

Annual Report 2006



National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)

Vision:

To provide a national focus for all knowledge related efforts that inform Irish policy in relation to drug misuse.

Mission:**The NACD has undertaken to:**

- Support the Government in significantly reducing the health, social and economic consequences of drug misuse through the provision of timely data and analysis of research;
- Review its knowledge base, identifying gaps which can be addressed through research;
- Ensure that evidence from scientific research forms the basis for policy formulation, development of services and continuous improvement in all its approaches to tackling drug misuse in Ireland;
- Work closely with the Alcohol and Drug Research Unit of the Health Research Board, providing advice, coordinating research efforts and maximising the use of resources;
- Support the establishment of a National Documentation Centre;
- Liaise with the relevant agencies nationally in order to co-ordinate research and resources;
- Ensure participation nationally of a broad range of parties in fulfilling its research needs and dissemination of findings;
- Serve all drug misuse reduction activities in providing for an effective dissemination of research findings, information and other data thus linking research to practice.

Values:

The NACD agreed that the following values would guide the implementation of its work programme.

The NACD will:

- Manage the diversity of its membership and commit to a consensus approach in decision-making;
- Foster a culture of respect, dignity, transparency and fairness in all its operations;
- Advocate dialogue as a means of balancing the diverse views on and experiences of drug misuse in Ireland;
- Be objective in the collection and dissemination of information in line with its commitment to the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008;
- Commit to the highest possible standards of excellence and ethical conduct;
- Seek out collaborations and partnerships where there is greater benefit to achieving its goal and co-operate with everyone who can benefit from its knowledge base.

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FOREWORD



I am delighted to welcome the first annual report of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD). The Annual Report represents a change in format from the biennial progress reports presented heretofore.

Research is one of the five pillars of the National Drugs Strategy 2001–2008. The recognition of research as a separate pillar clearly reflects the importance that the Government places on having good quality data and information to facilitate the formulation of evidence-based policy in this difficult and complex area.

The NACD fulfils the important role of advising Government in relation to prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland. I am very pleased to acknowledge the contribution they made to policy formulation in 2006, an example of which was their Briefing Paper on Cocaine, prepared with the National Drug Strategy Team, which was presented to the Inter-Departmental Group on Drugs (IDG) in September 2006. This deepened our understanding of the problem of cocaine in our society and developed worthwhile recommendations that are now being pursued.

I want to congratulate the Committee, in particular its Chairperson Dr Des Corrigan and its Director Mairéad Lyons, for the efficient and professional manner in which they have carried out their work to date. I also want to acknowledge the commitment shown by the NACD members from across the various sectors. The success of the NACD is largely due to its broad based committee system and the body of work produced to date is all the richer for the input and expertise of the sectors represented on the various sub-committees. The input of all who contributed through membership of, or engagement with, the various sub-committees of the NACD, as well as the research and administrative personnel, is much appreciated.

I wish the NACD well in the future and I look forward to seeing the results of the studies that are currently in progress.

Pat Carey TD
Minister of State
with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy
October 2007

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



It is my privilege to present this Annual Report on the activities of the NACD for 2006 to the Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy. In doing so, I thank him, his predecessors and his officials in the Drugs Strategy Unit of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for their continuous support of our work. The Minister has always been available to us to launch our reports and we are grateful for that public recognition of the work of the NACD.

The hard work of the staff of the NACD and of the Committee's members is reflected in the high quality Reports and Bulletins which have appeared in 2006. These publications cover all aspects of our remit from Government and are testimony to the input of a numerically small but efficient and hard working Secretariat allied to the intensely professional and committed expertise of members of the Committee. I thank them all for their enthusiasm, expertise and above all the time they devoted to the work of the NACD. In particular I want to express the appreciation we all feel for our director, Mairéad Lyons. Her energy, commitment and hard work are infectious and I feel privileged through having the opportunity to work with her.

The successful completion of so much of our work programme is due to her drive and vision. As this and previous Reports demonstrate, the NACD has produced a significant body of relevant work and has, as a result created a reputation as a key component of the National Drugs Strategy. Much of the detailed work which goes into our publications is conducted in the sub-committees and Research Advisory Groups (RAGs), within which the individual expertise of NACD members and co-opted experts is crucial. My colleagues and I are particularly grateful to those who have been co-opted to sub-committees and RAGs for their advice and input. They strengthen our work enormously.

My colleagues and I are determined to build on the successful outcomes of the past year and we will continue to provide information and advice that is timely, relevant and makes a real contribution to achieving the goals of the National Drugs Strategy.

Dr Des Corrigan FPSI
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The commitment, collaboration and dedication of the NACD members to the goal of the NACD never ceases to amaze me. This commitment is reflected in members giving an average of 24 days per year to implementing the work programme of the NACD and preparing advice to Government. The collective intelligence of the NACD is only as good as the leader who mobilises it and for that I am indebted to Dr Des Corrigan for keeping us all focussed.

2006 was a tough year because the Committee was without a Research Officer for nearly 10 months before Dr Gemma Cox joined the team on the 31st July. In addition, the research function expanded to bring more work in-house and meet growing demands to provide advice to Government. Thus two additional Researchers, Dr Justine Horgan and Dr Teresa Whitaker began work on updating information on Cocaine use in Ireland, preparing the last NACD Progress Report, writing a paper on Workplace Drug Testing and on designing new studies for implementation in 2007.

Despite the research function deficit, the NACD published 10 reports and hosted four research seminars, held four media briefings on research reports and gave presentations on at least 12 other occasions to a variety of forums. It was satisfying to publish the first ROSIE Findings from the opiate

drug treatment longitudinal study which showed the successful outcomes for drug users in treatment and the great work being done by the many service providers in helping people reduce their drug use. The Community Drugs Study proved that complex social issues can be tackled over time by inter and intra-organisational actions when it demonstrated improvements in early school leaving, reductions in unemployment and reductions in crime, all contributing factors to problematic drug use. Travellers now have firm evidence that they too are vulnerable to drug problems and more needs to be done to include the needs of Travellers in service provision. Cocaine use continued to be on the agenda and the NACD was delighted to work closely with the NDST in bringing information together and providing advice to Government through a series of key recommendations.

None of the above could have been achieved without the determination and excellence of a small, very dedicated team in the NACD: Alan Gaffney, Mary Jane Trimble, Catherine Darmody, Gemma Cox, Teresa Whitaker and Justine Horgan. I am very grateful to them all for making my job a pleasure.

