

# ACT DRUG STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

## What we heard report



### ACT DRUG STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2018-2021

The ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan aims to communicate ACT Government priorities to both the alcohol, tobacco and other drug sector, and to the community more broadly. It aims to build safe, healthy and resilient communities through preventing and minimising alcohol, tobacco and other drug-related health, social, cultural and economic harms among individuals, families and communities [\[1\]](#). It is aligned to the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026, which all Australian State and Territory Governments have agreed to and helped shape.

Earlier this year the ACT Government consulted on a draft of the Drug Strategy Action Plan, which was developed with input from a number of ACT Government directorates, as well as from key external bodies that provide advocacy, support and services relevant to alcohol, tobacco and other drug problems.

The Action Plan summarises the ACT Government's priority actions over the next three years.

[\[1\] National Drug Strategy 2017-2026, Commonwealth of Australia.](#)

### THE CONVERSATION

We invited online and written submissions from interested stakeholders and the community on the draft *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021* from 21 June to 3 August 2018.

### WHO ENGAGED

49 written submissions were received, including submissions from the ACT alcohol and other drugs sector, peak bodies, Government agencies, non-government organisations, key interest groups and individual members of the public.



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### Key insights from the community

Input on a wide range of alcohol and other drug related topics was received.

#### Tobacco Policy

- Views were expressed both for and against e-cigarettes.
- There were strong views both for and against raising the legal purchase age for tobacco, and about allowing smoking in correctional facilities.
- Several submissions supported stronger action to address smoking in public places and apartments.
- The issue of illicit trade in tobacco was raised by several submissions.

#### Alcohol Policy

- There were differing views on minimum pricing of alcohol.
- Several submissions requested population-level actions to reduce alcohol supply, as well as to reduce demand.
- There were also requests that any measures balance risky drinking and responsible consumption.
- There was consistent support for addressing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and drink driving.

#### Drug Policy

- Several submissions supported increasing access to treatment for a range of population groups.
- The needle and syringe program was highlighted.
- There was support for a potential medically supervised injecting facility.
- Views were expressed both for and against pill testing.
- There was strong support for real-time prescription monitoring.
- There was support for more measures to respond to overdoses and pharmaceutical opioid use.
- Several submissions supported health-based approaches to illicit drugs in preference to law-enforcement-based approaches.

#### Other topics raised included:

- Harm minimisation and reduction.
- Freedom of choice.
- Primary health involvement and considerations .
- Enforcement of existing laws and regulations.
- Relevance to local conditions.
- Funding.
- Coordination and collaboration.
- Co-occurring issues, including mental health and cognitive impairment.
- Hepatitis issues.
- Increasing clinician understanding and management of drug and alcohol issues.
- Alcohol, tobacco and other drug education.
- Consumer, family and community engagement.
- Inequality, vulnerable groups, and the social determinants of health.
- Governance.
- Human Rights considerations.
- Further decriminalisation or legalisation of illicit drugs.
- LGBTIQ+ considerations.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander considerations.
- Data collection and measurement of success.

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### WHAT'S NEXT?

All feedback has now been received. The Action Plan has been revised and feedback considered by a group of key Government and community stakeholders. A monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed to track and report progress.

To find out more about the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021* and other initiatives, policies, and projects in Canberra visit [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

### Key Timings

#### **August/September 2018**

Consideration of input and revision of draft *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021*

#### **October 2018**

Finalisation of the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021*

#### **November 2018**

Approval of the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021*

#### **December 2018**

Release of the *ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-2021*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK**