

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2012

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline provides a list of key events, policy and legislative changes that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and December 31 2011. Events are listed by jurisdiction, at the national and state/ territory level.

The first table includes events at the federal level. Events in the state and territories are split into two parts. The second table includes events from the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Events from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia are listed in the third table. All events added in the last six months are highlighted in yellow.

DPMP will continue to update the timeline every June and December. Please feel free to email through any comments or suggested inclusions.

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Year	Federal
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."
1986	National "Drug Offensive" media campaign launched (Apr). Two research centres established: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in Sydney and National Drug Research Institute (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 in act of civil disobedience - Darlinghurst (Nov).
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
1988	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. Australian IV League (AIVL) began as unfunded national network representing drug users and drug user organizations. Second national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1988." Australian National Council on AIDS established.
1989	National HIV/AIDS Strategy launched – emphasis on prevention and harm reduction. Commonwealth Government funded first injecting drug user organisations. First Australian Hepatitis C antibody studies initiated. Showed a high prevalence of Hepatitis C amongst injecting drug users. Release of report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Criminal Authority: "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)
1990	National Centre for HIV Social Research established. Commonwealth Government ratified the United Nations Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. First national census of clients of treatment service agencies (COTSA) conducted (Mar). National Health and Medical Research Council released first formal statement on Hepatitis C.
1991	Second evaluation of NCADA: Prof Ian Webster (Chair). Report titled "No Quick Fix: An evaluation of NCADA 1992" concluded there was "no quick fix" to the drug problem and NCADA needed greater strategic direction e.g. introduction of national drug strategic unit to oversee implementation.

	<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>
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 established in Adelaide.</p> <p>Launch of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform (Year/Month??).</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>
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 unfunded national network promoting a drug free Australia (Year/Month??).</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>
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>
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>
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."</p>

	<p>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>
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>
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 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>

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>
2001	<p>Heroin shortage reported in Sydney. Both injecting drug users and key informants noted that heroin availability had reduced, purity decreased and price increased (Jan).</p> <p>National Drugs Campaign 2001 – "Lost Dreams" and "Ad within an Ad" (Mar).</p> <p>Australia's first Medically Supervised Injecting Centre commenced as a pilot in Kings Cross, NSW (Mar).</p> <p>National Action Plan on Illicit Drugs 2001 – 2002-03 endorsed by the MCDS (Jul).</p> <p>Report released: "<i>Heroin overdose: prevalence, correlates, consequences and interventions</i>" from the Australian National Council on Drugs. This estimated that deaths among adults aged 15–44 years attributed to opioid overdose had increased 110 fold between 1964 and 1998 and that the rate of overdose could be reduced by expanding access to treatment, education of heroin users, distribution of naloxone or introduction of medically supervised injecting centres (Sep).</p> <p>Report released: "<i>Structural determinants of youth drug use</i>" from the Australian National Council on Drugs concluded that there is a need to acknowledge that youth 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>
2002	<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</p>

	<p>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>
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 Kirkenon Road Centre to the NSW Health Department and the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council to remove capsules from the market (Jun).</p> <p>Report released: "Diversion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth from juvenile justice" from the Australian National Council on Drugs recommends the development of a greater number and range of culturally appropriate diversion options that specifically target Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (Jul).</p> <p>National Drug Strategy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan 2003 – 2009 released (Aug).</p> <p>Report released from the House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs, chaired by Kay Hull MP: "Road to recovery: Report on the inquiry into substance abuse in Australian Communities." Report made 128 recommendations including that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments replace the current focus on harm minimisation with a focus on harm prevention and treatment. Report also called for more effort in preventing the uptake of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs through education campaigns and regulation and increased early intervention (Aug).</p> <p>Fourth evaluation of the National Drug Strategic Framework by Success Works. Report titled "Evaluation of the National Drug Strategic Framework 1998-99 -2003-04" concluded that the NDSF had been a success but recommended renewed focus on partnerships between IGCD and ANCD, increased involvement of the education sector, increased attention to the dissemination of research, replacement of the national expert advisory structures and improved coordination of the NDSF with other related strategies (Sep).</p> <p>Prime Minister John Howard announced funding of more than \$41.5 million to 98 organisations as part of stage 1 funding through the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) (Oct).</p> <p>First report from the Drug Use Careers of Offenders study released: 'Drugs and Crime: a study of incarcerated male offenders.' Study found that 62% of their sample of incarcerated male offenders reported current regular use of illicit drugs, and that of those who reported use of illicit drugs 51% attributed all or most of their offending to 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</p>

	<p>(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>
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. 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>Report on drink spiking in Australia released: "National project on drink spiking: investigating the nature and extent of drink spiking in Australia." The report by the Australian Institute of Criminology found that over a 12 month period between 3000 and 4000 suspected incidents of drink spiking occurred in Australia and approximately one third of these incidents involved sexual assault. Spiking related sexual assaults were vastly under-reported with 85% not reported to the police (Nov).</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>
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 to address Indigenous Issues and \$12.0 million for the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (May).</p>

	<p>MCDS agreed not to endorse the development or use of drug testing kits for personal use at the point of consumption (May).</p> <p>Ketamine was rescheduled on the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule from a Schedule 4 to Schedule 8 drug (May).</p> <p>Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (Jul).</p> <p>The second National Hepatitis C Strategy 2005-2008 was adopted (Jul).</p> <p>Inquiry established into the manufacture, importation and use of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs in Australia (Nov).</p> <p>Project STOP pilot developed in partnership between QLD Police and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to track sales of pseudoephedrine and prevent their illicit diversion (Oct).</p> <p>The <i>Law and Justice Amendment (Serious Drug Offences and Other Measures) Act 2005</i> (the SDO Act) introduced the model serious drug offences (developed by the then Model Criminal Code Officers' Committee) in Part 9.1 of the Commonwealth <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i> (the Criminal Code). The SDO Act also moved existing offences under the <i>Customs Act 1901</i> for the import/export of controlled substances and placed them in the Criminal Code. This ensured all serious drug offences were in a central statute, keeping the Customs Act as primarily a regulatory statute (Dec).</p> <p>Australian Customs implement Stridor Strike Teams to target illicit drug precursor imports. The teams, comprised of officers from intelligence, investigations and enforcement operations, sought to devise innovative approaches to 'target' development and to provide a more flexible and agile response to illicit drug precursor importations (2005-2007).</p>
2006	<p>Restrictions introduced on sale of medications containing pseudoephedrine requiring that all medication be sold by pharmacists and be stored away from the public (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>Model Criminal Code Officers' Committee of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General released a discussion paper on drink spiking. Report examined the legal issues surrounding drink spiking in Australia, including existing legislation and potential gaps. It found the biggest gaps concerned minor offending and recommended that all jurisdictions adopt an offence of "mere" drink spiking (without further intent) that applied to spiking involving any substance. It recommended that NSW, Victoria, Queensland, WA and the ACT amend their criminal laws to close the gaps (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 lead users to increase or reduce the harms from their 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 and \$5 million for Drinkwise Australia for alcohol education programs (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</p>

	<p>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>
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 period 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 and \$37.9 to improve law enforcement response to amphetamines production and supply (May).</p> <p>National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre set up to educate and train health professionals with the aim of increasing early intervention and reducing the use of cannabis (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 is operated by Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre and provides 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 focus of the National Drug Strategy on harm minimisation with a focus on 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, takeaway methadone be disallowed for parents, that adoption of children be enhanced, and welfare payments 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 methadone clients. Report concluded that easy fixes such as diluting methadone or limiting doses may have unintended negative consequences and may reduce retention in treatment (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 charges were 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>