Mairéad Lyons
Director

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

C&AG	Comptroller and Auditor General
DAIRU	Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit
ADRU	Alcohol and Drug Research Unit of the Health Research Board (formerly known as the DMRD)
DSU	Drug Strategy Unit
DTMS	Drug Trends Monitoring System
ED	Electoral Division
FOI	Freedom of Information
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSE	Health Service Executive
HRB	Health Research Board
IAAAC	Irish Association of Alcohol and Addiction Counsellors
IDG	Inter Departmental Group on Drugs
LDTF	Local Drugs Task Force
MQI	Merchants Quay Ireland
NACD	National Advisory Committee on Drugs
NDST	National Drugs Strategy Team
NUI	National University of Ireland
PQ	Parliamentary Question
RAG	Research Advisory Group
RDTF	Regional Drugs Task Force
RIWG	Research and Information Working Group
ROSIE	Research Outcome Study in Ireland evaluating drug treatment effectiveness
UCD	University College Dublin
VDTN	Voluntary Drug Treatment Network

BACKGROUND AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NACD

This is the first annual report of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) which represents a change in format allowing current information to be available on the achievements of the NACD during 2006. Previously two progress reports were published covering the periods July 2000 to July 2003 and August 2003 to December 2005.

Origins

The NACD was established on a non-statutory basis in 2000 for an initial period of three years which was subsequently extended to a fourth year ending in July 2004. Following an external review of the NACD its mandate was renewed to the end of 2008. The NACD is under the auspices of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and reports to the Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008.

Functions

On its establishment, the functions of the NACD (the Committee) were set out as follows:

- Based on the Committee's analysis and interpretation of research findings and information available to it, to advise the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion and, through it, the Government, in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland;
- To review current information and research capacity in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland and to make recommendations, as appropriate, on how deficits should be addressed including how to maximise the use of information available from the community and voluntary sector;
- To oversee the delivery of a prioritised programme of research and evaluation as recommended by the Advisory Committee to meet the gaps and priority needs identified by:
 - a) using the capacity of relevant agencies engaged in information gathering and research, both statutory and non-statutory, to deliver on elements of the programme;
 - b) liaising with these agencies with a view to maximising the resources allocated to delivering the programme and avoiding duplication;
 - c) co-ordinating and advising on research projects in the light of the prioritised programme;
 - d) commissioning research projects which cannot be met through existing capacity;
- To commission additional research at the request of the Government into drug issues of relevance to policy;
- To work closely with the Health Research Board (HRB) on the establishment of a national information/research database (in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use) which is easily accessible; and
- To advise relevant agencies with a remit to promote greater public awareness of the issues arising in relation to problem drug use and to promote and encourage debate through the dissemination of its research findings.

STRUCTURES, RESEARCH AND INTERNAL WORK PROGRAMME

Structures

The NACD

How does the NACD achieve its aims? The success of the NACD is largely due to its broad based committee system. The membership of the NACD reflects the range of different perspectives in the field of drug misuse. The members serve at the invitation of the Minister of State and have been drawn from the statutory, community, voluntary and academic sectors together with senior level representation from relevant Government Departments.

NACD meetings are held approximately every six weeks with a break in July and August. A total of seven NACD meetings took place in 2006.

Sub-Committees

Emanating from the main committee, five sub-committees (see appendix 2) are tasked with examining relevant issues relating to problem drug use, in the areas of prevalence, prevention, treatment/rehabilitation, consequences and early warning/emerging trends. These sub-committees have enabled the NACD to address an extensive research and advisory programme. Their work involves framing appropriate research questions, commissioning research and reviewing draft reports prior to sending them to the Committee for consideration.

Work Programme of NACD and Sub-Committees/Meetings

Implementation of the work programme requires considerable work from the Committee. Each member sits on at least one of the sub-committees as well as individual Research Advisory Groups (RAGs). The various sub-committees (Consequences, Prevention, Treatment, Prevalence and Early Warning Emerging Trends) held a total of 15 meetings in 2006 in addition to the 20 RAG meetings which were held. For the Director and other staff, servicing these meetings represents a very high percentage of their workload.

Terms of Reference

Terms of reference for each sub-committee are available in previous publications and on the NACD website.

Research

In addition to the internal research programme, the NACD commissions an extensive amount of research externally mostly through the public tendering process. Research Advisory Groups (RAGs) are established for every research project. Completion of contracted research is made possible with the support of the many agencies external to the NACD such as local health authorities, the Drug Treatment Centre Board, An Garda Síochána, hospitals and voluntary/community groups. These agencies gather data and make some of it available to the NACD in anonymised form.

Commissioned Research

Research is one of the four original pillars of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008, clearly reflecting the importance of having information and evidence to underpin policy-making in this diverse field. Following the Mid Term Review of the National Drugs Strategy in 2005, there is a Fifth Pillar covering the area of Rehabilitation which will require research support from the NACD. The commissioned research programme focuses on the completion of current research projects, on undertaking a limited number of 'follow through' or repeat projects, and on exploring areas of potential new study, particularly in rehabilitation and drugs and crime. Gaps in knowledge and information regarding evidence based practice are best filled through commissioned research.

The Process

The NACD can facilitate gathering information through its relationship with a range of agencies and service providers in the drugs field, through

commissioning research and through carrying out internal research itself.

The commissioning process goes through seven stages where the NACD: 1) agrees the research question, 2) agrees the design/methodology best suited to address the question, 3) prepares a tender brief, 4) issues the request for tenders, 5) awards the contract, 6) agrees the project objectives document and 7) addresses any conflict of interests. Further detail on this process can be viewed in previous NACD Progress Reports. Once the research is completed the researcher starts a report drafting process in which the NACD or a named sub-group act as peer reviewers to ensure the quality of the document and findings. This quality assessment considers the following:

- Is data presented correctly;
- Are there any errors in the data tables;
- Is the basis of analysis correct either quantitatively or qualitatively;
- What are the prevailing assumptions guiding the analysis;
- How well is the methodology described, does it include limits, problems and how these were addressed during the study or in the analysis phase;
- Is the analytical plan clear;
- Is there a validation process in place;
- Is the opinion of the author present which diverges from the evidence;
- Is the language used appropriate;
- Does the evidence match the conclusions;
- Do recommendations make sense and are they supported by the evidence.

A draft final report is then submitted to the NACD which it considers and deliberates over a period of time. This timeframe will vary depending on the volume of work or indeed the complexity of the issue.

The NACD then agrees recommendations to Government and with that a publication process is initiated. Not all reports are published and this is determined by several factors: whether the report provides any new information, whether it is simply to inform internal deliberations on planning or whether the research is weak or flawed in the methodology or analysis. It is the desire of the NACD to achieve as many publications as possible arising from research it commissions and to disseminate that research to its key stakeholders in Government and in the community. The NACD engages in extensive efforts to disseminate findings from its research through media release, briefing seminars, conferences and mail distribution.

