

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2008

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline provides a list of key events that have occurred in Australia between 1985 and June 30 2008. 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.

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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	Federal
1985	<p>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.</p> <p>National Drug Strategy Committee (NDSC) established to lead policy development in conjunction with the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS).</p> <p>Methadone endorsed as an appropriate treatment intervention.</p> <p>First national household survey on drugs conducted: "Social issues in Australia, 1985."</p>
1986	<p>National "Drug Offensive" media campaign launched (Apr).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Federal government provided funding and national recognition to newly formed Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.</p> <p>First Needle Syringe Program (NSP) opened in act of civil disobedience - Darlinghurst (Nov).</p>
1987	<p>National Centre for HIV Epidemiology and Research began first Australian clinical trial of AZT, a promising anti –retroviral (Feb).</p> <p>Commonwealth government launched a \$2.9m National AIDS Education Campaign, including the Grim Reaper television</p>

	Federal
	<p>advertisement.</p> <p>AZT approved as a treatment, agreement between Commonwealth and States to share costs.</p> <p>"Treatment Works" week established by the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia.</p>
1988	<p>First evaluation of NCADA by 5 person taskforce. Report titled "Report of the NCADA Task Force on Evaluation (1988)" concluded had been considerable progress – expansion of treatment services, community awareness and better monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Australian IV League (AIVL) began as unfunded national network representing drug users and drug user organizations.</p> <p>Second national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1988."</p> <p>Australian National Council on AIDS established.</p>
1989	<p>National HIV/AIDS Strategy launched – emphasis on prevention and harm reduction.</p> <p>Commonwealth Government funded first injecting drug user organisations.</p> <p>First Australian Hepatitis C antibody studies initiated. Showed a high prevalence of Hepatitis C amongst injecting drug users.</p> <p>Release of 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)</p>
1990	<p>National Centre for HIV Social Research established.</p> <p>Commonwealth Government ratified the United Nations Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances.</p> <p>First national census of clients of treatment service agencies (COTSA) conducted (Mar).</p> <p>National Health and Medical Research Council released first formal statement on Hepatitis C.</p>
1991	<p>Second evaluation of NCADA: Prof Ian Webster (Chair). Report titled "No Quick Fix: An evaluation of NCADA 1992" concluded there was "no quick fix" to the drug problem and NCADA needed greater strategic direction e.g. introduction of national drug strategic unit to oversee implementation.</p> <p>Third national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Social Issues Survey, 1991."</p> <p>Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing released a report by Collins and Lapsley, "Estimating the economic costs of drug abuse in Australia." This estimated that in 1988 drug abuse cost the Australian community more than \$14.3 billion, equivalent to 4.6% of gross domestic product for that year. Tobacco cost \$9.7 billion, alcohol cost \$3.9 billion and illicit drugs cost \$1.2 billion.</p>
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</p>

	Federal
	<p>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>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 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>Launch of the Alcohol and other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) as a non-government organisation representing the alcohol and other drugs sector (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>
1995	<p>Fifth national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 1995."</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</p>

	Federal
	was established as the peak advisory body to the federal government on HIV and AIDS.
1997	<p>Family Drug Support was formed after its founder Tony Trimingham'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>Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy meeting held to discuss ACT heroin trial. Meeting concluded 6-3 in favour of the trial (Jul).</p> <p>The Australian Women's Weekly and Channel Seven's Today Tonight introduced the Australian public to naltrexone with the story subtitled "I woke up cured of heroin." The story told of a middle class heroin addict who was miraculously cured from addiction after the magazine had flown her for naltrexone treatment in Israel (Jul).</p> <p>Prime Minister John Howard blocked ACT heroin trial (19 Aug).</p> <p>Diversion was placed on Ministerial Council of Drug Strategy agenda (Aug).</p> <p>Prime Minister's "Tough on Drugs" strategy commenced (Nov).</p> <p>Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) commenced as part of the Tough on Drugs strategy. NGOTGP aimed to fund the establishment, expansion, upgrading and operation of non-government alcohol and other drug treatment services (Nov).</p> <p>Community Partnerships Initiative (CPI), a community grants program commenced as part of the Tough on Drugs strategy. The CPI aimed to prevent and reduce drug related harm through projects that promoted and supported the establishment of community driven drug illicit prevention and early intervention initiatives (Nov).</p>
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 Australian National Council on Drugs – 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>"Tough on Drugs" extended (Nov).</p>