2008	<p>Report on "Supporting the families of young people with problematic drug use: investigating support options" by the Australian National Council on Drugs addressed the support needs of families who have, as a family member, a young person who is misusing substances (Feb).</p> <p>Report on "Drug Testing in Schools – evidence, impacts and alternatives" by the Australian National Council on Drugs recommended against drug testing in schools. The report by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction raised concerns about the accuracy of available testing technology, the potential of testing regimes to undermine child-school and parent-child relations and the significant cost (an annual cost of at least \$302 million for urine tests or \$355 million for saliva tests) (Mar).</p> <p>Media reports that heroin shortage had ended, with increased availability, increased purity and decreased price of white heroin in the Sydney area. Also evident was a rise in heroin overdoses (Mar).</p> <p>Media reports that Afghan brown heroin was emerging in Sydney. Ingrid Van Beek, director of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, reported use of brown heroin had increased over the last 9 months and that 30% of injectors at the centre were currently using brown heroin (Mar).</p> <p>On the eve of the Bucharest NATO-plus summit, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd strongly advocated for opium eradication programs in Afghanistan. Media reports highlighted arguments against such interventions (Apr).</p> <p>Collins and Lapsley released a new report on "The cost of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse to Australian society in 2004-05." This reported that the net social costs to Australian society had increased from \$34 billion in 1998-99 to \$55 billion in 2004-05. Of this, the costs associated with alcohol had increased from 22% to 27%, while costs associated with illicit drugs had decreased from 17% to 14% (Apr).</p> <p>Media attention resumed on Naltrexone implants in light of editorials and new research findings on the harms associated with their use e.g. severe withdrawal, vomiting, diarrhoea, episodes of delirium, infections and kidney impairment (Apr).</p> <p>Netherlands-based Synthetic Drug Unit reported that Australia had become a major destination for supplying Dutch MDMA, aided by the Italian Mafia. Led to the permanent appointment of a Dutch police officer in the Australian Federal Police (Apr).</p> <p>2020 Summit held in Canberra. Summit brought together experts from around Australia to develop new ideas/policy directions for Australia by year 2020 (Apr).</p> <p>At an Extraordinary General meeting, ADCA adopted a new constitution that radically altered its governance arrangements, one aspect of which was that the State and Territory NGO peaks were given a direct role in the organisation (Apr).</p> <p>Evaluation of the third phase of the National Drugs Campaign released. The results showed that 78% of 13-24 year olds felt the campaign had influenced them to some extent e.g. thinking about the consequences of using drugs (32%) or avoiding the use of drugs (20%) and significant increases in the number of young people who discussed illegal drugs with their parents and significant reductions in perceptions that drugs were fun and increased perceptions that the use of drugs could lead to mental health problems (Apr).</p> <p>Research by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction into use of methamphetamines by Australians in paid employment found 4% of workforce and 11% of those aged 18-29 had used methamphetamines. Authors found use was contributing to growing levels of workplace absenteeism and/or lost productivity with 13% employed meth users reporting they had failed to attend work because of illicit drug use and 33% reporting going to work while under the influence (May).</p> <p>First National Corrections Drug Strategy 2006-2009 endorsed (May).</p> <p>MCDS endorsed the First National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy 2008-2011 (May).</p> <p>National rollout of Clandestine Laboratory Database a secure national repository for information derived from clandestine laboratory seizures. The database includes information on lab locations, persons engaged in the illicit manufacture, safety, types of laboratory reactions being used, methodology, exhibit details, on-site reports and photographs. The rollout was funded by the National Precursor Strategy (May).</p> <p>Report on "Responding to substance abuse and offending in Indigenous communities: review of diversion programs" found that eligibility criteria were a major barrier to Indigenous involvement in drug diversion programs. Two principle reasons were the exclusion of offenders with prior criminal histories and/or violent offences and requirement for illicit drug problems. Report recommended expanding eligibility criteria e.g. enabling diversion for alcohol and inhalant misuse (Jun).</p> <p>Australian Crime Commission Illicit Drug Data Report 2006-07 reported a significant increase in cocaine seizures and arrests, including a 635% increase in the quantity of border seizures, a 1278% increase in the quantity of domestic seizures and a 76% increase in cocaine arrests (Jun).</p> <p>Australian Federal Police and Customs arrested 20 people in relation to ecstasy and cocaine importation, trafficking and money laundering in Australia. The arrests were the culmination of a 12 month multi-agency investigation involving Australian Federal Police, Australian Customs, Victoria Police, Tasmania Police, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, the Australian Crime Commission, and international law enforcement agencies throughout Asia and Europe that followed the seizure of the world's largest single seizure of MDMA: 4.4 tonnes or 15 million tablets, with a street value of \$440 million. The tablets were discovered hidden in tins of tomatoes shipped from Italy to Australia in June 2007 and replaced with inert substances to enable monitoring of the distribution and trafficking network (Aug).</p> <p>AFP Police Commissioner Mick Keelty conceded that in spite of the massive MDMA busts, local demand would keep the trade thriving. He therefore argued that we needed to treat demand as much as we deal with supply (Aug).</p> <p>The Australian Industrial Relations Commissions made a landmark ruling on "Implementation of random drug testing: use of oral fluids or urine as specimen for testing." The AIRC was asked to rule on whether it was just to use urine testing instead of oral testing, given the formers wide window of detection and increased potential to detect actions undertaken by employees that may have no consequential impact on employees' actions at work. The AIRC concluded that given no Australian laboratory has been accredited for urine testing "...the implementation of a urine based random drug testing regime would be unjust and unreasonable" But once accreditation</p>
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	<p>is obtained urine testing could be introduced instead of oral testing (Aug).</p> <p>The AFL (Australian Football League) announced 98.9% of players tested in 2007 were drug free. But it also widened its illicit drug testing regime by introducing hair testing to test players in the off season and testing for a wider range of illicit substances. The new regime enters into force in Jan 2009 (Aug).</p> <p>The High Court made a landmark ruling when all six judges ruled that the NSW Crime Commission acted improperly when it allowed 6kg of cocaine to be sold on the streets in an undercover drugs operation. The High Court said that such conduct risked endangering the lives of drug users and hence was irreconcilable with state and federal prohibitions on supply (Sep).</p> <p>New book "Drug Use and Mental Health: Effective Responses to Co-Occurring Drug and Mental Health Problems" edited by Professor Steve Allsop showed that people with serious co-occurring drug and mental health problems tended to access health services more frequently than individuals affected by either problem in isolation, but that they were more impaired, experienced more disability and had poorer treatment outcomes. This was attributed partly to a lack of service integration for people with co-occurring drug and mental health problems (Sep).</p> <p>2007 DUMA report released. Report found that in 2007 66% police detainees tested positive for any illicit drug (cannabis, cocaine, heroin, meth or benzodiazepines), a rate that was stable since 2006. Detected use of cannabis and methamphetamine had decreased as had levels of dependency on illicit drugs (Sep).</p> <p>The Australian Crime Commission estimated that \$4-\$12 billion in illicit drug money was being sent offshore annually. The unpublished estimates suggested that authorities were significantly underestimating the quantity of drugs that were undetected at Australia's borders (Sep).</p> <p>Report released by the Australian Institute for Family Studies into "Improving outcomes for children living in families with parental substance misuse: What do we know and what should we do." Report concluded that children raised in parents misusing substances do not fare well due to issues such as impaired responsiveness and ability to prepare meals. However it also noted these are often related to a broader range of factors, not just substance use/misuse. The report noted that childhood outcomes can be improved by treatment interventions, but that holistic responses are more effective than use of solely behavioural based responses (Sep).</p> <p>Report on "Police drug diversion: a study of criminal offending outcomes" released by the Australian Institute of Criminology. The report demonstrated that that majority of offenders did not reoffend following diversion. Moreover in spite of marked differences in offending between jurisdictions the proportionate decrease in offending after diversion was relatively consistent across all jurisdictions, with 69-86% offenders without records and 31-54% offenders with records not reoffending within 18 months (Oct).</p> <p>TGA ordered that Naltrexone implant pioneer George O'Neil cease production of Naltrexone implants because despite eight years of use he had failed to meet the regulatory standards (Oct).</p> <p>AFP Police Commissioner Mick Keelty remarked on the high level of drug seizures in recent years and the need to stop measuring drug law enforcement success in terms of the size of seizures. He also advocated the need to devise better policy approaches that combine supply reduction with demand and harm reduction (Oct).</p> <p>The ANCD launched a new website to support homelessness services help clients with drug and alcohol problems and called for a much bigger investment and focus on the levels of drug and alcohol issues amongst homeless populations and the identification of optimum service responses (Oct).</p> <p>Report on National Prison Entrants' Bloodborne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey 2007 released. Report showed 55% of prisoners had histories of injecting drug use (IDU). Prisoners who were IDU had much higher rates of HCV and Hepatitis B with e.g. 58% male IDU and 78% female IDU were HCV positive compared to 9% and 2% for non-IDU. IDUs also had much higher rates of prior prison experience (83% compared to 48%), particularly repeat prior experiences (Oct).</p> <p>Mission Australia survey of young people aged 11-24 showed between 2007 and 2008 concern for drugs had risen from 20.1% to 26.0% making drugs one of the top three issues of concern to young people. And in four jurisdictions drugs had become the primary issue of concern: ACT, NT, SA and Vic (Nov).</p> <p>The AFL (Australian Football League) Commission lifted its 12 month ban on former West Coast Eagles player Ben Cousins following his suspension for "bringing the game into disrepute" over a number of methamphetamine related incidents. The AFL Commission said he could play football again provided he met strict drug testing rules including submitting to up to three urine tests per week and up to four hair tests per year. A positive drug test could lead to his immediate suspension (Nov).</p> <p>National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture (<i>National Precursor Strategy</i>) received recurrent funding of \$1.068m.</p> <p>Report from the National Institute of Forensic Science identified a gap in the national intelligence picture on illicit drugs. Drugs seized at the borders were being analysed, but there was very limited information on those seized on the streets.</p> <p>Victoria Police, in partnership with the Federal Attorney General's Department, produced a DVD to educate law enforcement and the judiciary across Australia about the dangers and associated risks in the manufacture of ATS and clandestine laboratories.</p>
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</p>