Research Advisory Groups

The primary role of the Research Advisory Groups (RAGs) is to guide and manage research projects from inception to completion. Terms of reference include the following:

1. Monitor and support the research through each stage of development;
2. Agree the project objectives document;
3. Inform the research process and agree the development or enhancement/changes to the design;
4. Provide practical advice where difficulties emerge during the various stages of research;
5. Ensure ethical approval is obtained where necessary from the relevant research ethics committee;

6. Observe the publication and copyright policy of the NACD as stated in NACD contracts;
7. Review drafts of progress and final reports, providing feedback where appropriate re the needs of the NACD in terms of content for consideration and publication;
8. Report to the NACD and the appropriate sub-committee on progress of research projects;
9. Sign off on the final draft of the report to be submitted to the NACD for approval and agree recommendations to be made to Government.

During 2006 there were 20 meetings of the various RAGs.

Collaboration

The NACD is committed to collaboration as a way of working which forms the basis for most of its activities. It strengthens the quality of research and facilitates the sharing of knowledge, information and ideas. Experience to date has shown that this way of working engenders trust and fosters a climate of helpfulness. The benefits extend far beyond the NACD. Research Advisory Groups (RAGs) are convened to both mentor and monitor research. They comprise NACD members but also include external advisors/experts from other agencies or sectors thus enabling collaboration in overseeing research projects.

Examples of Collaborative Working

The National Drug Prevalence Survey is an example of collaboration with colleagues in Northern Ireland in the Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU) from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. This requires joint meetings and joint decision making at various stages in the commissioning and implementation of the survey. The fieldwork in Ireland is being carried out by Ipsos MORI and in Northern Ireland by the Central

Survey Unit. This collaboration first started in 2002 and it is hoped, will continue well into the future. It has enabled both organisations to share expertise, to pool resources and has contributed to organisational learning in managing population surveys of this size and nature. In addition, the RAG supporting this survey combines the expertise of the fieldwork companies, the Health Research Board (HRB), the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the NACD, all sharing a common goal, to produce the best population drug prevalence data to the highest possible standards, consistent with EU guidelines.

An Exploratory Study on Drug Use Amongst Travellers

was implemented using the collaborative approach. A range of organisations working with Travellers were invited to participate on the RAG from the outset and the study was designed, commissioned and managed collectively. The NACD required the expertise of the Traveller groups to design the study and most importantly to assist the fieldworkers with getting access and participation amongst the Traveller community. Any hurdles encountered were easily and quickly resolved by email or telephone discussion. The RAG was particularly helpful in the data analysis stage, providing additional literature pre-publication and insights to enable careful analysis of the data.

The completion of the study and the publication of findings led to further benefits to the NACD, in that, Traveller organisations co-ordinated a series of seminars around the country to share the findings with Traveller groups and relevant agencies, in which the NACD participated. Traveller organisations are pleased to have an excellent study on which to base service development and plan resources.

The National Drug Awareness Campaign was established under Action 38 of the National Drugs Strategy and the NACD agreed to commission a

research project to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign over its three year lifespan. This evaluation was to examine the process in particular and identify elements or components of the campaign that were most effective. This research required ongoing collaboration with the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children, with the Advertising Agency engaged to execute the campaign and the Steering Group overseeing the roll-out of the campaign. In 2006, the first complete report on the three year process was received and all parties had the opportunity to examine and comment on early drafts. This process is ongoing and publication is expected in 2007.

The UK Research and Information Working Group (RIWG) is facilitated by the Home Office in the UK. Ireland participates by invitation to share knowledge and exchange ideas. Its aim is research collaboration and the promotion of good practice when developing drugs research and monitoring information in the UK (including Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) and the Republic of Ireland. These discussions have a direct benefit on the development of good practice here. RIWG meetings are held quarterly. The NACD's participation in RIWG has resulted in the development of valuable networks which have greatly enhanced its work.

Internal Work Programme

Managing Research

The core staff at the NACD provides support to the Committee and its sub-committees. They also manage the commissioning, implementation and completion of research projects and represent the NACD at various fora. In 2006 the NACD had seven projects in progress with external contractors and these are listed below:

National Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/2007:

The NACD commissioned a repeat of the 2002/2003

Drug Prevalence Survey to measure the extent and pattern of drug use in the general population on the island of Ireland. This is a collaborative project with Northern Ireland Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU) at the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. The tender was awarded to Ipsos MORI and fieldwork commenced in September 2006.

Work on this survey involved managing the tender process and awarding the contract. It also involved the development of the CAPI instrument and the planning of the pilot test. Contributions were made to the interviewer briefings and fieldwork progress was carefully monitored.

Research Outcome Study in Ireland Evaluating Drug Treatment Effectiveness (ROSIE):

The ROSIE Study was commissioned by the NACD in fulfillment of Action 99 of the National Drugs Strategy and was carried out by Dr Catherine Comiskey, Principal Investigator at the National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Researchers recruited 404 opiate users when they started opiate drug treatment (between September 2003 and July 2004) and followed them over time. Interviews were carried out when the opiate user entered drug treatment, after six months and after 12 months. The findings showed that significant reductions in drug use and involvement in crime were achieved by participants after one year of the treatment. Mortality rate was low and the numbers completing treatment after one year was consistent with the international experience. Based on the preliminary findings presented to the NACD in December 2005, it agreed to fund the continuation of the study to examine outcomes at three-year follow-up. This was particularly important in order to understand if, after drug treatment, individuals can sustain their improvements and/or do better. This

phase will end in December 2007. At end the December of 2006, follow up was excellent, continuing the high rate of 75%.

The ROSIE study published its first findings in September 2006. Work continued on this project which involved reviewing the preparation of a baseline report with detailed tables, preparation of ROSIE Findings 1 (edit, proof, approve and release), co-ordinating media release and dissemination, organising a seminar; ongoing monitoring of progress with three-year interviews, convening RAG meetings and planning of future publications.

Further analysis of the data by modality will be carried out and published in early 2007.

Community Drugs Study: Involved the preparation of a final report to Government, the preparation of an additional three Case Studies for publication and dissemination, culminating in the organising of a conference to consider and reflect on the findings together with media activities. The final report “A Community Drugs Study, Developing Community Indicators for Problem Drug Use” provides evidence of the impact and effectiveness of Government policy on drugs since 1996. Many of the funded initiatives are working which is demonstrated by marked improvements in early school leaving, unemployment and service provision. There has also been a reduction in some types of crime. Concerns were raised by communities about the changing patterns of drug misuse notably underage drinking, polydrug use and combined alcohol and cocaine use and its consequences for local communities.

These findings demonstrate the need for closer working between the Alcohol and Drug Strategies. Diminishing levels of community participation are likely to have a negative impact on local initiatives and the willingness to find solutions from within communities. The study reinforces the

need to continue to work with local communities in partnership to achieve long term, sustainable improvements. The NACD recommends as a first step, the development of Community Drugs Indicators which will identify drug problems in communities thus facilitating the earlier allocation of resources for national and local service planning and delivery.