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	<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>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) study commenced to provide measures of drug consumption amongst police detainees.</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>
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>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>

	Federal
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>National Action Plan on Illicit Drugs 2001 – 2002-03 endorsed by the MCDS (Jul).</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>
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. It was then shifted from an unrestricted to a restricted access (May).</p> <p>National Illicit Drug Indicators Project rolled out for all states and territories, following success of ACT Drug Indicators Project pilot. Project linked data from state and national sources concerning drug use prevalence, treatment, overdoses, morbidity, seizures, purity and drug-related crime so as to increase knowledge of trends in drug use and drug-related harm (Jun).</p> <p>Interim evaluation of the National Hepatitis C Strategy: “The Road Not Taken: Review of the National Hepatitis C Strategy” (Jul).</p> <p>Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 adopted with the aim of confiscating the proceeds of crime including current and future benefits that could be derived such as through commercial exploitation of offending (Oct).</p> <p>Report on the Return on Investment in Needle and Syringe Programs in Australia concluded that between 1991 and 2000 NSPs had cost Australia \$141 million but saved 25,000 HIV infections, 21,000 HCV infections and \$2.4 to \$7.7 billion (Oct).</p> <p>Prime Minister John Howard announced that the Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative had been a success and that an additional \$215 million would be committed to the second stage of the IDDI (from July 2003-July 2007) (Dec).</p> <p>A National Working Group on the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals was established to stop over-the-counter medicines being</p>

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	diverted into illicit drug manufacture (Dec).
2003	<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 \$4.4 million for a National Strategy to Prevent the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture (2003-04 to 2007-08) (May).</p> <p>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>Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (ANCAHRD) replaced by the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH).</p>
2004	<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>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." 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</p>

	Federal
	<p>to be implemented in Australian prisons. Report recommended expanding use of demand and harm reduction strategies (Jul).</p> <p>Report on clinical trials of pharmacotherapies for opioid dependence released: "National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD)." Comparisons of treatment categories of methadone maintenance, buprenorphine maintenance, LAAM maintenance, naltrexone treatment, rapid opioid detoxification with anaesthesia or sedation, outpatient detoxification using buprenorphine, conventional inpatient detoxification and conventional outpatient detoxification led to the conclusion that all heroin users experienced reductions in criminal activity and heroin use after entering treatment but that the agonist maintenance treatments of LAAM, methadone and buprenorphine retained significantly more heroin users than naltrexone treatment. Overall LAAM was the most cost-effective treatment, but Methadone maintenance was the most cost-effective treatment available in Australia (Oct).</p> <p>MCDS endorsed development of a National Cannabis Strategy (Nov).</p> <p>Eighth national household survey on drugs conducted: "National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 2004." Results indicated that between 2001 and 2004 there had been a decline in the proportion of the population, from 16.9% to 15.3%, who had used an illicit drug in the past 12 months.</p> <p>Australian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) renamed as the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) reflecting a shift in focus to include New Zealand.</p> <p>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 principally advisory group to the Australian 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>
2005	<p>Temazepan capsules removed from the market</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 first 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>

	Federal
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>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>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>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>National Leadership Forum on Ice held in Sydney (Dec).</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>National Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS) Strategy Consultation Paper released (Mar).</p>

	Federal
	<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>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>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>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 “Drug Testing in Schools – evidence, impacts and alternatives” 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>

Federal

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).

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).

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).

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).

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).

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).

2020 Summit held in Canberra. Summit brought together experts from around Australia to develop new ideas/policy directions for Australia by year 2020 (Apr).

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).

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).

Biggest seizure of MDMA made in Australia. The 45kg of MDMA powder was shipped from the Netherlands (May).

First National Corrections Drug Strategy 2006-2009 endorsed (May).

MCDS endorsed the National Amphetamine-type Stimulants Strategy (May).

