions were received from Feb-Apr (Feb 16).</p> <p>First phase of the Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) in NSW prisons opened, with space for 62 male inmates (Feb).</p> <p>Former NSW Health Minister, John Della Bosca, said the 'war on drugs' has failed, & called for another drug summit to reassess Australia's approach to drug policy (Apr).</p> <p>The NSW Youth Drug and Alcohol Court was axed. NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, said the program was too expensive. The closure occurred without consultation (Jul 1).</p> <p>The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, tabled the NSW Law Reform Commission's report on the Bail Act. Of note, the report outlined there had been many reversals of the presumption of bail for drug trafficking offences. Recommendations of the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Bail Act should be drafted in plain English language, so as to be readily understandable, and with a clear and logical structure; • The scheme of presumptions, exceptions and exceptional circumstances in the current legislation should be replaced with a uniform presumption in favour of release applicable to all cases except those covered by an entitlement to release & appeal. • The authority must consider: (a) The entitlement of every person in a free society to liberty and (b) The presumption of innocence. • In decisions on bail, a person must not be detained unless a custodial sentence is likely (Jun). <p>NSW drug education unit abolished (Jun).</p> <p>The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government announced in the 2012-13 Budget they will expand prisoner rehabilitation programs including through the new Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment program (Jun).</p> <p>The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government</p> | <p>The Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) announced that the NT Government had agreed to fund a peak AOD body for the NT: the Alcohol and Other Drugs Association of the Northern Territory (AADANT) (Jan 31).</p> <p><i>Justice (Corrections) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2011</i> entered into operation. This introduced two new sentencing options: Community Custody and Community-Based Orders. This gave the Courts the power to order offenders into rehabilitation, education and training, and community work programs as an alternative to imprisonment (Feb).</p> <p>The NT adopted into law the new Poisons Standard (SUSMP) under the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i>, including the Schedule 9 prohibition of synthetic cannabinomimetics: <i>Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2012</i> (Apr).</p> <p>NT Country Liberal Party elected, under Chief Minister Terry Mills (after 11 years of labor rule). Key policy platforms included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory drug testing for anybody arrested for an assault on or about a licensed premise; • Tougher bail conditions for any crime that poses a risk to the general public; • Tougher penalties for offenders who breach bail (Aug 27). <p>The Australian Medical Association's Northern Territory branch says it would consider supporting the decriminalisation of a range of drugs (Sep).</p> <p>The Alcohol and Other Drugs Association of the Northern Territory (AADANT) became an incorporated body and held their first Policy Forum for the AOD Sector (Nov 30).</p> <p>NT Mini-Budget 2012-2013 released. Revealed intent to abolish the Smart Court and the Alcohol and other Drug Tribunal (as a means of saving funds) (Dec).</p> <p>NT Police seized crystal methamphetamine, steroids and 362 tablets containing PMMA and arrested three males in connection with a suspected drug syndicate that was sourcing drugs from a Sydney-based Middle Eastern crime group and selling them out of a Darwin hotel room. The PMMA tablets were being marketed as 'ecstasy' (Dec).</p> <p>The Northern Territory announced their</p> | <p>First Report of the Queensland Mental Health Commission Advisory Committee released: on formation of a mental health commission. (NB. Model was rejected by Newman government) (Jan).</p> <p>"Inquiry into severe substance dependence: a model for involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation" lapsed due to likely dissolution (Feb).</p> <p>Queensland Liberal National Party (LNP) elected, under Premier Campbell Newman. Key policy platforms included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a permanent major crime squad, based on the Gold Coast; • Take a hardline approach to drug traffickers & dealers who target children with tough sentencing laws; • Introduce tough new unexplained wealth and drug trafficker declarations; • Drug traffickers to serve at least 80% of their sentence before being eligible for parole • Establish a Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) (Mar 24). <p>Passage of legislation for the establishment of the Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) (March 2013) with commencement 1 July 2013.</p> <p>The Federal Government announced that a Task Force would be established to examine organised crime on the Brisbane waterfront. This will begin in early 2013 (May).</p> <p>A heroin distribution network operating in south-east Queensland, with alleged links to Balkan crime groups, was detected following an 18-month covert investigation codenamed <i>Operation Storm</i>. The investigation was conducted by the Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC), Queensland Police Service, New South Wales Drug Squad and the Australian Federal Police said the network has operated for six years (2006-2012) (May).</p> <p>The Crime and Misconduct Commission's Proceeds of Crime team restrained the assets of the purported leader of the heroin distribution network (arrested through Operation Storm). The order covered assets including 2 properties, 5 cars and a boat: worth an estimated \$216,195 (Aug).</p> <p>Queensland State Budget 2012-2013 released. Outlined a number of areas of major cuts, including:</p> |

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| | <p>case management. A total of \$1.12 million has been provided over two years (Jun).</p> <p>The ACT Labor Party and the ACT Greens (Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA) signed a parliamentary agreement that they would “establish a needle and syringe exchange program at the AMC medical centre.” This was one of the conditions made in order to form a minority government, following the 2012 ACT Election (Nov 2).</p> <p>The <i>Human Rights Amendment Bill 2012</i> was adopted, adding section 27A Right to education to the act. This entered into force on 1 Jan 2013 (Aug).</p> <p>Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Health tabled the report “The Review of the Need to Expand Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Services in the ACT, 2012” and the Health Directorate response to the report in the ACT Legislative Assembly. Key conclusions from the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no strong evidence of a need to increase the number of residential rehabilitation beds in the ACT; • There is evidence of barriers for many people to accessing treatment and support services, including residential rehabilitation programs, which need to be removed. <p>Recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing referrers, prospective clients and family members / friends of those with alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) problems, with more detailed information about the eligibility criteria, structure and content of programs and expectations of those who participate in programs • Improve intake, transition and aftercare support (Aug). | <p>announced that the Grafton Correctional Centre, a minimum and medium security prison on the far north coast of NSW, will be downsized (from 243 to 64 inmates) to become a transient and remand centre (Jun).</p> <p>Over-dose Prevention Education and Naloxone (OPEN) project commenced in Sydney: Kirketon Road Centre. The goal was to reduce mortality and morbidity amongst PWID, particularly by educating PWID and their carers about opioid overdose prevention and management and prescribing take-home naloxone (Jun).</p> <p>Mental Health Act Review Discussion Paper released with submissions invited until Dec 2012 (Sep).</p> <p>Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Amendment (Kings Cross and Railways Drug Detection) Bill 2012 adopted. This authorised the use by police officers of dogs for general drug detection (without warrant) at any public place in the Kings Cross precinct & extended powers to use dogs across the entire railway network (Oct 29).</p> <p>Inquiry commenced by a Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee into “<i>Drug and alcohol treatment</i>”: evaluating current polices with a particular focus on deterrence, treatment and rehabilitation (Nov).</p> <p>Inquiry commenced by a Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee into “<i>The use of cannabis for medical purposes</i>”. Key issues include the efficacy and safety of using cannabis for medical purposes; if and how cannabis should be supplied for medical use; the legal implications and issues and any other related matters. A total of 122 submissions were received. The inquiry is due to report in May 2013 (Nov).</p> <p>NSW HIV Strategy 2012-2015 adopted. As part of this the NSW Coalition Government committed to expand Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) access. Key strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more outlets for NSP distribution • more automatic dispensing machines that allow 24hr access & • permitting people who obtain equipment from NSP outlets to distribute that equipment to peers without criminal penalties (Dec). | <p>Alcohol and other drug Court Tribunal would be cut (Dec).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of 14,000 FTE positions from the public service. • Queensland Health’s Grant program cuts of \$120 million over four years. • Court Diversion and Referrals program cuts of \$5.015 million in 2012 – 2013 and \$10.226 million in 2013 – 2014. <p>Of particular note Premier Newman announced that post ten years of operation the Queensland drug courts would no longer be funded (the Murri and special circumstances courts were also de-funded) (Sep).</p> <p>QNADA released a new Policy Position – “The role of AOD in the Qld Mental Health Commission.” This supported the Newman Government’s proposed establishment of a Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC). But, while arguing inclusion of AOD within QMHC would be beneficial, it advocated for specialist AOD input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the specialist nature of AOD treatment services and its’ unique policy framework, ongoing reform of the sector from within the QMHC will be best achieved by the assigning of responsibility and leadership to a designated position, such as a Deputy Commissioner for AOD (Sep). <p>Queensland Health contracted Siggins Miller to conduct “Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Residential Service Sector Mapping and Review Project.”</p> <p>QNADA released a position paper on “recovery and harm minimisation.” This argues that in the Australian context the primary goal of treatment and prevention should remain harm minimisation (Sep).</p> <p>Queensland Government released the discussion paper: “Establishment of the Queensland Mental Health Commission.” This outlined the proposed model for the QMHC (with one month for feedback) (Oct).</p> <p>A new Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch located within the Health Services and Clinical Innovation Division came into existence. Responsibility for the AOD agenda, which had rested in one unit (the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Strategy Unit), was split across this and another branch within the Health Services and Clinical Innovation Division, under the rationale of better integrating the AOD</p> |

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| | | | | <p>agenda across the division. Accordingly responsibility is spilt across the branches for Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Chief Health Officer in 4 separate teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead responsibility for ongoing AOD policy and AODS treatment is delivered by the Partnerships and Programs Team (Planning and Partnerships Unit, Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch) • AOD Prevention is delivered by the Intergovernmental Partnership Team (Preventive Health Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch) • Opioid treatment and monitoring is delivered by the Medicines, Regulation and Quality Team (Health Protection Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch) • Needle Syringe Programs are delivered by the Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmitted Infection team (Communicable Diseases Unit, Chief Health Officer Branch) (Oct). <p>Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2012 introduced outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a new 'aggravated supply' offence in the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 for drug traffickers who target children. Offenders are liable to a max penalty of life imprisonment for a schedule 1 drug and 25 yrs for a schedule 2 drug and • The conditions for the cessation of the Queensland's Drug Court by 30 June 2013 and transitional arrangements. A gradual approach to the termination of the Drug Court has been adopted to allow offenders, currently subject to an intensive drug rehabilitation order under the Drug Court Act 2000, time to complete their order (Nov). <p>Queensland Mental Health Commission Bill 2012 tabled, to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Mental Health Commission and • a Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Council (Nov). <p>Youth Justice (Boot Camp Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012 passed (Nov).</p> <p>Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission released a new report: 'Illicit drug markets in Queensland.' This noted the MDMA market is showing signs of a resurgence and is continuing to attract organised crime (Dec).</p> |

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| 2011 | <p>The Minister for Community Services released a discussion paper "Towards a diversionary framework for the ACT". This acknowledged the need for a much more whole of government approach to diversion (Feb).</p> <p>Knowledge Consulting report released: "Report of the Independent Review of Operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre." Report examined the first 12 months of operation and noted concerns about a lack of coordination of some drug policies and procedures (Mar).</p> <p>New report released: "Health Status of Young People in the ACT". Report showed the use of illicit substances by young people decreased. For example, lifetime use amongst those aged 12-17 decreased from 20.3% in 2005 to 14.8% in 2008, continuing the downward trend since 1996 (37.5%). Use of at least one substance in the last week also declined: from 4.8% in 2005 to 3.7% in 2008 (Apr).</p> <p>Burnet report (2010-2011) tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly: "External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre." Key findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High prevalence of lifetime and current illicit drug use at the AMC and evidence of trafficking of drugs into the prison. • Reports of at least one case of in-prison transmission of HCV within the new AMC. • Several positive program activities at the AMC went some way to fulfilling drug policy objectives. However, these constituted 'pockets of effectiveness.' <p>Report made 69 recommendations inc:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a specific drug policy framework for the AMC; • Consultations with relevant stakeholders to identify feasibility of a trial NSP at the AMC & appropriate models for its delivery; • Exploration of a model for provision of naloxone to prisoners at release; • Swifter pharmacotherapy provision: <48 hours after requesting induction (Apr). | <p>NSW Premier Kristina Keneally opened the state's second Drug Court in Toronto, citing the success of the Paramatta drug court. A third drug court was promised if Labor won re-election (Mar).</p> <p>New Liberal Premier Barry O Farrell elected (28 Mar).</p> <p>New report released by the NSW Auditor-General: "Effectiveness of cautioning for Minor Cannabis Offences". Key conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39,099 people cautioned. • Cautioned people reoffended less than those charged. <p>Yet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth were less likely to be cautioned in 2009-10 than 2000-01 • Huge variation in caution rates between police commands e.g. 74% in Eastern suburbs vs. 26% in Parramatta. <p>Recommended reviewing barriers to cautioning, particularly for young offenders (Apr).</p> <p>New crime squad will be established on Sydney Harbour to target drug trafficking and organized criminal through NSW ports. A key motivator was declining levels of inspections by Australian Customs and Border Control: just 3.6% of shipping containers over the last 12 months. Operation Polaris, led by Detective Superintendent Peter McErlain will comprise 25 NSW Police officers, 15 AFP agents, and operatives from the NSW and Australian Crime Commissions (May).</p> <p>Mental Health Minister Kevin Humphries made headlines when he was photographed with a synthetic cannabinoid, Kronic, on Oxford Street: "Why is this MP buying a bag of weed?" The Minister highlighted concerns the product could have a potency up to 100 times greater than marijuana and cause hallucinations and psychosis (14 Jun).</p> <p>NSW Government announced ban on the sale and use of synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. From 8 July 2011 cannabinoids will be listed under Schedule 1 of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (along with cannabis and heroin etc) and require retailers and</p> | <p>The Northern Territory Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) initiated moves to establish a formal AOD Peak for the Northern Territory: the Alcohol and Other Drugs Association of the Northern Territory (AADANT).</p> <p>NT Drug Summit: "Forging the Future – Practical Responses to Contemporary Issues" (Apr 13).</p> <p>A large two day police operation in the aim of deterring drug and alcohol distribution to the Northern Territory resulted in the seizure of \$2385 in cash and 367 grams of cannabis. Operation revolved around 48 hr road blocks on both Larapinta Drive and the Tanami Highway and was undertaken by the Alice Springs Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk, Drug Intelligence Unit and Dog Operations Unit, members of the Darwin Remote Community Drug Desk and Hermannsburg Police and Southern Traffic operations (May).</p> <p>Regulations amending the <i>Misuse of Drugs Act</i> banned a total of 18 substances used to manufacture synthetic cannabis (including Kronic) (12 Aug)</p> <p>A further five substances were added to the banned list of synthetic cannabis (31 Aug).</p> <p>NT Attorney General released the "Review of the Northern Territory Youth Justice System." Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NT youth offending is trending upwards in a number of areas • The no. of young people involved in the justice system is small but is increasing. • Young people in detention are more likely to be on remand than serving sentences <p>Key recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in police diversion, and expand diversion programs • Establish a new unit with responsibility for administering all youth justice system services • Develop a new youth justice strategy (Oct). | <p>QLD Drug Action Plan ceased – with new strategic planning pending establishment of the QMHC (Dec).</p> <p>Eight years post freezing the assets of Charles Edward Cannon, a convicted methamphetamine trafficker, the Qld Supreme Court made a landmark proceeds of crime ruling: <i>State of Qld v Cannon</i> [2011] QSC 075 (03/1166) Brisb Applegarth J 8/04/2011. The ruling marked the end of the state's longest and largest proceeds of crime battle and meant that Cannon, who it was alleged had earned \$27 million through his methamphetamine business, was ordered to pay back \$4.2 million in crime proceeds to the Qld government (Apr).</p> <p>Qld Government announced intention to put forward a new bill: 'Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2011' to ban 15 synthetic cannabinoids and to amend the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to revise the definition of banned 'analogues'. The new law proposes to address the rise of new 'legal' substances that mimic known illicit substances, and eliminate the current requirement that an analogue is only banned when there is proof that the new substance has a similar chemical structure and effect to scheduled dangerous drugs. Under the proposal any substance that is 'intended' to have a substantially similar pharmacological effect as known illicit drugs will be banned. The proposed bill will be subject to consultation by stakeholders including the Sentencing Advisory Committee (Jun).</p> <p>Queensland Drug Action Plan 2011-2012 released. Plan seeks to reduce cannabis use and heavy drinking by 11% by 2012 (Jun).</p> <p>Crime and Misconduct Commission issue a 'schoolies alert' about GHB, due to recent peaks in supply and use (Sep).</p> <p>QNADA released a new report: "Building Capacity in Alcohol and Drug Services – The Queensland Experience – A Tough but Perfect Confluence" (Oct).</p> <p>Premier Anna Bligh announced that the Queensland Government would establish an independent Mental Health Commission (the Commission) from 1 July 2012 to drive improved performance, coordination and transparency in the delivery of mental health services in Queensland (Oct).</p> <p>The Alcohol and Other Drugs</p> |

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| | <p>Mr Michael Moore, CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) was engaged by the ACT Government, to respond to the Burnet Report by: assessing barriers and enablers to implementation of an NSP in the AMC; & investigating models for delivery (May).</p> <p>Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, become Chief Minister of the ACT (May).</p> <p>Petition signed by 86% of the Alexander Maconochie Centre's correctional officers called on the ACT Legislative Assembly to reject any proposal for a needle and syringe program at the AMC. Put together by the Community and Public Sector Union it stated that "our working environment in the AMC is already dangerous enough and we will actively fight any proposal to make it worse by introducing needle syringes into our workplace." Petition was tabled by opposition Liberal corrections spokesman Jeremy Hanson (21 Jun).</p> <p>Chief Minister and Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA tabled the ACT Government's final response to Burnet Report (evaluation of drug policies and services at the AMC), arising actions and timelines. The ACT Government announced no immediate disagreement with any of the 69 recommendations. Instead, 20 were agreed to in full, including the need to develop a drug strategy for the AMC and to improve the governance structure overseeing policies and services. Another 26 recommendations were agreed to in principle, including exploration of the development and implementation of a program to provide Naloxone to at-risk prisoners on release (28 Jun).</p> <p>Under local medicines laws the ACT Government automatically adopted the decision of the Therapeutic Goods Authority to prohibit from 6 July eight synthetic cannabinoids. This made manufacturing, possession, supply and/or use within the ACT illegal from 8 Jul (amnesty on prosecution was provided until Aug 8) (Jul).</p> <p>Public Health Association of Australia report released: "Balancing access and safety: meeting the challenge of blood borne viruses in prison - report for the ACT Government into the implementation of a NSP at the Alexander Maconochie Centre."</p> | <p>consumers to arrange for safe destruction of all supplies (28 June).</p> <p>Former assistant director investigations for the NSW Crime Commission, Mark Standen, was found guilty of conspiring to import and supply 300kg of pseudoephedrine and conspiring to pervert the course of justice. During the trial Crown prosecutor Tim Game, SC, alleged that given thirty years of involvement in law enforcement agencies, including Australian Customs, Australian Federal Police and intimate involvement in gathering intelligence on drug syndicates and money laundering, it was harder to imagine a 'greater breach of trust'. He was later sentenced to 22 years imprisonment: HR v Standen [2011] NSWSC 1422 (8 December 2011) (Aug and Dec).</p> <p>The finding that Mark Standen was involved in organized crime sparked renewed calls for a Royal Commission of the NSW Crime Commission (Aug).</p> <p>NSW Police Minister Mike Gallacher rejected calls for a full Royal Commission, but established a special commission of inquiry into the NSW Crime Commission to review the commission's structure and accountability (Aug).</p> <p>NSW 2021 plan released. NSW 2021 is the 10 year strategic plan setting immediate priorities for action and guiding resource allocation in conjunction with the NSW Budget. Key priority actions include: establish dedicated metropolitan drug treatment facilities focused on treatment and rehabilitation; encourage greater use of non-custodial punishment for less serious offenders and create availability and access to diversionary program; review treatment and intervention programs to identify ways to increase completion rates; improve the way government agencies share information to deliver integrated services and management of offenders; assist in diverting people with mental health problems out of the criminal justice system and into services which meet their needs (Sep).</p> <p>Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the New South Wales Crime Commission released. The report by retired judge David Patten found no evidence that any members are engaged in criminal</p> | | <p>Treatment Strategy Unit (AODTSU) became part of the Mental Health Alcohol and Other Drugs Directorate (see also (Oct).</p> <p>Queensland Mental Health Commission Advisory Committee was established (Nov).</p> <p>"Inquiry into severe substance dependence: a model for involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation" launched by the Health and Disabilities Committee of the Queensland Parliament. The inquiry sought to report on a model for the involuntary detoxification and rehabilitation of persons with severe substance dependence, including examining the potential benefits and costs of implementing a model for the involuntary medicated detoxification and rehabilitation of persons with severe substance dependence and examining initiatives in other Australian and international jurisdictions (Dec).</p> |

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| | <p>Report made 7 recommendations including that the ACT Corrections Management Act 2007 be amended to require the establishment of an NSP at the AMC. Key evidence to support this was the high number of IDU in the prison (a third of inmates had reported injecting drugs) and that an unregulated NSP already operated, controlled by prisoners not health workers. Three models for an NSP were put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model 1: A contained NSP; • Model 2: Equipment provision from existing AMC health centre; • Model 3: 'One for one' exchange vending style machines (Jul). <p>ACT Government provided 6 weeks of public consultation on the PHAA Report views and recommendations (Jul-Sep).</p> <p>Following the 6 July scheduling by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of eight synthetic cannabinoids, the ACT adopted the changes under local medicines laws. This made it illegal from 8 July to manufacture, obtain, possess, supply, sell and/or use products containing synthetic cannabis in the ACT (Jul).</p> <p>Practice directions for a new ACT Youth Drug and Alcohol Court (YDAC) were adopted. The program, starting as a two year trial on 1 Dec 2011, sought to provide a pre-sentence diversionary opportunity for children and young offenders with a demonstrable alcohol or drug problem (Jul).</p> <p>Justice and Community Safety Directorate, <i>ACT Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2013</i> and <i>ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020</i> adopted. Both include roadside drug testing initiatives (Nov).</p> <p>Street Law Report released - "The Downward Spiral: How a fine can cause homelessness in the ACT." The report identified that the ACT infringement system was having a disproportionately negative impact on vulnerable populations, including those with serious AOD issues (Nov).</p> <p>Australia's first overdose management program that provides naloxone (Narcan ®) on prescription to potential overdose victims launched. Training will be conducted for opioid users and other potential overdose witnesses over a two-year year period with 200 participants. Eligible participants who successfully complete the training will be</p> | <p>activity, but concluded that the existing accountability mechanisms were inadequate. Key recommendations included that an Inspector be appointed to oversee the NSW Crime Commission, ensure compliance with the law, assess the effectiveness of procedures and deal with complaints of misconduct (Nov).</p> <p>Attorney General, Greg Smith SC announced the establishment of the first dedicated alcohol and drug rehabilitation prison facility in NSW, which will provide an Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program (IDATP) for male and female inmates. The first phase will involve a 62-bed unit for male inmates at John Morony Correctional Centre, to open in February 2012. Eligible offenders will be sentenced inmates with a documented history of problematic drug and/or alcohol use, with a minimum or medium security classification (Nov).</p> <p>Attorney General, Greg Smith SC announced the establishment of the second metropolitan drug court: at the Downing Centre Local Court, opposite Hyde Park (Nov).</p> <p>Figures obtained by the NSW Greens though Parliamentary questioning showed that NSW police sniffer dogs were wrong 4 out of 5 times when they indicate people had drugs on them. This led Greens MP David Shoebridge MLC to conclude the high error rate, and high level of public humiliation, showed the program must be halted (Dec).</p> | | |

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| | prescribed naloxone by a General Practitioner upon reaching a level of competence and assessment. The program will be evaluated by an external evaluation team led by Associate Professor Paul Dietze and Professor Simon Lenton (Dec). | | | |
| 2010 | <p>Government released for public comment its proposed bill for roadside drug testing. The <i>Road Transport (Drug Driving) Bill 2010</i> was argued to be a comprehensive bill that would fit within existing policies on human rights and harm minimisation (27 May).</p> <p>Former ACT Supreme Court judge Ken Crispin published a book, "The Quest for Justice," which questioned the war on drugs. In it he states that treating illicit drug use as a criminal justice problem has not and will never work (May).</p> <p>The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association Australian Capital Territory Inc (ATODA), was launched as the new independent peak body for the ACT ATOD sector. It provides for members from both the non-government and government sectors (18 Jun).</p> <p>ACT Human Rights Commissioner provided her opinion that the opposition bill for roadside drug testing was non-compliant with the ACT <i>Human Rights Act</i> since it would impinge on human rights but did not guarantee doing so would lead to justifiable community benefit. She also argued that there was conflict with the ACT drug legislation, as the ACT had decriminalised possession of personal supply of cannabis yet random roadside drug testing would impose serious criminal sanctions on the use of cannabis (29 Jun).</p> <p><i>Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) (Random Drug Testing) Amendment Bill 2009</i> passed by the opposition party (Liberals) and the Greens for testing of cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines (30 Jun).</p> <p>The ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 adopted. Specific aims were minimising harm, improving health and social well-being, developing evidence-based policies and implementing the Strategy Action Plan in a manner that respects, protects and promotes human rights. 66 strategic priorities were specified</p> | <p>NSW Health funded KPMG to conduct a new and independent evaluation into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre.</p> <p>Media reports increasing use of an ecstasy like stimulant – mephedrone or miaow miaow – following increased border seizures and accounts of use in dance scenes including Newcastle where it was reported to have been sold for \$2 a hit (Mar).</p> <p>Arrests for possession and use of cocaine in NSW increased 55% from 486 in 2008 to 753 in 2009 prompting calls by the NSW Bureau of Crime Research and Statistics that more cocaine was getting into the country (Apr).</p> <p>An integrated mental health, drug and alcohol and community health facility – the O'Brien Centre – was opened at St Vincent's Hospital. The centre aimed to provide a more coordinated one-stop approach to meeting needs e.g. detox, opioid treatment, anxiety disorder units and mental health workers (May).</p> <p>NSW attorney general announced that eleven years following the established of the 1st NSW drug court in Parramatta a 2nd drug court would be established in Toronto, NSW. The cited reason was recent evidence of effectiveness (17 Jun).</p> <p>Opposition leader Barry O'Farrell said he remained "concerned" that the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre had "not met its goal of providing a pathway for users to access services to end their addiction" and he wanted proof that the centre was helping to end addiction before he would consider calls for the centre to be made permanent (16 Jun).</p> <p>The Greens candidate for the federal seat of Wentworth, Matthew Robertson called on the NSW Government and Opposition to end the trial period for the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) and make it permanent (27 Jun).</p> <p>BOCSAR released new report: "Trends in</p> | <p>Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk targeted cannabis and amphetamine trafficking on major routes and highways entering and exiting the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Review of the Alcohol and Other Drug Service Components of the Northern Territory Emergency Response - Final Report released. This noted that while the Northern Territory Intervention (introduced 21 June 2007) expanded some AOD services due to fears that it would lead to more demand for AOD detoxification/services, there were a number of problems with the process. Key problems included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The absence of involvement of the NGO sector in the discussions. For example, while the AOD Working Group (established in Nov 2007) was consulted this did not include representation from this sector. Swift timelines led to some poor decision making which was not in the best interest of the NT AOD services e.g. emphasis upon expansion rather than capacity of organisations. <p>Recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the operation of an independent peak body be funded for all AOD programs in the NT regardless of the nature of the organisation in which they operate. <p>That a long term cooperative plan for the development of AOD services in the Northern Territory be developed (May).</p> | <p>Crime and Misconduct Commission enquiry into claims Gold Coast police officers have been involved with organised crime gangs, including outlaw bikies, importing drugs and dealing them through big Gold Coast nightclubs (Feb).</p> <p>Crime and Misconduct Commission Report released "Illicit drug markets in Queensland: A strategic assessment." Report identified that methyl-amphetamine continued to pose the highest risk to the Qld community, but was likely to pose a decreasing risk in the future due to law enforcement activities. But, the risk of two drugs was deemed to be increasing: cocaine due to increased supply/use and ecstasy due to changes in patterns of use namely use of multiple tablets in a session (Feb).</p> <p>Queensland's chief health officer, Dr Jeannette Young, announced that doctors had to be more careful when prescribing drugs containing pseudoephedrine (PSE), which could be used in the production of illicit amphetamines. Data from pharmacy audits, data from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and information from the Queensland Police Service State Drug Investigation Unit had indicated increased repeat and bulk prescriptions (Apr).</p> <p><i>Criminal Organisation Act 2009</i> commenced. Act seeks to increase Qld police powers to disrupt & restrict the activities of organisations involved in serious criminal activity. The Act enables the Police Commissioner to apply to the Supreme Court to declare an organisation a 'criminal organisation' for a 5 year period; to enact control orders against individual members, such as preventing association with any member of a 'criminal organisation'; to provide for public safety and fortification removal orders; and to create a new offence of contravening a control order, which carries a maximum penalty of 3 years' jail for the first offence & 5 years' jail for subsequent offences (15 Apr).</p> <p>Operation Warrior, the largest organised</p> |