Drug Use Amongst Travellers Study: Work in 2006 focussed on bringing the publication to the attention of Government, key stakeholders and Travellers. This resulted in the preparation of the report for publication, the hosting of a media briefing and the production of a DVD for the purposes of helping communicate the main findings in a straightforward and accessible manner. Results from the study showed that drug use amongst Travellers is not unlike the settled community: alcohol is the drug of choice and cannabis is the most commonly used illegal drug. Sedatives, tranquillisers and anti-depressants are commonly used and misused. The Traveller community has also experienced the more problematic drug use such as heroin use. More recently Travellers felt that cocaine was being used and growing in popularity.

The recommendations pointed towards addressing the principal needs of Travellers to be recognised and as such Ethnicity should be a feature of all data collection and record keeping in services. All Government policies and strategies should undergo equality proofing so that the needs of Travellers can be ensured. Traveller specific education and awareness is needed including the community development approach. Services should provide diversity training for all staff so that service delivery can be more culturally appropriate. Finally, Travellers should be included in dialogue about their needs, type of changes to services that would enable greater uptake and be represented on committees relevant to their needs.

National Drug Awareness Campaign Evaluation:

The NACD commissioned a research study in 2003 with NUI Galway to *track the process of the National Drugs Awareness Campaign (2003-2005) and to evaluate its development and delivery*. The aim of this campaign was to increase awareness amongst the general population about problem drug use and its consequences across society through the achievement of measurable change in the knowledge and attitude of targeted groups. The Researchers conducted 94 interviews with stakeholders over the period of the campaign, reviewed international literature and reviewed in-depth information provided by the Advertising Agency, the Health Promotion Unit and others. Preliminary conclusions reinforce the findings from the earlier NACD report in 2001 *Drug Use Prevention – Overview of Research* by Dr Mark Morgan which stated that National Drug Awareness Campaigns can be effective when part of a comprehensive community based approach to drug prevention. A final report will be published in 2007.

Community and Voluntary Sector Research Grant Scheme: The NACD commissioned an evaluation of the grant scheme in 2005 which was undertaken by Ms Kate Ennals and a report was submitted to the NACD in 2006. The purpose of this grant scheme was to help NACD gain a better understanding of drug related issues in communities. In addition, it could enhance the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to engage in research and consequently boost their ability to influence policy and the planning of services. Five research projects were funded and four completed.

The core recommendations from the evaluation recommended that the scheme should be run on a bi-annual basis; that the scheme should link in more directly with the NDST processes and that the NACD should have a more detailed look at outcomes. The NACD was informed on key issues that would need

to be addressed should the scheme be run again such as: how it links into the programme of the NACD and how it is managed; provision of research support to the scheme without over burdening the small technical resources of the NACD; an examination of the capacity to link into local structures to form research advisory groups and consideration of the need to collaborate with another organisation in order to minimise the administrative burden on the NACD.

The NACD concluded that it did not have the capacity to run another community and voluntary research grant scheme. In making this decision, the NACD considered the number of research projects being funded in 2006 and potentially in 2007 through the NDST and L/RDTF process. The NACD agreed the best use of its resources would be to support the Drug Task Forces and the NDST in developing and managing these research projects. It concluded that communities have more opportunity for research now than when the scheme was initiated.

Experiences of Families seeking support and coping with heroin use.

The study was carried out by Dr Carmel Duggan using a qualitative methodology and interviewed 30 families augmented by interviews with a second family member in seven cases. Twenty of the 37 interviewees were female. The families were accessed through family support groups in all areas as well as statutory services in one area. The fieldwork was carried out between August and November 2005. Many of the families have been coping with heroin use in the family for several years, whilst others had more recent experience of it:

- Ten families' problem started over 15 years ago
- Four families' problem started 10-15 years ago
- Six families' problem started 5-10 years ago
- Ten families' problem started in last 5 years

Three areas were selected to provide information from an urban, suburban and provincial perspective. The urban area represented a Dublin inner city area covering three neighbourhoods and with a concentrated and long-term incidence of heroin use. The suburban area covered a number of neighbourhoods in the outskirts of Dublin and straddling two counties where heroin use is extensive and long established. The third area included a number of provincial towns and their rural and semi-rural hinterlands experiencing more recent but considerable levels of problem drug use.

This study neared completion in 2006. Preliminary drafts of findings were presented to the RAG and a final report was prepared for the NACD. Recommendations were agreed and planning began for publication in early 2007. Despite the breadth of the research, the findings were remarkably consistent and it was possible to identify seven stages of coping. One of the principal recommendations being made by the NACD is that the role of the family in treatment, rehabilitation and recovery should be valued more by service providers.

Internal Research Projects

The following projects are currently being undertaken internally by the NACD or will form part of the Committee's work in 2007.

Drug Trend Monitoring System (DTMS) Pilot:

Whilst the Pilot Study was completed in 2005 and submissions made to Government for its implementation, it remained under consideration well into 2006. In mid 2006, approval was secured from Government to seek Expressions of Interest to implement a DTMS and work began on the preparation of the required documents, including a summary report of the pilot study, for issue in early 2007.

Interagency Working: The Prevention Sub-committee deliberated on the types of research and engaged the service of an external consultant to facilitate discussions. The outcome was to carry out some

research internally, reviewing the literature, the practical experiences of interagency work processes and to consider them in the context of Government planning. This would begin in 2007 as part of the Director's work programme.

Workplace Drug Testing: Preparation of recommendations to Government to support the Health and Safety Authority in its work to prepare regulations following amendments to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act.

The NACD concluded the following:

- There is little evidence available in Ireland on the extent to which alcohol and drugs are involved in workplace injuries and accidents;
- It is clear that the problematic use of substances can lead to poor performance and behavioural difficulties which might compromise safety;
- All workplaces should have a substance use policy in place that provides for education, support and access to treatment in the first instance. Such policies should provide for drug testing in the workplace if appropriate.

The full report is available to download from the NACD website at www.nacd.ie

A Comparative Study of Drug Use Among Early School Leavers and School Attendees:

The development of this research project began in late 2006 as fulfilment of NACD commitments under Action 98 of the NDS requiring research on early school leavers and drug use. It was agreed that the research should examine the interrelationships between risk and protective factors influencing young people's drug use. The research is expected to get underway in mid 2007. It is intended that the research will be managed internally although some assistance may be required for fieldwork.

This study aims to consider how the key social contexts of an adolescent's life affect problem drug use among early school leavers and those routinely attending school. The study will first assess the degree of risk factors featuring in young people's lives – in their community, family and peer relations. The second step is to examine and identify the resources of two types of education settings: (i) those catering for young people who are routinely attending mainstream education; and (ii) those catering for young people who have left school and for whom an alternative education path is provided.