dependency. They were also more likely to attribute their crime to illicit drug use, with use tending to precede criminal activity (Apr).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2009 Mission Australia youth survey identified that drugs were the number one issue of concern for the survey of 46,000 11-24 year olds. 11-14 year olds were particularly concerned about illicit drugs, leading Mission Australia to conclude they were in need of less fear campaigns and more information on drug issues (Nov).

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

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

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

	<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>
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 Saffrole 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 last decade and that efforts to improve health and law enforcement outcomes were hampered by a lack of resources, commitment and local capacity (Mar).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p>

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).

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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 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 dint into organised crime, due to the sophistication of international drug importation syndicates, a lack of resources and political will (Aug).

Minority Labor Government formed with support of Greens Adam Bandt and independents Andrew Wilkie, Rob Oakeshott and Tony Windsor. 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).

	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government, led by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, released the first commonwealth Organised Crime Response Plan (OCRP 2010–11). The response plan sets out an approach by which Commonwealth agencies including ACC, AFP and AUSTRAC will respond to threats identified in the Australian Crime Commission's classified Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA), including Amphetamine-Type Stimulants, one of three priority risks (Nov).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The Federal Government requested that the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing establish an Expert Advisory Group on Mental Health to provide advice to the Federal Government on mental health reforms (Dec).</p> <p>The Federal Government announced that their latest phase of the National Drugs Campaign will use "In the Mix" website to target festival-goers with an increasing focus on information and education (Dec).</p> <p>A new report, "Alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia 2008–09: Report on the National Minimum Data Set" found that treatment episodes for alcohol continued to increase (making up over half of treatment episodes in 2008-09), but treatment for most illicit drugs declined or stabilised. The biggest decline was in relation to heroin, with 1,349 less treatment episodes in 2008-09, and a 8,420 decline between 2002-03 and 2008-09 (Dec).</p> <p>14 new substances added to Schedule 4 of the <i>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</i>: Acetylcodeine; Acetylmorphine; Alkoxyamphetamine; Alkoxyphenylethylamine; Alkylthioamphetamine1; Amineptine; 5-(2-aminopropyl)-2,3-dihydro-1H-indene; Benzylpiperazine (BZP); 1-(8-Bromobenzo[1,2-b:4,5-b']difuran-4-yl)-2-aminopropane (Bromo-Dragonfly); Codeine-N-oxide; Dimethylamphetamine; Oripavine; 4-methylmethcathinone (4-MMC); and Trifluoromethylphenylpiperazine (TFMPP). Their inclusion increased alignment with existing legislation (e.g. the <i>Poisons Standard</i> or the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995</i>) and addressed an increased market demand for alternative synthetic drugs and drugs marketed as party pills (14 Dec).</p> <p>Ketamine moved from Schedule 8 to Schedule 4 of the <i>Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956</i> (14 Dec).</p> <p>The Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, in close collaboration with state and territory jurisdictions, released a National Organised Crime Response Plan 2010–13. This complements the Commonwealth Organised Crime Response Plan and aims to strengthen multi-jurisdictional collaboration. Under the plan the Commonwealth, state and territory governments have agreed to improve consistency of legislation to fight organised crime; remove impediments to effective sharing of information and intelligence; and target the priority organised crime risks identified in the Organised Crime Threat Assessment (Dec).</p> <p>The 2010 Australasian Chemical Diversion Congress was held in Perth. Hosted by Western Australia Police, the Congress drew together precursor chemical diversion experts from national and international law enforcement agencies, forensic and health services, industry and the legal profession (Dec).</p> <p>First national framework for NSPs released: National Needle and Syringe Programs Strategic Framework 2010-2014. Framework was designed to strengthen the links between services and across states and territories. Seven priorities were identified including: national minimum standards; nationally accredited core training for staff; improved data collection and reporting; and increased availability of injecting equipment (Dec).</p>
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</p>

acknowledgement of the roles of sectors beyond health and law enforcement, and included for the first time performance measures for assessing progress (Mar).