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| | <p>based on the size and severity of the problem, evidence of effectiveness of interventions and the environmental factors that facilitate or impede effective implementation. Key interventions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a local warning system regarding drug market & drug-related harms; • Ensure prisoners & other detainees can access the same community-based AOD programs in & post detention; • Develop a specific policy framework to support consumer participation in drug treatment & support services; & • Implement national clinical guidelines for the management of drug use during pregnancy, birth & early years (Jun). <p>Amanda Bresnan MLA for the ACT Greens released a new paper 'Implementing a Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre' for public consultation. The paper proposed that a needle syringe program be introduced into the ACT prison (Jul).</p> <p>Repeal of Part 9 of the Drugs of Dependence Act 1989 led to end of the Treatment Referral Program (TRP) program (Aug).</p> <p>ACT Chief Minister, Mr Stanhope, said that in light of the New South Wales Government's decision to formalise an injecting room in Sydney's Kings Cross, he will now consider the idea of introducing a needle syringe program in the new Alexander Maconochie Centre (Sep).</p> <p>Paper 'Implementing a Needle and Syringe Program in the Alexander Maconochie Centre—Summary of responses to discussion paper', prepared by Amanda Bresnan, ACT Greens MLA, tabled in the Legislative Assembly for the ACT (Nov.)</p> <p>The first Annual General Meeting of the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT Inc. (ATODA) conducted, with Ms Anne Kirwin elected as the inaugural President (Nov.)</p> <p>Expanding Naloxone Availability in the ACT (ENAACT) Committee formed, a governance group that sought to provide expert guidance and support the development of a program to expand Naloxone availability in the ACT. Key members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (lead) | <p>property and illicit drug crime around the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Kings Cross: An update." Report concluded there was no evidence that the MSIC had caused a negative impact on robbery, property crime or drug offences in Kings Cross (Sep).</p> <p>KPMG evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) from 2007-2010 released. Core findings were that since introduction MSIC had received approximately 70,000 visits per year and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • managed 3,426 overdose events with no deaths onsite; • provided a gateway to drug treatment and other services, with 8,508 referrals (3,871 to drug treatment) since commencement; & • reduced problems with public injecting, as evidenced by a decrease in reported sighting of public injecting from 55% in 2000 to 27% in 2010 (Sep 14). <p>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Medically Supervised Injecting Centre) Bill 2010 adopted. This removed the trial status of the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, thereby enabling the centre that had been operating since May 2001, to become a permanent fixture. The bill was adopted with 22 votes of support and 15 against (4 Nov).</p> <p>NSW Director of Public Prosecutions Nick Cowdery QC, who is set to retire in March 2011, released his own legislative agenda that included decriminalising drug use, possession and small-scale trafficking. He said that the current approach to illicit drugs was "ineffective, wasteful and inconsiderate of the human rights of those concerned"(Nov).</p> <p>Former NSW Police analyst Terry Gregoriou sentenced to 14 months imprisonment for leaking confidential police documents to the Comancheros motorcycle gang (Dec).</p> <p>New interactive website providing drug and alcohol information for young people – Your Room – was launched. The website, an initiative of NSW Health and the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS), provides an A to Z of drugs and their effects, helplines, campaigns and treatment options (Dec).</p> | | <p>crime investigation in the Crime and Misconduct Commission's history detected a national poly-drug syndicate (methamphetamine, ecstasy and cannabis) linked to outlaw motorcycle gangs that crossed south-east Queensland, North Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne. Large quantities of drugs were also seized including 3544 ecstasy tablets and 25 litres of precursor GBL (capable of producing 60 litres of GHB) (May).</p> <p>Inquiry into addressing cannabis-related harm in Queensland received public submissions and held public inquiries.</p> <p>Chief Justice of Queensland, Paul de Jersey, addressed the 12th International Criminal Law Congress in Brisbane spoke of the benefits of considering creative solutions to illicit drugs. He commended the Swiss response to the heroin problem, through heroin prescription and provision of supervised injecting rooms, and the Portuguese decriminalisation of illicit drug use (Oct).</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Ambulance Service; • ACT Corrections Health; • ACT Health; • ATODA; • Burnet Institute; • National Drug Research Institute; & • Pharmacy Guild, ACT Branch (Nov). <p>ACT 2011/2012 Budget Submission for a program involving peer administration of Naloxone. Budgeted \$100,000 per year for 24 month trial involving 200 participants (Dec).</p> <p>The ACT Legislative Assembly asked the Attorney-General to direct the ACT Human Rights Commission to conduct an inquiry into the youth justice system, and to undertake a Human Rights Audit of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Dec).</p> | | | |
| 2009 | <p><i>Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT)</i>: The First Five Years of Operation Report released. Concluded that the Human Rights Act has improved the quality of law-making in the Territory by ensuring human rights concerns are given due consideration in the framing of new legislation and policy (Jun).</p> <p>Workshop on Strategic Directions and Governance for the ACT AOD Sector held at University House, ANU, Canberra: resolved to establish an incorporated ACT ATOD Peak body. Resolution subsequently endorsed by the ACT ATOD services Executive Directors Group (Jul 27-28).</p> <p>Draft ACT Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Strategy 2010-2014 released for public comment and consultation (Nov).</p> <p>Draft ACT Comorbidity Strategy released for public comment and consultation (Dec).</p> <p>Opposition police spokesman Jeremy Hanson tabled a bill - <i>Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) (Random Drug Testing) Amendment Bill 2009</i> - seeking to give police powers to conduct roadside drug testing for cannabis, ecstasy and amphetamines, similar to provisions in place in other Australian jurisdictions. Consideration of the Bill was deferred (Dec).</p> | <p>The NSW Supreme Court ruled that the NSW Department of Human Services had been in serious abuse of their position in demanding that parents who use cannabis were unfit to care for a child, and ordered the return of two removed children (Jan).</p> <p><i>NSW Drug and Alcohol Treatment Act</i> enacted which provides for the involuntary treatment of persons with a severe substance dependence. The act is being trialed for an initial period of 18 months in Auburn, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Holroyd, Lithgow, Parramatta and Penrith council areas and The Hills Shire. Under the act health workers, family members and other interested parties may refer a severely drug or alcohol dependant person to a medical practitioner for assessment. Individuals will be involuntarily detained for treatment (for an initial period lasting up to 28 days) provided they meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that they have a severe substance dependence, & • care, treatment or control of the person is necessary to protect the person from serious harm & • the person is likely to benefit from treatment for his or her substance dependence but has refused treatment & • no other appropriate and less restrictive means for dealing with the person is reasonably available. The trial will be evaluated by KPMG (Feb). | <p>The Prison In-Reach Program commenced at Darwin Correctional Centre. The program consists of five multi-disciplinary team members who offer comprehensive alcohol and other drug assessments, intensive counseling, group work and aftercare support to all prisoners at DCC and the Don Dale Juvenile Detention Centre (Jan).</p> <p>New Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) and Drug Operation Unit (DOU) established in Katherine, in the goal of reducing cross-border supply of licit and illicit substances in the the Northern Regional Police Command, including East Arnhem, Nhulunbuy, Groote Eylandt and the Milingimbi areas. This followed the success of the first SAID established in Alice Springs (Feb).</p> <p>Northern Territory Government announced a "new era in corrections". Key to this was the development of a new Darwin Correctional Precinct that would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an 800 bed Correctional Centre with additional capacity for a further 200 beds; • a 30 bed Secure Mental Health and Behavioural Management Facility (MHBMF); and • a 48 bed Supported Accommodation and Program Centre for community based offenders (Feb). <p>Following an internal departmental review the Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program and withdrawal treatment services introduced a new time effective treatment approach to</p> | <p>The Courier Mail commenced a three month series of articles called "The Drugs Scourge" which aimed to "spur public debate and drive government action on ecstasy and amphetamine use." Key articles included "drugs menace uncovered," "bars, clubs awash with drugs" and "drug users' Russian roulette." The Courier Mail campaigned to get pill presses banned (Mar).</p> <p>Queensland Legislative Assembly referred a paper by Drug Free Australia "Cannabis: suicide, schizophrenia and other ill-effects" to the Social Development Committee for investigation and report. The enquiry was explicitly asked to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks associated with cannabis use, particularly for youth; & • Strategies to reduce cannabis use in Queensland (20 May). <p><i>Telecommunications Interception Act 2009</i> commenced. Act enabled use of telecommunications interception by Qld Police Service and Qld Crime Commission to target criminals involved in serious and organised crime (18 Jun).</p> <p>A two-year joint operation between Queensland Police and the Australian Crime Commission claimed to have smashed a Goldcoast based drug-trafficking syndicate that included senior members of the Finks outlaw motorcycle club. The operation culminated with the arrest of 41 people after two Finks clubhouses and the homes of members and associates were raided (Nov).</p> |

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| | | <p>Research by BOCSAR into the link between methamphetamine and violence found that after adjusting for a number of risk factors for re-offending (e.g. age, sex, Indigenous status), offenders with a prior conviction for an amphetamine offence were no more likely than those with no prior drug offences to be subsequently charged with a violent offence (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Health commenced a state-wide Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Traineeships program in the non-government sector. The program aimed to increase the number of tertiary qualified Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol workers in the non-government sector (Jun).</p> <p>Draft NSW Youth Health Policy released 2010-2015 for consultation (Dec).</p> <p>NSW Health commenced a 4 month statewide social marketing campaign aimed at warning people aged 18-25 of the dangers of club drugs: "Don't let drugs use you this summer party season." NSW Health partnered with festival organizers e.g. Homebake and used posters and advertisements in street press, music and festival websites, nightclubs and outdoor music events (Dec).</p> | <p>case management. Under the new approach clients attend an eight-session relapse prevention program followed by a four-session coping skills program.</p> <p>Completion of \$4M capital redevelopment of Banyan House. This enabled the centre that was first established in 1978 to be converted into a modern residential rehabilitation centre.</p> <p>New arrangements to support withdrawal service options introduced in Alice Springs. These arrangements were based on a partnership between Drug and Alcohol Services Association (DASA) and Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Central Australia (ADSCA) in the aim of streamlining referral pathways, enhancing medical supervision and support and assisting clients to access services they need.</p> | |
| 2008 | <p>ACT Government released the adult health services plan for Canberra's new prison: Alexander Maconochie Centre. The plan allowed the provision of bleach but not a needle syringe program for inmates. The strategy stated that the position would be reviewed, as part of a comprehensive evaluation, 18 months after the prison was commissioned (Mar).</p> <p>The report of the 2007 External Review of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Service System, undertaken by Siggins Miller on behalf of ACT Health, was released. Reviewers considered the current arrangements, the changing needs of the population, the issues affecting the AOD service system, and its capacity to address them. Reviewers recommended enhancing the system capacity for pharmacotherapy clients, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, rehabilitation and relapse prevention, plus building AOD literacy, workforce development and governance and accountability. ACT Health initiated a consultation process with stakeholders to</p> | <p>Crimes Amendment (Drink and Food Spiking) Bill 2008 adopted. Bill created a new summary offence of spiking a person's drink or food with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (max penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$11,000 fine, or both) (Mar).</p> <p>MSIC survey of pharmaceutical opioid (PO) injectors showed 72% commenced PO use subsequent to heroin injection. PO use appeared associated with lesser harms. e.g. Rate of heroin overdose was 0 – 2.5 per 1000 visits for PO injectors compared to 4.7 – 11 per 1000 visits for heroin injectors (Mar).</p> <p>NSW Mental Health/Drug and Alcohol Comorbidity framework for action adopted. Framework sought to increase the capacity and competency of both the mental health and drug and alcohol workforce to manage and respond to comorbidity and to address systemic barriers to communication and collaboration. Key areas of work include workforce planning and development, infrastructure and systems development,</p> | <p>NT Government adopted roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Feb).</p> <p>Federal Government provided \$2 million in funds to expand drug detection dogs and establish a new drugs intelligence desk to assist in drug supply reduction efforts in Arnhem Land and the Katherine region (Mar).</p> <p>New research by Senior and Richard, published in the Australian Journal of Rural Health released: 'Lukumbat marawana: A changing pattern of drug use by youth in a remote Aboriginal community.' Found that the restrictions in the availability of alcohol and petrol (as part of the Commonwealth Northern Territory Intervention) led to increased use of marijuana (Mar).</p> <p>Study released showing rates of cannabis use during 2005-06 were three times higher in Arnhem land than in the general population, with 61% males and 58% females aged 13-36 reporting weekly use compared to 24% males and 21% females</p> | <p>Drugs Misuse Amendment Bill 2007 passed. Bill reclassified MDMA and PMA (an amphetamine type drug) from schedule 2 to schedule 1 dangerous drugs. Maximum penalties for possession, supply and trafficking increased from 20 to 25 years (Feb).</p> <p>Report released on the Queensland Drug Court: "The Queensland Drug Court: a recidivism study of the first 100 graduates." Study tracked recidivism over a minimum of two years post-graduation, making this evaluation the longest follow-up of Australian drug court graduates to date. Report found that after leaving the drug court program 59% of those who graduated had been reconvicted of a new offence within two years compared to 77% of terminates. Average time to first offence was 139 days for terminates compared to 379 days for graduates (Mar).</p> <p>Media reports claimed Qld Police in Fortitude Valley were thankful that 80% Fortitude Valley patrons used illicit drugs not alcohol and that drugs made them much easier to</p> |

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| | <p>discuss the report's findings and recommendations.</p> <p>Liberal MLA Steve Pratt tabled legislation to introduce roadside drug testing in the ACT. The Government responded that it would not rush into introducing such a proposal and that it was examining the evidence from other jurisdictions and would consult with the community on the issue (Apr).</p> <p>Discussion Paper: Review of the Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1977 released by the ACT Government. Paper aimed to get community views on issues such as how to introduce roadside drug testing in the ACT, what drugs should be tested for, whether drug testing should be compulsory for all drivers detected for drink driving and whether offences should be the same as for drink driving. The ACT Government provided two months to receive feedback (May).</p> <p>The ACT AOD Sector Project announced that the First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector Conference would be held as part of Drug Action Week 2008 (May).</p> <p>Proposed ACT legislation for the introduction of roadside drug testing lapsed (Oct).</p> <p>Legislation passed allowing police to carry out undercover controlled operations to target drug cartels, money laundering and terrorist cells: the <i>ACT Crimes (Controlled Operations) Act 2008</i> (18 Aug).</p> <p><i>ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2007</i> was passed. The act consolidated four acts and regulations on medicines, poisons and prohibited substances. The act repealed the <i>Poisons and Drugs Act 1978</i>, the <i>Poisons Act 1993</i>, the <i>Public Health (Prohibited Drugs) Act 1957</i> and amended the <i>Drugs of Dependence Act 1989</i> to provide a more unified and workable scheme (Aug).</p> <p>ACT Government released its Draft Mental Health Services Plan 2008 – 2013 for public consultation (Sep).</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Foundation ACT Inc (ADFFACT) announced its intention to operate - in partnership with ACT Corrective Services and ACT Corrections Health – a therapeutic community in Canberra's new prison Alexander Maconochie Centre (Dec).</p> <p>ACT Comorbidity Strategic Working Group</p> | <p>and improved responses for priority clients e.g. amphetamine users with mental health issues (Apr)</p> <p>Proposal by Iemma Government to trial medical use of cannabis. Needed support of Federal Government to allow importation of the oral spray – Sativex (May).</p> <p>Mark Standen, Assistant Director of NSW Crime Commission, arrested for conspiring to import 600kg of pseudoephedrine, enough to produce \$120 million of "ice" and conspiring to pervert the course of justice (Jun).</p> <p>The NSW Government recalled and pulped a drug education booklet "Choosing to use ... but wanna keep your head together?" saying its advice about what people should do if they take drugs was unacceptable (Jun).</p> <p>A preliminary evaluation of NSW Stimulant Treatment Program released. Report showed during the first 6 months 214 people accessed the program and 50% participants had not previously sought any formal treatment. Key outcomes included significant reductions in drug use, severity of dependence, distress, mental health problems and crime (Jun).</p> <p>Inaugural MSIC Director Ingrid van Beek resigned saying that her one regret was that the MSIC continued to operate as a trial as the trial status was a barrier to its effective practice and meant it remained a political football (Jul).</p> <p>NSW Police run series of forums on ice, targeting children aged 12-18. The series aimed to reduce reported use amongst teenagers, change perceptions that use was glamorous and tell parents about the signs their child was using (Aug).</p> <p>The Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office commenced discussions with stakeholders regarding the Opioid Treatment Strategic Plan 2010–2015 (Aug).</p> <p>2nd BOCSAR report on trends in property and illicit drug-related crime in Kings Cross released. Report showed very little difference in the incidence of robbery and property crime in Kings Cross versus the rest of Sydney with both having declined. There were differences in regards to use/possess offences, with less heroin</p> | <p>in the general population (May).</p> <p><i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill</i> made trafficking drugs into remote communities an aggravated offence and increased the maximum penalty for from five years to nine years imprisonment (Jun).</p> <p>NTPFES Police report that the tri-state Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk had cracked a number of long-standing crime rings that ran cannabis from Adelaide into remote central Australia, selling at about 16 times the supply price.</p> <p>Partnerships were developed and/or enhanced between NT Health and Families and a number of service providers including Top End Mental Health Services, NT Families and Children, Aged and Disability, NT Police, Department of Justice and NT Correctional Services. Development and strengthening of these networks and partnerships was seen as a critical step in improving the effective delivery of services to all client groups affected by illicit drug use (2008-2009).</p> | <p>manage than alcohol (Aug).</p> <p>Research from QADREC showed ecstasy had become the drug of choice for young Queenslanders following the Rudd Governments 70% tax hike in alcopops (Sep).</p> <p>Queensland Health adopted a dual diagnosis policy including that all mental health and alcohol and drug specialists screen everyone at their initial presentation for co-morbid disorders and that no one be excluded on the basis of co-morbidity (Sep).</p> <p>Qld Police report that Lebanese criminals with links to the Sydney underworld were trying to take part in the Gold Coast ecstasy trade (Oct).</p> <p>Queensland Drug Strategy 2006-2010 Midpoint Evaluation released. Key achievements included the adoption of the Queensland Corrective Drug Strategy in 2006, the role out of a number of diversionary programs e.g. QMERIT and a decrease by approximately 20% in clan labs located in Qld which was attributed in part to Project STOP, collaboration between police, government and industry and the aggressive pursuit of proceeds of crime (Oct).</p> |

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| | <p>was established with the assistance of funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing <i>National Comorbidity Project's Improved Services Initiative</i>.</p> | <p>use/possess and deal/traffic offences but more cocaine use/possess offences in Kings Cross (cfed to Sydney). But spatial analysis was unable to conclude whether this was due to the MSIC or other factors associated with Kings Cross (Sep).</p> <p>First women charged in NSW with large-scale supply of Oxycodone, the prescription drug known as "hillbilly heroin" (Sep).</p> <p>Two children were taken into foster care after the NSW Department of Community Services (DOCS) reported concerns over their parents' use of cannabis. This followed demands by DOCS that the parents remain "drug free" and provide random urine samples (Sep).</p> <p>A re-evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the NSW Drug Court showed the cost of the Drug Court was estimated to be \$32.752 million (\$16.376 million per annum). The cost of conventional sanctions was \$36.268 million (\$18.134 million per annum) which meant the drug court gave a net saving of \$1.758 million per annum (Sep).</p> <p>Media reports asserted NSW doctors were being pressured into wrongfully prescribing Oxycodone, a drug that was later being sold on the streets for profit (Oct).</p> <p>Second evaluation of the NSW Drug Court released. The study concluded that offenders who attended the drug court were 17% less likely to be reconvicted for any offence and 30% less likely to be reconvicted for a violent offence than drug dependent offenders sentenced to imprisonment through the traditional court. The program was also proven to save \$2 million a year when compared to the traditional response (Nov).</p> <p>Outcry over a brochure titled "A users guide to speed" was displayed to year 8 students attending a NSW sponsored community information day (Nov).</p> | | |
| 2007 | <p>ACT Draft Adult Corrections Health Services Plan 2007-2010 released. Noted that needle syringe exchange should be considered and ACT Health planned to consider the merits of a trial in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (Jul).</p> <p>ACT drug user group - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) - re-opened (Jul).</p> | <p>20 year old Annabel Catt died after attending a Good Vibrations dance party and taking what she thought was ecstasy. The tablet was later proved to contain PMA (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Police commenced a pilot of Random Drug Driving Testing with roadside saliva testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Jan). Drug and Alcohol Plan 2006-</p> | <p>Substance Abuse Committee formed to provide strategic advice (Jun).</p> <p>Northern Territory Intervention adopted. Included widespread alcohol restrictions, increased policing, medical examinations of all Indigenous children and reforms to welfare system (Jun).</p> <p>Legislation for Northern Territory Intervention passed - Northern Territory</p> | <p>Queensland Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Dec).</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987</i> the it illegal to publish or possess documents containing instructions about the manufacturing or illicit drugs (punishable with up to 25 years imprisonment) and supply any items for</p> |

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| | <p>ACT Corrective Services Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Strategy 2006 - 2008 adopted. Strategy aimed for harm minimisation, demand reduction and effective clinical management for substance misusers (Sep).</p> | <p>2010 adopted (Mar). MSIC interim evaluation report no. 3 on client referral and health issues released (Mar). MSIC interim evaluation report no. 4 on service operation and overdose-related events released (Jun). Medically Supervised Injecting Centre trial continued 2007-2011 (Jul). Evaluation of NSW Cannabis Clinics showed that on average 31% clients experienced a reduction in their cannabis use and 42% were abstinent upon treatment completion. Key elements of effective service delivery were that cannabis clinics were marketed & promoted as separate, discrete services for problematic cannabis use and that clinics were located in generic facilities, rather than in identifiable D&A services. The report identified that access to cannabis clinic services was limited by factors such as geographical location, proximity to transport and hours of operation. Evaluators argued there was scope for alternative models of service delivery (Jul). NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2007-2009 adopted. NSW Attorney General stated that the cumulative effect of amendments to the NSW Bail ACT was that NSW "now has the toughest bail laws in Australia" (Oct). NSW MERIT: Health Outcomes study completed. Study demonstrated that by program exit at three months, levels and types of illicit drug use and associated risk behaviours were significantly reduced and levels of physical and psychological health had improved. At exit 39% participants were abstinent from all illegal drugs & the frequency of use reduced across all drugs. Most notably daily use decreased from 45% to 11% for cannabis & from 24% to 1% for heroin (Nov). Amendments to the <i>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW)</i> banned the possession of recipes for drug manufacturing and the possession of certain precursors and apparatus used for manufacturing illicit drugs. Penalties included \$2,200 or 2 years imprisonment for possession of drug manufacturing recipes, \$110,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment for</p> | <p>National Emergency Response Bill 2007 (Aug). The NT incorporated PSYCHECK into its clinical practice to improve screening and brief intervention for high prevalence mental health disorders in alcohol and other drug services. Establishment of an AOD Working Group (Nov).</p> | <p>illicit drug use (punishable with up to 15 years imprisonment) (??). The Ice Breaker Strategy Taskforce completed its report to the Qld Government. Key recommendations included a targeted young adult illicit drug campaign, legislation banning the retail display and supply of ice pipes, a 3-year pilot study at 2 hospital emergency departments for ATS responses and expansion of Alcohol and Drug Adolescent Withdrawal Service outreach services (Jun).</p> |

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| | | possession of the precursors and a maximum of 10 years imprisonment for possession of apparatus for the manufacture of drugs (Nov). | | |
| 2006 | <p>Report on "ACT Government Expenditure on Preventing and Responding to Drug Abuse, 2004-05" estimated ACT Government expenditure on drug abuse in 2004-05 was \$85.094 million, 3.2% of the total ACT budget for the year. Of this 22% was spent in the health sector, 77% in the law enforcement sector and 1% on emergency services (Mar).</p> <p>Final report on trial of the syringe vending machines released. Concluded trial had gone well and been accepted by community and recommended expansion of syringe vending machines in the ACT (Jun).</p> <p>ACT drug user group - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) - closed (Jul).</p> | <p>NSW HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006-2009 adopted.</p> <p>In response to fears of higher potency of hydroponic cannabis NSW Premier Iemma and his cabinet officers introduced tougher legislation for hydroponic cannabis. Amendments to the <i>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW)</i> included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A max penalty of \$220,000 and/or 10 years imprisonment for the cultivation of 5-49 plants for individuals; • A max penalty of \$385,000 and/or 15 years imprisonment for the cultivation of 50-199 plants; • A max penalty of \$550,000 and/or 20 years imprisonment for the cultivation of 200 or more plants; <p>The new penalties were 5 times greater than for non-hydroponic cultivation. Maximum penalties were also increased for the theft of electricity to power hydro houses (\$11,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment) (Feb).</p> <p>MSIC interim evaluation report no. 2 on community attitudes towards the service released (Mar).</p> <p>MSIC reported that pharmaceutical opioids had become the most commonly injected drug category, used for 40% all injecting episodes (Apr).</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (NSW)</i> banned the sale, supply and display of water and ice pipes and made them punishable with \$2200 and/or 2 years imprisonment (May).</p> <p>NSW Ombudsmen report released: Review of the <i>Police Powers (Drug Detection Dogs) Act 2001</i>. This reviewed use of the drug detection dogs over their first two years of operation. Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited drugs were only located in 26% of the searches following an indication. • Only 1.38% of all indications involved a prescribed 'deemed supply' quantity of a prohibited drug. • No evidence that the use of drug detection dogs disrupted low-level | <p>First Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk (SAID) established in Alice Springs in a joint operation between the Commonwealth, Northern Territory, South Australian and Western Australian governments to coordinate and target the trafficking of licit and illicit substances/alcohol in the cross-border regions (Jan).</p> <p>NT Road Safety Taskforce Report 2006 found that the risk of being killed in the NT was 3 times greater than anywhere else in Australia and indeed greater than in all other nations in the developed world. 48% of fatal crashes were alcohol-related and a Drug-Use Monitoring in Australia pilot in NT indicated one in three people detained for driving offences tested positive to illicit drugs. Taskforce called for laws to test for drug-driving (Jun).</p> | <p>Amendments to the <i>Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998</i> prohibited the sale or display of ice pipes or bongos and made such offences punishable with a \$10,500 fine (Jan).</p> <p>Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies Inc (QNADA) commenced (May).</p> <p>QMERIT (Queensland Magistrate's Early Referral into Treatment) program introduced (Jul).</p> <p>Fourth Queensland Drug Strategy 2006-2009 released (Oct).</p> <p>Criminal Code (Drink Spiking) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2006 adopted. Bill created a new offence of spiking a person's drink with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment) (Oct).</p> <p>Qld Premier and Minister for Health established an Ice Breaker Strategy Taskforce chaired by Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young to oversee the development and implementation of a Queensland Government's Ice-Breaker Strategy to reduce uptake, use and harms associated with methamphetamine use (Dec).</p> <p>Queensland Corrective Services Drug Strategy adopted. Strategy enshrined "a zero-tolerance approach to drug use within a context of harm minimization" and included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supply reduction initiatives e.g. drug testing, staff searches, and use of drug detection dogs and ionscan devices • demand reduction initiatives e.g. provision of range of treatment options plus drug treatment units and a Drug Free Incentive Program (DFIP) • harm reduction initiatives e.g. pharmacotherapy maintenance treatment for eligible short term offenders and peer education on the harms associated with drug use, their effects and issues concerning overdose and unsafe injecting practices. |