It is the largest multi-level, Government funded study examining young people's alcohol/drug use within the community context. It will help the NACD to advise Government on drug policies affecting young people.

The study will help the NACD by:

- Identifying the influences that are associated with youth problem behaviours;
- Collecting the best data focussing on both risk and protective factors;
- Identifying gaps in how priorities are currently managed and resourced;
- Helping to inform recommendations to Government.

An Overview of Cocaine Use in Ireland II: Arising from a Government request in late 2005, the NACD undertook to update Government on cocaine use in Ireland. A Research Advisory Group was established to oversee and support the project and a researcher was contracted to compile the data and write the report. The report is being prepared jointly with the National Drugs Strategy Team (NDST) and will examine cocaine use in relation to consequences, prevalence, prevention and treatment of cocaine dependence. Consequently, the NACD set about gathering

information from a range of sources (National Drug Treatment Reporting System, State Laboratory, Forensic Science Laboratory, Beaumont Toxicology Laboratory, Medical Bureau of Road Safety, the Drug Treatment Centre Board) and some frontline drug and alcohol services. Developments across a range of pilot cocaine initiatives and information from Drug Task Force areas were also examined.

A summary was prepared for submission to the Interdepartmental Group on Drugs (IDG) in September 2006 and further discussions took place over the latter part of 2006. All the indicators point to a continued increase in cocaine use and that this cocaine use crosses all sections of Irish society. However, whilst the impact is very much experienced nationwide, some communities are disproportionately affected. It is intended that the information in this report will be used by policy makers, service providers, general practitioners, hospital consultants and community groups to better understand the impact of cocaine on individuals, families and communities.

The 13 recommendations in the report, principally focusing on treatment, but also covering supply, prevention and research will now be followed up by the relevant Departments and Agencies and others involved in the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy.

Publication of the full report is expected in early 2007.

Exploring and Understanding the Risk Environment of Problematic Drug Users who Engage in

Prostitution: The NACD was required to design a study in fulfillment of its commitments under Action 98 of the NDS and provide insights into the needs and risk experiences of drug users who engage in prostitution.

Although it is well documented that local risk environments can limit the impact of HIV prevention

interventions (i.e. transition towards cocaine injecting and its influence on injecting risk behaviour) and that social conditions influence health and health-related behaviour, there remains an absence of adequate knowledge and understanding of the contextual and behaviour dynamic surrounding the experiences of problem drug users working in prostitution in Ireland. There are conditions that affect risk factors, or the 'risk of risk'; the circumstances of people's lives that shape their exposure to risk factors, and/or make it difficult for them to avoid such risk factors.

By focusing on the social and physical risk environment of problem drug users working in prostitution, as well as on the individual, the findings from this study will enhance our understanding of people's needs within these circumstances.

The aim of the Study is to understand the risk environment in which problem drug users working in prostitution in Dublin live and work and how they perceive risk, and behave in response to risk.

- To identify the social, situational and personal risk factors;
- To describe risky behavioural practices;
- To identify their risk reduction strategies and their barriers to minimising risk;
- To identify barriers problem drug users working in prostitution encounter in accessing harm reduction interventions, drug treatment and other services.

Other Internal Work

Work began on the preparation of submissions to the Health Service Executive on the *HSE Intercultural Strategy* and to the Road Safety Authority for their strategic plan.

Work also began on the analysis of data from the **2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey** with the aim of producing **Bulletin 5** on **polydrug use** and

Bulletin 6 on the use of **sedatives, tranquilisers or anti-depressants**. Drafts have been submitted to the Prevalence sub-committee and RAG for consideration and approval. These bulletins are set for publication in 2007.

Staff Changes in 2006

The NACD has four core posts supported directly through secondment and contract by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Director and Research Officer are contracted to the Department and the Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and Clerical Officer (CO) are seconded from the Department. Whilst the HEO post is full-time the Clerical Officer post was reduced to part-time, term-time which means the NACD has a substantial administrative deficit given the demands of the work programme.

This deficit is met through the use of contract workers employed through an agency to provide the administrative support required from time to time. In addition, in the summer months a temporary clerical officer is provided to replace the term-time summer vacancy.

It has been the ambition of the NACD to develop and expand its internal research capacity in accordance with a recommendation made in the External Review by Talbot Associates, 2004. With the Research Officer Post remaining vacant for 10 months, the NACD engaged external full time research contractors to complete research projects on its behalf.

Two researchers were engaged on a 'specific projects' basis and this has resulted in a saving of approximately two thirds of the cost of outsourcing the entire research project as is currently the practice. This has resulted in the NACD being able to undertake sensitive research in an efficient and effective manner.

Balanced Scorecard

The NACD implemented the Balanced Scorecard approach in 2006 to test its feasibility in monitoring its performance. Three of the four components were tested: client service (the Government and other stakeholders); internal efficiency (projects delivered on time or behind schedule); and financial management (control of budget and meeting expenditure goals). The final component, integration, was under development in 2006, for implementation in 2007. Overall the NACD found this a useful tool for monitoring the activity and capacity of its support staff and contractors to carry out its work programme. It agreed to the continued use of this approach in 2007.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

In October 2005, The Minister for Finance, Mr Cowen, announced plans for an extension of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts to bring to approximately 500, the number of bodies covered by Freedom of Information. New bodies, including the NACD, were given a lead in period of five months to allow for organisational arrangements and other preparations to be made.

During this period NACD staff attended a number of FOI training courses and seminars:

- Freedom of Information Update Seminar presented by Public Affairs Ireland in association with Mason Hayes and Curran, Solicitors on 24th November 2005. This was attended by Mairéad Lyons and Mary Jane Trimble;
- Freedom of Information Advanced Training Course presented by The Central Policy Unit, Dept. Finance on 23rd May 2006. This was attended by Mairéad Lyons;
- Freedom of Information Update Seminar presented by Public Affairs Ireland in association with Mason Hayes and Curran, Solicitors on 14th September 2006. This was attended by Alan Gaffney;
- Freedom of Information Advanced Training Course presented by The Central Policy Unit, Dept. Finance on 11th October 2006. This was attended by Alan Gaffney and Mary Jane Trimble.

A reference book was prepared and published in accordance with the requirements of Sections 15 and 16 of the FOI Acts. In accordance with Section 15 of the Act, the purpose of this reference book is to facilitate access to official information held by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, by outlining the structure, functions and details of the services provided by the NACD, how they may be availed of, information on the classes of records held, and information on how to make a request to the NACD under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003. Section 16 of the FOI Act requires the NACD to publish a book containing the rules, procedures, practices, guidelines and interpretations used by the NACD. Copies of this publication are available from our Website www.nacd.ie and upon request from the offices of the NACD.

