

## NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM ON ICE

14 December 2006  
Radisson Hotel, Sydney

### POTENTIAL FOR COORDINATED ACTION AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

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#### SCOPE

The objective of the *National Leadership Forum on Ice* is to provide advice to Government on the key concerns and issues relating to Ice, and make urgent recommendations which propose practical and effective solutions.

This paper outlines a number of national strategies and mechanisms that have a potential role in implementing the Resolutions agreed to at the National Leadership Forum on Ice.

#### Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS)

Australian and State and Territory Health and Law Enforcement Ministers are represented on the MCDS. The *National Drug Strategy: Australia's Integrated Framework, 2004-2009* provides a framework for coordinated and integrated approach to drug issues in the community, and the MCDS has oversight of the Framework. The role of the Council is also to:

- Provide a mechanism for regular consultation between Australian Government, State and Territory health and law enforcement Ministers on programs and policies in relation to licit and illicit drugs in Australia;
- Promote a consistent and coordinated national approach to policy development and implementation in relation to all drugs issues; and
- Consider matters submitted to the Council, through individual Council members, by the Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD).

#### The National Psychostimulant Initiative

The *National Psychostimulant Initiative*, an Australian Government initiative, will operate until 2009-10.

Projects completed or in progress under the Initiative have been under three key areas:

1. Identification and dissemination of good practice models and approaches for the treatment of psychostimulant use;
2. Providing support and training to general practitioners and other health workers to improve treatment outcomes for psychostimulant users;
3. Information for at risk youth and families.

Future activities under the initiative include increasing the capacity of workers to deal with psychostimulant users.

#### National Drugs Campaign

The next stage of activity under the Australian Government's *National Drug Campaign* will address methamphetamines and its purer form 'ice'. Advertising strategies and methamphetamine information and resources will be developed

for the 18-25 year old market and made available through settings such as nightclubs, festivals and party venues.

The *National Drugs Campaign* will continue to promote drug prevention messages to parents and young people 13-18 years of age.

This activity is expected to launch nationally in April-July 2007.

### **The National Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Strategy**

In May 2006 the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy endorsed the development of a national strategy to coordinate effort to reduce the harms of amphetamines and other dangerous amphetamine type stimulants noting that work is already underway to develop the law enforcement component of the national strategy.

The Department of Health and Ageing is leading its development and the strategy will cover the years 2006-2009.

The *Law Enforcement ATS Strategy* will be considered by the MCDS at its meeting on 15 December 2006.

### **The National Comorbidity Initiative**

The *National Comorbidity Initiative* aims to improve service coordination and treatment outcomes for people with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.

In addition to this Initiative, a further \$73.9 million from the Australian Government has been allocated as part of the Council of Australian Governments Mental Health package to address issues within this target group.

### **National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture**

The Australian Government has committed \$5.4 million to the *National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture*. The *National Precursor Strategy* contributes to the supply reduction aspect of the *National Illicit Drug Strategy* by stopping legitimately available chemicals being used to make illicit synthetic drugs. Its focus includes:

- Enhancing intelligence and information sharing among law enforcement and regulatory agencies;
- Enhancing law enforcement, forensic and judicial responses through training;
- National regulatory approaches to control access to chemicals and equipment; and
- Raising awareness of the problem of precursor diversion.

A key measure being pursued under the Strategy includes the *National Clandestine Laboratory Database*, which will assist authorities in cross-border investigations of drug manufacture and supply issues. The Database will store

and integrate information on seized clandestine laboratories and precursor chemicals from police and forensic agencies in each state and territory.

### **National Working Group on the Prevention of the Diversion of Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture**

The *National Precursor Working Group* was established in 2002 by the Australian Government. This Working Group brings together 45 members from Australian Government, State and Territory law enforcement agencies, forensic and health services, and the pharmaceutical and chemicals industry. The Working Group informs the implementation of the National Precursor Strategy. Future initiatives of this group include:

- developing a national regulatory model to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and equipment,
- raising awareness of prosecutors and chemicals and plastics industries;
- development of a module for the *National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)* database to track the movement of industrial chemicals at risk of diversion.

### **Project Stop**

The *Project Stop* initiative comprises a centralised pharmacy database system which enables real-time reporting of unusual pseudoephedrine sales. The system has been implemented in Queensland, and will be rolled out nationally in 2007. *Project STOP* is a nationally linked database that records sales of pseudoephedrine products and allows tracking, identification and blocking of pseudo runners. The Project is being funded by the Australian Government and implemented by the National Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

### **Code of Practice for Supply Diversion into Illicit Drug Manufacture**

The voluntary Code of Practice covers Australian chemical manufacturers, importers and distributors and the suppliers of scientific instruments and equipment. It aims to prevent the diversion of chemicals and equipment from legitimate business and scientific use into the manufacture of illicit drugs, particularly amphetamines and other psychostimulants. The code was developed by the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) and Science Industry Australia (SIA), in conjunction with Government and law enforcement agencies, and is based on an original code established in 1994.

### **The Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control**

The recently formed *Asian Collaborative Group on Local Precursor Control* aims to complement existing law enforcement initiatives in the region by focusing on best practice regulatory, administrative and legislative policies and practices to prevent precursor diversion within national borders. The inaugural meeting of this Group was held in Queensland in October 2006 with representatives from 16 countries.

### **South Pacific Precursor Control Initiative**

The *South Pacific Precursor Control initiative* is being established by the Australian Government to develop linkages between Pacific countries and to undertake research to improve the capability of the region to identify and

prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals and respond to illicit drug manufacturing.

### **The Australasian Police Minister's Council (APMC)**

The APMC was established in 1980 to promote a co-ordinated national response to law enforcement issues and to maximise the efficient use of police resources. The role of the APMC includes the co-ordination of the national attack on organised crime and the co-operative efforts needed to achieve that goal.

### **Corrective Services Ministers' Conference**

The Conference comprises all State and Territory Ministers responsible for corrections together with the relevant Ministers from New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji (representatives from Papua New Guinea and Fiji have not attended for some time now). The Australian Government is not a member of the Conference but the Minister for Justice and Customs is invited to attend (Federal offenders are held in State and Territory corrective institutions). The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is also invited to attend where appropriate.

The Ministers meet to consider and deal with problems relating to both prison and community based correction issues. These problems include: prison management, illegal use of drugs in custody; AIDS in correction institutions or their alternatives, or in those on parole; and the rates of imprisonment and strategies for reduction, particularly for Aboriginal offenders.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan**

*National Drug Strategy* addresses the particular needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through its *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan 2003-2009*. The plan recognises that, although drug-related harms can affect anyone, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to suffer a greater burden of ill health than the rest of the population and require a different approach in order to achieve better outcomes. The plan recommends a participatory and collaborative approach to addressing drug use issues in Aboriginal communities.