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

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

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

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department listed five additional substances to be subject to the serious drug offences contained in Part 9.1 of the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 (the Code), via interim regulations: 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).

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).

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

Australian Federal Police made the largest recorded seizure of 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).

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

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

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

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League report released: *'Why wouldn't I discriminate against all of them?' A report on stigma and discrimination towards the injecting drug user community.* Key recommendations included: that the Australian Government identify, review and, as appropriate, repeal federal laws and policies that contribute to the continuing criminalisation and marginalisation of people who inject illicit drugs; that federal parliamentarians receive education about the health and human rights of people who inject drugs and how current approaches to drug control adversely affect the health and wellbeing of people who inject drugs on a daily basis; and that the Australian Communications and Media Authority be encouraged to take a firmer stand on the reporting of matters that reinforce negative attitudes and perpetuate stigma and discrimination associated with people who inject drugs (Jun).

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

The Therapeutic Goods Authority scheduled eight synthetic cannabinoids: JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-122, JWH-200, JWH-250, CP47,497, AM-694 & cannabicyclohexanol. The synthetic cannabinoids, commonly referred to as 'Kronic', 'Spice' and 'Voodoo' etc, were placed on schedule 9 (prohibited substances), thereby banning from 8 July their use for therapeutic purposes (6 Jul).

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

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

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

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).

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).

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

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

Regulation 4H of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations) came into effect. This prohibited the importation of ice pipes unless permission from the Minister for Home Affairs or his authorised officer has been granted. Under new Regulation 4H, an ice pipe is defined as 'a device capable of being used for administering 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).

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2012: ACT, NSW, NT and Qld

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
1986		First Needle and Syringe Exchange Program opened in act of civil disobedience - Darlinghurst (Nov) NSW Government established drug store-based needle and syringe distribution scheme (Dec)		Possession of needles and syringes decriminalised and first distribution programs of single syringes commenced
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)
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			Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct (Fitzgerald Inquiry) report released User group - Queensland IV AIDS Association (QuIVAA) formed
1989	1989 Drugs of Dependence Act 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
1991	Select committee of the ACT Legislative Assembly proposed expiation scheme for cannabis and a heroin trial National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH) and the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) began a study to determine heroin trial feasibility (1991-1995)			
1992	Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) expiation scheme for cannabis offences introduced	First NSW Drug Strategy released 12 month trial of Needle Syringe Vending Machines commenced at Kings Cross, Rozelle and Parramatta		
1993				First Queensland Drug Strategy released
1994		Inquiry into police corruption launched. Commissioner: The Hon Justice JRT Wood (May). NSW Hepatitis C Taskforce established		
1995	NCEPH/AIC team released report recommending that a heroin trial proceed and provided a detailed plan for	First ecstasy-related death reported – 15 year old Anna Wood (Oct).		Second Queensland Drug Strategy released

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	<p>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>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>		
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).
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</p>	Introduction of mandatory sentencing in NT for minor offences	

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
		<p>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 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>		
1998	Discussions began around trialling a 'supervised injecting place' (SIP) and Supervised Injecting Place Trial Advisory Committee was established.	<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 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>		Brisbane Lord Mayor's Illicit Drug Task Force convened

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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>Canberra Injectors Network, CIN was funded as new ACT drug user group (Jul).</p> <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>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 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>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> <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>

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		<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>		
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>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 –</p>	The National Liberal Party proposed to extend mandatory sentencing to drug trafficking offences	Queensland Government introduced a Drug Court (Jun).

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		2003 adopted (Nov). Framework for Action - NSW Drugs and Community Action Strategy (Dec).		
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 introduced (Dec)	<p>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).</p> <p>A NSW Police Officer involved in the fatal shooting of Jim Hallinan was dismissed after 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</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>Country Liberal Party introduced Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act. Act gave police new powers to define, "move on" and arrest people for 'anti-social' behaviour and to signpost houses as anti-social (Jun).</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>COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Mar)</p> <p>Police Diversion for Minor Drug Offences and Drug Court Program introduced (Jun)</p> <p><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 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>

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		mandatory drug testing of officers involved in critical incidents (Sep).		
2002	<p>Alcohol Tobacco and other Drug Taskforce established to devise a new drug strategy (Aug).</p> <p>New ACT drug user group established - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA).</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>MSIC trial extended additional 12 months to enable operation during evaluation (Oct).</p> <p>Launch of the NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2003-2006 (Nov).</p>	<p>COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Jan)</p> <p>New user group established - Network Against Prohibition Northern Territory (NAPNT) (Mar).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act repealed (Jun).</p> <p><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).</p> <p>Methadone maintenance program first provided in the Northern Territory, 33 years after methadone was first provided in Australia (Sep).</p> <p>Northern Territory Illicit Drug Pre-Court Diversion Program introduced (Dec).</p>	<p><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.</p>
2003	<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</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</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</p>	<p>Illicits Drug Court Diversion Program introduced (Mar)</p>