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| | | <p>street dealing in a sustained manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No evidence of a deterrent effect on drug users. <p>Review concluded: Despite the best efforts of police officers, the use of drug detection dogs has proven to be an ineffective tool for detecting drug dealers and that there should be a review of whether the legislation should be retained (Oct).</p> <p>Stimulant Treatment Program (STP) commenced in Darlinghurst and Newcastle to provide clinical interventions for people with co-morbid mental health and stimulant drug-related problems (Nov).</p> <p>Prisoner at the NSW Corrective Services complex in Surry Hills – Gary Kelso – died after failing to receive medical attention while in heroin withdrawal (Nov).</p> <p>1st BOCSAR report on trends in property and illicit drug-related crime in Kings Cross released. Report showed similar patterns of theft and property offences in Kings Cross and broader Sydney (both declining) and similar trends for most use/possess and dealing/trafficking offences. Report concluded the MSIC had not at this stage had an adverse effect on crime in Kings Cross (Nov).</p> | | |
| 2005 | <p>Trial of syringe vending machines commenced at the Civic, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Phillip Community Health Centres (Feb).</p> <p><i>Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis for Medical Conditions Trial) Amendment Bill 2005</i> sponsored by a Greens member Dr Deb Foskey as an exposure draft 18 Oct 2005 - lapsed.</p> <p>Criminal Code (Serious Drug Offences) Amendment Act 2004 came into force, reducing eligibility criteria for the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) scheme. The new criteria included a maximum of 5 to 2 cannabis plants and excluded all hydroponically grown plants (May).</p> <p>ACT Minister for Health, Simon Corbell MLA, announced that he would propose to his Cabinet colleagues that the new Canberra prison – Alexander Maconchie Centre – have a needle syringe program (NSP) as part of its comprehensive health plan (Nov).</p> | <p>MSIC interim evaluation report no. 1 on operation and service delivery released (May).</p> <p>MSIC reported they had started to see increases in injection of pharmaceutical opioids (mostly morphine and oxycodone) (Aug).</p> | <p>Profile of Services and Interventions Project commissioned (Jan).</p> <p>Report on Profile of Services and Interventions released (Jul).</p> | <p>Project STOP commenced by Pharmacy Guild of Queensland – used online database to track sales of pseudoephedrine. Project STOP was a partnership between Qld Police and the Pharmacy Guild (Nov).</p> <p><i>Police Powers and Responsibilities (Drug Detection Dogs) Amendment Act 2005</i> passed to enable police use of drug detection dogs without a warrant on persons, vehicles and things in public places, licensed premises, and at sporting and entertainment events (Nov).</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| 2004 | <p>Human Rights Act adopted in the ACT (Mar). <i>Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis for Medical Conditions) Amendment Bill 2004</i>. Presented by Ms Kerrie Tucker (Greens). Date presented: 30 June 2004 (5th Assembly). Defeated 25 August 2004.</p> <p>Third ACT drug strategy released: Alcohol, Tobacco & other Drugs Strategy 2004-2008. This included an action plan for implementation (Aug).</p> <p>ACT <i>Drugs of Dependence Act 1989</i> amended to allow supply of needle and syringes through vending machines (Aug).</p> | <p>NSW Premier announced trial of medical use of cannabis had stalled because while the government had examined a number of options, the preferred delivery method – a metered-dose inhaler or spray – was years away from being available and the NSW (and federal) government opposed any means that allowed growing in backyards i.e. decriminalisation of cannabis cultivation or purchase on the black market (Apr).</p> <p>MERIT completed roll-out to all Area Health Services in NSW (Jun).</p> | <p>Alcohol and Other Drug Program convened forum for drug and alcohol treatment agencies to advise on the improvement of service delivery and outcomes (Mar).</p> <p>New NT health strategy adopted - "Building Healthier Communities: A framework for health and communities services 2004-2009." Framework had six priority areas included strengthening families and tackling substance abuse through increasing availability and quality of treatment services for substance abuse (Apr ???).</p> <p>Health Advisory Council established, chaired by Dr Charles Kilburn, as part of the Building Healthier Communities strategy. Council aimed to provide the NT health minister with community views on the effectiveness of current health (including drug and alcohol) policies/services, and issues of concern (Apr).</p> <p>Northern Territory Police Remote Communities Drug Strategy commenced (later named the Remote Area Drug Strategy). This was a proactive strategy targeting the supply of illicit drugs.</p> <p>Northern Territory Police Remote Community Drug Desk (RCDD) established to coordinate and implement the Remote Communities Drug Strategy. The RCDD is comprised of strategic officers of the Drug Enforcement Section who pool intelligence from local level policing initiatives and undertake strategic and tactical operations aimed at disrupting the distribution of drugs to and within remote communities (May).</p> <p>Drug Dog Detection Unit established within NT police (Dec).</p> <p>Release of the Select Committee on Substance Abuse in the Community Report: <i>Confronting the Confusion and Disconnection</i>. The report concluded that there were significant shortfalls in the Northern Territory Government's response to substance abuse, particularly within remote communities and that there was insufficient coordination for substance abuse for the three main substances of abuse: alcohol, petrol and cannabis. Key recommendations were to increase coordination between government agencies, to identify and address the gaps in service delivery and that a community audit be conducted to assess the needs, assets,</p> | <p>New user group established - Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN) (Jul).</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | | | <p>resources and views of each remote community, with the goal of prioritizing future programs on the basis of the community audit.</p> <p>Drug detection dogs commenced operation (Dec).</p> | |
| 2003 | <p>Court Alcohol and Drug Assessment Service evaluation completed by Morgan Disney and Associates – key recommendation: need to increase program access and improve services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Jun).</p> <p>ACT Standing Committee on Health released report “Access to Needles and Syringes by Intravenous Drug Users.” Report recommended that the Government install injecting equipment vending machines across the whole of the ACT and that it provide injecting equipment exchange in the ACT prisons (Aug).</p> <p>ACT Government announced \$250,000 to implement priority areas of drug strategy including 100 extra treatment places to trial needle and syringe vending machines and examine the feasibility of needle exchange in ACT prisons (Dec).</p> | <p>NSW Premier Carr announced that a draft exposure bill would be introduced at the earliest opportunity to provide for a 4 year trial of medical use of cannabis. It was proposed that patients would register with an Office of Medical Cannabis in the NSW Department of Health and that the trial would be tightly restricted to individuals who met strict medical conditions and were aged 18 or over and were not pregnant or on parole. This had in principle support from the Opposition Leader, John Brogden MP provided cultivation and distribution were tightly regulated. Details of how THC would be legally supplied to registered users remained to be established by the Government (May 20).</p> <p>Provisional support from Prime Minister for 4 year trial of medical use of cannabis in NSW but only if drug could be provided in non-smokeable form (May 23).</p> <p>NSW Area Health Service closed Cabramatta’s Drug Intervention Service (DISC) after increased community concern over the service (Jul).</p> <p>Phase one evaluation of Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) released. During the first 18 months of operation 3,810 clients had registered to use the MSIC and there had been 56,861 visits (average of 15 per client). 409 drug-overdose related incidences occurred and were managed at the MSIC (7.2 ODs per 1000 visits). In addition to supervision of injecting, health care services e.g. vein care advice were provided every 1 in 4 visits and 1 in 41 visits resulted in referrals for further assistance e.g. treatment of drug dependence. The evaluators concluded that the MSIC was feasible and had reached target group. There was evidence the MSIC contributed to less public injecting, improved public amenity and less risky injecting practices. Public support for the service also increased. At the same time there was no evidence that MSIC contributed to increased theft or robbery or</p> | <p>Margot Laughton, an Indigenous grandmother, became first person to have her home declared a drug premises. She was evicted from her Territory Housing unit in Darwin (Jan).</p> <p>CREDIT NT (Court Referral and Evaluation for Drug Intervention and Treatment, Northern Territory) introduced (May)</p> <p>A private member’s bill – <i>Legislative Assembly Members (Random Drug Testing) Bill 2003</i> – was introduced to the NT Legislative Assembly by Mr Stephen Dunhum MLA. The bill sought mandatory annual illicit drug testing for members of the legislative assembly. Bill subsequently lapsed.</p> <p>Establishment of the NT Clinical Advisory Committee</p> <p><i>Criminal Property Forfeiture Act 2002</i> introduced, giving the DPP the power to apply to the court for an unexplained wealth declaration against a person, and reverse the onus of proof to prove assets are legally obtained. The act allows that assets from organized crime and drug trafficking to be seized, without need for conviction of criminal wrong doing.</p> | <p>Illicits Drug Court Diversion Program introduced (Mar)</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | | loitering. But the predicted reduction in ODs in the area was not observed. The evaluators recommended continued monitoring if the trial were extended (Jul). Trial of MSIC extended until 2007 and new evaluation established (Oct). | | |
| 2002 | Alcohol Tobacco and other Drug Taskforce established to devise a new drug strategy (Aug). New ACT drug user group established - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA). | Use of drug detection dogs commenced (22 Feb). The Ryde Needle Syringe Program was closed by the NSW Minister for Health after local media attention to unused needle and syringes being found in the grounds of the local primary school (Mar). MSIC trial extended additional 12 months to enable operation during evaluation (Oct). Launch of the NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2003-2006 (Nov). | COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Jan) New user group established - Network Against Prohibition Northern Territory (NAPNT) (Mar). Report from Taskforce on Illicit Drugs. Concluded that compared to the rest of Australian the drug situation remained very distinct in NT. E.g. alcohol remained the major drug of concern. The Taskforce argued that the evidence on methadone was now substantial and strongly recommended amending the <i>NT Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act</i> to enable pharmacotherapies for the treatment of opioid dependence for maintenance and withdrawal. Other recommendations included better advertising of treatment services, more training of treatment personnel and that NSPs be expanded in the NT (May). Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act repealed (Jun). <i>Misuse of Drugs Act</i> amended - introduced new rulings on drug premises orders. Enabled houses or business where there was evidence of supply or possession of drugs to be declared "drug premises" and for police to enter and search such premises and anyone on the premise without warrant for 12 months (Jul). Methadone maintenance program first provided in the Northern Territory, 33 years after methadone was first provided in Australia (Sep). Northern Territory Illicit Drug Pre-Court Diversion Program introduced (Dec). | <i>Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002</i> adopted allowing the court to confiscate property derived from criminal activity such as drug trafficking without charge or conviction. |
| 2001 | COAG-IDDI agreement signed (May) ACT election - ALP gained office and postponed issue of a SIP trial until after the evaluation of the NSW MSIC trial (Nov) ACT Policing and Early Intervention Diversion Program (PEID - later called PED) introduced (Dec) | NSW Cabramatta Anti-Drug Strategy adopted to tackle drug and crime in Cabramatta and across the state. This included a new criminal justice plan including new laws and a new police station in Cabramatta and local crime prevention. Strategy was supported by funding of \$18.6 million over four years (Mar). A NSW Police Officer involved in the fatal shooting of Jim Hallinan was dismissed after | Labor party released three point tough on drugs election policy. Included zero tolerance on drug production and distribution, compulsory treatment for drug-related offenders and a drug prevention strategy (Mar). Country Liberal Party introduced Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act. Act gave police new powers to define, "move on" and arrest people for 'anti-social' behaviour and | COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Mar) Police Diversion for Minor Drug Offences and Drug Court Program introduced (Jun) <i>Drugs Misuse (Amphetamine Offences) Amendment Act 2001</i> passed. Act reclassified amphetamine and methyl amphetamine from schedule 2 to schedule 1 dangerous drugs and increased maximum penalties for possession, supply and trafficking from 20 to 25 years. Cited |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | | <p>testing positive to cannabis (Mar).</p> <p>Medically Supervised Injecting Centre opened in Kings Cross as 18 month trial (1 May 2001).</p> <p>Research by Maher and Dixon showed police crackdowns in Cabramatta were associated with displacement of the drug market and considerable public health risks to users including increased oral and nasal storage of heroin, decreased use of needle and syringe equipment and increased risk taking in injecting (May).</p> <p>The Police Integrity Commission report on the shooting of Ron Levi recommended the immediate introduction of <i>random</i> drug testing of all NSW Police Officers (Jun).</p> <p>Government's Police Powers (Drug Premises) Act 2001 commenced giving police the power to search and close down drug houses, arrest drug dealers and lookouts operating from drug houses and arrest any person in or entering or leaving a drug house (Jul).</p> <p>Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 into Cabramatta Policing tabled its report and 25 recommendations. Report identified major deficiencies in policing in Cabramatta e.g. increasing neglect of drug-related crime which it attributed to questionable management practices (Jul).</p> <p>Random drug testing introduced in NSW Police Force. This supplemented the mandatory drug testing of officers involved in critical incidents (Sep).</p> <p>Police Powers (Drug Detection Dogs) Act adopted, giving police the powers to use a drug detection dog (or sniffer dog) in an authorized place (including a pub, sporting event or outdoor festival) or by warrant to aid in their detection of drug offenders. This followed their trial for general duty policing during the Sydney Olympics and made NSW the first state to adopt such provisions. In adopting the act the (then) Minister for Police, the Hon. Michael Costa MLC stated: "The bill is aimed primarily at detecting and prosecuting persons committing offences relating to the supply of prohibited drugs and plants. ... It is clear that the activity envisaged is drug dealing" (Dec).</p> | <p>to signpost houses as anti-social (Jun).</p> <p>Change of government – NT election won by Labor party (Aug).</p> <p>Taskforce on Illicit Drugs established with the mandate of examining trends, and using national and international evidence to advise on the role of pharmacotherapy treatments and on the optimum responses for youth and other priority groups (Nov).</p> | <p>rationale was the increasingly serious problem of amphetamine use and manufacturing in Queensland (Sep).</p> <p>The 2nd Youth Drug Summit - involved 50 young people. Recommended that needed more incentives to obtain work, more youth specific withdrawal options and flexibility in treatment (23 & 24 October).</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| 2000 | <p>Advisory Committee established to oversee Supervised Injecting Place trial (Feb)</p> <p>SIP trial postponed by ACT Government for 18 months (until election) following budget negotiations between the minority Liberal Government and independents (Jul)</p> <p>Court Alcohol and Drug Assessment Service (CADAS) introduced, following discussions between Chief Magistrate and ACT Health (Oct)</p> | <p>COAG-IDD agreement signed in NSW and the first program – the Adult Cannabis Cautioning Scheme was introduced (Apr)</p> <p>Inquiry by the Legislative Council’s General Purpose Standing Committee No 3 into Cabramatta Policing was established. As part of inquiry Detective Sergeant Tim Priest claimed organised crime was rampant and police were being pressured to ignore the drug market (Jun).</p> <p>Lismore MERIT Pilot Program and Youth Drug and Alcohol Court were introduced (Jun - Jul)</p> <p>Report released by Working Party on the Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes. Report agreed that THC can be useful in treating nausea, vomiting and appetite loss in patients with HIV and in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. But that crude cannabis cannot nor is likely to ever be prescribed in Australia. Recommended that further trials be conducted into administration of THC via non-oral routes and development of new synthetic cannabinoids. They further recommended that until medical cannabinoids become available individuals found obtaining, possessing or using cannabis should be exempt (for compassionate reasons) from criminal prosecution, provided they had a prior medical certification that they had a condition that might benefit from cannabis use (Aug).</p> <p>NSW Heroin Overdose Prevention and Management Strategy released involving \$670,000 (Nov)</p> <p>First NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2000 – 2003 adopted (Nov).</p> <p>Framework for Action - NSW Drugs and Community Action Strategy (Dec).</p> | <p>The National Liberal Party proposed to extend mandatory sentencing to drug trafficking offences</p> | <p>Queensland Government introduced a Drug Court (Jun).</p> |
| 1999 | <p>Report on Evaluation of ACT Drug Strategy 1995-97 released.</p> <p>ACT drug user group - Australian Capital Territory IV League (ACTIV League) disbanded</p> <p>Dual Diagnosis: Stopping the merry-go-round a report of findings from a review of mental health and alcohol and other drug problems in the ACT (Apr).</p> <p>Canberra Injectors Network, CIN was funded as new ACT drug user group (Jul).</p> | <p>NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan admits in an interview with Britain's Daily Mail that "we are not winning on the drugs front" and that drugs are the "root of most crime" (Jan).</p> <p>Photograph of a teenage boy engaged in injecting drug use in a lane-way in Redfern, appeared on the front page of a Sydney Newspaper and sparked debate over the effectiveness of NSW drug policy (Jan 31).</p> <p>Minister for Health, Hon A Refshauge MP, closed down the Redfern needle exchange</p> | | <p>Queensland Drug Summit held with a focus on youth issues. Involved 70 delegates – politicians, youth workers, youth and community workers. Resulted in establishment of 24 projects state-wide in partnership with three peak youth and indigenous bodies (16-17 March).</p> <p>Third Queensland Drug Strategy launched: 'Beyond a Quick Fix: Queensland Drug Strategic Framework 1999/2000 to 2003/2004.' Focus of strategy was on youth and early intervention (Jun).</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | <p>Second ACT drug strategy released: From Harm to Hope: ACT Drug Strategy 1999 (Sep).</p> <p>Supervised Injecting Place Trial Act 1999 passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly (Dec).</p> | <p>outlet, and ordered a review of the \$9 million statewide needle exchange program (Feb).</p> <p>Premier, Hon B Carr MP, announced his government would hold a drug summit if re-elected (Feb).</p> <p>NSW Drug Court trial commenced (Feb)</p> <p>Labor government re-elected under Premier Carr (Mar).</p> <p>Tolerance or T Room injecting room opened by a group of clergy, social workers and health professionals in the Wayside Chapel in Kings Cross (4-12 May).</p> <p>NSW Drug Summit held in NSW Parliament. Summit was attended by 135 NSW Parliamentary delegates; 2 Federal parliamentary delegates; 80 non-Parliamentary delegates; and 45 associate delegates (17-21 May).</p> <p>NSW Government response outlined in Government Action Plan. 172 recommendations from summit were adopted and 7 key strategic areas endorsed e.g. enhanced prevention and early intervention, fast-tracking new treatments, better case management and breaking the drugs-crime cycle. This included plans to introduce state-wide trials of a Cannabis Cautioning Scheme and Early Court Intervention Pilot (subsequently named MERIT) and an injecting room (Jul).</p> <p>NSW Government committed \$176 million towards the implementation of Drug Summit recommendations and established a new Office of Drug Policy to provide leadership and coordination.</p> <p>Working Party on the Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes established. This followed calls by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) and the Law Society of New South Wales for people with illnesses such as cancer and AIDS to be prescribed cannabis for pain relief (Aug).</p> <p>Legislation for injecting centre – MSIC passed – Drug Summit Legislative Response Bill (1999) (Nov)</p> | | <p>Queensland Drug Coordinating Committee (QDCC) established to coordinate and oversee implementation of Queensland drug strategy.</p> <p>Inter-governmental committee, YADA (Youth Alcohol and Drug Action), established by QDCC to consider youth drug issues (Nov)</p> |
| 1998 | <p>Discussions began around trialling a 'supervised injecting place' (SIP) and Supervised Injecting Place Trial Advisory Committee was established.</p> | <p>Mandatory drug and alcohol testing introduced for NSW police officers involved in critical incidents e.g. police shootings (Jul).</p> <p>NSW Legislative Council Standing</p> | | <p>Brisbane Lord Mayor's Illicit Drug Task Force convened</p> |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | | <p>Committee on Social Issues inquiry into hepatitis C released report 'Hepatitis C: the Neglected Epidemic.' This made 132 recommendations including to expand prevention and control strategies, adopt a NSW strategy on Hepatitis C and to advocate for increased national attention to the prevalence and response(s) to Hepatitis C (Nov).</p> <p>Ethnographic research into heroin use in the Cabramatta drug market published in report: "Running the Risks: Heroin, Health and Harm in South-West Sydney. Report documented the patterns and contexts of heroin use, risk taking behavior, income generation and the impacts of street law enforcement activities.</p> | | |
| 1997 | <p>ACT Government formally sought and obtained support at the MCDS meeting for a heroin trial (Jul)</p> <p>Commonwealth Government declined to authorise importation of heroin to support the trial (Aug)</p> <p>Canberra Injectors Network, CIN – established by drug users with aim of providing peer-based education.</p> | <p>Four Corners report on the Cabramatta outlined its decline from being a multi-cultural melting pot to the heroin capital of Australia, as evidenced by the highly visible street dealing and use. Four Corners argued that in spite of five years of police efforts the drug trade had flourished, bringing with it violence, death and police corruption (Apr).</p> <p>Woods Royal Commission report concluded that a war on drugs approach contributed towards police corruption. Recommended increased attention to alternate approaches – increased focus on harm minimisation strategies, increasing public education, expanding methadone availability and establishing a supervised injecting facility (May).</p> <p>Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues was asked to inquire into Hepatitis C (HCV) and its implications for the community (May).</p> <p>NSW Police officers Rodney Podesta and Anthony Dilorenzo shot dead a mentally disturbed man, Ron Levi. Both police officers were later found to be cocaine users, who regularly partied before work. This led to public outcry since neither officer was drug tested at the time of the shooting (Jun).</p> <p>NSW Parliamentary Joint Select Committee established to consider feasibility of a trial of a supervised injecting facility (Jul).</p> <p>Several news articles appeared citing New South Wales Health Minister Andrew Refshauge's claim that St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney received approximately five</p> | Introduction of mandatory sentencing in NT for minor offences | |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | | <p>people a day being treated for GHB overdoses (Nov).</p> <p>A Drug Intervention Service (DISC) was established in Cabramatta to provide a needle syringe program and counseling service to resident and visiting drug users.</p> <p>Cabramatta police began saturation policing in efforts to disrupt and displace the burgeoning heroin market.</p> | | |
| 1996 | Heroin Pilot Task Force recommended that a trial proceed (Jan) | Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in NSW, collecting data on illicit drug market trends | Cannabis expiation scheme introduced | Party drug "Fantasy" or "GHB" hit front page news after a mass overdose at a Broadbeach venue in the Gold Coast put eight people on life-support systems (Oct). |
| 1995 | <p>NCEPH/AIC team released report recommending that a heroin trial proceed and provided a detailed plan for a phased series of studies that would begin with a trial of heroin prescription for 40 patients. It also recommended that 3 months of consultation be undertaken to disseminate findings of report (Jun).</p> <p>ACT Government established a 29-member Heroin Pilot Task Force chaired by Mr Kevin Waller AM to consult with the community and make recommendations about whether or not the trial should proceed and how the feasibility research might best be implemented (Jul).</p> <p>ACT Government released its first drug strategy – ACT Drug Strategy 1995-97 (Sep).</p> | <p>First ecstasy-related death reported – 15 year old Anna Wood (Oct).</p> <p>Formation of the 'Anna Wood Drug and Alcohol Project' which sought to provide more abstinence based drug education in schools.</p> <p>Evaluation of the Needle Syringe Vending Machines at Kings Cross, Rozelle and Parramatta released. Report concluded that the machines were used by a broader range of injectors compared to those who used the staffed service at the community health centres, and that there was an increase in inquiries about hepatitis C issues due to information provided at the machines.</p> <p>Cabramatta police began high profile buy-bust interventions aimed at high and mid level deals in efforts to reduce heroin market.</p> | | Second Queensland Drug Strategy released |
| 1994 | | <p>Inquiry into police corruption launched. Commissioner: The Hon Justice JRT Wood (May).</p> <p>NSW Hepatitis C Taskforce established</p> | | |
| 1993 | | | | First Queensland Drug Strategy released |
| 1992 | Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) expiation scheme for cannabis offences introduced - enabled cannabis offenders possessing <25 grams of cannabis or <5 plants to avoid a criminal conviction by payment of a \$100 fine | <p>First NSW Drug Strategy released</p> <p>12 month trial of Needle Syringe Vending Machines commenced at Kings Cross, Rozelle and Parramatta</p> | | |
| 1991 | <p>Select committee of the ACT Legislative Assembly proposed expiation scheme for cannabis and a heroin trial</p> <p>National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) began a study to determine heroin trial</p> | | | |

| Year | Australian Capital Territory | New South Wales | Northern Territory | Queensland |
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| | feasibility (1991-1995) | | | |
| 1990 | | | Misuse of Drugs Act NT 1990 adopted. This entered into force in Nov. | |
| 1989 | 1989 Drugs of Dependence Act (DODA) The Treatment Referral Program (TRP) post sentencing diversion program for illicit drug-related offenders commenced under the DODA (Mar) Select committee appointed to report on HIV, illegal drugs and prostitution First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened in ACT | User group - New South Wales Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) formed | User group - Northern Territory Users Forum (TUF) formed First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened in NT | Criminal Justice Commission established as a result of the Fitzgerald Inquiry Changes to Drugs Misuse Act (as amended) 1989 enabled supply of needles & introduction of Needle and Syringe Exchange Program in Qld |
| 1988 | Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act (Cth) passed creating a legislative assembly and giving it limited powers of self-government User group - Australian Capital Territory IV League (ACTIV League) formed | Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs (later called Needle Syringe Programs) were widely implemented in NSW | | Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct (Fitzgerald Inquiry) report released User group - Queensland IV AIDS Association (QuIVAA) formed |
| 1987 | ACT Drug Indicators Project pilot commenced (1987-1989). Project linked individual record data from the drug treatment and criminal justice systems in the aim of increasing understanding of the incidence, character and treatment and criminal justice responses to illicit drug use. | NSW Government amended the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 legalising possession of needle and syringes and established Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs (later called Needle Syringe Programs) AIDS and Drug Information Collective formed as lobby group | | Changes to Drugs Misuse Act (as amended) 1987 established a new offence for inappropriate disposal of needles and syringes (Sep) |
| 1986 | | First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened - Darlinghurst (Nov) NSW Government established drug store-based needle and syringe distribution scheme (Dec) | | Drugs Misuse Act 1986 adopted Possession of needles and syringes decriminalised First distribution programs of single syringes commenced |
| 1985 | | Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 adopted | | |

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2019: SA, Tas, Vic and WA

| Year | South Australia | Tasmania | Victoria | Western Australia |
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| 2019 | <p>Safer music event guidelines: improving safety and reducing harms at music events released. The guidelines were developed by Drug and Alcohol Services South Australian in collaboration with SA Police and other stakeholders. Key recommendations including the provision of chill-out areas, free drinking water at multiple locations, dedicated, equipped and accessible first-aid locations and safe transport options (Mar).</p> <p>SA Government and SA Police signed off on protocols to trial the deployment of drug detection dogs in public high schools. (NB there were no provisions for deployment at private schools). Under the protocol dogs can be deployed on invitation of principals or at the direction of SA Police and used to sniff lockers, bags and corridors. If successful it will be rolled out further (May).</p> <p>Minister for Health and Wellbeing was asked about pill testing at festivals and stated the SA Marshall Liberal government does not support pill testing at events. He noted they continue to monitor evidence-based research from around the world and are committed to implementing alternative strategies that can improve safety and reduce adverse health outcomes such as via the SA safer music event guidelines and the use of chill out areas, but do not believe that the safety of these events would be enhanced by pill testing (16 May).</p> <p>Motion against pill testing at events debated. This (a) acknowledged the government's strong focus on preventing the uptake of illicit drug use, reducing the harmful effects of licit and illicit drugs and offering pathways out of harmful drug use; (b) supports the safer music event guidelines to improve safety and reduce harms at events and multiple steps in that to reduce harm and (c) supported the state government's position against pill testing at events. The motion was carried (Jun).</p> <p>7th report of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program released and showed SA had the highest average capital city consumption of methylamphetamine, and together with Qld the highest average regional consumption of cannabis, and the highest average regional consumption of</p> | <p>Tasmanian Liberal MP Sue Hickey gave support for a trial of pill testing, noting that 'I really think it's a health issue not just a policing issue' and that we have to stop saying 'no' as we know no does not work. She noted her decision to support a trial had come about after seeing the stances of the Australian Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners and former Australian Federal Police commissioner Mick Palmer (Mar).</p> <p>Motion for pill testing trial debated in Tasmanian parliament. This called on the government to acknowledge that pill testing is an evidence-based health service, that there have been two successful pilots conducted in Australia, and that pill testing is supported by numerous peak bodies including the Australian Medical Association, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Public Health Association of Australia and Community Legal Centres Tasmania. It further called on the government to explore how a trial could be conducted in Tasmania over the 2019-2020 summer festival season. The motion was negated with 4 votes for and 8 votes against (Aug 13).</p> <p>Tasmanian Government reaffirmed it would not support a trial of pill testing at Tasmanian music festivals, arguing 'there is no safe use of any illicit drug and it's reckless to suggest otherwise. The idea that a testing service can indicate that an illegal drug is free of certain contaminants sends a very mixed and risky message' (Nov).</p> | <p>A 20-year old man died after a suspected drug overdose at the Beyond the Valley festival (Jan 1).</p> <p>City of Port Phillip renewed calls from two years prior to allow it to become home to Victoria's first pill-testing trial, noting that since then "there's been a bitter harvest of dead bodies around the country" and it is "unacceptable that governments turn their backs on this anymore" (Jan).</p> <p>Family Drug Treatment Court opened in Shepperton, following a three-year Broadmeadows pilot. This is the first such regional site (Mar).</p> <p>Analysis of the Victorian Medically Supervised Injecting Centre showed that in the first year of operation, from 30 June 2018 to 30 June 2019, there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,908 registered clients using the service • 61,823 visits including a supervised injection • 1,232 overdoses safely managed by staff inside the MSIR. • Staff also provided: • 5,082 on-site services to registered clients. This includes health promotion in relation to injecting, and on-the-spot health and social support. • 1,393 referrals to co-located services and clinics, and external services. This provides a gateway to supports including alcohol and other drug treatment, primary care, oral health, blood-borne virus treatment, mental health support, housing and homelessness services and legal support (Jun). <p>Two AOD outreach workers employed by North Richmond Community Health centre were arrested over drug trafficking. Media reports wrongly claimed the workers worked at the North Richmond Community Health supervised injecting room incident (Oct 24).</p> <p>Heated media debate about the North Richmond Community Health argued the supervised injecting centre had become a honeypot for drug dealing or other criminal</p> | <p>WA Government outlined their response to the Methamphetamine Action Taskforce report. The supported in full or supported in principal most recommendations. The one not supported was the recommendation to introduce prison based needle syringe exchange, with the government noting "the government is not considering the introduction of needle and syringe exchange in the prison setting" but that "alternative harm minimisation strategies involving the expansion and continuation of existing programs will be progressed to reduce the harms associated with illicit drug use and to meet the diverse needs of prisoners." The government response committed an additional \$42.5 million to reduce methamphetamine use and harms in WA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.8 million for a new 10-bed crisis centre (medical withdrawal beds) to provide safe places for individuals and families in crisis; • \$2.3 million for 4 new detox beds in the Kimberley; • \$9.2 million for specialist AOD youth services in the Kimberley including involving resi rehab, detox and post-rehab support; • \$20.1 million for the North West Drug and Alcohol Support Program for increased counselling and other treatment options in the Pilbara, Kimberley & Gascoyne regions; • \$1.5 million to expand NPS in regional areas inc Bunbury; • \$1.05 million for AOD education of at-risk students; • \$631,000 to expand a transitional housing and support program; • \$200,000 to extend a mental health police co-response model in regional areas (7 May). <p>New discussion paper "Managing public health risks at events in WA" released by WA Health for public discussion and feedback. This notes that events (e.g. festivals) are a vital part of WA life and culture, but that events in WA are currently managed through Public Buildings Regulations. WA Health thus proposed to update regulations to ensure public health</p> |