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

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

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2008: ACT, NSW, NT and Qld

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
1986		<p>First NSP opened in act of civil disobedience - Darlinghurst (Nov)</p> <p>NSW Government established drug store-based needle and syringe distribution scheme (Dec)</p>		<p>Possession of needles and syringes decriminalised and first distribution programs of single syringes commenced</p>
1987	<p>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.</p>	<p>NSW Government amended the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 legalising possession of needle and syringes and established Needle and Syringe Exchange Programs</p> <p>AIDS and Drug Information Collective formed as lobby group</p>		<p>Changes to Drugs Misuse Act (as amended) 1987 established a new offence for inappropriate disposal of needles and syringes (Sep)</p>
1988	<p>Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act (Cth) passed creating a legislative assembly for the ACT and giving it limited powers of self-government.</p> <p>User group - Australian Capital Territory IV League (ACTIV League) formed</p>			<p>Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct (Fitzgerald Inquiry) report released</p> <p>User group - Queensland IV AIDS Association (QuIVAA) formed</p>
1989	<p>1989 Drugs of Dependence Act</p>	<p>User group - New South Wales Users and AIDS</p>	<p>User group - Northern Territory Users Forum</p>	<p>Criminal Justice Commission established as a result of the Fitzgerald</p>

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	Appointment of a select committee to report on HIV, illegal drugs and prostitution First NSP opened in ACT	Association (NUAA) formed	(TUF) formed First NSP opened in NT	Inquiry Changes to Drugs Misuse Act (as amended) 1989 enabled supply of needles for illicit drug use and hence introduction of NSPs in Queensland
1991	ACT 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 study to determine feasibility of a heroin trial (1991-1995)			
1992	Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) expiation scheme for cannabis offences introduced	First NSW Drug Strategy released		
1993				First Queensland Drug Strategy released
1994		Inquiry into police corruption launched. Commissioner: The Hon Justice JRT Wood. (May) The NSW Hepatitis C Taskforce was established.		
1995	NCEPH/AIC team released report recommending that	First ecstasy-related death reported – 15 year old		Second Queensland Drug Strategy released

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	<p>a heroin trial proceed and provided a detailed plan for a phased series of studies that would begin with a trial of heroin prescription for 40 patients. It also recommended that 3 months of consultation be undertaken to disseminate findings of report (Jun).</p> <p>ACT Government established a 29-member Heroin Pilot Task Force chaired by Mr Kevin Waller AM to consult with the community and make recommendations about whether or not the trial should proceed and how the feasibility research might best be implemented (Jul).</p> <p>ACT Government released its first drug strategy – ACT Drug Strategy 1995-97 (Sep).</p>	<p>Anna Wood (Oct).</p> <p>Formation of the 'Anna Wood Drug and Alcohol Project' which sought to provide more abstinence based drug education in schools.</p>		
1996	<p>Heroin Pilot Task Force recommended that a trial proceed (Jan)</p>	<p>Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in NSW, collecting data on illicit drug market trends</p>	<p>Cannabis expiation scheme introduced</p>	<p>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).</p>
1997	<p>ACT Government formally sought and obtained support at the MCDS meeting for a heroin trial</p>	<p>Woods Royal Commission report concluded that a war on drugs approach contributed towards police corruption. Recommended</p>	<p>Introduction of mandatory sentencing in NT for minor offences</p>	

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	<p>(Jul) Commonwealth Government declined to authorise importation of heroin to support the trial (Aug) Canberra Injectors Network, CIN – established by drug users with aim of providing peer-based education.</p>	<p>increased attention to alternate approaches – increased focus on harm minimisation strategies, increasing public education, expanding methadone availability and establishing a supervised injecting facility (May). Legislative Council’s Standing Committee on Social Issues was asked to inquire into Hepatitis C (HCV) and its implications for the community (May). NSW Police officers Rodney Podesta and Anthony Dilorenzo shot dead a mentally disturbed man, Ron Levi. Both police officers were later found to be cocaine users, who regularly partied before work. This led to public outcry since neither officer was drug tested at the time of the shooting (Jun). NSW Parliamentary Joint Select Committee established to consider feasibility of a trial of a supervised injecting facility (Jul). Several news articles appeared citing New South Wales Health Minister Andrew Refshauge’s claim that St Vincent’s Hospital in Sydney received</p>		

