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TO: THE PREMIER FOR CABINET TO NOTE

RE: MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON DRUG STRATEGY (MCDS)

1. PROPOSAL

That Cabinet note the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy Agenda (Attachment 1) for the meeting to be held in Sydney on 15 December 2006.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) is the peak policy and decision making body in relation to licit and illicit drugs in Australia. The MCDS brings together Australian, State and Territory Ministers, responsible for health and law enforcement and the Australian Government Minister for Education, Science and Training to collectively determine national policies and programs to reduce the harm caused by drugs. New Zealand's health and law enforcement Ministers have observer status at MCDS meetings.
- 2.2 The MCDS ensures that Australia has a nationally coordinated and integrated approach to reducing the harm arising from the use of drugs. The Council's collaborative approach has been designed to achieve national consistency in policy principles and program development.
- 2.3 The MCDS meets twice a year usually in May and November.
- 2.4 The Hon Paul Holloway MLC, Minister for Police and I, in my role as Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, represent South Australia on the MCDS.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The attached MCDS Agenda may be further amended closer to the date of the meeting.
- 3.2 South Australia will be leading discussion on three items at the December meeting:
 - **Final Report of the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Working Party and Review of the Australian Alcohol Guidelines (Agenda Item 9)**

South Australia is leading a project to develop an agreed national plan of action to address Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

A report will be presented to MCDS and will include recommendations for the continuation of this project and the development of a **National Drug Strategy** monograph on the findings of the working party.

- **Scheduling Working Party on Controlled Substances (Agenda Item 18)**

The Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) Scheduling Working Party on Controlled Substances has been establishing recommended model schedules of controlled substances and quantities on the basis of the Model Criminal Code Officers Committee Report on Serious Drug Offences.

Several issues around the quantities contained in the model schedules are still being finalised. SA Police will be coordinating further consultations among law enforcement members of IGCD. Once these issues are resolved, the schedules will be resubmitted to IGCD and MCDS for endorsement at a later date.

- **Use of Terms such as Party and / or Recreational Drugs (Agenda Item 19)**

I will seek MCDS endorsement for a resolution on the terminology used by government departments when describing illicit drugs and their use.

The terms 'recreational drug use' and 'party drug' infer legitimacy to illicit drug use. Using words such as these may inadvertently imply that drug use is tolerated at some level.

3.3 Items requiring endorsement at the December meeting are:

- **National priority areas for the National Alcohol Strategy and the National Cannabis Strategy (Agenda Item 1)**

Each jurisdiction has nominated specific priority areas for immediate national action in relation to these strategies. A final compiled list will be tabled for endorsement.

- **Business Case for the National Clandestine Laboratory Database (Agenda Item 6)**

Currently in Australia there is no national database or system to capture and disseminate information and intelligence on clandestine laboratories. This national information and intelligence is crucial to inform and target law enforcement supply reduction activities and support cross-jurisdictional and proactive investigations.

MCDS previously provided in principle support for the **National Clandestine Laboratory Database**. The business case will be presented for MCDS endorsement.

- **MCDS-Cost Shared Funding Model (CSFM) Project – Responses to Doctor Shopping, Prescription Fraud and other Diversion and their impact on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and other associated crime (Agenda Item 13)**

An Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs (IGCD) Cost Shared Funding Model proposal has been developed to scope the range of strategies available to control the diversion of pharmaceutical drugs to the illicit market.

The proposal will be presented for MCDS endorsement.

- **Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drug Train the Trainer pilot program (Agenda Item 16)**

The aim of this project is to reduce alcohol and other drug-related harm through sustainable workforce development and capacity building in Indigenous communities.

The final report will be presented for MCDS endorsement.

- **Appointment of new IGCD Deputy Chair and new IGCD Executive Member (Agenda Item 20)**

MCDS endorsement will be sought for the appointment of the following two people:

- Superintendent Frank Hansen, **NSW Police** - to the position of Deputy Chair, IGCD.
- Deputy Commissioner Jack Johnston, **Tasmania Police** - to the IGCD **Executive**.

3.4 Other key items for discussion only at the December meeting are:

- **National Leadership Forum on Ice – report on outcomes**

A report will be provided from the Forum held on 14 December 2006.

- **Update on development of the National Amphetamine Types Stimulants Strategy (Agenda Item 3)**

This strategy is currently under development and a progress report will be provided at this meeting.

- **National Law Enforcement Amphetamine Type Stimulants Strategy (Agenda Item 4)**

A National Law Enforcement Amphetamine Type Stimulants Strategy is being developed and will be discussed.

- **Use of Amphetamines and Other Drugs by Long Distance Truck Drivers (Agenda Item 5)**

This is a new item for discussion at the request of the NSW Government. Details of this item are not currently available.

- **National Law Enforcement Response to Amphetamine Type Stimulants (Agenda Item 7)**

A discussion paper from the Australian Police Ministers' Council on Amphetamine Type Stimulants has been circulated for discussion.

- **Marketing of Alcohol Products (Agenda Item 8)**

This is a new item for discussion at the request of the NSW Government. Details on this item are not currently available.

- **Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) update (Agenda Item 10)**

A presentation will be given on the activities of the ANCD.