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| | <p>fentanyl in the country (Jun).</p> <p>New research released: "Spatio-temporal assessment of illicit drug use at large scale: evidence from 7 years of international wastewater monitoring." This compared wastewater monitoring over 7 years (2011 to 2017) across 120 cities in 37 countries and showed that of them Adelaide had the highest recorded levels of methamphetamine, followed by Seattle (Oct).</p> | | <p>history and calls to relocate the centre and/or shut it down. Of note: The Victorian Shadow Minister for Police and Community Safety David Southwick argued the arrests had proven this point: 'In 15 months, Daniel Andrews has turned a safe community health centre with a thriving maternal and child service into a drug-dealing hotspot.' Media noted some residents wanted the supervised injecting centre moved, whilst others wanted it shut down (Oct).</p> <p>The Victorian Government maintained its support for the MSIR's two-year trial, which will continue with Dr Nico Clark as its Medical Director. The Victorian Government commissioned an independent review of the AOD Program at NRCH (Oct).</p> <p>Victoria ambulance union calls for back of house pill testing at festivals - whereby any drugs confiscated by police would be tested and alerts issued on social media (Nov).</p> <p>Melbourne City Council provided in principal support for a pill testing trial at festivals and offered to deliver a pilot in their municipality (Nov).</p> <p>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Pill Testing Pilot for Drug Harm Reduction) Bill 2019 debated as a private members bill from the Greens and Reason Party. The bill proposed to establish a new legislative scheme to allow for the licensing and operation of one mobile drug-checking service, and the licence and operation of one fixed premises drug-checking service as a two-year pilot. On introducing the bill it was noted that the evidence of trials in Canberra and around the world through over 20 years of operation of such services has shown that drug checking services are successful in educating clients about the risks of drug taking, and in reducing drug taking and drug-related deaths, and the overwhelming evidence of support from agencies like the AMA and NSW Coroner for such services. It noted the bill would provide a robust framework to ensure access to a) quality compositional testing and timely information e.g. about purity levels, b) evidence based information about the likely effects of consuming the drug, including potentially fatal risks, and information about associated drug related harms such as dehydration, heatstroke and risks of combining substances e.g. alcohol and</p> | <p>risks e.g. AOD use are appropriately planned for and managed at future events through the use of new, event-specific regulations under the Public Health Act, with updated events guidelines about key issues including provisions for first aid planning (Mar).</p> <p>A tonne of cocaine and ecstasy were seized and foreign nationals arrested after a yacht hit a reef and ran aground in the Abrolhos Islands off the Mid-West coast of WA (near Geraldton). Two foreign nationals a 51-year-old French national and a 34-year-old English man were arrested. A 45-year-old US man and a 35-year-old UK man were subsequently arrested in the Perth CBD (Sep).</p> <p>The WA Select Committee into Alternative Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use and its Effects on the Community released their report: "Help not handcuffs." This noted people who use drugs may avoid criminal penalties through the WA Police Force Drug Diversion Program, which diverts low-level offenders to drug education sessions. Drug diversion is a cost-effective option for reducing imprisonment and increasing treatment uptake, but that strict eligibility criteria and other limitations mean Western Australians are the least likely in the country to be diverted from prosecution for minor drug offences. The Committee found that a number of approaches used within Australia and internationally have successfully reduced drug-related harms by shifting policy priorities from prohibition towards health, prevention and harm reduction. Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the WA Government commit to defining and treating drug use as a health and social issue; • That the Mental Health Commission and Western Australia Police Force work together to investigate, develop and implement either Option 1—an expanded Police Drug Diversion Program or Option 2 – decriminalization; • That current drug trafficking threshold limits giving rise to intent to supply be reviewed; • That the WA drug court be extended to regional WA; • That funding for treatment and |

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| | | | <p>mdma and c) referral pathways to AOD and mental health services. It further noted the use of on site and off-site services was deliberate in recognition that drug use is not confined to major summer festivals (Nov 13).</p> <p>An independent review on the North Richmond Community Health AOD Program released, with 10 recommendations. This included strengthening governance arrangements, relocating the AOD outreach services within North Richmond Community Health until the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre trial is completed (Dec).</p> | <p>harm reduction services be increased in line with projected demand;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That demand for a drug consumption room in Perth be ascertained; • That strategies to optimize safety at music festivals be considered, including trial of a drug checking service (Nov). |
| 2018 | <p>Coronial Inquiry into the death of Lewis McPherson aged 18 found the police missed multiple opportunities to prevent the shooting. The gunman, Liam Humbles, who was aged 17, was intoxicated by alcohol and drugs at the time and had been given five prior drug diversions, including at least one instance (his fourth diversion) where police had received information that Humbles was dealing in cannabis and 'pills' and that he carried a firearm, at least inferentially, in connection with that activity. The deputy coroner found that police investigations into information they had received about Humbles was "flawed and inadequate": "The issuing of a drug diversion to Humbles on this occasion was inappropriate and not in accordance with SAPOL General Order - Drug Diversion having regard to the suspicion that he was trafficking in cannabis." Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the drug diversion process in relation to children be re-evaluated in its entirety. • that there be a limit to the number of drug diversions that a child may undergo (and that the stipulation within both the PDDI and SAPOL General Order – Drug Diversion that there is no limit to the number of diversions that a child can undergo be deleted) • that the maximum monetary penalty for the offences of possession, smoking and consumption of cannabis, cannabis resin and cannabis oil be increased from \$500 to a figure that reflects the deleterious effects that the consumption of those substances can have on the | <p>Australian Medical Association Tasmanian President Stuart Day announced that pill testing should be trailed in Tasmania, noting it provides an opportunity for early intervention and for trained medical professionals to provide information to festival attendees (May).</p> <p>2017-2018 Review of Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program (TOPP) Policy and Clinical Standards released (Jun).</p> <p>Proposed pill testing legislation to allow testing of drugs at music festivals was debated in Parliament. It was voted down by both the Liberal and Labor parties (Nov).</p> <p>New changes commenced to Tasmanian roadside drug testing – with a switch to oral fluid testing of drivers, instead of a requirement to take all drivers to hospital to obtain blood samples. This removed a previous inconsistency in practice with most other states and territories (3 Dec).</p> | <p>Vic Parliamentary Report on Drug Law Reform released. This noted the importance of a health response to illicit drugs, and ongoing difficulties in accessing medical cannabis, and gaps and inequity in police drug diversion across Victoria, due in part to the discretionary nature of programs. The report outlined 50 recommendations, including that the Vic Government a) work with the Cth to improve patient access to medicinal cannabis products; b) remove the prohibition of peer distribution of sterile needles and syringes; c) review threshold amounts for drug quantities to appropriately distinguish between drug traffickers and people who possess illicit substances for personal use; d) maintain current drug offences in law but treat personal use and possession as a health issue by exploring alternative models such as the Portuguese decriminalisation or codifying police drug diversion to ensure all offenders are offered a drug diversion; e) establish an early warning system; and f) commission an independent evaluation of the use of drug detection dogs at music festivals and other public spaces. Report also noted the increasing development of cannabis regulatory models for adult use across the globe and recommended continued monitoring of the outcomes of international developments in regulated supply of cannabis (Mar).</p> <p>The Victorian Government committed \$100.45 million in the 2018-2019 Budget over four years to establish new 'emergency department hubs' in six Melbourne hospitals - Monash Medical Centre, St Vincent's, the Royal Melbourne, Geelong, Sunshine and</p> | <p>Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison – the first alcohol and drug treatment prison for women opened. This is a first in WA and in Australia. Unlike other facilities, it offers dedicated, intensive trauma-informed treatment within a therapeutic community, that is supported via multi-disciplinary case-management to reduce addiction, improve mental and physical health and reduce re-offending (Aug).</p> <p>Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy 2018-2022 released. This was developed through firstly evaluation and reviews of the Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategy 2011-2015 and drug and alcohol trends and consultation with key stakeholders, the community and the WA Drug and Alcohol Strategic Senior Officers' Group. Consultation included targeted consultation with key stakeholders and peak bodies (Dec 2016 to Feb 2017), statewide consultation (Aug 2017) and an online survey (Aug 2017).</p> <p>Phase one of consultation on the draft Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Accommodation and Support Strategy 2018-2025 completed. This will be the first WA framework for the development of appropriate accommodation and support for people with severe mental health issues and/or mild, moderate and severe alcohol and other drug issues. Phase one of the consultation occurred from March 2016 until July 2018, and involved 50 NGO, peak body and government agencies and more than 30 consumer consultants, carers</p> |

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| | <p>individual, especially the young (Feb). SA Police investigation revealed disturbing level of 'squalor' in Murray Bridge and that children as young as 11 were using ice: "What we found was a really disturbing level of squalor and lifestyles well below what you would consider Australia, as a free and rich country, should actually be tolerating (Feb). Liberal Government elected on platform of a 'war on drugs', including provisions to send drug detection dogs into schools and toughening penalties for cannabis possession (Mar). Methamphetamine super-lab located in Morphett Vale in Adelaide's south with 120 kilograms of powder — suspected of being methamphetamine — and 11 kilograms of what police believe to be crystal methamphetamine or "ice' (2 Oct). Industrial sized methamphetamine super-lab uncovered on Croydon, in Adelaide's north-west - the biggest methamphetamine lab in SA's history. Three men (47-year-old Troy Alвити, 58-year-old Mark Middleton and 39-year-old Nicholas Wardle) were arrested. The lab housed enough chemicals to make 127kg pure methamphetamine = \$20 million worth of the drug (29 Oct). Statutes Amendment (Drug Offences) Bill 2018 issued by Government in the goal of increasing penalties for cannabis possession. The initial bill proposed reintroducing the option of imprisonment for people who did not receive a cannabis expiation notice and increasing the maximum fine from \$200 to \$2000. The option of imprisonment was removed post a public backlash, albeit not the larger fine (Nov). Statutes Amendment (Drug Offences) Act 2018 adopted. This limited the number of drug diversions in the PDDI before a person must be charged with an offence from unlimited to 2 in a 4-year period. This applied to both youth and adults (Nov). The Cth Department of Health announced a \$20 million boost for SA drug and alcohol treatment services in regional and rural areas, including Ceduna; Port Augusta; Fleurieu Peninsula; Peterborough and Mid North; Murray Bridge; Playford; Port Adelaide; and Onkaparinga. This was particularly targeted at methamphetamine</p> | | <p>Frankston Hospitals - to better support and respond to people experiencing a crisis related to their mental health or substance use. Introduced post the increasing numbers of people presenting at emergency departments for repeat visits, the hubs are designed to provide targeted assessments and specialist care from medical, mental health, and social work professionals and where needed overnight stays (Jun). North Richmond Community Health supervised injecting room opened lead by Dr Nico Clark as its Medical Director. In its first week of operation, the medically supervised injecting room saw over 400 visits and staff responded to 12 overdoses (Jun 30). Vic Government response to drug law reform inquiry released. Concluded that a more health approach is needed to illicit drugs, and they were working to streamline access to medical cannabis and to "strengthen" the Vic Police drug diversion program (Aug). Reason Party MP Fiona Patten proposed at the Victorian election to legalise, regulate and tax recreational cannabis for adults aged 18 and over and introduction of strict product safety and product quality requirements. Costings from the Parliamentary Budget Office estimated this would increase the state's budget by \$204.6 million over the forward estimates (Dec).</p> | <p>and family members. Key issues highlighted in the consultation included a) that access to safe and affordable housing is at a crisis point in WA, b) that this has fueled significant wait times (5 to 7 years), c) specific gaps in housing and support in rural and remote locations and for youth and service access barriers for people who have been homeless for a long time, and d) high incidence of evictions of people with mental health and AOD issues from public housing, private rental and community housing. The consultation further highlighted the need to not only increase housing stock and linkages between accommodation and support services but also addressing stigma and discrimination of people with MH and AOD issues (Jul). A bipartisan Legislative Council Parliamentary Select Committee, Chaired by Hon. Alison Xamon MLC was established to conduct an Inquiry into alternate approaches to reducing illicit drug use and its effects on the community, specifically to inquire into and report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other Australian state and international approaches (including Portugal) to reducing harm from illicit drug use; • a comparison of effectiveness and costs to the community of drug related laws between WA and other jurisdictions; & • the applicability of alternative approaches (Oct 17). <p>The Methamphetamine Action Plan (MAP) Taskforce Final Report released. This included 57 recommendations for government relating to education, intervention, treatment and support services, reducing harm and use, meeting regional needs, pathways following treatment, cross-sector collaboration and evaluation. Specific recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to reduce the stigma associated with methamphetamine use; • Work with AOD service providers to establish a centralised waitlist database to better identify & utilise existing treatment capacity; • Establish an appropriate alternative |

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| | <p>(Nov). Nine people arrested after nine-month investigation into trafficking of methamphetamine in Murray Bridge (Dec).</p> | | | <p>crisis intervention response that would provide a short term place for methamphetamine users when they are in crisis that will keep them, their families and the community safe;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate a minimum level of AOD education in all schools. • Propose to the Ministerial Forum on Alcohol and Drugs that future Cth Government resources allocated to address methamphetamine use should be apportioned based on the relative 'need' or magnitude of the problem in each state; • Ensure that all persons in custody, including remanded and sentenced offenders, are assessed for AOD use, including methamphetamine, and are provided with intervention and treatment to meet the needs identified • Introduce needle and syringe exchange programs in WA prisons (26 Nov). <p>Three people died (a 21-year-old man, who had been at the Metro City nightclub, and two women aged 23 and 25) on 7 December and there were a further 91 non-fatal overdoses between 4 and 7 December which were suspected to be due to GHB. This is the largest number of overdoses in Perth since the 1990s heroin epidemic, leading WA Police to issue a warning that "there is a bad batch of drugs out there" (Dec 9).</p> |
| 2017 | <p>SA Ministerial Crystal Methamphetamine Taskforce. Established due to rapid and continued growth of ice use and harms, evidenced by wastewater analysis showing consumption of methamphetamine had tripled in the last 4 years. The taskforce held six community forums: Mawson Lakes; Whyalla; Murray Bridge; Mount Gambier; Port Pirie; McLaren Vale as well as an online survey (Feb).</p> <p>SA Ministerial Crystal Methamphetamine Taskforce report released. Noted that methamphetamine use tends to be higher in SA than other parts of the country but that there is large variance e.g. some regional communities have much lower than usual rates. Also noted 60% users are occasional who don't need treatment but could benefit from peer education, 25% regular who could benefit from brief interventions (outpatient counselling) and 15% are dependent where intensive treatment is recommended. Key</p> | | <p>22-year-old Jacob Langford died of multi-drug toxicity (including amyl nitrate) at the Rainbow Serpent music festival (Jan).</p> <p>Port Phillip Council called on the Victorian Government to immediately legislate to allow and fund pilot pill testing facilities at "consenting clubs, festivals and dance parties in the City of Port Phillip to minimise the harms associated with illicit drugs" (Feb 1).</p> <p>Inquiry into Drug Law Reform undertaken by the Victorian Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee. This commenced in Feb 2017 and ran until March 2018. The terms of reference were to inquire into, consider and report, on: 1. The effectiveness of laws, procedures and regulations relating to illicit and synthetic drugs and the misuse of prescription medication in minimising drug-related health, social and economic harm; and 2. The practice of other Australian states and</p> | <p>New funding announced in 2017-2018 budget to undertake consultation, analysis and modelling about drug and alcohol service needs in the Kimberley in light of government commitments to expand service provision in the region (Jun).</p> <p>1.2 tonne of methamphetamine - Australia's biggest methamphetamine seizure was seized at the Geraldton port, WA. Eight men were also arrested. The vessel was transporting drugs manufactured in China that had been transported by a Chinese "mother ship" then onto the smaller marine vessel Valkoista. The drugs were alleged to be destined for the east coast of Australia (Sep).</p> |

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| | <p>recommendations: 1) need for a stepped approach to treatment provision– not just more residential rehabilitation – and for services close to homes and support networks, 2) need to better support families, 3) need to increase capacity building e.g. sports programs and community organisations, 4) need to better reduce stigma to improve service access and 5) need to improve supply reduction through increased law enforcement powers and resources (Feb).</p> <p>SA Gov launched an \$8 million Illicit Drug Action Plan to 'stop the hurt' Illicit caused by crystal methamphetamine. Main priority – expanding drug treatment – mainly counselling – 50% increase in outpatient spots - and 12 new residential rehab beds– \$3.6 million. Other strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional drug dogs \$0.549m • Additional resourcing for family support groups \$0.560m • Supporting employers to better respond to substance abuse in the workplace \$0.498m • Assisting community organisations to respond to ice abuse issues \$0.3m • Assisting grass roots sporting clubs \$0.3m • Additional TruNarc electronic drug testing implements \$0.287m • Dob in a dealer campaign \$0.2m (Jun) | | <p>territories and overseas jurisdictions and their approach to drug law reform and how other positive reforms could be adopted into Victorian law. The Committee received 231 submissions from a diverse range of experts and stakeholders working in various areas of drug policy and law reform, including advocacy groups, not-for-profit organisations, the alcohol and other drug treatment sector and other service providers, government departments, health and legal professionals, medical and health peak bodies, community legal centres, research institutes, academics as well as individual members of the community. The Committee also held nine days of public hearings in Melbourne and Sydney, travelled to Wellington, New Zealand and had an international study tour of Geneva, Switzerland; Lisbon, Portugal; London, United Kingdom; Vancouver, Canada; Denver and Sacramento, United States of America (Mar).</p> <p>Melbourne Drug Court opened: complementing the 15 year old Dandenong drug court with a capacity of 170 (cf 70 in Dandenong) (Mar).</p> <p>Victorian Alcohol and Drug Collection (VADC) commenced as the new data collection specification for all AOD treatment providers in Victoria, with implementation over an 18-month period. In recognition of the need to reduce administrative burdens the VDAC has approximately 80 data elements - less than half the elements in the current Alcohol and Drug Information System (ADIS) collection. VDAC is thus designed to reduce administration burdens, better reflect current service delivery, align with national minimum data set reporting requirements, enable monthly reporting and increased ease of data sharing (Mar).</p> <p>903kg of methamphetamine seized, hidden in a shipment of wooden floorboards from China (Apr).</p> <p>New report released by the Penington Institute: "Not just naloxone: Insights into emerging models to reduce drug harms." The report was commissioned by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to examine and report on practical strategies to respond to an overdose; the role of peer workers and peer-led models in harm reduction and related areas, such as</p> | |

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| | | | <p>behavioural health; and other models and approaches that could be implemented in Victoria to reduce drug-related harms particularly overdose (Jul).</p> <p>The Victorian Government released the "Victorian Drug Rehabilitation Plan: New Action to help save Victorian Lives" in response to an escalation in illicit drug-related death (including a near doubling in the number of deaths since 2012). This provided \$87 million to address drug harms. Key measures included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of an additional 100 residential rehabilitation beds across the state (to treat up to 400 extra people per year) • Trial of a medically supervised injecting room at North Richmond Community Health • Increased brokerage for people and families trying to locate drug treatment services (Oct). <p>Victorian Parliament passed legislation for a two-year trial of a medically supervised injecting room, to be operated by medical practitioners at North Richmond Community Health. The North Richmond Community Health supervised injecting room is modelled on the successful centre at Sydney's Kings Cross and will undergo an independent evaluation (19 Dec).</p> | |
| 2016 | <p>The SA Government issued a public health warning following spate of heroin-related overdose deaths: 10 deaths, 8 of which were due to heroin alone and two to heroin and fentanyl (Aug).</p> <p><i>Criminal Assets Confiscation (Prescribed Drug Offenders) Amendment Act 2016</i> adopted. The act, the declared drug trafficker law, targets repeat offenders and allows for the confiscation of all of a declared drug trafficker's property, whether or not established as lawfully acquired and whether or not there is any proof about the property. Assets and property can be restrained pending prosecution of matters before the court. A dealer will be declared a prescribed drug offender if found guilty of three indictable drug offences over ten years – excluding time in jail – or found guilty of one offence involving trafficking a commercial quantity e.g. 500g of amphetamine or 2.5kg of cannabis.</p> | <p>The Minister for Corrections, Dr Vanessa Goodwin, launched 'Breaking the Cycle- A Safer Community: Strategies for Improving the Throughcare for Offenders 2016-2020'. Key goals in relation to AOD were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase access to withdrawal, drug treatment and abstinence units; & • to implement a Tasmanian Prison Service Drug and Alcohol Strategy (Aug). <p>Premier Will Hodgman and the Minister for Health Michael Ferguson announced that specialist medical practitioners would be able to prescribe medicinal cannabis for people with serious or chronic illnesses in Tasmania from 2017, via a Controlled Access Scheme (CAS). Key details of the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no limit on diseases treatable; • The laws on cannabis use will not be | <p><i>Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016</i> adopted. This included a state-based scheme to allow the lawful cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis products for use by a limited cohort of patients with particular medical conditions and symptoms (to be prescribed in regulation at a later date). Children with severe intractable epilepsy will be given the first access to medicinal cannabis products in early 2017 (26 Apr).</p> <p>Victorian Government announced a new funding package (\$28.5 million) to support the roll out of medical cannabis including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of an Office of Medicinal Cannabis to oversee manufacturing and all clinical aspects of the medicinal cannabis framework and an Independent Medical Advisory Committee; • a new medical cannabis cultivation | <p>WA Government announced a new 2016 "Western Australian Meth Strategy". Key steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding and support to expand the WA Police meth teams to target methamphetamine supply; • 52 extra dedicated rehabilitation spaces for methamphetamine; • A pilot specialist meth clinic to provide rapid assessment, early intervention and treatment including outpatient withdrawal within the Next Step Drug and Alcohol Service in East Perth. • A new Ice Helpline linking directly to its existing alcohol and other drug support line; & • Proposed legislation for involuntary drug treatment (May). <p>A trawler was seized off the coast of</p> |

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| | <p>Confiscated assets will be paid into a Rehabilitation Fund and used to fund programs and facilities for the benefit of victims, offenders and other crime-prevention initiatives (Aug).</p> <p>South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2017-2021 released (Nov).</p> <p>SA Police figures showed that 5569 drivers returned a positive drug test 2015-16 in SA – almost as many as the 5817 caught over the 0.05 blood-alcohol limit, and that since 2010-11, drug-driving detections have more than tripled from 1832, while the number of positive alcohol tests has almost halved from 10,072 (Dec).</p> <p>SA Road Safety Minister Peter Malinauskas announced tough new laws will be introduced for drug driving: including for a first offence an automatic driver's license suspension of three or six months (instead of the current penalty excludes license suspension for a first offence), a minimum of 12 months suspension for a second offence and a minimum of 24 months suspension for a third offence (Dec).</p> | <p>changed; but the CAS will allow access to medical cannabis products grown lawfully under Commonwealth licenses;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access will be limited to specialist medical practitioners: not all general practitioners. It will thus limit access to treatment of complex medical conditions where the patient is under the care of a medical specialist; Expert panel will assess applications from doctors; & Government will work with business to produce products locally (Aug). <p>Tasmanian Police argued that the popularity of 'ice' / methamphetamine has fueled an increase in drug mules bringing methamphetamine into Tasmania. This is driven by the absence of local manufacture of the drug (Sep).</p> <p>Tasmanian Police Minister Rene Hidding promised to investigate having a register for people accessing medicinal cannabis to quarantine them from prosecution (Oct).</p> | <p>trial, and further product development and the development of clinical, public and manufacturing guidance material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> research grants to build the evidence base for medicinal cannabis; & the establishment of a hardship fund to help make medicinal cannabis more affordable for parents doing it tough (Apr). <p>AOD Data Collection Redevelopment Project commenced with goal to: Develop new data requirements for the AOD sector to ensure that the department has the necessary data to fulfil its function as system manager, as well as to identify a more efficient and user friendly method for data submission, minimise the data collection burden on service providers and ensure data collection flexibility over time to meet emerging policy and funding initiatives (Jun).</p> <p>Medical Advisory Committee on Medicinal Cannabis (the Committee) established, chaired by Professor James Alexander Angus AO, to advise on matters including product availability (which medicinal cannabis products should be approved medicinal cannabis products), patient eligibility and other clinical matters (Oct).</p> <p>2016-17 Victorian State Budget provided a \$57.6 million in new funds to respond to ice and other drugs. Key funds included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5.5 million for further training and support for frontline workers \$6 million for a new alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation service in the Grampians area, servicing the Ballarat community \$10 million for renewal of mental health and AOD facilities \$32 million to expand the Drug Court of Victoria \$3.8 million over four years for the Mother and Baby residential withdrawal unit. (Apr 27). <p>Penington Institute released a new report: "Australia's Annual Overdose Report 2016." This analysed overdose deaths from 2004 until 2014 and showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deaths due to accidental overdose grew substantially from 705 to | <p>Geraldton WA in connection with a 182kg seizure of ice, transported by a Chinese and Malaysian syndicate (May).</p> <p>Wastewater analysis of methamphetamine levels in Perth, Bunbury and Geraldton showed that about 1.6 kilograms of methamphetamine was being consumed in the metropolitan area each week, or 1.6 tonnes annually. It further showed levels were highest in Bunbury: with levels that were double that seen in Perth and Geraldton (Oct).</p> <p><i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Search Powers) Act 2016</i> adopted, enabling new search powers to target known drug transit routes in rural/regional areas. Specifically it gives police powers to declare a designated area of up to 5 square kilometres a "a drug detection area" if there reasonable grounds to suspect that the area is being used or is likely to be used for the transportation of prohibited drugs, prohibited plants or controlled precursors and to conduct a search of trucks and vehicles in that area for a period of up to 14 days (Nov).</p> <p>The WA Government announced that from 1 November 2016 it will be legal for medical cannabis to be grown in WA and for a doctor to prescribe, and a pharmacist to dispense, medicinal cannabis. This is in line with new Cth laws enabling access to medical cannabis, via the <i>Narcotic Drugs Amendment Act 2016</i>. Any doctor wishing to prescribe medicinal cannabis would need approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration and an expert advisory committee (Cannabis-Based Product Advisory Committee), in the WA Department of Health. Obtaining approval will require a written application including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prescriber and patient details specific details of the desired therapy, including name and source of product, intended dose etc. indication for treatment relevant patient medical and medication history, including details of current and past treatments evidence of written informed consent from the patient. <p>In WA only a pharmacist will be able to dispense medicinal cannabis, with supply from any other means remaining illegal</p> |