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	places to trial needle and syringe vending machines and examine the feasibility of needle exchange in ACT prisons (Dec).	<p>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 loitering. But the predicted reduction in ODs in the area was not observed. The evaluators recommended continued monitoring if the trial were extended (Jul).</p> <p>Trial of MSIC extended until 2007 and new evaluation established (Oct).</p>	<p>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>	
2004	<i>Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis for Medical Conditions) Amendment Bill 2004</i> . Presented by Ms Kerrie Tucker (Greens). Date presented: 30 June 2004 (5 th Assembly). Defeated 25 August	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	Alcohol and Other Drug Program convened forum for drug and alcohol treatment agencies to advise on the improvement of service delivery and outcomes (Mar).	New user group established - Queensland Injectors Health Network (QUIHN) (year ??).

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	<p>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</i> 1989 amended to allow supply of needle and syringes through vending machines (Aug).</p>	<p>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>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: Confronting the Confusion and Disconnection. The report concluded that there were significant shortfalls in the Northern Territory Government's response to substance abuse, particularly within remote communities and that there was insufficient coordination for substance abuse for the three main substances of abuse: alcohol, petrol and cannabis. Key recommendations were to increase coordination between government agencies, to identify and address the</p>	

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			gaps in service delivery and that a community audit be conducted to assess the needs, assets, resources and views of each remote community, with the goal of prioritizing future programs on the basis of the community audit.	
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>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>
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</p>	<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 bongs 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>

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		<p>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>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>		<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 (month ???).
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>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>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 2006–2010 adopted (Mar).</p> <p>MSIC interim evaluation report no. 3 on client referral and health issues released (Mar).</p> <p>MSIC interim evaluation report no. 4 on service operation and overdose-related events released (Jun).</p> <p>Medically Supervised Injecting Centre trial continued 2007-2011 (Jul).</p> <p>Evaluation of NSW Cannabis Clinics showed that on average 31% clients</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 National Emergency Response Bill 2007 (Aug).</p> <p>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.</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 illicit drug use (punishable with up to 15 years imprisonment) (??).</p> <p>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</p>

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		<p>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).</p> <p>NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2007-2009 adopted.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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 possession of the precursors and a maximum of 10 years imprisonment for possession of apparatus for the manufacture of drugs (Nov).</p>		Drug Adolescent Withdrawal Service outreach services (Jun).
2008	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	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)	<p>NT Government adopted roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Feb).</p> <p>Study released showing rates of cannabis use during 2005-06 were three times higher in Arnhem land than in the</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

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	<p>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 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 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</p>	<p>(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, and improved responses for priority clients e.g. amphetamine users with mental health issues (Apr)</p> <p>Proposal by Lemma 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</p>	<p>general population, with 61% males and 58% females aged 13-36 reporting weekly use compared to 24% males and 21% females in the general population (May).</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>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 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>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 (ADFACT) announced its intention to operate - in partnership with ACT Corrective Services and ACT Corrections Health – a therapeutic community in Canberra's new prison Alexander Maconochie Centre (Dec).</p>	<p>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 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</p>		

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		<p>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>		
2009	<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 	<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>Following an internal departmental review the Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program and withdrawal treatment services introduced a new time effective treatment approach to case management. Under the new approach clients attend an eight-session relapse prevention program followed by a four-session coping skills program.</p> <p>Completion of \$4M capital</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</p>

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		<p>person from serious harm & the person is likely to benefit from treatment for his or her substance dependence but has refused treatment &</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no other appropriate and less restrictive means for dealing with the person is reasonably available. The trial will be evaluated by KPMG (Feb). <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>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>	<p>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>
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</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>Substance Abuse Intelligence Desk targeted cannabis and amphetamine trafficking on major routes and highways entering and exiting the Northern Territory.</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-</p>

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	<p>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 failed the proportionality test: it would impinge on human rights but did not guarantee doing so would lead to justifiable community benefit. She also argued that there was conflict with the ACT drug legislation, as the ACT had decriminalised possession of personal supply of cannabis yet random roadside drug testing would impose serious criminal sanctions on the use of cannabis (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 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 	<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 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>		<p>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 crime investigation in the Crime and Misconduct Commission's history detected a national drug syndicate linked to outlaw motorcycle gangs that crossed south-east Queensland, North Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne. Large quantities of drugs were also seized including 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</p>

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	<p>to support consumer participation in drug treatment & support services; &</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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 Kerwin 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) 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</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>submissions and held public inquiries. Chief Justice of Queensland, Paul de Jersey, addressed the 12th International Criminal Law Congress in Brisbane spoke of the benefits of considering creative solutions to illicit drugs. He commended the Swiss response to the heroin problem, through heroin prescription and provision of supervised injecting rooms, and the Portuguese decriminalisation of illicit drug use (Oct).</p>

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	a program involving peer administration of Naloxone. Budgeted \$100,000 per year for 24 month trial involving 200 participants (Dec).			
2011	<p>Knowledge Consulting report released: <i>"Report of the Independent Review of Operations at the Alexander Maconochie Centre."</i> 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: <i>"External component of the evaluation of drug policies and services and their subsequent effects on prisoners and staff within the Alexander Maconochie Centre."</i> 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. 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>Mr Michael Moore, CEO of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) was engaged by the ACT Government,</p>	<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, Kronik, 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</p>	<p>The Northern Territory Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) has 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>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 Kronik) (12 Aug).</p> <p>A further five substances were added to the banned list of synthetic cannabis (31 Aug).</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>