The Freedom of Information Act 1997 (Prescribed Bodies) Regulations 2006 came into operation with effect from 31 May, 2006. The NACD received two FOI requests in the period June 2006 to December 2006.

The FOI Officer at the NACD is Mary Jane Trimble. The FOI Officer is responsible for handling FOI requests. Alan Gaffney is the FOI Decision Maker and internal appeals are dealt with by Mairéad Lyons.

PUBLICATIONS

Several major research projects were completed by the NACD this year. Publication represents the culmination of a research process and all NACD research is subjected to a comprehensive and detailed review by the Committee prior to publication. The publications below are listed in chronological order.

1. "Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey. Cocaine Results". Bulletin 4. Published in January 2006 and available from www.nacd.ie
2. "Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey. A Technical Report." Prepared by NACD, DAIRU and MORI MRC. Published in February 2006 on the website only. www.nacd.ie
3. "Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. First results (Revised) from the 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey. Bulletin 1." Revised in June 2005. Confidence Intervals. Published in April 2006 and available on the web only. www.nacd.ie
4. "Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey. Health Board (Ireland) and Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results. Bulletin 2". (Revised) June 2005. Confidence Intervals. Published in April 2006 and available on the web only. www.nacd.ie
5. "ROSIE Findings 1 Summary of 1-year Outcomes." Cox, G, Comiskey C, Kelly P, Cronly, J (2006). Published by NACD, September, 2006.
6. Fountain, J (2006). "An overview of the nature and extent of illicit drug use amongst the Traveller community: an exploratory study." Published by NACD October 2006. A DVD is available for dissemination amongst the Traveller community.
7. Loughran, H., McCann, M.E. 2006. "A Community Drugs Study: Developing Community Indicators for Problem Drug Use." Published by NACD, November 2006.
8. Loughran, H., McCann, M.E. 2006. *Ballymun Community Case Study: Experiences and Perceptions of Problem Drug Use*. Published by NACD, November 2006.
9. Loughran, H., McCann, M.E. 2006. *Bray Community Case Study: Experiences and Perceptions of Problem Drug Use*. Published by NACD, November 2006.
10. Loughran, H., McCann, M.E. 2006. *Crumlin Community Case Study: Experiences and Perceptions of Problem Drug Use*. Published by NACD, November 2006.

Summary of Key Publications

One page summary sheets on each of the four publications released in 2006 are attached to this report. Summaries relate to:

- *Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland. 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey. Cocaine Results. Bulletin 4;*
- *ROSIE Findings 1 Summary of 1-year Outcomes;*
- *An overview of the nature and extent of illicit drug use amongst the Traveller community: an exploratory study;* and
- *A Community Drugs Study: Developing Community Indicators for Problem Drug Use.*

All of the above involved a media launch and press briefing. Media exposure is an important means by which the NACD can ensure that the results and recommendations of the Committee's publications are communicated to key audiences and stakeholders.

COMMUNICATIONS

The functions of the NACD necessitate communication for many different reasons and at different levels. A communications strategy is in place to optimise the impact of the various initiatives and outputs, in terms of provision of advice, dissemination of findings and promotion of the research agenda. The objectives of the communications strategy are:

- To provide timely advice and briefings to the Minister on key issues and emerging trends;
- To advise service providers and practitioners across sectors of relevant research findings that may inform current thinking and practice;
- To promote the research agenda amongst key influencers in those agencies and bodies that promote, commission, fund or undertake drug-related research and/or have access to relevant data in this field;
- To represent the NACD and Ireland at international fora.

In 2006, the NACD published a total of ten reports. The Committee also provided advice to Government.

The NACD executes two of its core functions in the context of its communications activities – to provide advice and to promote and encourage debate and discussion of drug issues through the publication and dissemination of its research. The Committee communicated the results of research undertaken to a wide and varied audience including government Ministers, senior government officials, public representatives, policy makers, service providers, community interest groups, the research community, the media and other significant stakeholders.

All reports published by the NACD include a comprehensive yet concise Executive Summary giving quick and easy access to the study, its outcomes and recommendations.

Publication of reports is supported by media relations activities and seminars.

Media Relations

Media relations activity is an important communications tool of the NACD to primarily ensure that the results and recommendations of the NACD's publications are effectively disseminated to its audiences and stakeholders.

Secondly, media relations activity serves to ensure a greater level of informed debate and dialogue in the sector in order to encourage the development of informed solutions to Ireland's drug problems. Press briefings and seminars are hosted by the NACD and press releases are distributed to coincide with the publication of various reports.

The complexity of the drugs issue leads to challenges in effectively communicating the results and recommendations of NACD publications. To meet this challenge, the NACD hosts media briefings in conjunction with the publication of reports. Each briefing includes a question and answer session in which the NACD responds to questions about its reports. A press release outlining the report's key results and the NACD's recommendations arising from the report is distributed to the media. All press releases are posted on the NACD website and are also translated into Irish.

In 2006, four press releases were distributed to a wide range of print and broadcast media. Representatives of the NACD provided interviews to print and broadcast journalists. Coverage was secured in print, broadcast (TV and radio) and in online media. A total of 36 print articles on the work of the Committee appeared in 2006.

NACD representatives also participated extensively in interviews on current affairs programmes throughout Ireland's regional radio network. For example, during 2006, 14 interviews were provided to current affairs programmes on regional radio stations.

The following are examples of how effectively the results of NACD publications were dispersed across a broad spectrum of media outlets.

The publication and launch of the report *'Drug Use in Ireland & Northern Ireland from the 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results: Bulletin 4'* in January 2006 resulted in coverage in eight national papers (The Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, Irish Sun, Irish Star, Irish Daily Mirror, Irish News and the Sunday World) including the Irish Independent Weekend Review Section. Five TV news pieces were generated. Two on RTÉ One at 1pm and 6pm, RTÉ Two had a report at 11pm, TV3 covered it on the 5:30 news and Sky News Ireland's 6:30 bulletin also covered the report.

In total, the item was featured on 11 Dublin and regionally based radio stations. A minimum of 30 news bulletins generated coverage of the item. Nine interviews were conducted with NACD Director Mairéad Lyons on discussion programmes including 'The Last Word' programme with Matt Cooper on Today FM. Also, a half hour long panel discussion on Damien Kiberd's 'Lunchtime Show' on Newstalk 106 featured both Minister Noel Ahern and Mairéad Lyons. Various sound bites were broadcast with quotes from the Minister, Chairperson and the

Director throughout the day of the launch on: national radio stations; RTÉ One; 2FM; Today FM; and Newstalk 106: Dublin radio stations; Q102; 98 FM; FM104; and regional stations via Independent Network News (INN) which syndicates news bulletins to Ireland's 28 regional radio stations throughout the country.

