



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

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Australian Government's alcohol, tobacco and  
other drugs – policy directions.

Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association Annual Conference 2009



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# National Drug Strategy

- Achieved an overall decline in drug use in recent years
  
- 2010 -2015 National Drug Strategy development
  - Review current evidence base and issues.
  - Consultations later in 2009



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# Preventative Health Taskforce

- Initiative of current government
- Released discussion paper in April 2008
- *Australia: the healthiest country by 2020.*
- Taskforce:
  - received 397 submissions;
  - Held 40 consultations with 1,000 stakeholders.



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# National Preventative Health Strategy

## Targets:

- reduce the prevalence of daily smoking to less than 10%;
- reduce short-term risky/high risk levels of drinking to 14%;
- reduce long term risky/high risk levels of drinking to 7%.

Strategy available at [www.yourhealth.gov.au](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au) for comment



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# Increasing emphasis on alcohol and tobacco

- The National Binge Drinking Strategy (\$53 million over 4 years) for:
  - Community level initiatives
  - Early intervention pilot program
  - Social marketing campaign
- Increase in excise for ready to drink alcohol products.
- achieving reduction in these products.



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# Commitment to Reducing Smoking Rates in Australia

- From 1995 to 2007 people smoking daily has fallen from 23.8% to 16.6%
- Government has reinvigorated National Tobacco Strategy - \$15 m over 4 years
- National Partnership on Preventative Health \$61m over 4 years for national social marketing campaign
- Aim to reduce daily smoking rate from 16.6% to less than 10% by 2020



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# Indigenous tobacco smoking rates

- \$1.6 billion National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health
- High priority given to reducing Indigenous smoking rates to improve health outcomes
- Critical to Government's objective of closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.



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# Continuing Commitment to Illicit Drug Programs

- No change to Rudd government's "tough on drugs" stance
- Over 4 years from 2009-10 \$353.8 m will be provided from the Health portfolio to tackle illicit drug issues
  - Delivery of NGO drug treatment services;
  - Capacity building including training;
  - Research and education programs.





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# COAG National Healthcare Agreements

- Cooperative working arrangements
- Increased flexibility for states and territories in delivery of services to Australian people
- NHCA – 5 years - \$60.5 billion



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# International Commitments

- High Level Session Commission on Narcotic Drugs 2009
- Continuing commitment to balanced approach incorporating:
  - Supply reduction;
  - Demand reduction;
  - Harm reduction.