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	<p>to respond to the Burnet Report by: assessing barriers and enablers to implementation of an NSP in the AMC; & investigating models for delivery (May). Minister for Health, Katy Gallagher MLA, become Chief Minister of the ACT (May). Petition signed by 86% of the Alexander Maconochie Centre's correctional officers called on the ACT Legislative Assembly to reject any proposal for a needle and syringe program at the AMC. Put together by the Community and Public Sector Union it stated that "our working environment in the AMC is already dangerous enough and we will actively fight any proposal to make it worse by introducing needle syringes into our workplace." Petition was tabled by opposition Liberal corrections spokesman Jeremy Hanson (21 Jun). 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</p>	<p>the sale and use of synthetic cannabinoids including Kronik, Spice, Kaos Voodoo, Mango and Northern Lights. From 8 July 2011 cannabinoids will be listed under Schedule 1 of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 (along with cannabis and heroin etc) and require retailers and consumers to arrange for safe destruction of all supplies (28 June).</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: R 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</p>		

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	<p>implementation of a NSP at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.” 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>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</p>	<p>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 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. Further units will open in July 2012 and then in July 2013. 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>		

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	successfully complete the training will be 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).			

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2012: SA, Tas, Vic and WA

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
1985			Victoria's first Drug Strategy released Start of the official Victorian Methadone Program	
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.			
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)
1988	User group - IV League of South Australia formed			
1989	First SA Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced - Clean Needle Program (NSP)		First Victorian Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs introduced	
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 Liberal government	
1992		Pilot Tasmanian Methadone Program (1 Dec).		
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.		
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
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
1996	Heroin overdose prevention strategy established	Tasmania's first Drug Strategy adopted Alcohol and Drug Foundation of Tasmania, peak body for NGOs	Premier's Drug Advisory Council Report – recommended cannabis decriminalisation and diversion (March)	New user group established – Western Australia Substance Users Association (WASUA) (May).

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
		disbanded Interdepartmental Committee on Drugs and Alcohol established	Cannabis decriminalisation failed to win support – liberal backbenchers opposed (June) Turning the Tide – Victorian Drug Strategy released. Included \$100 million over three years for a range of projects (June). 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)	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.
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).
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.
1999	Evaluations of the CEN scheme demonstrated evidence of net-widening		Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett announced support for heroin trial (Jan)	Government announced intention to establish a drug court.

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	<p>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 attracting an expiation notice reduced from ten to three (Jun).</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 (Feb).</p> <p>Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett held a premiers meeting involving the NSW, SA and WA Premiers and ACT health minister on heroin trial (Mar)</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Second action plan, 'Together Against Drugs Strategy 1999–2001', launched.</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-IDD 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-IDD agreement (Aug).</p> <p>Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) released second stage report. This</p>	<p>COAG-IDD 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</p>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
			<p>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>drug trafficker seized. This was the first state to introduce such a law (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 Temazepam Injecting (with Victorian Drugs Policy and Services Branch).</p> <p>Kit on problem and dangers of Temazepam Injecting mailed out to each Victorian doctor and pharmacy. Kit urged them to stop prescribing and supplying temazepam gel capsules because of health risks if injected (Nov).</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>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 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>
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 Strategy – Preventing drug use – reducing crime.' This was the first drug strategy adopted and recognized the strong links between drugs and crime</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>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	<p>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>			
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</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>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
			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.	
2004	<p>SA Parliament Legislative Review Committee released report on the Cannabis Expiation Scheme (Regulations under the Controlled Substances Act 1984 and 2002). Report considered whether a one non-hydroponic plant limit undermined the original intention of the CEN scheme. The committee concluded it didn't since it enabled an average user to produce enough to supply them for a year, but also reduced risk of exploitation by crime syndicates (Feb).</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>Final evaluation of the VGDI (Feb).</p> <p>Koori Drug Diversion introduced</p> <p>11 people were taken to hospital after overdosing on GHB, Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, at the Two Tribes dance party at Rod Laver Arena (Mar).</p> <p>Use of drug detection dogs in nightclubs piloted by Victoria Police (May).</p> <p>Report on Rural and Regional Service System Review released: "Rural pathways: A review of Victoria's drug treatment system in rural and regional Victoria" (Jul).</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>Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme introduced, for use or possession of up to 30g cannabis, possession of a smoking implement or cultivation of up to 2 non-hydroponic cannabis plants. Under the scheme eligible offenders will have the option to avoid a criminal conviction by paying a fine or attending a cannabis education session. Failure to pay will result in a further fine and/or suspension of drivers license (Mar).</p> <p>YPOP (Young Person's Opportunity Program) and IDP (Indigenous Diversion Program) introduced</p>
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	Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009 (TDS) adopted. Strategy priorities community safety, prevention and reduction and improved access to treatment.	<p>Victorian Government GHB education initiative (Mar).</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act</i> banned the display or sale of cocaine kits and</p>	<p>Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2005-2009 adopted</p> <p>Strong Spirit Strong Mind- WA Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drugs Plan 2005-09 adopted</p>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	<p>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:</p> <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; & <p>Reduction and interruption in supply (Mar). Youth CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) introduced (Nov).</p>	<p>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 to detect the presence of cannabis and amphetamines (Jul).</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>Baseline evaluation of Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme completed Conditional Suspended Imprisonment Order (CSI) for use in drug court introduced (May) Amendments to the <i>Misuse of Drugs Act 1981</i> and <i>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.</p>
2006	<p>SA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis and amphetamines (Jul).</p>	<p>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”.</p>	<p>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).</p>	
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. SA Premier Rann unveiled his intention to introduce a comprehensive set of laws designed to make a major dent into organised crime in South Australia. The proposed set of laws covered more coercive powers of investigation, confiscating unexplained wealth, laws against association with criminal members and toughened controls on precursor chemicals and equipment for drug manufacturing (Jul). South Australia Police announced the creation of a Crime Gang Task Force to</p>	<p>Review of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Treatment Services in Tasmania commenced. Court mandated drug diversion program introduced (Aug). Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009 adopted to reduce supply & demand of psychostimulants and develop guidelines for safer environments of use (Nov). The Tasmanian Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses Action Plan 2007 – 2008 was endorsed by the Minister for Health and Human Services, with the goal of minimising the transmission of HIV, Hepatitis C, and Hepatitis B and other drug related harms to injecting drug users and to the</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) Discussion paper released titled “Towards a New Blueprint for Alcohol And Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Services” (Mar). Earlier identification of drug harms project (EIDHP) commenced by the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre. The project sought to provide an early warning system to Victorian policy makers through an information collection system that on a bi-monthly basis draws together insights from interviews with key stakeholders and</p>	<p>WA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (May). WA Illicit Amphetamine Drug Summit held to identify and develop strategies to respond to amphetamines (3 July). WA Illicit Amphetamine Summit – Government Action Plan adopted. Included 49 initiatives arising from Drug Summit. Review of Cannabis Infringement Notice (CIN) scheme tabled in WA Parliament. Review recommended continuing with the CIN scheme, but expanding the scheme to juveniles (with compulsory cannabis education), reducing the quantity of cannabis to which the scheme applied (from 30 to 15 grams), removing eligibility</p>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	<p>enforce the states new organised crime laws (Aug).</p>	<p>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>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 Health Information</p>	<p>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>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
			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).	
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. 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>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</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 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</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 • 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</p>	<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 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</p>