The publication and launch of *'An overview of the nature and extent of illicit drug use amongst the Traveller community: an exploratory study'*, in October 2006 also generated coverage in broadsheet and tabloid newspapers including online media such as Ireland.com. In total, eight articles were secured comprising five national newspaper articles and three online articles. Not only was the level of coverage achieved substantial but the content of all the articles reinforced the 'key message' – that the Traveller community is vulnerable to problem drug use because of the social exclusion it experiences. RTÉ Television did not cover the launch, however, coverage was achieved on its leading radio news programme, Morning Ireland. In total there were over 20 news bulletins generated by the report. Two interviews were conducted on discussion programmes including one on the Newstalk 106 'Brendan O'Brien Lunchtime Show' with Emma Kennedy of Pavee Point.

Advice to Government

A key function of the Committee is to advise Government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland. In this regard an important part of the process of publishing research involves the submission of advice to Government based on the NACD's analysis and interpretation of the research findings and information available to it.

In addition to the advice provided regarding research publications, the following specific areas are direct supports provided to Government, public representatives and state bodies:

- Provision of technical support to the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office in preparation of a report to Government on drug treatment effectiveness;
- Ongoing provision of information to the Drugs Strategy Unit (DSU) in relation to replies to Parliamentary Questions (PQs);
- Information and advice also provided in response to general queries on drug issues;
- Advice provided through representation on the Interdepartmental Group on Drugs (IDG).

NACD Website

The NACD has had a website presence since 2001. The website was redeveloped in 2004 with the aim of providing a broader range of information to its target audience. The site contains detailed information in relation to the NACD, including its mission and values, functions and membership. Information is also available on the sub-committee structure and the NACD's programme of work.

NACD reports are published on the website and available to download free of charge. The site is updated on a regular basis to ensure that the most recent information is provided in relation to research activities, events and seminars. This also ensures the prompt display of press releases, tender documents and NACD submissions. The website is maintained by an external contractor as the NACD does not have the staffing capacity to perform this function.

The NACD was one of the public bodies listed under the Official Languages Act 2003 and the website has

been in bilingual format since 1st May 2006. Irish language versions of documents such as Annual Reports and Business Plans from 2003 onwards are available to download. However, the NACD is not obliged to translate research related reports due to their complex technical nature. Hence the NACD makes available translations of press releases which serve as a summary of the key recommendations. One page summaries of research published since late 2003 are available in Irish.

Seminars hosted by NACD

The NACD hosted seven seminar events in 2006.

Local and Regional Drugs Task Force Research

Training: Seminars aimed at Local and Regional Drugs Task Forces, entitled *Commissioning and Managing Research* were held on the 24th and 27th February in Dublin and Portlaoise respectively and on the 7th March in Dublin.

The NACD and National Drugs Strategy Team (NDST), with the assistance of the Alcohol and Drug Research Unit (ADRU) provided information on planning and commissioning research to the coordinators of the Local Drugs Task Forces (LDTFs) and Regional Drugs Task Forces (RDTFs).

Key speakers included Mairéad Lyons, Dr Aileen O'Gorman, NACD, Dr Jean Long and Brian Galvin of the ADRU and Patricia O'Connor of the NDST.

Key issues examined on the day were research questions, methods, data sources, ethics, data protection, procurement and contracts. The purpose of the seminar was to share the experience the NACD has gained over the last five years in areas such as:

- Developing research ideas through committees;
- Refining research objectives;

- Commissioning research (procurement & contracts);
- Identifying capacity;
- Mentoring research;
- Monitoring progress;
- Problem solving;
- Final reports, editing, sign off and deciding publication.

In terms of feedback from the participants, attendees found the seminar very beneficial and informative and the handouts very helpful. The information was presented simply and clearly, alerting the audience to many of the issues that might arise when doing research in this particular area.

Dr Aileen O’Gorman gave an excellent framework on which to develop research projects. Dr Jean Long highlighted the value of surveillance systems and how the information can be used. Mairéad Lyons focused on practical issues such as procurement and contracts. The Head of the National Documentation Centre, Brian Galvin was available to talk to people and demonstrated how their library can be accessed. Patricia O’Connor from the NDST closed the seminar with an outline of the Emerging Needs Fund.

ROSIE Findings 1 – Dissemination Seminar:

A seminar was held in Dublin’s Buswells Hotel on the 12th September in relation to the *ROSIE Findings 1: Summary of 1-year outcomes* and was attended by Mr Noel Ahern TD, Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy.

Dr Des Corrigan provided a keynote address on behalf of the NACD. Dr Catherine Comiskey presented the findings to an invited audience of treatment providers who are facilitating access to participants in the study.

Community Drugs Study Dissemination Seminar:

The launch of the Community Study Report and seminar was held in the Burlington Hotel on the 24th November, 2006 and was attended by Mr Noel Ahern TD, Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy. Dr Des Corrigan provided a keynote address on behalf of the NACD. Presentations were made by Dr Hilda Loughran, UCD and Dr Mary Ellen McCann, UCD.

Traveller Study Dissemination Seminars: Seminars on the Traveller Study, published in November 2006, took place on the 27th and 28th November. The main seminar was held in the Merrion Hotel and was attended by Mr Noel Ahern TD, Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy. Dr Des Corrigan provided a keynote address on behalf of the NACD and presentations were made by Professor Jane Fountain of the University of Central Lancashire.

Presentations to Key Audiences

A critical part of the NACD’s mission is to link research practice and the value of co-operating with everyone who can benefit from its knowledge base. In fulfilling this function, the Director, senior staff and representatives of the NACD regularly give lectures and presentations and participate in seminars and workshops.

Presentations in which the NACD participated in 2006:

- Lecture to Health Promotion Students NUI Galway (14th February)
- Lecture to Health Promotion Students Marino Institute Dublin (22nd February)
- Lecture to MA Addiction Studies Dublin Business School (23rd March)

- Inter Departmental Group on Drugs (IDG) presentation on Community Study (May)
- IDG presentation on Community Study (July)
- IDG presentation on ROSIE Findings 1 (September)
- IDG presentation on Cocaine Update (September)
- Ipsos MORI population survey briefing (5th October)
- Ipsos MORI population survey briefing (9th October)
- MQI/Pavee Point Diversity and Drugs Conference (2nd November)
- National Traveller Women's Forum Galway (20th November)
- Family Support Network AGM NACD Research (23rd November)

FINANCE

Research – Funding Allocations

(for Research Projects Commissioned in 2006)

(includes VAT where applicable)

Prevalence

Repeat General Population Survey of Drug Use 2006/2007

Ipsos MORI €677,600.00

Treatment/Rehabilitation

Extension of Longitudinal Study to include a 3-year follow-up phase

Dr Catherine Comiskey & NUI Maynooth €615,246.57

Supporting Actions/Activities

Public Relations

Montague Communications €25,621.00

Total Allocated €1,318,467.57

NACD Expenditure

An annual budget of approximately €1.3 million is set aside by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs towards the operation of the NACD. Seventy per cent of this budget is allocated to research funding and the remaining 30% to general administration.