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
		approximately five people a day being treated for GHB overdoses (Nov).		
1998	Discussions began around trialling a 'supervised injecting place' (SIP) and Supervised Injecting Place Trial Advisory Committee was established.	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). Mandatory drug and alcohol testing introduced for NSW police officers involved in critical incidents e.g. police shootings (Jul).		Brisbane Lord Mayor's Illicit Drug Task Force convened
1999	Report on Evaluation of ACT Drug Strategy 1995-97 released. ACT drug user group - Australian Capital Territory IV League (ACTIV League) disbanded Canberra Injectors Network, CIN was funded as new ACT drug user group (Jul). Second ACT drug strategy released: From Harm to Hope: ACT Drug Strategy	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). Minister for Health, Hon A Refshauge MP, closed down the Redfern needle exchange outlet, and ordered a review of the \$9 million statewide needle		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 statewide in partnership with three peak youth and indigenous bodies (16-17 March). Third Queensland Drug Strategy launched: 'Beyond a Quick Fix: Queensland Drug Strategic Framework

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	<p>1999 (Sep). Supervised Injecting Place Trial Act 1999 passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly (Dec)</p>	<p>exchange program (Feb). Premier, Hon B Carr MP, announced his government would hold a drug summit if re-elected (Feb). NSW Drug Court trial commenced (Feb) Labor government re-elected under Premier Carr (Mar). 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). 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). 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</p>		<p>1999/2000 to 2003/2004.' Focus of strategy was on youth and early intervention (Jun). Queensland Drug Coordinating Committee (QDCC) established to coordinate and oversee implementation of Queensland drug strategy. Inter-governmental committee, YADA (Youth Alcohol and Drug Action), established by QDCC to consider youth drug issues (Nov)</p>

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
		<p>cycle. This included plans to introduce state-wide trials of a Cannabis Cautioning Scheme and Early Court Intervention Pilot (subsequently named MERIT) and an injecting room (Jul).</p> <p>NSW Government committed \$176 million towards the implementation of Drug Summit recommendations and established a new Office of Drug Policy to provide leadership and coordination.</p> <p>Working Party on the Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes established (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-IDDI 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 (Jun).</p> <p>Lismore MERIT Pilot Program and Youth Drug</p>	The National Liberal Party proposed to extend mandatory sentencing to drug trafficking offences	Queensland Government introduced a Drug Court (Jun).

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
		<p>and Alcohol Court were introduced (Jun - Jul)</p> <p>Report released by Working Party on the Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes. Recommended further trials and non-prosecution of individuals found obtaining, possessing or using cannabis, provided they had prior medical certification that they had a condition that might benefit from cannabis use (Aug).</p> <p>NSW Heroin Overdose Prevention and Management Strategy released involving \$670,000 (Nov)</p> <p>First NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2000 – 2003 adopted (Nov).</p> <p>Framework for Action - NSW Drugs and Community Action Strategy (Dec).</p>		
2001	<p>COAG-IDDI agreement signed (May)</p> <p>ACT election - ALP gained office and postponed issue of a SIP trial until after the evaluation of the NSW MSIC trial (Nov)</p> <p>ACT Policing and Early Intervention Diversion Program introduced (Dec)</p> <p>New ACT drug user group</p>	<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</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</p>	<p>COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Mar)</p> <p>Police Diversion for Minor Drug Offences and Drug Court Program introduced (Jun)</p> <p>The 2nd Youth Drug Summit - involved 50 young people. Recommended that needed more incentives to obtain work, more youth specific</p>

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	<p>established - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) (Year??).</p>	<p>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>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 (Jul).</p> <p>Random drug testing introduced in NSW Police Force. This supplemented the mandatory drug testing</p>	<p>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 (Nov)</p>	<p>withdrawal options and flexibility in treatment (23 & 24 October).</p>

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
		of officers involved in critical incidents (Sep).		
2002	Alcohol Tobacco and other Drug Taskforce established to devise a new drug strategy (Aug).	MSIC trial extended additional 12 months to enable operation during evaluation (Oct). Launch of the NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2003-2006 (Nov).	COAG-IDDI agreement signed (Jan) New user group established - Network Against Prohibition Northern Territory (NAPNT) (Mar). Report from Taskforce on Illicit Drugs. Concluded that alcohol remained major drug of concern in NT but needed more early intervention for illicit drug users, better advertising of treatment services and more training of treatment personnel. It also recommended undertaking a mapping exercise of current treatment services (May). Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act repealed (Jun). <i>Misuse of Drugs Act</i> amended - introduced new rulings on drug premises orders. Enabled houses or business where there was evidence of supply or possession of drugs to be declared "drug premises" and for police to enter and search such premises and anyone on the premise without warrant for 12 months (Jul).	

