



10 December 2010

National Drug Strategy 2010-2015 Consultation
MDP 701
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: NDSconsultation@health.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: National Drug Strategy 2010-2015 Consultation

The National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA) is a national coalition of health and community organisations from across Australia that has been formed with the goal of reducing alcohol-related harm. NAAA currently comprises over 40 major organisations with a focus on public health and alcohol (a full list of NAAA member organisations is contained in the attached document).

The attached NAAA Position Statement: *REDUCING HARM FROM ALCOHOL – CREATING A HEALTHIER AUSTRALIA* was formally adopted at a meeting held in Canberra on Wednesday 24 November 2010 to discuss key alcohol policy issues. Representatives of the Government, including The Hon Catherine King MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing (representing The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing); Opposition; and Australian Greens also attended the meeting held at Parliament House.

The meeting provided an opportunity for NAAA members to discuss key advocacy priorities for this term of government, including price/tax, access/availability and advertising/promotion, with a view to facilitating legislative change and ultimately reducing alcohol-related harm to the Australian community.

NAAA was established in 2009 and has subsequently identified the following initial priority areas to improve the health of Australians: reforming alcohol taxation; access and availability; effective regulation of alcohol promotion including an end to alcohol advertising through sports sponsorship before 8.30pm; increasing investment in prevention; and health information labelling on alcohol products.

The attached position paper provides further detail in relation to NAAA's key policy priorities, which we would like to see incorporated in the new National Drug Strategy 2010-2015.

Further to the priorities outlined in the attached position paper, members of the NAAA have noted their support for the continuation of the MCDS. The positions taken by the NAAA are also consistent with strong support for further development of a specific *National Drug Strategy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan* in consultation with Aboriginal communities as a formal sub-strategy.

NAAA Secretariat:

Melanie Walker, Public Health Association of Australia (Tel 02 6285 2373, email: mwalker@phaa.net.au) and
Brian Vandenberg, VicHealth (Tel 03 9667 1315, email: bvandenberg@vichealth.vic.gov.au)

We note that a number of NAAA members have provided separate submissions in relation to the draft Strategy and we wish to draw your attention to these additional documents that provide further detail in relation to other specific issues raised in the draft Strategy.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the current process and look forward to seeing the final version of the Strategy, which we hope will reflect the policies and priorities recommended by the NAAA.

While we are pleased to see an emphasis on alcohol in the Strategy, we believe that this needs to be complemented by a greater sense of urgency in terms of action to implement the measures that can have an impact on the nature and extent of alcohol problems in Australia.

Please do not hesitate to contact NAAA should you require additional information with regard to the Alliance or this submission.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mike Daube
CO-CHAIR
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ACTION ON ALCOHOL



Todd Harper
CO-CHAIR
NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR ACTION ON ALCOHOL

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