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| | | | <p>1,137 between 2004 and 2014: a 61% increase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrary to stereotypes Australians aged 40-49 are the most likely to die of a drug overdose. • Large increases in overdose deaths in rural and regional are driving the overall increase. • WA was the worst state for overdose deaths per capita with 5.8 per 100,000 in 2014 followed by NSW with 5.1 per 100,000 (Jul). <p>The Victorian Government announced it would invest in a peer-led networks trial across six hotspot areas for overdose, including Brimbank/Maribyrnong, Greater Dandenong, Greater Geelong, the City of Melbourne, Port Phillip and the City of Yarra, as a means to strengthen and improve the scope for peer education in Victoria (Aug 31).</p> <p>New residential withdrawal unit for mothers with babies opened: providing a tailored withdrawal services and extended support (Nov).</p> | <p>(Nov).</p> |
| 2015 | <p>19-year-old Stefan Woodward fatally overdosed, following collapsing at the Stereosonic music festival in Adelaide, and 22 others were hospitalised for AOD issues (Nov).</p> <p>Senator Nick Xenophon called for an inquest into deaths at Sterosonic music festival (including that in NSW and that in SA): including the responsibility of the organisers, the role of police and health professionals and also any warnings that should have been given (Dec).</p> <p>SA Health Minister Jack Snelling announced new measures may be introduced at music festivals in a bid to prevent further drug-related deaths: including mandatory warnings over public address systems about the dangers of illicit drugs at such festivals on days of extreme heat, and better drug education campaigns. But he ruled out pill testing as this could send the wrong message (Dec).</p> | | <p>Victorian Government established the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS): bringing together the former Department of Health, former Department of Human Services and Sport and Recreation Victoria. (Jan 1).</p> <p>Attorney-General Martin Pakula appointed lawyer Dr Ian Freckelton, QC, as Special Commissioner to the Victorian Law Reform Commission's review into the use of medicinal cannabis (Jan).</p> <p>Dr Ian Freckelton, QC held nine public consultations in metropolitan and regional Victoria about medical cannabis and released an issues paper that garnered 99 submissions about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to define the exceptional circumstances in which a person should be allowed to use medicinal cannabis • How the law could be amended to enable patients to obtain medicinal cannabis while continuing to prevent unauthorised access (Mar). <p>Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews released a new Victorian Ice Action Plan, including \$45.5 in expenditure. Measures included:</p> | <p>WA Minister for Mental Health Helen Morton announced that the Government is spending an extra \$84M in 2015 on drug and alcohol services (Feb).</p> <p>WA Police Minister Liza Harvey announced a joint State and Federal police task force to address WA's methamphetamine trade (Feb).</p> <p>Two Comanchero OMCG charged with methamphetamine trafficking after police seized almost 8KG of methamphetamine (Feb).</p> <p>The Mental Health Commission and the Drug and Alcohol Office amalgamated on 1 July, 2015. The joined organisation is called the Mental Health Commission (Jul).</p> <p>WA Police launched a "Meth Enforcement Action Plan" to target the supply of methamphetamine in the communities. Key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meth transport teams that are deployed to key transport hubs, to conduct searches of vehicles, truck, trains and aircraft entering WA; • establishment of dedicated meth teams in organised crime squads, targeted at high level dealers; |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$18 million to expand drug treatment and rehabilitation • \$1.8 million in additional investment for NSPs • \$4.5 million to assist the Victoria Police's Forensic Drug Branch in profiling clandestine drug labs • \$15 million for new drug and booze buses (Mar). <p>The Victorian Law Reform Commission's <i>Medicinal Cannabis</i> report was tabled in Parliament with the government accepting all 42 recommendations, two accepted in principle. It announced that it would legalise access to medicinal cannabis in exceptional circumstances from 2017 (Oct 6).</p> <p>Victorian Parliament's Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee Inquiry established into illicit and synthetic drugs and prescription medication. Terms of reference included assessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the effectiveness of drug treatment programs in Victoria; • the effectiveness of Victorian government investment into illicit drug supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction strategies and programs; • the effectiveness of drug detection programs including roadside testing and deployment of drug detection activities at events; • the effectiveness of laws and regulations relating to illicit and synthetic drugs; and • practices of other Australian states and territories and overseas jurisdictions and their approach to drug law reform and how other positive reforms could be adopted to Victorian law (Nov). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an intelligence Meth Desk to support the meth teams; • joint agency teams with the Australian Crime Commission specifically targeting meth money trails (Aug). <p>WA Government announced it would pilot wastewater testing of methamphetamine in three metropolitan wastewater plants to provide new insight into the extent of use (Aug).</p> <p>A 'one stop shop' for alcohol and drug treatment opened in Joondalup to cater for the region's growing population after a move to larger premises by the North Metropolitan Community Alcohol and Drug Service (Sep).</p> <p>Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2015 adopted (Oct). This act sought to close a regulatory gap that had enabled new and emerging psychoactive substances to be sold because they have not been captured by or regulated via existing legislation. It banned the sale, supply, manufacture, advertising and promotion of any psychoactive substance and any substance that purported to have a psychoactive effect unless it is approved through existing legislation or regulation. It further provided WA Police with the power to seize and destroy any substance that has, or is said to have, a psychoactive effect; and for penalties of up to \$48,000 or four years prison to be applied. The new powers commenced 18 Nov 2015 (Oct).</p> <p>The Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 released. The plan outlines a 10 year roadmap to reshape mental health, alcohol and other drug services in WA (including in correctional settings) including the investment required to achieve the optimal mix and level of mental health, alcohol and other drug services in the short (by the end of 2017), medium (by the end of 2020) and long term (by the end of 2025) to best meet the identified needs of the population. The plan was developed by the Mental Health Commission, the former Drug and Alcohol Office, with the input from the Department of Health and Department of Corrective Services, stakeholders, consumers, carers and families, expert reference groups and</p> |

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| | | | | sector organisations. Key areas for AOD include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand prevention strategies to prevent and delay the onset of AOD use, leading to savings in treatment costs Improving continuum of care and appropriate mix of services to improve patient flow and reduce waiting lists and relapse Treatment services being more accessible, with a greater reach of services across the State: particularly in regional areas (Dec). |
| 2014 | <p>South Australian police detect largest known drug lab in state. The lab detected in Walker Flats included an industrial pill press, 60L chemicals and over 100,000 ecstasy pills worth approximately \$30m (Feb).</p> <p>SA Labor party re-elected with support of Independent MP Geoff Brock (Mar).</p> | <p>Tasmania elected a Liberal majority Government, following Labor Party rule for a period of 16 years. Key policy platforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To abolish suspended sentences, including for serious drug offences; To break the cycle of youth crime; To establish a serious and organised crime squad in the Tasmania Police (Mar). <p>Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration commenced a parliamentary inquiry into "Legalized medicinal cannabis". Terms of reference included focus on: 1) efficacy and safety of natural botanical medicinal cannabis flower and extracted cannabinoids for medical purposes; 2) legal implications and barriers to growing and commercialisation of cannabis flower and extracted cannabinoids in Tasmania; and 3) the potential impact on agricultural or other sectors within Tasmania (Jul).</p> <p>Interim report released on parliamentary inquiry into legalisation of medical cannabis in Tasmania. Key conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current legislation does not reflect the reality that a lot of people use cannabis for medical purposes. The unregulated environment means there is no quality control Tasmania has the capacity and expertise to extract pure cannabinoids to produce a high quality pharmaceutical product <p>Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government immediately introduce legislation to protect individuals who use medicinal cannabis from criminal charge The government develops a | <p>Yarra City Council proposed trial of first needle and syringe vending machines in Victoria (Jan).</p> <p>The Victorian Minister for Mental Health, Mary Wooldridge, backed needle syringe vending machine trial in Victoria: saying too many people were sharing syringes & the Government was committed to stopping the spread of blood-borne viruses (Jan).</p> <p>Herald Sun campaigned against vending machines in Victoria: e.g. "Taking a jab in the dark" (Feb).</p> <p><i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Act 2014</i> adopted. This extended the meaning of drug of dependence to include analogues of certain drugs, and added to Schedule 11 five classes of synthetic cannabinoids, as well as five specific synthetic cannabinoids and 21 other synthetic substances such as NBOMe, 2-CB and DMAA (Feb).</p> <p>Attorney-General Robert Clark introduced <i>Sentencing Amendment (Baseline Sentences) Bill 2014</i>, to increase baseline/median sentences for a range of indictable offences, including a new median sentence for trafficking in a large commercial quantity of 14 years imprisonment (up from 7 years imprisonment) (Apr).</p> <p>Penington Institute established, led by Professor David Penington (Apr).</p> <p>Turning Point and Ambulance Victoria report showed methamphetamine related ambulance call-outs increased in metropolitan Melbourne from 107 in 2008-09 to 1112 in 2011-12 (May).</p> <p>A Family Drug Treatment Court opened in Broadmeadows: the first in Australia. This</p> | <p>WA Police Organised Crime Squad arrested 17 people and seized \$20 million worth of drugs and assets following a 10 month investigation into a drug ring operating across WA, SA and NSW. It is alleged the network used a WA based trucking company to transport and distribute cannabis and methylamphetamine into WA (Jan).</p> <p>New prevention guidelines adopted: Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Guidelines 2014 - a guide to support professionals leading in the area of AOD prevention (Feb).</p> <p>Sector peak bodies launched a new 'Green Book' directory listing alcohol and other drug, as well as community mental health services (Feb).</p> <p>Alcohol and Drug Authority Amendment Bill 2014 introduced. Aim: amalgamation of the Mental Health Commission and the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, under the new name "Mental Health Commission" (May).</p> <p>An Organised Crime Squad operation led to seizure of more than \$8M worth of methamphetamine in a series of raids at Kewdale, Munster and Bibra Lake and arrest of 6 people (May).</p> <p>33 additional new psychoactive substances were listed in Schedule 9 of the Poisons Act 1964. Included NBOMe & 4-MEC (Jun).</p> <p>A joint operation between the Australian Federal Police, Western Australia Police, the Australian Crime Commission and Australian Customs and Border Protection led to the largest seizure of methamphetamine in WA: 90kg. Six men were also arrested (Oct).</p> <p>WA Mental Health, Alcohol and other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 launched for</p> |

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| | | <p>legislative framework to enable the medical use of cannabis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government engages with companies with expertise to progress cultivation, extraction and processing of cannabinoids (Nov) <p>Tasmanian Health Minister Michael Ferguson ruled out any changes to the current laws: "Advice from Tasmania Police is it's not necessary and could potentially create a new set of problems including opening up the risk that people would self-medicate, with no licensing or limit to quantity. The Police Commissioner has said Tasmania Police will not seek to criminally pursue terminally ill users of cannabis" (Nov).</p> <p>Tasmanian Minister for Health released report: "Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania." The report was commissioned in response to reports of increasing drug use, particularly methamphetamine in the north west, & led to stakeholder and community forums and review of available data. Key conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was very little objective data in relation to the prevalence of drugs is available for the North West region; There is no objective evidence to suggest a significant increase in methamphetamine consumption in North West Tasmania; Alcohol continues to be far and away the number one drug of concern, with cannabis use remaining the illicit drug of greatest use and concern (Nov). | <p>aims to help parents to stop using drugs and alcohol, and to promote family reunification, by diverting parents from a normal court to a judicially monitored, therapeutic 12-month program that uses drug and alcohol clinicians and a dedicated social worker, as well as a raft of associated services (AOD treatment, parenting programs, housing programs, mental health). The program seeks to engage parents whose children have been taken into care due to parental substance misuse or dependence and uses intensive case coordination and holistic therapeutic intervention to address issues of substance misuse with the aim of achieving safe and sustainable family reunification of parents and their children (May).</p> <p>Sentencing Amendment (Baseline Sentences) Act 2014 adopted: increasing median sentence for trafficking in a large commercial quantity of 14 years imprisonment (up from 7 years imprisonment) (Aug).</p> <p>Opposition Leader, the Hon. Daniel Andrews announced that, if elected, the Labor Party would put the issue of medical cannabis to the Victoria Law Reform Commission, with the aim of finding a path to legalisation of cannabis for medical purposes (Aug 24).</p> <p>The Coalition Government announced the introduction of a Bill to facilitate clinical trials of medical cannabis: Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Clinical Trials) Bill (Aug 28).</p> <p>Criminal Organisations Control and other Acts Amendment Act 2014 (No. 55 of 2014) adopted. This introduced automatic forfeiture of all property owned or controlled by a person convicted of a serious drug offence (e.g. trafficking in a large commercial quantity) and removed the need for courts to prove an offender's property came from the proceeds of crime or was used to commit a crime. Exceptions that will not be forfeited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tools of trade required in earning income; property used primarily as a means of transport; items of necessary clothing (Aug). <p>Reforms commenced to Victorian adult non-residential alcohol and drug treatment services. Key changes included:</p> | <p>consultation (until 30 March 2015). The plan was informed by evidence based national modelling tools (the National Mental Health Service Planning Framework and the National Drug and Alcohol Service Planning Model) to outline the optimal mix of services required to meet population demands. Key goals included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and commence a pilot community coordination program to assist people to navigate the mental health, alcohol and other drug service system; Increase the proportion of the Mental Health Commission budget spent on mental illness prevention and mental health promotion from 2% to 3%, and increase the hours of service dedicated to alcohol and other drug prevention from 108,000 to 192,000 hours; & Have established a comprehensive suite of universal and targeted mass reach campaigns that promote mental health, prevent mental illness and reduce harmful alcohol and other drug use (Dec). |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 24 hour central intake service and referral system; • 16 catchments (9 metropolitan and 7 regional) with localized intake and assessment; • Reduction in treatment types to six different streams (Sep 1). <p>Victorian Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Parliamentary Committee released report on: "Inquiry into the Supply and Use of Methamphetamine in Victoria." Key conclusions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media accounts of "an ice crisis, epidemic or pandemic" were not borne out in the data; • The prevalence of methamphetamine use had remained stable, but there was a significant rise in the use of potent crystal methamphetamine forms, particularly by youth aged 20-29; <p>Issued 52 recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a methamphetamine action plan; • a Ministerial Council on Methamphetamine; • that any government funded awareness or education campaigns be targeted at current or potential high-risk users; • development of non-tertiary treatment options to respond to users who are not dependent but are experiencing significant amphetamine-related harm; & • expanding the Victorian drug court to Melbourne, Geelong, Sunshine and Gippsland (Sep). <p>Victorian Government launched a range of methamphetamine responses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a multi-media campaign targeting youth "What are you doing on ice?" • 11 new Passive Alert Detection (PAD) dogs to help detect clandestine laboratories and dealers in regional and metro Vic • \$2.7 million over four years for community skills building forums for families affected by ice • \$1.85 million in funding for harm reduction initiatives (Sep). <p>New Pennington Institute report released, "Impacts of methamphetamine in Victoria: a community assessment". The report was commissioned by the Victorian Department</p> | |

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| | | | <p>of Health to analyse trends, undertake key information interviews and collaborate with the University of South Australia to undertake the state's first waste water analysis of the levels of methamphetamine. The wastewater analysis showed methamphetamine levels were substantially higher in Melbourne than in regional Victoria: something which was counter to some key informant perceptions. Report concluded that the perceived methamphetamine problem may be slightly inflated in regional Victoria, but that the methamphetamine issue was genuinely alarming many people and that response systems, on the whole, were not yet able to cope with the scale of the problem (Sep).</p> <p>Victorian government announced it would roll out waste-water drug-testing statewide (Sep).</p> <p>Syringe vending machines commenced (Oct).</p> <p>Research led by the Burnet Institute showed that crystal methamphetamine in Victoria was becoming increasingly bi-modal: with purity either very high (>70%) or very low (<20%). It also showed decreases in methamphetamine purity-adjusted price. It was conjectured that such changes, and not a perceived increase in the number of users, were contributing to the observed rise in methamphetamine-related harms (Oct).</p> <p>Victorian Labor Government elected under Premier Daniel Andrews (Nov).</p> <p>Premier Daniel Andrews launched an 'ice taskforce' with 100 days to develop an action plan to respond to methamphetamine in Victoria and intent to introduce four new offences to tackle methamphetamine production and traffick (Dec).</p> <p>Premier Daniel Andrews announced that the Victorian Law Reform Commission had been asked to submit a report in August 2015 to determine not if, but when and how the laws should change to allow terminally and chronically ill people access to medicinal marijuana (Dec).</p> | |
| 2013 | <p>AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA) closed following withdrawal of funding from the SA Government. This also led to closure of the SA injecting drug users group – SAVIVE (the South Australian Voice for IV Education) as it was run through ACSA (Jul).</p> | <p>Advocacy Tasmania Inc (ATI) released their Consumer Engagement Program Service Development Plan 2013. The priority areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer capacity building – including developing and managing a consumer | <p>New Victorian drug strategy released: <i>"Reducing the alcohol and drug toll. Victoria's plan 2013 – 2017."</i> The strategy contained a 15 point plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better referral of drug users to education and treatment, through | <p>WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2012–2016 released (Jan).</p> <p>Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 came into force to introduce a comprehensive definition of drug paraphernalia and new offences concerning</p> |

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| | <p>South Australian Injectors Network (SAIN) commenced as a new independent unfunded group; commenced with a facebook page but no offices (Jul).</p> <p>OCSAR report shows a 75% increase in recorded drug offences in SA between 2007 and 2011: predominantly supply/production. Contrary to declining trend in offences in rest of state (Sep).</p> <p>Following a two-year investigation into outlaw motorcycle gangs, the South Australian Police has confiscated more than \$150 worth of drugs connected with the Descendants motorcycle gang. Included: 21 kg methamphetamine and 21,000 ecstasy tablets and \$120,000 cash (Nov).</p> <p>Liberal opposition substance abuse spokesman Duncan McFetridge announced that if elected they would reduce the amount of cannabis for which a person received only a fine - and is not charged - from 100g to less than 25g (Nov).</p> <p>The <i>Controlled Substances (Offences) Amendment Act 2013</i> adopted. Made it an offence for a person to manufacture, promote, sell or supply "controlled drug alternatives": substances intended to have pharmacological effects similar to a controlled drug or to be a legal alternative to a controlled drug. Maximum penalties included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15,000 and/or 4 years imprisonment for manufacturing; • \$10 000 or imprisonment for 2 years for promoting <p>Law commenced Feb 2014 (Dec).</p> | <p>register detailing consumer contacts and topics of interest ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service provider consultancy – such as developing tools to formally measure effectiveness of the consumer engagement program; • Sharing the vision across the sector – such as by providing regular updates of consumer engagement activity across the sector on the ATDC e-news; • Support systems-level consumer engagement – including supporting the development of a Tasmanian consumer organisation (Jan). <p>Minister for Health released the first specific prevention strategy: <i>"Everybody's Business: A Strategic Framework for Implementing Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Approaches in Averting Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Use."</i> Key rationales included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The neglect of prevention, and of the raft of prevention strategies that could be employed; and • The potential cost-effectiveness of prevention (Mar). <p>New Tasmanian drug strategy released: <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2013-2018</i>. Key priorities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support preventative and developmental health approaches to alcohol, tobacco & other drugs use; • Increase the range and availability of, and access to, appropriate services for individuals experiencing problematic drugs use including for individuals with diverse, complex and high needs; • Strengthen evidence-based awareness-raising, education initiatives and early interventions in a range of targeted settings, population groups and developmental transition points (Apr). <p>Department of Health and Human Services released a consultation paper entitled <i>A Continuum of Care to Prevent Youth Offending and Re-Offending</i> (Apr).</p> <p>Report on the Inquiry into alternatives to youth detention released by Commissioner for Children Tasmania. Key recommendations for government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the adoption of a Justice Reinvestment Framework for the youth justice system in Tasmania; & • Establish a youth drug and alcohol | <p>expanding existing court-diversion initiatives and building a more systemic approach to diversion provision: by drug, age and population groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved harm-reduction services and targeted prevention, through increasing the use and availability of naloxone as an emergency response to opioid overdose <p>Plan also outlined new advisory and decision making arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ministerial committee • An executive group (comprising key Victorian Government executives from Departments of Health, Justice, Human Services, Education and Victoria Police) • An alcohol and drug advisory board • (comprising ≤ 12 non-government leaders, experts and stakeholders) <p>Also outlined was a plan to establish an alcohol and drug research and innovation fund with a focus on applied research (Jan).</p> <p>Minister Wooldridge released a new Adult Alcohol and Drug (AOD) Screening and Assessment Tool designed to minimise duplication of screening and assessment, streamline intake, improve clients' experience, and inform treatment planning, referral and pathways. The tool had been successfully piloted at 8 AOD agencies and comprised three steps: (1) a self-complete initial screen by the client, (2) comprehensive assessment, (3) review. The tool will be mandated from 2014 for all Department of Health funded agencies (Feb).</p> <p>Victorian Police Minister Peter Ryan announced new road laws ('cocktail' laws) would be introduced for drivers under the influence of <i>both</i> alcohol and illicit drugs. The minimum penalty for a first offence will be higher than the penalty for either drug or drink driving alone: 20 penalty units (\$2800) and a 12 months license suspension (Mar).</p> <p>Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Andrew Crisp argues there has been too much emphasis upon drugs as a law and order issue and that the Victorian Government should treat drugs as a health issue (Jul).</p> <p>Victorian Government released a report: <i>New directions for alcohol and drug treatment services: A framework for reform</i>.</p> | <p>the sale and display for sale of drug paraphernalia. This extended the definition of ice pipes or cannabis-smoking paraphernalia to include "anything made or modified to be used in smoking cannabis" and any "device capable of being used for the administration of a prohibited drug by means of the inhaling of the smoke or fumes resulting from the heating or burning of the drug in a crystal, powder, oil or base form." It also introduced a separate penalty scheme for adults and youth, with more severe penalties where a person sells drug paraphernalia to a person under 18 years (30 Jan).</p> <p>Preston Bridge, aged 16, died after he fell from a hotel balcony having taken NBOME (Feb).</p> <p>WA Government announced the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) and the Mental Health Commission (MHC) would be joined (Apr).</p> <p>First take-home naloxone program established in WA by the Drug and Alcohol Office of WA Health and the WA Substance Users Association (Apr).</p> <p>Social Inclusion Action Research Group (SIARG) launched first position paper: "Reducing stigma and discrimination relating to alcohol and other drugs in Western Australia". The SIARG was formed through a partnership between the WA Drug and Alcohol Office and WANADA with the purpose of planning, implementing and evaluating initiatives aimed at promoting the social inclusion of, and reducing the stigma and discrimination experienced by people with AOD use problems or those affected by someone else's use (Jun).</p> <p>First convictions obtained in WA in connection with Silk Road: two brothers who bought cocaine, ecstasy and cannabis from Silk Road were convicted of possessing drugs (6.8g of cannabis, 0.7g of cocaine and seven ecstasy pills) with intent to sell and supply (Sep).</p> |

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| | | <p>residential rehabilitation service;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the equivalent of Court Mandated Diversion (CMD) options, focused on and applicable to young offenders with illicit drug and/or alcohol problems (Jul). <p>The Tasmanian Parliamentary Inquiry into the hemp industry report and recommendations were released (Oct).</p> | <p>This outlined why the Victorian AOD treatment system is reforming, the vision for the new system and process for reform (Aug).</p> <p>Victorian Coalition Government launches two year naloxone provision and training program: called the Community Overdose Prevention and Education (COPE) program. The program is run by ANEX with key goals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide at-risk drug users, family, friends & frontline service personnel (e.g. primary care providers, NSPs and Medicare Local staff) with knowledge and ability to respond to and administer naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose; & increase GP knowledge of naloxone to support increased prescribing of naloxone to people at high risk of an opioid overdose (Aug). <p>Victorian Parliament commenced a new inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines, particularly ice, in Victoria. Terms of reference included to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> examine the channels of supply of methamphetamine examine the nature, prevalence and culture of methamphetamine use examine the links between methamphetamine use and crime review the adequacy of past and existing state and federal strategies for dealing with methamphetamine use (Sep). <p>A multi-agency taskforce involving joint waterfront taskforces in Brisbane (Jericho), Sydney (Polaris) and Melbourne (Trident) and other agencies led to the seizure of more than 200kg of methamphetamine that was concealed in the tyres of a medium sized truck, delivered to Melbourne. Three people were also arrested (Oct).</p> <p>Victorian Government released an Advertised Call for Submission (ACS) for stage 1 delivery of Victorian Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services. Stage 1 focused on delivery of adult non-residential treatment services (Oct).</p> <p>Ambulance Victoria reports that ambulance calls related to 'ice' or methamphetamine have risen 110% - from 282 to 592 - between 2010-11 and 2011-12 and that the</p> | |

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| | | | <p>unpredictable and violent behavior of ice users is causing concerns for ambulance workers (Oct).</p> <p>Victorian Coroners Court data shows that between 2000 and 2010, a total of 120 prisoners overdosed and died within two months of being released from jail, or on a post-release corrections-based order (Oct).</p> <p>Magistrate Tony Parsons of Victoria's drug court calls for the establishment of special drug rehabilitation prisons as per NSW to reduce the rate of overdoses after prisoners are released (Oct).</p> <p>Victorian health officials issued an urgent warning on the use of synthetic drugs after three men were admitted to intensive care with severe health problems (e.g. seizures) after use of a synthetic drug purchased from a sex shop: "Marley" (Nov).</p> <p>Victoria Police data revealed a 8.8% increase in drug offences during 2013: attributed to increased police productivity and increased use/possess of methamphetamine (Nov).</p> <p>Needle syringe program operators report rise in illegal steroid users obtaining free injecting equipment: with steroids now third biggest drug of choice, behind heroin and meth/amphetamines amongst those collecting equipment (Nov).</p> <p>Synthetic cannabinoid "Marley" was added to Schedule 11 of the poisons list: with penalties of up to 15 years prison for trafficking (Dec).</p> | |
| 2012 | <p>SA Police commenced raids in Murray Bridge for MDPV and arrested four people (Jan 24).</p> <p>SA Police investigation targeted at MDPV led to seizures of manufacturing equipment and drugs: two encapsulating machines, 10,000 empty capsules, 1250 grams of MDPV, 320g of DMMC, and 300g of Ephedrine (Feb 2).</p> <p>New report released by the Office of Crime and Statistics Research: "The South Australian drug court: A recidivism study". The incidence, frequency and severity of re-apprehension was analysed for all drug court participants over a five year period (Jan 2004-Dec 2008), and compared amongst three groups: completers, terminates and a sample of prisoners generated by the Department of Correctional Services. Completers performed</p> | <p>Tasmania adopted into law the new Poisons Standard (SUSMP) under the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i>, including the prohibition of MDPV: Poisons (Adoption of Uniform Standard) Order 2012 (Jun).</p> <p>The Alcohol and Drug Service implemented iPatient Manager (iPM), to improve the management of information for clinicians (Jul).</p> <p>Minister for Health, Michelle O'Byrne released "A Review of Opioid Prescribing in Tasmania -A Blueprint for the Future" (Jul).</p> <p>Minister for Health, Michelle O'Byrne released the "Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program, Policy and Clinical Practice Standards" (Aug).</p> <p>Discussion paper released: Review of the Tasmanian Alcohol and Drug Dependency</p> | <p>Bans on cannabis bongos entered into force (Jan 1).</p> <p>Community Correction Order (CCO) introduced, replacing the Community Based Orders, Intensive Correction Orders and Combined Custody and Treatment Orders. The CCO is a flexible order served in the community. All those sentenced to a CCO must abide by basic conditions such as not reoffending and at least one other optional condition e.g. undertaking AOD treatment, remain free of drugs and alcohol, be supervised, abide by curfews, undertake unpaid community work (Jan 16).</p> <p>Minister for Youth Affairs, Ryan Smith, launched the Victorian Government's Youth Statement, <i>Engage, Involve, Create</i>. This sought to increase opportunities to engage</p> | <p>WA Police issued a warning about a new drug: MDPV (3,4 methylenedioxypropylvalerone). They noted that "the substance has been linked to an increase in drug induced casualties in hospitals in the eastern states, including reported fatal overdoses in South Australia and Victoria" (Jan 12).</p> <p>New 'synthetic drug' MDPV (3,4 methylenedioxypropylvalerone) was added to Schedule 9 (Prohibited Substances) of the Poisons Act 1964 (WA), making it illegal from Feb 10. MDPV is structurally related to cathinone or MDMA and has effects including anxiety, paranoia, acute cardiovascular and central nervous system toxicity (Feb 8).</p> <p>WA Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project (NVEEP) coordinated by the Drug</p> |

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| | <p>better than the other samples in terms of reduced incidence of and longer time to re-apprehension, but there were no significant differences in terms of the overall frequency of apprehension (May).</p> <p>New report from OCSAR: "Ten years of the South Australian Police Drug Diversion Initiative - Data Analysis Report." Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The no. of diversions has increased steadily over the ten year period The compliance rate across 10 yrs was 81%, with only a slight drop from program start (84% to 80%) 24% of offenders had been diverted more than once. Individuals who comply with their diversion are significantly less likely to re-offend - 2 yrs after their first diversion offence 25% of non-compliers had re-offended vs. only 18% of compliers (May). <p>Two new reports released from OCSAR on the "Evaluation of the 6-month drug treatment program". Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program completion rate was 40.1% (and rate of successful completion was 29.5%). The proportion of positive drug tests decreased significantly throughout the program: from 70.1% at baseline to 9.8% after 5 months and 0.0% at 6 months. 54.9% participants recorded no subsequent apprehension in the 6 months after leaving, but program completers were less significantly less likely to reoffend - 26.3% reoffended compared to 58.5% of non-completers (Aug/Oct). <p>Summary Offences (Drug Paraphernalia) Amendment Bill enacted. Led to banning of the sale of drug paraphernalia such as a cannabis pipe and bong. The maximum penalty is \$10,000 or 2 years imprisonment (Oct).</p> <p>South Australia Police and the Holden Hill Magistrates Court commenced a 6 month trial of an Offence Streaming Model, which will reduce the time between the alleged offence and appearance in court for simple matters. The policy was developed in recognition of long delays and inefficiencies in court system and additional stress this</p> | <p>Act (ADDA) 1968. This sought to critically evaluate the ongoing suitability of the ADDA and to identify a potential way forward, including retaining but amending ADDA or repeal and move parts of ADDA to existing legislation (Sep).</p> <p>The Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Strategic Framework adopted.</p> <p>Budget Priority Statements 2013-2013 by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Council Tas Inc (ATDC) noted that while the incoming year marked the end of the Future Service Directions (FSD) funding, continuation of FSD funding was critical to (1) maintain the significant improvements in the sector; (2) to enable the remaining planned steps to be implemented; and (3) to avoid a significant reduction in service provision. It argued that if FSD funds were cut this would lead to a loss of in excess of 20 individuals working in the sector and lead to the closure of at least two ATDC member organisations that provide vital counselling and case management in the sector (Nov).</p> <p>Minister for Children, the Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MP, initiated inquiry into alternatives to youth detention, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the key characteristics and pathways that contribute to youth offending - which result in youth detention in Tasmania; the role of detention within the continuum of youth justice; & diversionary strategies, alternatives to incarceration and pre-/post-release support services current in Tasmania (Nov). <p>A performance review was released into the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services, Future Service Directions (FSD) 2008/09 - 2012/13.</p> <p>Key achievements of the FSD were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> significant investment and growth in the public pharmacotherapy program; significant investment into the three community based residential rehabilitation services in this State; implementation of a new client information management system and improved reporting. <p>But, it also noted FSD performance was affected by recruitment issues, internal administrative processes and budgetary</p> | <p>young people in education and/or employment and to build mentorship, links and partnerships between business and philanthropy with young Victorians (Apr).</p> <p>Victorian Police Assistant Commissioner Stephen Fontana highlighted the frustrations of policing illicit drug use at music festivals and raves. Following the arrest of 200 individuals for use/ possession at Creamfields he noted "we are just progressively getting more and more and we are still not scratching the surface." A total of 190 officers and 7 drug detection dogs were used for the operation (Apr).</p> <p>Operation Permute, a 7 month investigation, led to 29 warrants being simultaneously executed across the North West Metropolitan Region and seizure of 5,200 suspected cannabis plants: one of the most significant hauls of cannabis in Victoria Police history. 11 people were arrested (Apr 18).</p> <p>The Federal Government announced that a Task Force would be established to examine organised crime on the Melbourne waterfront. Operation Trident will begin on 1 July 2012, with key members being Victoria Police, Australian Customs and Border Protection, Australia Federal Police & Austrac (May).</p> <p>Victorian Drug Statistics Handbook: Patterns of drug use and related harm in Victoria for the period July 2009 to June 2010 released. Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2009-10, opioid-related hospitalisations opioid-related bed days and hospitalisations for heroin overdose all increased (by 15%, 20% and 24% respectively). Stimulant-related harms were largely stable e.g. ambulance attendances decreased by 5%. The number of cannabis-related ambulance attendances increased significantly from 2008 to 2010 (from 675 to 920) (May). <p>New report released: "Trends in alcohol and drug-related ambulance attendances in Melbourne: 2010-2011." Showed a 107% increase in crystal methamphetamine-related ambulance call-outs: 282 incidents in 2010-11 compared with 136 in 2009-10 (May).</p> | <p>and Alcohol Office launched a new campaign: "Stimulants can mask how drunk you really are" (Feb).</p> <p>Brochures on the WA AOD treatment services were translated into 13 different languages: Arabic, Dari, English, French, Indonesian, Italian, Karen, Kirundi, Somali, Vietnamese, Chinese, Swahili, and Dinka. The brochures were developed by the Drug and Alcohol Office to address known barriers to AOD treatment amongst people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds (Mar).</p> <p>The <i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2011</i> came into effect, changing the way in which courts sentence a person convicted of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Selling or supplying prohibited drugs and/or plants to a child, Manufacturing or cultivating prohibited drugs or plants in circumstances which endanger the life, health or safety of a child under the age of 16 years, or Manufacturing or cultivating prohibited drugs or plants, or possessing Category 1 or 2 items (precursors), in circumstances which caused bodily harm to a child under the age of 16 years. <p>These changes in sentencing for a) and b) include the defined penalties of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> suspended imprisonment; conditional suspended imprisonment; or a term of imprisonment. <p>The changes in sentencing for c) [and for subsequent offences under a) and b)] include a mandatory term of imprisonment of 12 months and 6 months respectively (Mar 24).</p> <p>First transitional house in the Kimberley opened to assist people receiving AOD treatment who are at risk of homelessness: Milliya Rumurra. Located in Broome, the house will provide shelter, ongoing case management, assistance with identifying long term permanent housing, and skills development e.g. financial management & training (May).</p> <p>The 2012/13 WA State Budget was announced. Included largest investment in mental health and drug and alcohol services in WA's history: \$655.2 million. Key measures included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 million over two years to trial a new mental health court diversion and |

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| | <p>places on defendants. Trial was extended to the Adelaide Magistrates Court in March 2013 (Oct 2012).</p> <p>South Australia Police-Strategic Directions 2012-2015 adopted (Nov).</p> <p>The South Australian Naloxone Distribution pilot program commenced: an 18 month pilot (Nov).</p> | <p>pressures. Of note, the uncertainty around ongoing funding has resulted in the delay of service development activities, including all development planned in the fourth year. The major area that has been affected is outreach.</p> <p>Consequently the review noted there remains some considerable work to be undertaken to fully implement the plan but the significant capacity improvements in the sector will be lost unless ongoing funding is secured (Dec).</p> | <p>New report released: "Victorian Pharmacotherapy Review" (Jun).</p> <p>Minister for Mental Health Mary Wooldridge released a 'roadmap' for reform: "New directions for alcohol and drug treatment services." Principles underlining the new reforms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-centred, family and culturally inclusive, recovery-oriented treatment – that involves clients in treatment planning and identifies goals, strengths and weaknesses and tailors services to fit needs; • Integrated pathways – that connect individuals with services to address health, social or economic needs; • Intervention at the earliest possible point; • (Multiple) bridges to treatment – from the multiple NSPs and primary health centres funded throughout Victoria and improved screening of forensic AOD clients. <p>Key actions in 2012 include piloting common screening and assessment tools across 5 treatment sites; the redevelopment of the pharmacotherapy system; and expansion of access to NSPs and counselling services in growth corridors and regional areas (Jun).</p> <p>2012-13 State Budget allocated funding for a new 500-bed medium-security male prison, to be located at Ravenhall in Melbourne's north-west, and an additional 395 permanent beds at existing prisons across Victoria (Jun).</p> <p>Victoria police charged two prison officers in connection with an alleged drug ring at the Barwon prison (Jul).</p> <p>The Victorian Opposition called for an inquiry into drug trafficking in the state's prison system (Jul).</p> <p>The Department of Health commenced consultations across Victoria about the AOD treatment reform. Organisations including the Victorian Alcohol and Other Drug Association (VAADA) and the Association of Participating Service Users (APSU) were used to support and co-facilitate input (Jul-Aug).</p> <p>The <i>Youth Cohort Study</i>: Young people's pathways through AOD treatment services. Study recruited 150 young people using AOD treatment services (aged 16-21 years)</p> | <p>support program servicing Perth metropolitan magistrates' courts, which aims to limit re-offending and improve mental health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.77 million over four years for drug and alcohol services to support the long term recovery outcomes for people exiting alcohol and other drug residential treatment programs and their families. • \$1.04 million in 2013/14 to continue funding the Australian Medical Procedures Research Foundation's Fresh Start Recovery Program, while work is progressed to achieve registration of the naltrexone implant with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (May). <p>The Department continued to expand its prison capacity to meet the growing demand in 2011-12. Recently completed and current construction forms part of the largest building program to be undertaken in WA corrections history, including a prison specifically designed for Indigenous prisoners.</p> <p><i>The Illicit Drug Support Plan 2012 – 2015</i>, a supporting document to the <i>Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for Western Australia 2011-2015</i>, was released. This outlines the priority areas and strategies for the coming years. The priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannabis and synthetic cannabinoids. • Amphetamines and ATS (inc ecstasy). • Heroin and other opioids. <p>Other focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poly drug use. • Other prescription drugs. • Emerging drugs. • Transmission of blood-borne viruses (Sep). <p>Two brothers were charged with possession with intent to sell after being caught with multiple packages of cannabis and ecstasy purchased through the online marketplace Silk Road (Sep).</p> <p>The West Kimberley Regional Prison was opened by Corrective Services Minister Murray Cowper. Informed and overseen by Indigenous people this was specifically designed to be culturally sensitive to Indigenous offenders, using for example self-care units to enable grouping on the</p> |

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| | | | <p>was completed (Aug).</p> <p>Roundtable on fentanyl convened by ANEX in Wodonga after a surge in overdoses amongst drug users injecting the opiate (Aug).</p> <p>Victorian Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Principles Consultation paper released (Sep).</p> <p>The Australian Medical Association and the Australian Greens call for a safe injecting facility in Melbourne (Oct).</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 11 of the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i> added eight synthetic cannabinoids and five synthetic stimulants (including MDPV, 4-MMC/mephedrone and BZP) permanently to the list of prohibited substances. The 8 synthetic cannabinoids were previously subject to a temporary 12 month ban (Nov 8).</p> <p>Victorian Government discussion paper released: 'Practical Lessons, Fair Consequences: Improving Diversion for Young People in Victoria' (Aug).</p> <p>Victoria Police undertook a two month operation (Operation TAXA) focused on short term disruption of commercial scale cannabis cultivation. Led to the execution of 48 search warrants, 20 arrests and the seizure of almost 7,000 cannabis plants as well as associated equipment. The operation received significant media attention in Victoria (Aug-Oct).</p> <p>Report from the Victorian Auditor General released: "<i>Prison Capacity Planning</i>". Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 38% increase in prisoner numbers over the past decade (2002-2012) and a heavy reliance on temporary beds has resulted in the existing prison infrastructure nearing its capacity limits. • Male prisoners are more affected: since May 2011, the male prison system has been operating close to or above 95% utilisation. • Overcrowding is leading to adverse effects on other parts of the CJS e.g. increasing prisoners are held in police cells. • Prisoner support programs and health services have not kept pace with the growth in prisoner numbers (due | <p>basis of family ties or language (Nov).</p> <p>Mental Health Bill 2012 was tabled in Parliament (Nov).</p> <p>2011 Australian School Students Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) survey released: showed a decline in illicit drug use among WA school students (Dec).</p> |

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| | | | <p>largely to a lack of funds).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of serious incidents per prisoner e.g. assaults and self-mutilation have doubled. <p>It concluded that the demand pressure on the prison system was unsustainable and that if forecast trends continued substantial investment in prison infrastructure would be required (Nov).</p> <p>Minister Wooldridge released two new workforce strategies: "<i>Victoria's alcohol and drug workforce framework: Strategic Directions 2012-22</i>" and "<i>Victoria's alcohol and drug workforce framework: Implementation plan 2012-15</i>" (Dec).</p> | |
| 2011 | <p>Announcement that from 1 July SA pharmacies would switch from voluntary to mandatory real-time online reporting of pseudoephedrine sales. Switch followed concern over pharmaceutical shopping & recognition only 60% pharmacies reported sales (Mar).</p> <p>New wastewater study released: "Population drug use in Australia: A wastewater analysis" A study of 15 sewage treatment plants showed temporal and regional differences in illicit drug use in South Australia: MDMA was much more commonly detected in regional centres such as Port Lincoln & Port Augusta, than the city (Apr).</p> <p>SA announced a ban on the possession, sale or intent to supply of seventeen synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. Ban was introduced by Government Gazette (Controlled Substances (Prohibition of Synthetic Cannabis) Notice 2011), pending evaluation of their harmful properties by the Controlled Substances Advisory Council and consideration of whether the substances be added to the Controlled Substances Act (Jun 17).</p> <p>The Controlled Substances Advisory Council evaluated the harmful properties of synthetic cannabinoids. The council ruled that the harmful effects were similar to those of cannabis and hence supported their inclusion in the Controlled Substances (General) Regulations 2000 (using the same threshold quantities as for cannabis). This came into effect 23 Jun (Jun 21).</p> <p>The Controlled Substances Advisory Council also made three other rulings:</p> | <p>New discussion paper released: "Everybody's business – A discussion paper for the development of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATODs) Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Strategic Framework" with 6 weeks for public input. Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance use must be understood within the context of many factors – cultural, socioeconomic and political – that can be influenced by government decisions. Government policy responses in relation to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs have traditionally focused upon individual factors. This needs to be broadened. Socially inclusive communities and resilient individuals and families are less likely to engage in harmful substance use. <p>Potential strategies identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a model/s for cross-sector collaboration to support social inclusion. Support and advance the actions identified in the National Health Preventative Strategy. Develop a mechanism to ensure that all government policy with an impact upon substance use and misuse – e.g. social inclusion, housing, – is informed by an understanding of their potential influence on the substance use (i.e. some form of alcohol, tobacco and other drug impact assessment) (May). <p>Launch of statewide Drug Education Network's resource centre and website. Website sought to fill need for internet and 24 hour information provision (Jun).</p> | <p><i>Severe Substance Dependence Treatment Act</i> came into effect, thereby enabling involuntary drug treatment and detention for up to 14 days, where this is necessary as a matter of urgency to save the person's life or prevent serious damage to the person's health (Mar).</p> <p>New report released by the Victorian Auditor-General: "<i>Managing Drug and Alcohol Prevention and Treatment Services</i>". Report noted that the state allocated \$135.7 million for AOD prevention and treatment activities in 2010–11 (81% for treatment & 19% for prevention activities). Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The department has no assurance that objectives are being achieved. Treatment services remain difficult for clients to access and navigate. 31 internal reviews have been conducted since 1999. But few have been acted on. The poor track record has resulted in scepticism among service providers. <p>Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a whole-of-government AOD prevention strategy Address the fragmentation and inconsistency of service provision. Revise the treatment service mix so that services funded align with need (Mar). <p>Sentencing Further Amendment Act 2011 adopted. This extended the abolition of suspended sentences to a range of 'significant offences' including trafficking in a large commercial quantity of a drug of dependence and trafficking in a commercial quantity of a drug of dependence (Apr).</p> <p>GHB overdose victim videoed by Herald Sun</p> | <p>Mental Health Minister Helen Morton announced that an additional \$1.5 million would be provided to support the work of Dr George O'Neil's Fresh Start Recovery Programme until June 30 2012. They also announced that independent researchers have been contracted by the State Government through DAO to assess steps necessary to progress the application for registration of naltrexone implant treatment with the TGA (Mar).</p> <p>Explosion of a clandestine drug laboratory at a public housing unit, that injured five adults sparked public concern (Mar).</p> <p>Police Minister Rob Johnson announced the government would crack down on drug manufacturers who expose children at risk (Mar).</p> <p>WA Police Serious Organised Crime Strategy 2011-2014 adopted (Apr).</p> <p>WA Police announced they had cracked a major drug syndicate that had been using the interstate road freight transport industry to traffic cannabis from South Australian into Western Australia. The operation conducted with SA Police, Kalgoorlie police and Australian Customs and Border Protection led to the seizure of 29 kg of cannabis, \$25,000 and arrest of three truckies and a Gypsy Jokers bikie gang associate (Apr).</p> <p>Increased media attention to synthetic cannabinoids, such as Kronic, following revelations in <i>The Western Australian</i> of widespread use, especially at mining sites: "One in ten miners uses legal high". Key evidence put forward was the finding by the WA government drug testing centre,</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ban the 'synthetic MDMA-like substances' 3,4 methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) and methcathinone; To make prescribed thresholds quantities for all new MDMA-like substances consistent with the existing MDMA prescribed amounts e.g. trafficable quantity = 2g MDPV; To ban MMDMG - a new precursor for manufacturing MDMA. <p>These came into effect 23 Jun (Jun 21).</p> <p>The South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2011-2016 was adopted. Five key objectives were put forward, namely to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce illicit drug use and its associated harms; 2. Reduce the rate of alcohol-related harm; 3. Reduce drug-related harm to young people and families of those with substance misuse issues; 4. Reduce harm from substance misuse among Aboriginal people; 5. Improve the timeliness of monitoring systems so trends in alcohol and other drug misuse are detected as early as possible <p>One priority action of the strategy was to trial the provision of naloxone to opioid users to assess whether peer administration can assist in reducing fatal overdoses (Dec).</p> <p>First fatal overdose reported from 3,4 methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV). The deceased was a man, aged 40, from Murray Bridge (Dec).</p> | <p>The Minister for Health approved an extension to the <i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy (TDS) 2005-2009</i> to the end of 2012 (15 Jun).</p> <p>The Minister for Health approved an extension to the <i>Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009</i> to the end of 2013.</p> <p>The Controlled Drugs, Controlled Precursors and Interpretation under the Schedule of the <i>Misuse of Drugs Act 2001</i> was reviewed in the goal of ensuring Tasmania Police had the capacity to appropriately deal with emerging drug issues. This led to amendments, under the <i>Misuse of Drugs Order 2011</i> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning the Interpretation of the Schedule of the <i>Misuse of Drugs Act 2001</i> to that contained in the <i>Poisons Act 1971</i>, in an effort to appropriately capture the broad range of derivative drugs now entering the illicit drug market. Increasing the number of Controlled Drugs banned under the Act, including synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic and Spice, and the Methcathinone derivative drug known as Israelis. Increasing the number of Controlled Precursors under the Act, from 13 controlled precursors to 53 controlled precursors (Aug). <p>A six-month operation undertaken by Tasmania Police uncovered a motorcycle gang-related methylamphetamine trafficking operation worth \$450,000. To date 12 offenders had been charged, with further charges expected (Aug).</p> <p>Funding was reduced to primary NSPs through the cessation of provision of free sterile water (for reasons of cost-saving).</p> <p>JointForces a quarterly e-bulletin started. This sought to promote cross-sector linkages and collaboration between the Tasmanian Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug (ATOD) and Mental Health (MH) sector (Nov).</p> | <p>at 11am on a Sunday morning, drawing new attention to GHB use in Melbourne. Paramedics confirmed that Melbourne was the GHB capital, with rates of use increasing in Melbourne but declining elsewhere and that 'drug' overdoses are at their highest levels since the heroin epidemic of 1999-2000 (Apr).</p> <p>A Sunday Herald Sun investigation exposed that the Richmond housing estate had become a public 'shooting gallery,' and site of rampant drug dealing: 'Shame of our Needle Town' (Apr).</p> <p>After a decade long legal battle Tony Mokbel pleaded guilty to three drug charges: trafficking a large commercial quantity MDMA between February and August 2005; urging an undercover police officer to import a commercial quantity of MDMA in the same year; and trafficking a large commercial quantity of methylamphetamines in the mid 1990s. A plea deal reached between the Director of Public Prosecutions and Mokbel's defence team resulted in him avoiding trial on other drug charges arising from four separate police operations dating back to 2000. Mokbel has admitted he was the main man behind the manufacture and distribution of the multimillion-dollar drug trafficking enterprise, consisting of at least 10 people, known as "The Company". A spreadsheet of drug transactions between July 2006 and June 2007, known as "The Bill", shows that The Company's gross turnover during that time was more than \$4 million. He was sentenced in July 2012 to 30 years in prison, with a non-parole period of 22 years (Apr 2011 and Jul 2012).</p> <p>Long-standing suppression orders that prevented media coverage of Mokbel case for 24 months and the unedited screening of tv show "Underbelly" within Victoria removed. Victorian Attorney-General Robert Clark ordered a review of suppression orders due to concerns that secrecy may be undermining the principle of open justice (Apr).</p> <p>Yarra City Council voted 6-1 in favour of a trial of a medically supervised injecting facility in Richmond's Victoria street, and outlined intent to lobby for State Government support for a trial (May 17).</p> <p>Victorian Premier Ted Ballieu said he would</p> | <p>ChemCentre, that of 80 recent tests of WA mineworkers an average of 10% across all mine sites and up to 30% across some sites tested positive to Kronic. Assertions were made this was in large part because the drugs were seen as safe and were not commonly detectable (May).</p> <p>Attorney General announced the provision of \$3.9 million through the Criminal Confiscation Assets Program to local governments and non-profit community groups to re-direct confiscated assets to 28 programs directed at drug use, drug related crime and crime victims (May).</p> <p>Drug and Alcohol Interagency Strategic Framework for WA 2011-15 adopted. Five strategic areas were specified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> focusing on prevention; intervening before problems become entrenched; effective law enforcement approaches; effective treatment and support services; and strategic coordination and capacity building (May). <p>Young man admitted to Royal Perth Hospital post Kronic ingestion with paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia, an extremely fast heartbeat (Jun).</p> <p>WA Government became first state to announce ban on the possession, sale or intent to supply of seven synthetic cannabinoids including Kronic, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. People were given four days to dispose of any supplies, before the substances were added to the Poisons Act 1964 on Friday, June 17. Ban followed a review of harms of synthetic cannabinoids by the Drug and Alcohol Office, WA Police, Department of Health and the ChemCentre (Jun 13).</p> <p>First charge for possession of a synthetic cannabinoid. Man was found in possession of 6 gms of Kronic (21 Jun).</p> <p>WA Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee completed their Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia. One of three reports released was titled: "<i>Changing patterns in illicit drug use in Western Australia</i>" (Jun).</p> <p>Police Minister Rob Johnson announced a</p> |

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| | | | <p>not support the proposal by Yarra Council for a medically supervised injecting room in Richmond, saying it would send the wrong message and that improved law enforcement and education were needed instead (May 18).</p> <p>New measures introduced in efforts to address drug trafficking and use at the Richmond housing estate: four new CCTV cameras were installed and a police command post established (May).</p> <p>Bill introduced – ‘Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Drugs of Dependence) Bill 2011’ – to increase government responsibility to new and emerging ‘legal’ substances such as synthetic cannabinoids. Under the proposal the Governor would have regulation-making power to ban substances that are deemed to pose a significant risk to the health of consumers or public safety, for a 12 month period, until the substances can be proscribed into legislation and Commonwealth regulations (28 Jun).</p> <p>Development of a whole of government Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy commenced. The objectives were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease the current rates of alcohol and other drug abuse in Victoria. • Reduce the amount of harm that alcohol and other drug abuse causes in the community. • Increase access to treatment options so that people with an alcohol or drug problem can get help when they need it. <p>To enable input into the development, a community consultation document was released: ‘Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy: Community Consultation’ which led to over 120 written submissions (Aug).</p> <p>Victorian Government established an independent advisory group to provide expert advice on AOD issues and to inform the development of the new Victorian Alcohol and Drug Strategy. Advisory group included representatives from: Victoria Police, Australian Hotels Association, Master Grocers Australia, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Victoria), Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council, Australian Drug Foundation, VAADA, and City of Greater Bendigo. Chair: Professor Richard Larkins</p> | <p>law and order crackdown: ‘we are declaring war on drugs’ (Jul).</p> <p>Labor’s Cannabis Control Act repealed, making it a criminal offence to use, possess or grow cannabis in WA. Under the new laws people apprehended with up to 10 grams of cannabis or a smoking implement may be issued a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) and diverted to a one hour cannabis intervention session. Successful completion will mean the offender will avoid receiving a criminal conviction. New laws came into effect August 1 (Aug).</p> <p><i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill</i> proposed by Police Minister Rob Johnson assented to. Key aspects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mandatory minimum term of 12 months jail for any adult found guilty of causing harm to a child during the production of illegal drugs; • A mandatory minimum term of 12 months jail for a second or subsequent offence that exposes a child to harm during the production of illegal drugs; • A comprehensive definition of drug paraphernalia and related offences (Nov). <p>Australian Lawyers Alliance national director Tom Percy QC labeled the proposed legislation ‘desperate’, ineffective and ‘an admission of failure’ of the states inability to control clandestine drug laboratories growth in WA (Aug).</p> <p>Western Australian Police launched a special strike force, Operation Kukri 2, to rescue children living among volatile clandestine drug labs (Aug).</p> <p><i>Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill</i> adopted – with the support of both sides of parliament (Nov).</p> <p>WA ten year strategic policy for mental health released: “Mental Health 2020: Making it personal and everybody’s business” (Nov).</p> <p>WA Police Air Wing conducted a one week operation involving reconnaissance flights to locate cannabis crops from the air. It led to the removal of 1287 cannabis plants from the South West District (Dec).</p> |