- **Neuroscience – Emerging Approaches for Dealing with Addictions (Agenda Item 11)**

An IGCD Cost Shared Funding Model proposal is being proposed to develop a comprehensive report on research and findings driving developments in this area. This work will inform Ministers and governments on this emerging field and its potential implications for future responses to drug addiction.

- **New Strategies to Promote the Safe Use of Pharmacotherapies (Agenda Item 12)**

This is a new item for discussion at the request of the NSW Government. Details on this item are not currently available.

- **Responsible Service of Alcohol on Cruise Ships (Agenda Item 14)**

This is a new item for discussion at the request of the NSW Government. Details on this item are not currently available.

- **Progress Report for the National Tobacco Strategy 2004-2009 (Agenda Item 15)**

The National Tobacco Strategy 2004-2009 was endorsed by MCDS in November 2004. A progress report outlining jurisdictional activities towards the implementation of the National Tobacco Strategy will be provided.

- **Reporting against MCDS priority activities under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Complementary Action Plan 2003-2009 (Agenda Item 17)**

In November 2004, MCDS endorsed a number of priority areas and activities for implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Complementary Action Plan 2003-2009. A progress report on these activities will be provided to MCDS.

- **Future MCDS meetings and dates (Agenda Item 23)**

Meeting dates in 2007 will be discussed.

3.5 In addition, to these items there will be several items for noting:

- IGCD National Drug Strategic Framework Annual Report 2004-2005.
- Database of Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services
- Draft National Corrections Drug Strategy
- Update on MCDS-Cost Shared Funding Model Projects.
- Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) Indigenous Demographics Project.
- Temporary Exemption from the Mutual Recognition Acts for Tobacco Product Prohibitions.

4. SUMMARY

That Cabinet note:

- 4.1 The Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy Agenda (Attachment 1) for the meeting on 15 December 2006 in Sydney.

HON GAIL GAGO MLC
MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Date: 7/12/06

In Cabinet

11 DEC 2006



MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON DRUG STRATEGY

Friday, 15 December 2006
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Sydney

DRAFT AGENDA – AS AT 5 DECEMBER 2006

9.00 am Coffee/Tea on Arrival			
9.30 am Opening – Welcome and Apologies			
1	National priority areas for the National Alcohol Strategy and the National Cannabis Strategy	For endorsement	Chair
2	National Leadership Forum on Ice – report on outcomes	For discussion	NSW Health
3	Update on development of the National Amphetamine Type Stimulants Strategy [May 2006 MCDS – 8]	For discussion	Australian Government Health and Ageing
4	National Law Enforcement Amphetamine Type Stimulants Strategy [May 2006 MCDS – 8]	For discussion	Australian Government Attorney-General's Dept
5	Use of Amphetamines and Other Drugs by Long Distance Truck Drivers	For discussion	NSW Health
10.55 – 11.15 am Morning Tea			
6	Business Case for the National Clandestine Laboratory Database [Sept 2006 IGCD – 18]	For endorsement	Australian Government Attorney-General's Dept
7	National Law Enforcement Response to Amphetamine Type Stimulants (ATS)	For discussion	Australian Government Attorney-General's Dept
8	Marketing of Alcohol Products	For discussion	NSW Health
9	Final Report of the FASD Working Party and Review of the Australian Alcohol Guidelines [May 2006 MCDS – 4]	For endorsement	SA Health
12.35 – 1.30 pm Lunch			
10	Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) update	Presentation	ANCD
11	Neuroscience – Emerging Approaches for Dealing with Addictions	For discussion	NSW Health
12	New Strategies to Promote the Safe Use of Pharmacotherapies	For discussion	NSW Health

13	MCDS-CSFM Project – Responses to Doctor Shopping, Prescription Fraud and other Diversion and their impact on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and other associated crime.	For endorsement	WA Police
14	Responsible Service of Alcohol on Cruise Ships	For discussion	NSW Health
15	Progress Report for the National Tobacco Strategy 2004-2009	For discussion	Australian Government Health and Ageing
3.05 – 3.20 pm Afternoon Tea			
16	Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drug Train the Trainer pilot program [Sept 2006 IGCD – 4]	For endorsement	WA Health
17	Reporting against MCDS priority activities under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Complementary Action Plan	For discussion	Australian Government Health and Ageing and NDLERF Chair*
18	Scheduling Working Party on Controlled Substances [Sept 2006 IGCD – 13]	For discussion	SA Health
19	Use of Terms such as Party and / or Recreational Drugs	For discussion	SA Health
20	Appointment of new IGCD Deputy Chair and new IGCD Executive Member	For endorsement	Chair
21	Items for Noting:		
	1 – IGCD National Drug Strategic Framework Annual Report to the MCDS 2004-2005	For noting	Chair
	2 – Database of Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services	For noting	Australian Government Health and Ageing
	3 – Draft National Corrections Drug Strategy	For noting	Queensland
	4 – Update on MCDS-CSFM Projects	For noting	Chair
	5 – MCATSIA Indigenous Demographics Project	For noting	
	6 – Temporary Exemption from the Mutual Recognition Acts for Tobacco Product Prohibitions	For noting	SA Health
22	Late items and other business	For discussion	Chair
23	Future MCDS meetings and dates	For discussion	Chair
5.00 pm Finish			

* National Drug Law Enforcement Research Fund