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
			Northern Territory Illicit Drug Pre-Court Diversion Program introduced (Dec)	
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 places to trial needle and syringe vending machines and examine the feasibility of needle exchange in ACT prisons (Dec).</p>	<p>Phase one evaluation of Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) released. Concluded that trial was feasible, had reached target group, and that there was no detectable change in the level of overdoses, crime or public amenity (Jul).</p> <p>Trial of MSIC extended until 2007 and new evaluation established (Oct).</p> <p>NSW Premier proposed to conduct 4 year trial of medical use of cannabis. Provisional support from Prime Minister (May).</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>	Illicits Drug Court Diversion Program introduced (Mar)
2004	<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>	MERIT completed roll-out to all Area Health Services in NSW (Jun).	<p>Alcohol and Other Drug Program convened forum for drug and alcohol treatment agencies to advise on the improvement of service delivery and outcomes (Mar).</p> <p>New NT health strategy adopted - "Building Healthier Communities: A framework for health and communities services</p>	New user group established - Queensland Injectors Health Network (QUIHN) (year ??).

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
			<p>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>	
2005	<p>Trial of syringe vending machines commenced at the Civic, Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Phillip Community Health Centres (Feb).</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</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 (Nov).</p>

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	health plan (Nov).			
2006	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).	NSW HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006-2009 adopted	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).	Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies Inc (QNADA) commenced (May). QMERIT (Queensland Magistrate's Early Referral into Treatment) program introduced (Jul). Fourth Queensland Drug Strategy 2006-2009 released (Oct). 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).
2007	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). ACT Corrective Services Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Strategy 2006 - 2008 adopted. Strategy aimed for harm minimisation, demand reduction and	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). Medically Supervised Injecting Centre trial continued 2007-2011 (Jul). NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2007-2009 adopted.	Substance Abuse Committee formed to provide strategic advice (Jun). Northern Territory Intervention adopted. Included widespread alcohol restrictions, increased policing, medical examinations of all Indigenous children and reforms to welfare system (Jun). Legislation for Northern	Queensland Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Dec).

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	effective clinical management for substance misusers (Sep).	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 and the frequency of use reduced across all drugs. Most notably daily use decreased from 45% to 11% for cannabis and from 24% to 1% for heroin. (Nov).	Territory Intervention passed - Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 (Aug).	
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 comprehensive evaluation, 18 months after the prison was commissioned (Mar). The report of the 2007 External Review of the ACT Alcohol and Other Drug Service System,	Crimes Amendment (Drink and Food Spiking) Bill 2008 adopted. Bill created a new summary offence of spiking a person's drink or food with an intoxicating substance with intent to harm the person (max penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$11,000 fine, or both) (Mar). 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	NT Government adopted roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (Feb).	Drugs Misuse Amendment Bill 2007 passed. Bill reclassified MDMA and PMA (an amphetamine type drug) from schedule 2 to schedule 1 dangerous drugs. Maximum penalties for possession, supply and trafficking increased from 20 to 25 years (Feb). 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

Year	Australian Capital Territory	New South Wales	Northern Territory	Queensland
	<p>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>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</p>	<p>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 Iemma Government to trial medical use of cannabis. Needed support of Federal Government to allow importation of the oral spray – Sativex (May).</p> <p>Mark Standen, Assistant Director of NSW Crime Commission, arrested for conspiring to import 600kg of pseudoephedrine, enough to produce \$120 million of "ice" (Jun).</p>		<p>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>

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	<p>offences should be the same as for drink driving. The ACT Government provided two months to receive feedback (May).</p> <p>The ACT AOD Sector Project announced that the First Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector Conference would be held as part of Drug Action Week 2008 (May).</p>			