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| | | | <p>(Aug).</p> <p>The Department of Health released the Victorian framework for recovery-oriented practice (for mental health specifically) (Aug).</p> <p>In response to the Momcilovic High Court ruling that upheld the right of the courts to deem sections of the Drugs Act to be incompatible with the Victorian Human Rights Charter the Victorian Attorney-General Robert Clark announced he was considering amending the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i> (Vic) (the Drugs Act) (Sep).</p> <p>Amendment to the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i> banned the sale, display and supply of bongs in Victoria from 1 Jan 2012. Minister for Mental Health Mary Wooldridge said this addressed a long-standing contradiction in Victorian law namely that it was illegal to smoke cannabis but legal to display & buy bongs (Oct).</p> | |
| 2010 | <p>SA Police Corporate Business plan 2010-2011 adopted. Included the strategy of focussing on possession and use of illicit drugs (Jun).</p> <p>Independent MLC Ann Bressington tabled a new bill. The Controlled Substances (Simple Cannabis Offences) Bill 2010 proposed to reduce the expiable amount under the current Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme from 100g to 25grams cannabis, in an effort to reduce the potential for dealers to avoid criminal prosecution (Sep).</p> | <p>Amendments to the <i>Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970</i> were introduced to increase the penalties for drug driving in Tasmania, in-line with penalties imposed for drink driving offences. Additionally, a person who commits any alcohol or drug driving related offence will be deemed to have committed a subsequent offence, if that person has previously been convicted for either offence (Jan).</p> <p>Southern District Drug Investigation Services (DIS) concluded a major investigation concerning the sale and distribution of amphetamines and cannabis. The investigation resulted in 14 people being charged with trafficking offences, and 13 people being charged with the sale of controlled drugs (Feb).</p> <p>Review of Opioid Prescribing practices in Tasmania commenced. The project seeks to reduce the harm caused through the misuse of pharmaceutical opioids in Tasmania (Aug).</p> <p>New report released: "<i>Tasmanian Drug Strategy (TDS) 2005-2009: Report of actions and achievement</i>," based on stakeholder consultations with government, local council and community sector organisations. Key findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TDS was deemed an important overarching strategic framework that | <p>Opposition leader Ted Baillieu said if elected he would 'ban the bong' to send a clear message to young people about the harmful effects of cannabis (Jan).</p> <p>Push by a doctor from the Royal Melbourne Hospital's neurology department to trial Sativex -a liquid marijuana-based mouth spray- to ease the symptoms and pain of MS sufferers. Push followed evidence that Sativex could alleviate loss of movement control & pain & imminent regulatory approval in the UK & Spain (Jan).</p> <p>Evidence from the 2008 Drug Use Monitoring in Australian survey of police detainees reported 48% detainees in Footscray tested positive to heroin (compared to a national rate of 11%) (Feb).</p> <p>Supreme Court of Appeal: <i>R v MOMCILOVIC</i> [2010] VSCA 50 found that s 5 of the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i> ('the Drugs Act'), was inconsistent with Victoria's <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i>. The court declared that section 5 of the Drugs Act, which declares that an occupier of premises in which drugs are found is deemed to be in possession of those drugs unless he/she 'satisfies the court to the contrary', cannot be interpreted consistently with "the presumption of innocence under s 25(1) of the Charter". In so doing, the Court rejected</p> | <p>Reports by the 2008-09 Illicit Drug Data Report that ecstasy pills in Western Australia had become the cheapest in the country – at as little as \$17 per pill and that there had been 78 clan lab seizures in WA in 2008-09 - a 160% increase from 2007-08 (Jun).</p> <p>The WA Government announced it was establishing a Mental Health Commission (Feb).</p> <p>WA Police commenced use of passive drug detection dogs at entertainment precincts and train stations. Policy aimed to clamp down on substance abuse in entertainment precincts (Jul).</p> <p>WA Drug and Alcohol Office along with the Road Safety Council and Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies launched a new drug driving campaign. This campaign will attempt to combat the high proportion (1 in 3) of those, either driver or rider, who have died in a car accident and tested positive for illicit drugs (Sep).</p> <p>WA Drug and Alcohol Office launched a new advertising campaign as part of the latest phase in the <i>Alcohol Think Again</i> campaign. It targets the belief that getting drunk is acceptable and comes at a time where the state is seeing a 17% rise in hospitalisations for alcohol-related issues between 2006/07</p> |

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| | | <p>coordinates Tasmanian activity to alcohol, tobacco & other drugs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims and priorities of the TDS were considered still relevant; <p>Yet, concerns were raised about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited awareness of the TDS, its significance & relationship to other strategies (especially the NDS & actions emanating from the TDS); That the review was being conducted during a very volatile time of national reform; and The lack of data available to enable a more comprehensive evaluation of the TDS to be conducted; <p>Recommendations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IAWGD should consider reviewing its communication strategy and procedures; The new TDS should align with the new NDS, even if this means delaying the release of the TDS; The new TDS should identify key performance data, to enable evaluation of effectiveness (Aug). <p>The IAWGD sought approval of the Minister for Health to extend the Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009 to the end of 2012. Key reasons were that this would enable time for the IAWGD to progress some matters raised in the review of the TDS while national health reforms were clarified and relevant Tasmanian initiatives finalised (Nov).</p> <p>The comprehensive review of the <i>Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009</i> was completed and report released: "Report on the 2010 review of the Tasmania Pschyostimulants Action Plan 2007-2008." The review was conducted in two-stages by the Department of Police and Emergency Management on behalf of the Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs (IAWGD). Key conclusions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims of the Plan had been met, and had helped lead agencies to implement & coordinate action to psychostimulants; The Plan had contributed towards declines in psychostimulant use; Lead agencies generally supported the continuation of the Plan, but there was also a push to develop a much broader illicit drug plan, to account for the changing drug use trends in Tasmania | <p>arguments advanced on behalf of the Attorney-General that the infringement of the presumption of innocence by s 5 of the Drugs Act was a 'reasonable limit [which] can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.' But the court upheld the conviction against Momcilovic and concluded that the declaration of inconsistent interpretation under the Charter did not affect the validity of s 5 (Mar).</p> <p>Reports by the 2008-09 Illicit Drug Data Report that the price of cocaine in Victoria had dropped to \$20 (May).</p> <p>Victorian Drug & Alcohol Prevention Council released the report, "2009 Victorian Youth Alcohol and Drug Survey" which measured use of and attitudes towards alcohol and drugs among 16-24 year old Victorians. Between 2004 and 2009 self-reported lifetime use of any illicit drug decreased from 51.7% to 41.3% and recent use decreased from 31.4% to 25.6% (May).</p> <p>A public sentencing survey was conducted in response to a Coalition election promise that they would provide Victorians with the opportunity to have direct input into future sentencing. The survey was conducted for one month and used 17 hypothetical case studies including on murder, manslaughter, rape and two categories of drug trafficking. The survey generated a total of 18,562 responses and indicated the harshest sentences were reserved for murder and drug trafficking in a large commercial quantity (Jul-Aug).</p> <p>Release of report by the Burnet Institute: "The Potential and Viability for Establishing a Supervised Injecting Facility in Melbourne." Report funded by the Yarra Drug and Health Forum reviewed evidence from 76 supervised injecting facilities (SIF) throughout the world and concluded the facilities led to public health benefits and improved public amenity and community well-being. The report concluded that fixed or mobile SIFs could be suitable for Melbourne. But they recommended that attaining SIFs would require an advocacy strategy to gain community and political support and investigation of the viability of integrating a SIF within existing Victorian harm reduction and treatment services (Jun).</p> | <p>to 2008/09 (Sep).</p> <p>Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009 assented to. The bill will repeal the <i>Cannabis Control Act 2003</i> and the <i>Cannabis Control Regulations 2004</i>, effectively replacing the Cannabis Infringement Notice scheme (CIN) with a Cannabis Intervention Requirement (CIR) scheme. Under the new law offenders detected for use or possession of cannabis and/or smoking implements can avoid criminal prosecution only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They possess up to 10 grams of cannabis; and They complete a Cannabis Intervention Session (CIS) (usually within 28 days). <p>Key rules include that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those under 18 receive up to 2 opportunities to receive a CIS; Those over 18 receive up to 1 opportunity. <p>The new bill also makes sale of paraphernalia to a young person subject to a fine of \$24,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment and sale of cannabis smoking paraphernalia to adults subject to a fine of up to \$10,000 (Oct 14).</p> <p>Project STOP mandated in Western Australia, requiring all pharmacists to use electronic real time recording of pseudoephedrine products prior to making decisions about the legitimacy of sales of pseudoephedrine-based products. This made Western Australia the second state, following Queensland to mandate real time monitoring (Nov).</p> |

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| | | <p>(particularly reductions in psychostimulant use and increasing harms from other illicit and licit drugs) (Dec).</p> <p>The IAWGD sought approval of the Minister for Health for an extension of the <i>Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009</i> to the end of 2013 (Dec).</p> <p>Cross Sector Bus Tour commenced by the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Council (ATDC) to improve the capacity and knowledge of workers in the area of ATOD and mental health and other community sector and government services, through exposure to different services and opportunities to network.</p> | <p>Yarra Drug and Health Forum commenced advocacy for a mobile supervised injecting van for Melbourne. They argued this would best meet residential concern about public injection, particularly surrounding the housing commissions in Fitzroy and Collingwood (Jun).</p> <p>Statewide expansion of the Court Integrated Services Program was announced. This followed evaluations of the pilot program (introduced in July 2006) which showed reductions in reoffending and estimates of \$5 million in savings (up to \$5.9 for every dollar invested) (Jun).</p> <p>Victoria Police developed a proactive strategy to address illicit drug use at dance events by conducting a training trial to enable Passive Alert Dogs to detect unlawful use/possession of 1, 4 Butanediol and GBL. Both precursor chemicals were sold and consumed as GHB and had contributed to a recent increase in overdoses in Victorian dance festivals.</p> <p>Victoria Police expanded the provision of Crime And Traffic Connecting on Highways (CATCH) training to law enforcement agencies from other states and territories.</p> <p>Victorian Alcohol and Drugs Association released a report, <i>Review of the cost of Counselling Consultancy and Continuing Care (CCCC) drug and alcohol services</i>, which provides evidence for significant structural underfunding across the Victorian Alcohol and Other drug sector. They recommended a number of measures to address this problem with one being the Department of Health funding the full cost of CCCC (Aug).</p> <p>Inquiry into the Impact of Drug-Related Offending On Female Prisoner Numbers – Interim Report released by the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee. Report showed female prisoners had increased by 27% from 2008 to 2009 (compared to only 3% for males). Concluded this reflected a shift towards increased use of imprisonment as a first resort for females on remand and a failure to recognise that the causes of female drug-related offending are often more complex (than for males), and requires systematic approaches to address frequent histories of trauma, mental health issues and debt (Oct).</p> | |

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| | | | <p>After a two year investigation targeting a number of alleged organised crime syndicates involved in the production of cannabis, the largest single operation in Victoria Police's history was conducted. 'Operation Entity' sought to reduce the supply of cannabis through high-level market disruption, and involved: >630 Victoria Police members, Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), Office of Public Prosecutions, AUSTRAC, Australian Taxation Office, State Revenue Office, New Zealand Police, Australian Crime Commission and a number of power companies. Police executed 69 search warrants on cannabis grow houses across Victoria; 9296 cannabis plants were seized; 43 persons arrested; millions of dollars in criminal assets have been restrained to date; and a number of 'Persons of Interest' were identified by DIAC amongst those arrested (Nov 23).</p> <p>The Victorian Liberal party was elected, under Premier Ted Baillieu under a platform of a tough zero tolerance approach to crime (Dec 2).</p> | |
| 2009 | <p>Statutes Amendment (Transport Portfolio-Alcohol and Drugs) Act 2009 adopted. Legislation increased penalties for individuals convicted of drug driving offences. Under the new law any driver who has expiated or been convicted of 2 or more drug driving offences in the 5 years immediately preceding the date of application for a new license will be referred to a Driver Assessment Clinic. License provision will be refused to any driver found to be drug dependent until such time as they can prove they are no longer dependent on drugs (Mar).</p> <p>Attorney-General Hon. Michael Atkinson made the first declaration of a 'criminal enterprise' under the <i>Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008</i>. The declaration applied to the Finks Motorcycle club, for reasons including that members had 173 convictions for drug offences (14 May).</p> <p>Control orders against two Finks Motorcycle club members (Donald Hudson and Sandro Tortani) requested under s14(1) of the <i>Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008</i>. Magistrates Court issued court order</p> | <p>Tasmanian Corrections Minister introduced a perimeter fence and additional sniffer dogs in efforts to keep illicit drugs out of Risdon prison (May).</p> <p>The Inter Agency Working Group on Drugs (IAWGD) noted that the Tasmania Drug Strategy (TDS) 2005-2009 had come to an end, and therefore needed some form of review or evaluation, but that the NDS 2010-2014 which would also have future implications for the new TDS remained under development. It was decided that while awaiting the outcome of the new NDS an initial report of actions and achievements would be prepared for Government, based on stakeholder consultation about levels of awareness and perceived relevance and achievements of the TDS (Jun).</p> <p>New strategy released: "Building the Foundations for Mental Health and Wellbeing: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan for Implementing Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention (PPEI) Approaches in Tasmania" (Jun).</p> <p>The Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement</p> | <p>Victorian Mental Health Reform Strategy 2009 – 2019 adopted which recognised the link between mental health and harmful D and A use, and need for early identification of and response to co-morbid problems in an integrated networked system (Feb).</p> <p>The Victorian Department of Human Services released a "Discussion Paper on the Forensic Drug Treatment System" in the aim of improving treatment outcomes for forensic clients (Feb).</p> <p>Newly appointed Victoria Police Commissioner Simon Overland said police could not win a drug war and he would support the decriminalisation of some drugs "if there was evidence that was the best way to go" (Mar).</p> <p>First Victorian Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Related Drugs Strategy 2009- 2012 adopted. The strategy has five priorities: prevention and early intervention; treatment; workforce development; justice and law enforcement; and new knowledge collection and dissemination (Apr).</p> <p>Twenty-six people were taken to hospital</p> | <p>WA Premier Mr Barnett revealed tackling WA's drug problem would be at the forefront of his government's agenda, declaring that 'Labor had a tolerance of drug-taking' ... 'we are going to change that' (Jan).</p> <p>Death of Gemma Thoms, a 17 year teenager, after she took 3 ecstasy tablets before entering the Perth Big Day Out music festival. Friends said she had panicked at the sight of police searching festival goers (Feb 1).</p> <p>Media surrounding the death of Gemma Thoms criticised the heavy-handedness of police at music events and reignited debate on the risks of particular methods of drug law enforcement, especially the use of sniffer dogs (Feb).</p> <p>In an Australian first, WA Police trialed use of drug amnesty bins at music concerts. After 3 mths trial was deemed a failure. WA Police found amnesty bins tied up a lot of resources and were rarely used (Mar-Jun).</p> <p>Media reports of brown Afghan heroin on the streets in Perth (Mar).</p> <p>The "Review of Western Australian Drug</p> |

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| | <p>against Mr Hudson prohibiting him from associating with other persons who are members of declared organisations. Order against Mr Tortani adjourned after he initiated proceedings in the SA Supreme Court that s14(1) of the Act was invalid (May-Jun).</p> <p>Adoption of the <i>Controlled Substances (Controlled Drugs, Precursors and Cannabis) Amendment Act 2008</i> resulted in a number of regulatory changes. Legislative changes to the Schedules of the <i>Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 1996 Act</i> led to the banning of an additional 60 chemicals that could be used in illicit drug manufacturing. Legislative changes to the <i>Controlled Substances Act 1984</i> also created new offences in relation to possession of a controlled precursor or any prescribed equipment intending to use it to manufacture a controlled drug (Section 33J) and possession of prescribed equipment and/or prescribed quantities of controlled precursors without reasonable excuse (Section 33LB). Both offences became punishable with up to \$15,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment (Sep).</p> <p>New legislation on sale of equipment for hydroponic growth of cannabis adopted (<i>Hydroponics Industry Control Act 2009</i>) in the aim of "preventing criminal infiltration of the hydroponics industry." Under the new legislation all individuals who buy proscribed hydroponic equipment will have to submit 100 points of ID at the point of sale and all hydroponic dealers will be required to ensure all buyers pass appropriate tests regarding their criminal histories. They are also required to maintain records for every transaction involving prescribed equipment, and forward all information to the Commissioner of police by way of an online transaction monitoring system. Legislation enacted March 2010 (Oct).</p> <p>Adelaide Advertiser conducted an investigation into drug consumption patterns in Adelaide clubs and concluded that "cash-strapped clubbers were shunning high-priced alcohol" at bars in favour of cheaper illicit drugs such as ecstasy (Oct).</p> <p>SA Supreme Court decision: Totani & Anor v The State of SA [2009] SASC 301. Declared s 14(1) of <i>Serious and Organised Crime</i></p> | <p>Studies released the <i>Review of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Act 2005</i> (the review). A key finding was that the penalties for drug driving (section 6A) were lenient in comparison to those for drink driving (section 6) (Jun).</p> <p>New governance structure amalgamated the Alcohol and Drug Service, Mental Health Services, Health and Wellbeing Services, Forensic Mental Health Service and Correctional Primary Health Service into the Statewide and Mental Health Services Unit (Jul).</p> <p>Transfer of Part 3 of the <i>Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act (ADDA) 1968</i> to the <i>Poisons Act 1971</i> passed both houses of Parliament. The transferred provisions relate to the prescribing and supply of certain substances, in particular Schedule 8 substances and their prescribing by all health professionals able to prescribe these substances. Also included in the transfer was the requirement for notification of drug dependent persons and the conditions under which such persons may be prescribed Schedule 8 substances under an authority of the Secretary of DHHS. The consolidation of all prescribing aspects of such substances in one piece of legislation was intended to assist practitioners in understanding their requirements and ensure consistency in practice (Sep).</p> <p>An interim review of the actions against the Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan was conducted at the end of 2009. The review indicated a commitment to the aims of the Action Plan by Lead Agencies and those Agencies reported significant activity against the objectives of the Plan. The IAWGD extended the Action Plan until October 2010, in line with the development of the next phase of both the National Drug Strategy and the Tasmanian Drug Strategy. A more comprehensive review of the Action Plan was expected to be undertaken in the second half of 2010 (Sep).</p> | <p>after reportedly overdosing at a Melbourne rave on GHB. This followed 30 overdoses at a Festival Hall event and 10 at a Summadayze music festival (Apr).</p> <p>Dutch music festival promoters cancelled their upcoming Melbourne rave saying there were too many people who took GHB at Melbourne music events and it was tarnishing the reputation of festival organisers (Apr).</p> <p>Victoria Police commenced a pilot program aimed at improving the detection of contraband on roads. The program Crime And Traffic Connecting on Highways (CATCH) brought in an additional \$317,000 worth of illicit drugs and other contraband over the 6 month trial (July-Dec 2009).</p> <p>More than 100 Melbourne-based drug couriers were identified smuggling heroin from Vietnam for seven major crime syndicates. The couriers identified by a taskforce involving Victoria Police, Australian Customs and Australian Federal Police were recruited from the Western suburbs to pay off gambling and business debts. Most were Vietnamese (Jul).</p> <p>Report from the Youth Drug Reporting System (YDRS) released: "Social contexts of substance use for vulnerable 13 –15 year olds in Melbourne". Report sought to enhance understanding of the patterns and meanings of illicit drug use among hard-to-reach youth populations. This identified that substance use played a central role in the lives of young people but that few young people viewed their drug use as problematic and most wanted to be seen as competent, not vulnerable (Oct).</p> <p>Victorian Police expand drug driving testing with provision of extra 25,500 drug testing kits and 25 extra secondary testing machines (Nov).</p> <p>Victorian Premier John Brumby promised to launch an investigation into claims of increased drug use at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre amid concern about the amount of contraband smuggled into Victoria's largest women's jail and increasing overdoses (Nov).</p> <p>Launch of a new interactive website "Bluebelly" that seeks to reduce harm for users of ecstasy, meth/amphetamines and cocaine. Harm reduction information</p> | <p>Driving Laws" by the Centre for Automotive Safety Research identified problems with the drug testing kits (the Cozart Drug Detection System). The kits were giving false negatives, particularly for THC. Given such problems the reviewers recommended delaying the general roll out of drug driving testing in WA and that a further 12 month trial be undertaken with new drug testing kits (Apr).</p> <p>Radio announcements used to spread knowledge particularly amongst Indigenous communities about drug diversion programs in Western Australia. This was designed to increase uptake of diversion programs (Apr??).</p> <p>Parliamentary inquiry by the Education and Health Committee established into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia. Terms of reference included establishing the impact and social costs of AOD problems to the WA community, the adequacy of current training for medical and other health professionals in AOD issues and the adequacy, accessibility and appropriateness of services for school-aged students, treatment and prevention services (May). Submissions occurred June 2009-June 2010.</p> <p>Inaugural conference held "Making it Happen: responding to Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) issues across the sectors" which brought together more than 500 delegates from government and non-government alcohol and drug agencies. Conference was hosted by the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Office, Palmerston Association, Department for Child Protection, Department of Corrective Services, Department of the Attorney General and the Mental Health Division (Dep of Health) (11-13 May).</p> <p>WA Liberal party provided \$500,000 funding for Dr George O'Neil's struggling Naltrexone clinic on the condition that he appoint an independent researcher to determine the steps needed to attain registration of the Naltrexone implants with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (May).</p> <p>Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and</p> |

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| | <p><i>(Control) Act 2008</i> invalid (Nov).</p> <p>Trial of 24 hour needle syringe vending machines commenced at two existing needle syringe program sites in Murray Bridge and Noorlunga. The 12 month trial involving the provision of with 8 x 1ml syringes for \$2.00 was initiated by Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (30 Nov).</p> <p><i>Serious and Organised Crime (Unexplained Wealth) Act 2009</i> adopted which allowed for the creation and enforcement of 'unexplained wealth orders' and amendments to the Criminal Assets Confiscation Act 2005. Under the new law the state no longer had to prove that the defendant had committed a serious offence in order to confiscate wealth. Instead an order of unexplained wealth can be applied (when current and/or past assets exceed lawfully obtained wealth) and confiscated (Nov).</p> <p>Adoption of legislation that included measures to prevent the trafficking of drugs and alcohol into the APY Lands (Dec).</p> | | <p>including stories and tips is updated and added to collaboratively by hosts and registered users (Nov).</p> <p>Victoria Police detectives seized 260 litres of a liquid industrial solvent being masked as a "harmless" party drug by crime syndicates. A drought of gamma hydroxybutyrate (commonly known as GHB, GBH, grievous bodily harm, fantasy or liquid ecstasy) had prompted syndicates to turn to gamma butyrolactone (GBL) and similar chemicals (Dec).</p> <p><i>Severe Substance Dependence Treatment Bill 2009</i> introduced for debate. Bill proposed to repeal the Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act 1968 and enable the detention and treatment of persons with a severe substance dependence for up to 14 days under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person has a severe substance dependence; • Immediate treatment is necessary and urgent to save the person's life or prevent serious damage to the person's health; • The treatment can only be provided by admitting them to a treatment centre; and • There is no less restrictive means reasonably available to ensure treatment is provided (Dec). | <p>Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia (May).</p> <p>As part of the 2009-10 budget the WA Liberals announced a new Custodial Infrastructure Program: the most significant custodial expansion in WA history. The program is estimated to cost \$655 million and will provide an additional 1,657 prisoner beds across the Western Australian prison system by the end of 2014. As part of this two new prisons will be constructed: the West Kimberley Regional Prison (150 beds) and the Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison (350 beds) (May).</p> <p>WA police commenced use of sniffer dogs (Jun).</p> <p>Discussion paper released by WA Law Reform Commission into Court intervention programs. Paper recommended and has asked for comment on the idea of expanding eligibility criteria for drug diversion through mainstream courts and drug courts (Jun).</p> <p>Unlicensed Driving Vehicle Sanctions introduced. Sanctions range from 28 day roadside impoundment to court imposed sanctions for repeat offenders including impoundment for up to 3 or 6 months duration. Law has potential to impact upon individuals who have their license suspended under the cannabis infringement notice scheme. Enacted 1 July.</p> <p>WA Drug and Alcohol Office introduced a bi-annual newsletter summarizing drug and alcohol trends in WA: Pulsecheck (Aug).</p> <p>Northbridge entertainment precinct was declared a "designated public area" within which police could stop and search any person <i>without</i> provision of reasonable suspicion, subject to the adoption of the Prohibited Behaviours Bill. The new ruling was designed to reduce anti-social behavior in the precinct (Oct).</p> <p>New bill introduced (Prohibited Behaviours Bill) to empower police to fight anti-social behaviour and drug offences in WA. The new legislation would mean police could stop and search a person or a vehicle in specifically declared public areas without the requirement that they have to prove reasonable suspicion. It would also mean that the court could enforce two year orders on offenders (anyone aged over 14) who have been deemed to repeatedly engage in</p> |

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| | | | | <p>anti-social behaviour including alcohol-fuelled violence, graffiti or inappropriate behaviour in public spaces and publish if deemed necessary the names, photos or description of any offender (Dec).</p> <p>Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009 tabled. Proposed changes to the law include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the introduction of a new limit for possession of 10 grams of cannabis or less – down from the existing 30 grams; a requirement for all first time cannabis offenders (adult and juvenile) found in possession of 10grams of cannabis or less and/or a smoking implement with traces of cannabis to attend a mandatory cannabis intervention session; and that cannabis cultivation be a criminal offence (Dec). <p>A viral video, called <i>Camel Girl</i> was released onto YouTube as part of the Drug and Alcohol Office's 2009/10 night venues and entertainment events campaign. It was designed as a 'cult' viral video to raise awareness of the importance of drinking water and rehydrating at festivals and received over 45,000 unique views by March 2010 (24 Dec).</p> <p>WA Collaboration for Substance Use and Mental Health (WACSUMH) established to bring together partners in the mental health, AOD, health and other related sectors to progress work around workforce development, the creation of a care pathway and the progression of promotion and prevention initiatives.</p> <p><i>Guidelines for concerts, events and organised gatherings</i> issued by WA Health, including on crowd dynamics, management of alcohol and drug-related issues (Dec).</p> |
| 2008 | <p>Evaluation of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative (PDDI) was completed. Report showed there had been a total of 4,689 youth and adults diverted during the first 4 years. On average 67% offenders complied, but compliance was higher amongst youth and offenders diverted for the first time. Key impacts included short and long term reductions in drug use and offending and improvements in social functioning. But impacts were not homogenous and in some offenders use and offending increased.</p> | <p>An independent <i>Review of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services in Tasmania</i> was completed. The review identified numerous problems in service provision including unmet demand, inadequate systems of referrals, high rates of take away pharmacotherapy doses and poor patient management. The report also identified that the AOD sector in Tasmania had a poor profile and inadequate systems of data collection. Key causes were workforce shortages, insufficient funds, poor training</p> | <p>Legislation on compulsory drug testing within Victoria Police extended to include all members in "selected units" e.g. drug squad. New laws were set to commence in August (Apr).</p> <p>Victorian Alcohol and Other Drug Quality Framework released. Six core standards were specified for AOD treatment in Victoria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer Focus Evidence-based Practice Continuous Quality Improvement | <p>Aboriginal Drug Court day program commenced at Perth Drug Court. Program ran one afternoon per week and provided dedicated Aboriginal specific rehabilitation and counseling options for Indigenous participants (Jan).</p> <p>Largest domestic seizure of MDMA recorded in Western Australia. The 45kg of MDMA powder was shipped from the Netherlands (Apr).</p> <p>Joint agency taskforce involving Australian Federal Police (AFP), Western Australia</p> |