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	<p>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 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>Amendments to the <i>Controlled Substances Act 1984</i> increased police powers to screen for illicit drugs. The amendments allowed police to establish and conduct 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, controlled precursors or controlled plants. The laws clarified the circumstances surrounding the use of drug detection dogs, making them usable for screening potential users and dealers inside and outside nightclubs, pubs, concerts, festivals and, major sporting events, on board public</p>	<p>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 framework to ensure that consumers have input into the planning, development & delivery of services and • Undertaking a review of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act, 1968, to establish a legislative framework that reflects contemporary models of service provision (Dec). 	<p>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 • Stronger support and training resources for GPs to intervene earlier and • Redeveloping funding and reporting systems to promote service flexibility and innovation (Dec). 	<p>(Sep).</p>

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	<p>transport and at train and bus stations (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>			
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 against Mr Hudson prohibiting him from</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>The Tasmanian Institute of Law Enforcement 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</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 after reportedly overdosing at a</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 Driving Laws" by the Centre for</p>

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	<p>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</p>	<p>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>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>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>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 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>Victoria Police commenced a pilot program aimed at improving the</p>	<p>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</p>

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	<p>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 (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>Adoption of legislation that included measures to prevent the trafficking of drugs and alcohol into the APY Lands (Dec).</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>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><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>Administration (May).</p> <p>Education and Health Standing Committee Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia (May).</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>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 anti-social behaviour including alcohol-fuelled violence, graffiti or inappropriate behaviour in public spaces and publish if deemed necessary the names, photos or</p>

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				<p>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>
2010	<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</i></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 <i>Victoria's Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i>. The court declared that section 5 of the <i>Drugs Act</i>, which declares that an occupier of premises in which drugs are found is deemed to be in possession of those</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>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 to 2008/09 (Sep).</p> <p>Cannabis Law Reform Bill 2009 assented</p>

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		<p><i>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 coordinates Tasmanian activity to alcohol, tobacco & other drugs; 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 Psychostimulants 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, 	<p>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 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>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>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</p>	<p>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>and had helped lead agencies to implement & coordinate action to psychostimulants;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (particularly reductions in psychostimulant use and increasing harms from other illicit and licit drugs) (Dec). <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>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.</p> <p>Both precursor chemicals were known as be 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,</p>	

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			<p>mental health issues and debt (Oct).</p> <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>	
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 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</p>	<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>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 	<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 	<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 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</p>

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	<p>the substances be added to the Controlled Substances Act (Jun 17).</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 (Dec). 	<p>range of derivative drugs now entering the illicit drug market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>AOD prevention strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the fragmentation and inconsistency of service provision. • Revise the treatment service mix so that services funded align with need (Mar). <p>GHB overdose victim videoed by Herald Sun 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 (Apr).</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</p>	<p>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, 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 <p>strategic coordination and capacity building (May).</p> <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</p>

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			<p>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 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 responsiveness 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</p>	<p>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 Kronik (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 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. 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 (Aug).

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			<p>Strategy: Community Consultation' (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 (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>	<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>