The Australian (illicit) drug policy timeline: 1985-2008: SA, Tas, Vic and WA

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
1985		User group established - Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis & Related Diseases (TasCAHRD).	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 NSP established in WA (Jul)
1988	User group - IV League of South Australia formed			
1989	First SA NSPs introduced - Clean Needle Program (NSP)		First Victorian Needle and Syringe Programs introduced	
1991	Select Committee established to report on drugs of dependence User group reestablished as South Australia Voice for Intravenous Equity (SAVIVE)		Redevelopment of specialist treatment services began under Liberal government	
1993	Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) established	Introduction of HIV/AIDS Preventive Measures Act		

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	(Feb).	established regulatory framework for NSPs in Tasmania - (Needle Availability Program) First official NSPs introduced		
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 disbanded Interdepartmental Committee on Drugs and Alcohol established	Premier's Drug Advisory Council Report – recommended cannabis decriminalisation and diversion (March) 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 -	

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
			Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee (PCPC) – to oversee implementation of Turning the Tide and inform public debate on current issues (Dec)	
1997	<p>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).</p> <p>Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in SA, collecting data on illicit drug market trends</p> <p>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</p>		<p>Cannabis Cautioning Program trial – Victoria Police (July 1997 to Jan 1998)</p> <p>Victorian Parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee (PCPC) Report concluded there was “some merit in suitably regulated and controlled safe houses” for injecting</p> <p>Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) commenced in Victoria, collecting data on illicit drug market trends</p> <p>Community Offenders Advice and Treatment Service (COATS) established as a brokerage service, to increase access for forensic clients to drug and alcohol services.</p> <p>The Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) was established to increase access and engagement of young people in drug treatment, rehabilitation and outreach services.</p>	<p>WA first Drug Strategy, ‘Together Against Drugs,’ released</p> <p>WA Drug Abuse Strategy Office formed</p> <p>Western Australia’s heroin overdose prevention strategy initiated</p>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	ecstasy.			
1998	First South Australian Drug Strategy, 'A Time to Act' released		<p>Cannabis Cautioning Program state-wide and Illicit Drug Diversion Pilot commenced – Victoria Police (Sep)</p> <p>Court Referral & Evaluation for Drug Intervention and Treatment (CREDIT) Trial (Nov)</p>	<p>Trial of cautioning and education system for simple cannabis offences launched.</p> <p>New user group established – Western Australia Substance Users Association (WASUA) (Year??).</p>
1999	<p>Evaluations of the CEN scheme demonstrated evidence of net-widening and suggested that some people were exploiting the scheme by cultivating and selling cannabis.</p> <p>Cannabis Expiation Notice scheme amended: Number of cannabis plants attracting an expiation notice reduced from ten to three (Jun).</p>		<p>Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett announced support for heroin trial (Jan)</p> <p>Herald Sun newspaper introduced a "heroin toll" – a daily toll of the number of drug overdose deaths in Victoria. The heroin toll ran alongside the toll of road crash deaths in Victoria in every Herald Sun newspaper (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</p>	<p>Government announced intention to establish a drug court.</p> <p>Second action plan, 'Together Against Drugs Strategy 1999–2001', launched.</p>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
			<p>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>	
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-IDDI 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)</p>	<p>COAG-IDDI 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>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
			<p>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-IDDI agreement (Aug).</p> <p>Drug Policy Expert Committee (DPEC) released second stage report. This suggested need for significant reform in Victorian drug strategy and outlined a framework for future development including the development of a Koori drug and alcohol strategy (Nov).</p> <p>Victorian Government adopted Victorian Government Drug Initiative (VGDI) and committed \$77 million in funding for period 2000/01 – 2002/03 (Nov).</p>	
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</p>	Tasmanian Drug Strategic Plan (TDSP) 2001–2004 adopted.	<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>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</p>

Year	South Australia	Tasmania	Victoria	Western Australia
	a fine reduced from three to one (Nov)		<p>Victoria Government allocated \$2 million to develop a Koori drug and alcohol strategy and established a Koori Drug Strategy Advisory Committee (KDSAC) to undertake the development (Sep).</p> <p>Two reference groups were established into Temazepan Injecting (with Victorian Drugs Policy and Services Branch).</p> <p>Kit on problem and dangers of Temazepan Injecting mailed out to each Victorian doctor and pharmacy. Kit urged them to stop prescribing and supplying temazepam gel capsules because of health risks if injected (Nov).</p>	<p>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>
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 Drug Summit held. Summit was preceded by 24 community consultations</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>