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| | <p>Evaluators concluded the program appeared successful but also recommended changes including providing feedback to police and modifying the referral system (Mar).</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Summary Offences Act 1953</i> banned the sale of equipment used to consume illegal drugs, e.g. bongs, ice pipes and cocaine kits, and made such offences punishable by up to \$10,000 or two years' imprisonment for an individual and \$50,000 for a body corporate (Jun).</p> <p>Controlled Substances (Drug Detection Powers) Amendment Bill 2008 adopted, increasing police powers to screen for illicit drugs using drug detection dogs. The amendments allowed deployment of passive drug detection dogs for general duties: screening potential users and dealers inside and outside nightclubs, pubs, concerts, festivals and, major sporting events, on board public transport and at train and bus stations. The amendments also allowed police to establish and conduct specific drug-detection screening operations on identified drug-transit routes and to use drug detection dogs, electronic drug detection systems or emerging technology, e.g. odour-detecting devices & swabbing wands to detect for the presence of controlled drugs, precursors or plants. This entered into force Oct 2008 (Jul).</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Controlled Substances Act 1984</i> increased penalties against the cultivation of hydroponic cannabis. Maximum penalties for cultivation of hydroponic cannabis plants increased from \$500 to \$1000 and/or 6 months imprisonment and sale or possession of lamps and reflectors used to produce crops were made illegal (penalty of up to \$10,000 or two years' imprisonment) (Jul).</p> <p>New treatment facility opened – the Amata Substance Abuse Facility – for Indigenous people who live or come from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Region. The service provides residential rehabilitation and a mobile outreach for people who misuse petrol, alcohol, cannabis and other substances (Aug).</p> <p><i>Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008</i> adopted. Legislation introduced new provisions that gave the government, acting through the attorney general and state police</p> | <p>and systems of governance and the lack of a statewide client information system. They recommended establishing a separate A&D unit within the DHHS organisational structure, creating a new governance system to include NGOs and user input, significant investment to expand service provision and training (\$10-15 million per year) and the adoption of a statewide client information system (Jan).</p> <p>Tasmania Police commenced use of drug detection dogs (Feb).</p> <p>The First Annual ATDC Conference: ATOD Practice, Integration & Development held. Conference brought together policy makers and service providers from ATOD and related fields with aim of strengthening relationships, identify priority areas and building skills and knowledge (Apr).</p> <p>\$17.1 million allocated in the 2008-09 Tasmanian Budget towards implementation of the recommendations of the alcohol, tobacco and other drug services review (Jul).</p> <p>Media reports that Tasmania's drug rehabilitation system was in crisis with new clients being unable to receive treatment (Jul).</p> <p>First Needle Syringe Vending Machine trialed in Devonport (Jul).</p> <p>The Pharmaceutical Services Branch of the Department of Health and Human Services received funding from the Commonwealth's Health Connect program to develop and introduce a real time reporting system (RTR). This project enabled the real time secure monitoring of the Schedule 8 medications (such as morphine and oxycodone) that had been dispensed in Tasmanian pharmacies participating in RTR. The move from the previously required monthly retrospective reporting to real time reporting increased the capacity to monitor the prescribing of these medications (as required by legislation) and to provide more accurate advice to patients (Jul).</p> <p>Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services, Future Service Directions – a five year plan, 2008/09 – 2012/13 adopted. Key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a whole of government alcohol & drug harm reduction strategy • Establishing a consumer participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate and Clinical Governance • Workforce development and • Partnerships (Apr). <p>Victorian Department of Human Services commenced implementation of the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Action Plan 2007-2010 (May).</p> <p>Victorian Government issued a discussion paper proposing amendments to the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 to mandate a sales, storage and record-keeping regime for nominated precursor chemicals and equipment to prevent their diversion to the manufacture of illicit drugs in clandestine laboratories (Jun).</p> <p>New research confirmed that ambulance attendances involving gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB) in Melbourne had increased at a much higher rate than paramedic callouts for heroin. The research published in the <i>Medical Journal of Australia</i> revealed clear resource implications: 90% of GHB OD patients were transported to hospital vs. 21% heroin (Jun).</p> <p>The Victorian Ombudsman recommended strengthening preventative and detection processes in Victorian prisons to lessen the risks associated with contraband, including illicit drugs (Jun).</p> <p>Trial of 24 hour Needle Syringe provision in St Kilda extended until 2010 (Sep).</p> <p>Access Point Stimulant Treatment Centres established in St Kilda and Fitzroy on one year trial to provide information, advice and treatment for stimulant users (Sep).</p> <p><i>A New Blueprint for Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services 2009-2013 -Client-centred, Service-focused</i> was released. The blueprint set out the vision to "prevent and reduce the harms to individuals, families and communities" by becoming more client centred and service focused by making links into, through and out of treatment clearer and more integrated, and prioritising prevention and earlier intervention, removing barriers to services and improving the quality, consistency and responsiveness of services and interventions. Specified strategies included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring routine dual diagnosis screening for all young people entering treatment | <p>Police (WAPol), Australian Crime Commission (ACC) and Customs seized the largest recorded pill-making press in WA and arrested members of an emerging ecstasy syndicate, thereby dismantling the intended establishment of a large MDMA lab in Perth (May).</p> <p>Needle and Syringe Program Review 2007 released. Report identified that there had been a 16.5% increase in the number of needles and syringes distributed between 2001 and 2006 and that while Needle Syringe Exchange Programs accounted for only 2% NSP outlets they distributed 55% of all needles and syringes. This reflected changing consumer preferences. Evaluators identified the need for ongoing training (particularly for pharmacies where only 52% staff were trained) and recommended integrating NSPs in rural/remote areas into primary health care services and expanding the use of vending machines (Jul).</p> <p>Needle Syringe Vending Machines introduced in Geraldton Regional Hospital and Nickol Bay Hospital (Aug).</p> <p>WA Liberals elected in coalition with the Nationals and Independents on a mandate to repeal the Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme and provide a tougher response to cannabis (Sep).</p> |

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| | <p>commissioner, powers to declare 'criminal enterprises': any organisation which represents a risk to public safety and order of the State and where members associate for the purpose of organising, planning, facilitating, supporting or engaging in serious criminal activity. The legislation also allowed for the introduction of control orders on individuals to prohibit offenders from associating or communicating with other members of organized crime groups, prohibit possession of dangerous weapons and/or prevent access to specified venues and introduced offences of criminal association (Sep).</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Controlled Substances Act 1984</i> made possession of 30 different pieces of equipment involved in amphetamine or cannabis manufacturing or cultivation e.g. high intensity lamps, carbon filters, tablet presses and distilling devices and possession of documents containing instructions for the manufacture or cultivation of illicit substances punishable with \$10,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment (Oct).</p> <p>Evaluation of Youth CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) showed that during the 13 month pilot there had been very low referrals (only 71, of whom 51 were put onto the program) and only half participants completed the program. But the program was associated with reductions in drug-related harm and reductions in criminal offending (down from 3.1 to 1.5 events in 6 months pre and post completion). The reviewers concluded the program was "likely to meet its objectives," but questioned the viability given the low referral numbers. This was attributed in part to mixed stakeholders views as to the merits of the program (Nov).</p> <p>South Australia Police adopted their second illicit drug strategy: 'Illicit Drug Strategy 2008 – 2011' (Dec).</p> | <p>framework to ensure that consumers have input into the planning, development & delivery of services and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertaking a review of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act, 1968, to establish a legislative framework that reflects contemporary models of service provision (Dec). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stronger support and training resources for GPs to intervene earlier and Redeveloping funding and reporting systems to promote service flexibility and innovation (Dec). | |
| 2007 | <p>SA Government requested an assessment of the threat posed by organised crime to the South Australian community that included the identification of legislative barriers that facilitate organised crime.</p> <p>SA Premier Rann unveiled his intention to introduce a comprehensive set of laws designed to make a major dent into</p> | <p>Review of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Treatment Services in Tasmania commenced.</p> <p>Court mandated drug diversion program introduced (Aug).</p> <p>Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009 adopted to reduce supply & demand of psychostimulants and develop</p> | <p>New Mental Health and Drugs Division commenced operation and the Minister for Mental Health convened Victoria's first drug taskforce on 'ice' and amphetamines to guide the State Government's strategy (Mar)</p> <p>Discussion paper released titled "Towards a New Blueprint for Alcohol And Other Drug</p> | <p>WA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (May).</p> <p>WA Illicit Amphetamine Drug Summit held to identify and develop strategies to respond to amphetamines (3 July).</p> <p>WA Illicit Amphetamine Summit – Government Action Plan adopted. Included</p> |

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| | <p>organised crime in South Australia. The proposed set of laws covered more coercive powers of investigation, confiscating unexplained wealth, laws against association with criminal members and toughened controls on precursor chemicals and equipment for drug manufacturing (Jul).</p> <p>South Australia Police announced the creation of a Crime Gang Task Force to enforce the states new organised crime laws (Aug).</p> | <p>guidelines for safer environments of use (Nov).</p> <p>The Tasmanian Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses Action Plan 2007 – 2008 was endorsed by the Minister for Health and Human Services, with the goal of minimising the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B and other drug related harms to injecting drug users and to the wider community. A number of initiatives commenced at Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) contact points to improve the provision of education, brief intervention and referral for people who inject drugs. These include increased education and training of NSP workers, the implementation of operational guidelines and practice standards throughout NSP primary outlets, and improved permit training and accreditation for NSP workers. Under the plan DHHS also provided hepatitis C blood awareness and drug safety education in prisons, youth detention facilities, schools, and to people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. DHHS continued to support the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) with an addition to the program on Hobart’s Eastern Shore and a trial of needle and syringe dispensing machines in Devonport and Invermay rolled out in 2008-09.</p> | <p>(AOD) Treatment Services” (Mar).</p> <p>Earlier identification of drug harms project (EIDHP) commenced by the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. The project sought to provide an early warning system to Victorian policy makers through an information collection system that on a bi-monthly basis draws together insights from interviews with key stakeholders and surveillance data including ambulance attendances, treatment data and the pattern of needle and syringe distribution (Mar).</p> <p>Victorian Government released report on “Dual diagnosis: Key directions and priorities for service development” (Jun).</p> <p>Victoria Police adopted an <i>Illicit Drug Strategy 2007-2011</i> involving three approaches: disruption; targeting repeat offenders; and reducing re-offending through the use of treatment and diversion programs. The strategy outlined the need for new tools to facilitate planning and performance monitoring. These included a drug attribution model (to collect and analyse information on the drug problem) and a drug harm index (to quantify the amount of harm being caused by drugs) that were proposed to be developed in the first year of the strategy (Jul).</p> <p>Discussion paper released on the “Victorian amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and related drugs strategy 2007–2010” (Sep).</p> <p>After six years of negotiation on drug testing, the Police Regulation Amendment Bill 2007 was adopted. Bill gave Victoria Police Commissioner the restricted power to drug and alcohol test Victoria Police members, but only following critical incidents e.g. police shootings (Oct).</p> <p>A review titled “Ecstasy, ketamine & GHB: A review of users and Victorian alcohol & other drug treatment interventions” identified current treatment EKG related interventions and barriers to seeking interventions. The research identified that while EKG users had sought treatment for other drug use, they did not see their use of EKG as a problematic. Service providers reported that infrequent contact with these clients reduced the capacity of treatment services to provide information to this group on the long term effects of EKG (Nov).</p> <p>Trial of 24 hour Needle Syringe provision at</p> | <p>49 initiatives arising from Drug Summit.</p> <p>Review of Cannabis Infringement Notice (CIN) scheme tabled in WA Parliament. Review recommended continuing with the CIN scheme, but expanding the scheme to juveniles (with compulsory cannabis education), reducing the quantity of cannabis to which the scheme applied (from 30 to 15 grams), removing eligibility for cultivation of any plants, and increasing fines for non-compliance (Nov).</p> <p>Criminal Code Amendment (Drink and Food Spiking) Bill 2007 adopted. Bill created a new offence of spiking a person’s drink or food with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (maximum penalty 3 years imprisonment or 12 months and a \$12,000 fine for summary offence) (Nov).</p> |

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| | | | Health Information Exchange, St Kilda (Nov). Victorian Drug and Alcohol Prevention Council (VDAPC) established to provide expert advice to government. VDAPC succeeded the Premier's Drug Prevention Council (PDPC) which finished in March 2007 (Dec). | |
| 2006 | SA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis and amphetamines (Jul). | Tasmanian Law Reform Institute published a report titled "The Establishment of a Drug Court Pilot in Tasmania" which examined whether Tasmania needed a drug court. Report concluded that Tasmania should adopt a drug court as well as a comprehensive range of diversionary options (Nov). Hobart City Council's second AOD strategy adopted: "Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2006 – 2009". | Victorian Drug Strategy 2006-2009 adopted CounsellingOnline, an online counseling service for drug users, family and friends, was piloted by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre (May). Roadside drug testing made permanent following success of pilot and extended to include testing for ecstasy (Jun). Evaluation of Connect Us (an early intervention partnership program for at risk youth) found 80% of youth were engaged post program participation, 42% in employment or apprenticeships and 38% in education (Oct). | |
| 2005 | Evaluation of first set of Drug Summit Initiatives completed. Concluded 2/3 initiatives had proceeded well and that initiatives had added value and capacity in SA response to drugs. Also noted need to improve management (Feb). South Australian Drug Strategy 2005-2010 adopted (Feb). SA Justice Portfolio Drug Indicators Project – first annual report released. This identified five performance targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased resilience of SA youth; Prevention of illicit drug use; Reduce drug related offending and severity of offending; Ongoing reduction in overdose rates; & Reduction and interruption in supply (Mar). Youth CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) introduced (Nov). | Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009 (TDS) adopted. Strategy priorities community safety, prevention and reduction and improved access to treatment. On 1 July new legislation was enacted creating an offence of driving a motor vehicle with illicit drugs in the body. <i>The Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Act 2005</i> provides authority for police to conduct oral fluid (saliva) tests on drivers (roadside drug testing) to detect the presence of cannabis and amphetamines (Jul). | Victorian Government GHB education initiative (Mar). <i>Amendments to the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act</i> banned the display or sale of cocaine kits and imposed penalties of \$6,300 for individual offenders or \$31,500 for businesses (May). Victoria Police <i>Organised Crime Strategy 2005-2009</i> introduced. Core aims were: developing a greater capacity to identify, measure, prevent, disrupt and deter organised crime; and better focusing resources and powers on major criminal threats (Dec). | Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2005-2009 adopted Strong Spirit Strong Mind- WA Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2005-09 adopted Baseline evaluation of Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme completed Conditional Suspended Imprisonment Order (CSI) for use in drug court introduced (May) <i>Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1982</i> increase regulation of the supply of precursor chemicals and apparatus. This gave legislative backing to a previously voluntary Code of Conduct to minimise the risk of diversion of precursor chemicals and apparatus for the manufacture of illicit drugs. |
| 2004 | SA Parliament Legislative Review Committee released report on the Cannabis Expiation Scheme (Regulations under the Controlled Substances Act 1984 and 2002). Report considered whether a one non-hydroponic plant limit undermined the original intention of the CEN scheme. The committee concluded it didn't since it enabled an average user to produce enough to supply them for a year, but also reduced risk of exploitation | | Final evaluation of the VGDI (Feb). Koori Drug Diversion introduced 11 people were taken to hospital after overdosing on GHB, Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, at the Two Tribes dance party at Rod Laver Arena (Mar). Use of drug detection dogs in nightclubs piloted by Victoria Police (May). Report on Rural and Regional Service | Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme introduced, for use or possession of up to 30g cannabis, possession of a smoking implement or cultivation of up to 2 non-hydroponic cannabis plants. Under the scheme eligible offenders will have the option to avoid a criminal conviction by paying a fine or attending a cannabis education session. Failure to pay will result in a further fine and/or suspension of drivers |

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| | <p>by crime syndicates (Feb).</p> <p>CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) introduced (Jun)</p> <p>South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services established as peak body for drug and alcohol NGOs in SA.</p> | | <p>System Review released: "Rural pathways: A review of Victoria's drug treatment system in rural and regional Victoria" (Jul).</p> <p>Report on Victoria's youth drug treatment system released: "Youth Service System Review" (Sep).</p> <p>Transport Accident Commission commenced anti-drug driving advertisements (Nov).</p> <p>Victoria Police commenced a pilot of roadside drug saliva testing for cannabis and amphetamines. Pilot targeted heavy vehicle drivers, rave party patrons and general public (Dec).</p> <p>Evaluation of the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative (VDDI) found that the VDDI's effectiveness was strongly supported by stakeholders. Evaluators recommended a number of changes including that a strategy be developed for promoting the VDDI at sector management and policy levels, that specific formal requirements be adopted regarding use of the VDDI by agencies and that there be improved upskilling and training of the workforce.</p> | <p>license (Mar).</p> <p>YPOP (Young Person's Opportunity Program) and IDP (Indigenous Diversion Program) introduced</p> |
| 2003 | <p>Initial Criminal Justice Illicit Drugs Performance Indicators report presented to the Criminal Justice Leadership Group (May).</p> <p>SA Government expanded response to drug summit: another 14 initiatives and \$1.86 million (Sep).</p> | | <p>Voluntary agreement adopted between the Victorian Government, Australian Hotels Association, the Nightclub Owners Association and Restaurant and Catering Victoria to provide free or low-cost drinking water on licensed premises (Jun).</p> <p>Koori Alcohol and Drug Plan 2003-04 released as precursor to a strategy (Sep).</p> <p>First Service System Review (SSR) of Victoria's drug treatment system completed.</p> <p>Connect Us (an early intervention partnership program) initiated and funded through the Premiers' Drug Prevention Council in the aim of identifying at risk youth aged 16-21. The 12 month program aimed to engage young people in education, training and employment and thereby prevent problematic drug use and minimise risk taking behaviour.</p> | <p>Cannabis Control Act 2003 amended the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 to allow cannabis infringement notices to be issued (Jan)</p> <p>POP (Pre-sentence Opportunity Program) introduced (Mar)</p> <p>PSO (Pre-Sentence Order) for use in drug court introduced (Sep)</p> <p>STIR (Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime) introduced (Nov)</p> |
| 2002 | <p>SA Labor Party elected (Feb)</p> <p>SA Premier announced the Social Inclusion Initiative and established a Social Inclusion Unit (located in the Department of Premier and Cabinet) to adopt a more integrated and effective response to complex issues. One of first target areas was drugs (Mar).</p> <p>SA Police launched the 'SAPOL Illicit Drug</p> | <p>Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council, Tasmania (ATDC) established (12 Sep).</p> | <p>Drug Court introduced (May)</p> <p>Rural Outreach Diversion introduced</p> <p>Preliminary Evaluation of the VGDI concluded with positive results – 30 initiatives implemented (Oct).</p> | <p>WA Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2002-2005: Putting People First adopted (Aug)</p> <p>2000 (Dec) -The <i>Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 (CPCA)</i> - permits the State to apply to have all assets of a convicted drug trafficker seized.</p> |

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| | <p>Strategy – Preventing drug use – reducing crime.’ This was the first drug strategy adopted and recognized the strong links between drugs and crime and need for coordinated action (May).</p> <p>SA Drug Summit held. Summit was preceded by 24 community consultations across the State with 917 people participating. Summit identified new directions for SA, particularly regarding responses to amphetamines and processes of reintegrating drug users. Gave rise to 51 recommendations (24 – 28 June).</p> <p>SA Justice Portfolio Drug Indicators Project initiated to identify potential performance indicators to measure success in “protecting the community from the consequences of drug trafficking and abuse” (Jul).</p> <p>CEN scheme amended through Controlled Substances (Expiation of Simple Cannabis Offences) Regulations 2002 (No. 170 of 2002) which maintained a limit on one plant for personal use but banned cultivation of hydroponic plants (Sep).</p> <p>Initial response of SA Government was devised by the Social Inclusion Board. It was outlined in the “Tackling Drugs – Government and Communities Working Together” report and included 7 priority areas e.g. building resilience in young people and increased support for Aboriginal people, 21 initiatives and provision of \$12 million for first four years. Also established an Inter-Ministerial Committee led by Hon Led Stevens to implement initiatives. Response was devised by the Social Inclusion Board (Dec).</p> | | | |
| 2001 | <p>COAG-IDDI agreement signed and SA Police Drug Diversion Initiative (PDDI) introduced (Jun)</p> <p>Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme amended (Controlled Substances (Expiation of Simple Cannabis Offences) Regulations 1987): Number of cannabis plants attracting a fine reduced from three to one (Nov)</p> | <p>Tasmanian Drug Strategic Plan (TDSP) 2001–2004 adopted.</p> <p>Hobart City Council adopted its inaugural AOD strategy: “Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2001”. This coincided with a period of heightened concern over youth illicit drug use.</p> | <p>Safe Needle Disposal Strategy launched including a syringe help-line (Jan)</p> <p>Cautious with Cannabis education session developed at Moreland Hall for Cannabis Cautioning referrals (and other referrals)</p> <p>Victoria Government allocated \$2 million to develop a Koori drug and alcohol strategy and established a Koori Drug Strategy Advisory Committee (KDSAC) to undertake the development (Sep).</p> <p>Two reference groups were established into Temazepan Injecting (with Victorian Drugs Policy and Services Branch).</p> <p>Kit on problem and dangers of Temazepan Injecting mailed out to each Victorian doctor</p> | <p>Trial of needle and syringe vending machine in Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital (Mar)</p> <p>WA Community Drug Summit. Recommended new governance structure, increased early intervention, more treatment, particularly detoxification and to look at ways of introducing a new prohibition with civil penalties scheme for cannabis use/possession (13-17 Aug).</p> <p>WA Government established Working Party on Drug Law Reform chaired by John Prior to examine how to set up prohibition with civil penalties scheme.</p> <p>Evaluation of the Needle Syringe Vending Machine at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital</p> |

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| | | | <p>and pharmacy. Kit urged them to stop prescribing and supplying temazepam gel capsules because of health risks if injected (Nov).</p> <p>Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative (VDDI) established to support the development of better treatment practices and collaborative relationships between drug treatment and mental health services. The initiative commenced with four small Dual Diagnosis teams covering the state.</p> | <p>reported an increase in the number of fitpacks dispensed, no change in the numbers discarded and a decrease in the number of people entering the hospital at night.</p> <p>New <i>Drug Aware</i> website, funded by the Drug and Alcohol Office, piloted for young people wanting credible online information on drugs (2001),</p> |
| 2000 | <p>South Australia's Drug Court commenced (May)</p> <p>Illicit Drug Working Party established by the Health Department to develop a comprehensive approach to illicit drug issues.</p> | <p>Tasmanian Government signed the COAG-IDDII agreement and introduced Police Drug Diversion Program (Feb)</p> <p>Visit from the International Narcotics Control Board to inspect poppy industry (Apr)</p> <p>Therapeutic use of cannabis investigated by Parliament of Tasmania, Committee on Community Development</p> | <p>Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) released report. Concluded that community support for a trial injecting facility was high in all locations with the exception of Dandenong and recommended proceeding with trials (Mar)</p> <p>Resident group Footscray Matters called for a referendum on trials and said Government was ignoring community views. Traders – Myer and David Jones – said they were likely to leave if city didn't become a drug free area (Jun).</p> <p>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Injecting Facilities Trial) Bill 2000 (Vic) introduced into parliament (Jun).</p> <p>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Injecting Facilities Trial) Bill 2000 (Vic) not enacted after the opposition announced it would vote against the bill (Aug)</p> <p>Victorian Labor Government made commitment to expand methadone and drug diversion and signed the COAG-IDDII agreement (Aug).</p> <p>Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) released second stage report. This suggested need for significant reform in Victorian drug strategy and outlined a framework for future development including the development of a Koori drug and alcohol strategy (Nov).</p> <p>Victorian Government adopted Victorian Government Drug Initiative (VGDI) and committed \$77 million in funding for period 2000/01 – 2002/03 (Nov).</p> | <p>COAG-IDDII agreement signed and All Drug Diversion (police scheme) launched (Oct)</p> <p>WA first Drug Courts launched (Drug Court Regime and Children's Court Drug Court) (Nov).</p> <p>First mobile NESP site opened in Bunbury.</p> <p>Launch of NVEEP (Night Venues and Entertainment Events Project) a project aimed at preventing alcohol and drug-related harm at entertainment events and venues in WA. NVEEP is a joint project between the Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO), Racing Gaming and Liquor, WA Police, Nightclub Owners' Association, Australian Hotels Association, Events Industry Association and the National Drug Research Institute. Specific aims included: developing and implementing venue practices and policies that promote responsible attitudes towards drugs; and implementing environmental strategies to reduce drug-related harm.</p> <p>The <i>Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000 (CPCA)</i> - permits the State to apply to have all assets of a convicted drug trafficker seized. This was the first state to introduce such a law (Dec).</p> |
| 1999 | <p>Evaluations of the CEN scheme demonstrated evidence of net-widening and suggested that some people were exploiting the scheme by cultivating and selling cannabis.</p> <p>Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme amended: Number of cannabis plants</p> | | <p>Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett announced support for heroin trial (Jan)</p> <p>Herald Sun newspaper introduced a "heroin toll" – a daily toll of the number of drug overdose deaths in Victoria. The heroin toll ran alongside the toll of road crash deaths in Victoria in every Herald Sun newspaper</p> | <p>Government announced intention to establish a drug court.</p> <p>Second action plan, 'Together Against Drugs Strategy 1999–2001', launched.</p> |

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| | attracting an expiation notice reduced from ten to three (Jun). | | (Feb). Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett held a premiers meeting involving the NSW, SA and WA Premiers and ACT health minister on heroin trial (Mar) Victorian Election – New Labor Government. Incoming Labor government made a commitment to examine feasibility of establishing five supervised injecting facilities in areas known for drug use – inner city Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Dandenong and St Kilda (Sep). Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) appointed under the Chair Dr David Penington to consult with proposed locations and to assess the feasibility of implementing a trial (Nov). | |
| 1998 | First South Australian Drug Strategy, 'A Time to Act' released | TASTE – a drug user magazine established. | Cannabis Cautioning Program state-wide and Illicit Drug Diversion Pilot commenced – Victoria Police (Sep) Court Referral & Evaluation for Drug Intervention and Treatment (CREDIT) Trial (Nov) | Trial of cautioning and education system for simple cannabis offences launched. |
| 1997 | Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme modified by the introduction of the Expiation of Offences Act, 1996. This introduced a range of options for payment of expiation fees including payment by instalments and community service, enabled those served with an expiation notice the option of choosing to be prosecuted in order to contest being given the notice and introduced automatic criminal convictions for those who failed to expiate (Jan). Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in SA, collecting data on illicit drug market trends A series of eight unusual deaths sparked media attention. The deaths occurring between 1995 and 1997 were originally attributed to use of ecstasy (MDMA). Forensic analysis revealed they all deaths followed use of PMA (paramethoxyamphetamine), a much stronger variant of ecstasy. | User group established - Tasmanian Users Health + Support League (TUHSL). | Cannabis Cautioning Program trial – Victoria Police (July 1997 to Jan 1998) Victorian Parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee (PCPC) Report concluded there was "some merit in suitably regulated and controlled safe houses" for injecting Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in Victoria, collecting data on illicit drug market trends Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) established as a brokerage service, to increase access for forensic clients to drug and alcohol services. The Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) was established to increase access and engagement of young people in drug treatment, rehabilitation and outreach services. New surveillance project commenced: "Surveillance of drug related events attended by ambulance in Melbourne." Run by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre the project uses ambulance patient care records to collate information on drug-related events (both illicit and licit) attended by Melbourne ambulances. | WA first Drug Strategy, 'Together Against Drugs,' released WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office formed Western Australia's heroin overdose prevention strategy initiated First fixed NESP site opened in Perth (Sep). |

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| 1996 | Heroin overdose prevention strategy established | Tasmania's first Drug Strategy adopted Alcohol and Drug Foundation of Tasmania, peak body for NGOs disbanded Interdepartmental Committee on Drugs and Alcohol established | Premier's Drug Advisory Council Report – recommended cannabis decriminalisation and diversion (Mar) Cannabis decriminalisation failed to win support – liberal backbenchers opposed (Jun) Turning the Tide – Victorian Drug Strategy released. Included \$100 million over three years for a range of projects (Jun) Victorian Government introduced new parliamentary committee - Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee (PCPC) – to oversee implementation of Turning the Tide and inform public debate on current issues (Dec) | New user group established – Western Australia Substance Users Association (WASUA) (May). Drug Aware program, funded by the Drug and Alcohol Office, commenced to provide young people with prevention and harm reduction messages about illicit drug use. |
| 1995 | Select Committee report recommended streamlining the Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme | | Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre commenced service provision Premier's Drug Advisory Council (PDAC) established to examine drug use, with a focus on illicit drugs (chaired by Professor Penington) | Premier's Task Force on Drug Abuse established in Premier's Department |
| 1994 | | | First Specialist Methadone Services (SMS) established in Victoria | Amendments to The Poisons Act 1964 legalised the provision of needles and syringes to drug users |
| 1993 | Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) established (Feb). | Introduction of HIV/AIDS Preventive Measures Act established regulatory framework for NSPs in Tasmania - (Needle Availability Program) First official Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced Methadone Program rolled out state-wide post favourable review | More spending cuts to health announced - \$381.7 million over two years (Apr) <i>Public Sector Management Act 1992</i> introduced. Key changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Service Act 1974 repealed the Premier became the employer of all department heads no. of government departments reduced from 22 to 13, (then to 8 in 1996). Led to merger of Health and Community Welfare Services to "Health and Community Services" employment contracts became limited-term and able to be terminated with 4 wks notice (Nov) | |
| 1992 | | Pilot Tasmanian Methadone Program (1 Dec) | Liberal government elected under Premier Jeff Kennett (Oct) Large scale spending cuts and public service redundancies commenced across areas of health and education (Oct) | |
| 1991 | Select Committee established to report on drugs of dependence User group re-established as South Australia Voice for Intravenous Equity (SAVIVE) | | Redevelopment of specialist treatment services began under Labor government | |
| 1990 | | | | Formation of the Western Australian Lions Drug Education Foundation |

| Year | South Australia | Tasmania | Victoria | Western Australia |
|-------------|---|-----------------|--|---|
| 1989 | First SA Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced - Clean Needle Program (NSP) | | First Victorian Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced | |
| 1988 | User group - IV League of South Australia formed | | | |
| 1987 | | | User group - Victorian Intravenous AIDS Group (VIVAIDS) launched (Aug) | User group - Western Australia IV Equity (WAIVE) formed First Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs established in WA (Jul) |
| 1986 | Cannabis Expiation Notice (CEN) scheme introduced for minor cannabis offences. Enabled use of infringement notices for simple cannabis offences including cultivation of up to ten plants for personal use. | | | |
| 1985 | | | Victoria's first Drug Strategy released Start of the official Victorian Methadone Program | |