The figures presented are a description of NACD expenditure on research and general administration for 2006. NACD finance is integrated within the general accounts of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

NACD expenditure on new and existing research projects, including external expert support, for 2006

€869,536.75

NACD expenditure on general administration, including pay, public relations and legal services for 2006

€399,931.92

MEMBERSHIP OF NACD COMMITTEE AT 31st DECEMBER 2006

Chairperson

Dr Des Corrigan, School of Pharmacy and
Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College

Vice-Chairperson

Dr Mary Ellen McCann, Academic Appointment

Members

Prof. Joe Barry, Academic Appointment

Ms Jackie Blanchfield, VDTN

Mr Willie Collins, HSE Southern Area

Mr Michael Conroy, Dept. of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs

Ms Maria Corrigan, Clinical Psychologist

Ms Sunniva Finlay, Community Sector

Mr John Garry, Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law
Reform

Ms Mairéad Kavanagh, VDTN

Dr Eamon Keenan, Consultant Psychiatrist, HSE
South Western Area

Dr Jean Long, ADRU, Health Research Board

Mr David Moloney, Dept. of Health and Children

Mr Cathal Morgan, HSE Eastern Region

Supt Barry O'Brien, Garda National Drugs Unit

Mr Liam O'Brien, Community Sector

Ms Patricia O'Connor, NDST

Ms Mary O'Shea, IAAAC

Dr Máirín O'Sullivan, Dept. of Education and Science

Retired NACD Members (2006)

Ms Catherine Byrne, Dept. of Justice, Equality and
Law Reform

Mr Tony Geoghegan, IAAAC

Ms Anna Quigley, Community Sector

Dr Hamish Sinclair, ADRU, Health Research Board

Members of Sub-Committees (Not sitting on Main Committee)

Consequences

Mr Gabriel Staunton, Dept. of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs

Early Warning/Emerging Trends

Mr Gabriel Staunton, Dept. of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs

Dr Daniel O'Driscoll, Forensic Science Laboratory

Dr Bobby Smyth, HSE South Western Area

Ms Siobhan Stokes, State Laboratory

Dr Richie Maguire, Drug Treatment Centre Board

Ms Noreen Quinn, Dept. of Health and Children

Mr Pdraig Mc Mahon, Revenue Commissioners

Mr Gerry Hayes, Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law
Reform

Ms Pauline Leavy, Medical Bureau of Road Safety

Det. Garda Pat Davis, Garda National Drugs Unit

Ms Anya Pierce, Toxicology Department, Beaumont
Hospital

Prevalence

Mr Eddie Arthurs, Dept. of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs

Prevention

Ms Cathy Lyons, Dept. of Health and Children

Ms Sinead Copeland, Dept. of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs

Ms Ruby Morrow, Church of Ireland College of
Education

Ms Elaine Butler, Drug Education Workers Forum

Treatment

Ms Anna May Harkin, Dept. of Health and Children

Dr Íde Delargy, Irish College of General Practitioners

Ms Frances Nangle-Connor, Irish Prison Service

Ms Sinead Copeland, Dept. of Community, Rural and
Gaeltacht Affairs

TABLE OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AT 31st DECEMBER 2006

		Consequences	EWET	Prevalence	Prevention	Treatment
Dr Des Corrigan	School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College	✓	✓	✓		
Dr Mary Ellen McCann	Academic Appointment	✓			✓	
Prof. Joe Barry	Academic Appointment			✓		✓
Ms Jackie Blanchfield	VDTN		✓			✓
Mr Willie Collins	HSE, Southern Area		✓	✓		✓
Ms Maria Corrigan	Clinical Psychologist				✓	✓
Ms Sunniva Finlay	Community Sector	✓		✓		
Mr John Garry	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	✓		✓		
Ms Mairéad Kavanagh	VDTN	✓			✓	
Dr Eamon Keenan	HSE, South Western Area	✓				✓
Dr Jean Long	ADRU, Health Research Board	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mr David Moloney	Department of Health and Children		✓	✓		
Mr Cathal Morgan	HSE, Eastern Region					✓
Supt Barry O'Brien	Garda National Drug Unit	✓		✓		
Mr Liam O'Brien	Community Sector	✓				✓
Ms Patricia O'Connor	NDST		✓	✓	✓	
Ms Mary O'Shea	IAAAC	✓				✓
Dr Máirín O'Sullivan	Department of Education and Science				✓	
Mr Gabriel Staunton	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	✓	✓			
Mr Gerry Hayes	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform		✓			
Ms Pauline Leavy	Medical Bureau of Road Safety		✓			

		Consequences	EWET	Prevalence	Prevention	Treatment
Det. Garda Pat Davis	Garda National Drug Unit		✓			
Ms Siobhan Stokes	State Laboratory		✓			
Dr Daniel O'Driscoll	Forensic Science Laboratory		✓			
Ms Noreen Quinn	Department of Health and Children		✓			
Ms Anya Pierce	Toxicology Department Beaumont Hospital		✓			
Dr Bobby Smyth	HSE, South Western Area		✓			
Dr Richie Maguire	Drug Treatment Centre Board		✓			
Mr Pdraig McMahon	Revenue Commissioners		✓			
Mr Eddie Arthurs	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs			✓		
Ms Cathy Lyons	Department of Health and Children				✓	
Ms Ruby Morrow	Church of Ireland College of Education				✓	
Ms Sinead Copeland	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs				✓	✓
Ms Elaine Butler	Drug Education Workers Forum				✓	
Ms Anna May Harkin	Department of Health and Children					✓
Dr Íde Delargy	Irish College of General Practitioners					✓
Ms Frances Nangle-Connor	Irish Prison Services					✓

ACTIONS REQUIRED OF THE NACD UNDER THE NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY

In the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008, the NACD was requested to undertake the following actions.

- 98 To carry out studies on drug misuse amongst the at risk groups identified e.g. Travellers, prostitutes, the homeless, early school leavers etc. including de-segregation of data on these groups. It is essential that the individuals and groups most affected by drug misuse and those involved in working to reduce, treat and prevent drug misuse have immediate access to relevant statistical information.
- 99 To commission further outcome studies, within the Irish setting to establish the current impact of methadone treatment on both individual health and on offending behaviour. Such studies should be an important tool in determining the long term value of this treatment.
- 100 To conduct research into the effectiveness of new mechanisms to minimise the sharing of equipment e.g. non-reusable syringes, mobile syringe exchange facilities etc. to establish the potential application of new options within particular cohorts of the drug using population i.e. amongst younger drug misusers, within prisons etc.