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

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	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).			
2003	Initial Criminal Justice Illicit Drugs Performance Indicators report presented to the Criminal Justice Leadership Group (May). SA Government expanded response to drug summit: another 14 initiatives and \$1.86 million (Sep).		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). Koori Alcohol and Drug Plan 2003-04 released as precursor to a strategy (Sep). First Service System Review (SSR) of Victoria's drug treatment system completed.	Cannabis Control Act 2003 amended the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981 to allow cannabis infringement notices to be issued (Jan) POP (Pre-sentence Opportunity Program) introduced (Mar) PSO (Pre-Sentence Order) for use in drug court introduced (Sep) STIR (Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime) introduced (Nov)
2004	SA Parliament Legislative Review Committee released report on the Cannabis Expiation Scheme (Regulations under the Controlled Substances Act 1984 and 2002). Report considered whether a one non-hydroponic plant limit undermined the original intention of the CEN	Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council, Tasmania (ATDC) established (year ??)	Final evaluation of the VGDI (Feb). Koori Drug Diversion introduced 11 people were taken to hospital after overdosing on GHB, Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, at the Two Tribes dance party at Rod Laver Arena (Mar).	Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme introduced (Mar) YPOP (Young Person's Opportunity Program) and IDP (Indigenous Diversion Program) introduced

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	<p>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>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 in report "Youth Service System Review" (Sep).</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>	
2005	<p>Evaluation of first set of Drug Summit Initiatives completed. Concluded 2/3 initiatives had proceeded well and that initiatives had added value and capacity in SA response to drugs. Also noted need to improve management (Feb).</p> <p>South Australian Drug Strategy 2005-2010 adopted (Feb).</p> <p>Youth CARDS (Court Assessment and Referral Drug Scheme) introduced (Nov).</p>	<p>Tasmanian Drug Strategy 2005-2009 (TDS) adopted. Strategy priorities community safety, prevention and reduction and improved access to treatment.</p> <p>Tasmania Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis and amphetamines (Jul).</p>	<p>Victorian Government GHB education initiative (Mar).</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> <p>Baseline evaluation of Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme completed</p> <p>Conditional Suspended Imprisonment Order (CSI) for use in drug court introduced (May)</p>
2006	<p>SA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis and</p>	<p>Tasmanian Law Reform Institute published a report titled "The Establishment of</p>	<p>Victorian Drug Strategy 2006-2009 adopted</p>	

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	amphetamines (Jul).	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).	Roadside drug testing made permanent following success of pilot and extended to include testing for ecstasy (Jun).	
2007		<p>Court mandated drug diversion program introduced (Aug).</p> <p>Tasmanian Psychostimulants Action Plan 2007-2009 adopted to reduce supply & demand of psychostimulants and develop guidelines for safer environments of use (Nov).</p> <p>Review of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Treatment Services in Tasmania commenced.</p>	<p>New Mental Health and Drugs Division commenced operation and the Minister for Mental Health convened Victoria's first drug taskforce on 'ice' and amphetamines to guide the State Government's strategy (Mar)</p> <p>Discussion paper released titled "Towards a New Blueprint for Alcohol And Other Drug (AOD) Treatment Services" (Mar).</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</p>	<p>WA Police commenced random roadside drug testing for cannabis, amphetamines and ecstasy (May).</p> <p>WA Illicit Amphetamine Drug Summit held to identify and develop strategies to respond to amphetamines (3 July).</p> <p>WA Illicit Amphetamine Summit – Government Action Plan adopted. Included 49 initiatives arising from Drug Summit.</p> <p>Review of Cannabis Infringement Notice (CIN) scheme tabled in WA Parliament. Review recommended continuing with the CIN scheme, but expanding the scheme to juveniles (with compulsory cannabis education), reducing the quantity of cannabis to which the scheme applied (from 30 to 15 grams), removing eligibility for cultivation of any plants, and increasing fines for non-compliance (Nov).</p> <p>Criminal Code Amendment (Drink and Food Spiking) Bill</p>

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			<p>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>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>
2008		<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>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>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>