

AOD RESEARCH CENTRES

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing funds three dedicated National Research Centres. These centres collectively provide the opportunity for a core alcohol and other drug research programme to inform policy development and also to assist in improving the effectiveness of treatment programmes by disseminating new evidence that informs practice change.

National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA)

www.nceta.flinders.edu.au

The National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) is an internationally recognised research centre that works as a catalyst for change in the alcohol and other drugs (AOD) field. The promotion of workforce development principles, research and evaluation of effective practices is NCETA's core business.

NCETA is located in Bedford Park, Adelaide at Flinders University.

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au>

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) is a premier research institution in Australia and is recognised internationally as a Research Centre of Excellence. The Centre is multidisciplinary and collaborates with medicine, psychology, social science and other schools of the University of NSW, as well as with a range of other institutions and individuals in Australia and overseas.

The overall mission of NDARC is to conduct high quality research and related activities that increase the effectiveness of Australian and International treatment and other intervention responses to alcohol and other drug related harm.

NDARC is located in Randwick, Sydney at the University of New South Wales.

National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)

<http://ndri.curtin.edu.au>

The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) is based at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. It is a leading national and international authority in the area of drug and alcohol prevention research, and is one of the largest centres of alcohol and other drug research expertise in Australia.

NDRI's mission is to conduct and disseminate policy and practice relevant research that contributes to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug-related harm. The Institute's research activities are governed by eight key Research Priorities:

- » Alcohol policy
- » Indigenous Australians
- » Offender health
- » Primary prevention and early intervention
- » Social contexts of drug use
- » People who continue to use alcohol and other drugs
- » Tobacco
- » New technologies

Factors that influence alcohol and other drug use and related harm are multifaceted, demanding a multi-disciplinary approach to research. For that reason, NDRI staff come from diverse professional backgrounds, including psychology, public health, epidemiology, nursing, medicine, sociology and anthropology. NDRI works closely with a diverse range of clients and stakeholders, and a culture of collaboration ensures that much of its work is further strengthened through partnerships with other research bodies, government, and non-government organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

Core funding for the Institute is provided by the Australian Government as part of the National Drug Strategy, with additional funds obtained from a range of state, national and international funding bodies. A Board of Management oversees the Institute's business, and this includes representation from academia, non-government and government services providers and the Commonwealth Government of Health and Ageing.

NDRI is also a designated World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, with responsibility for research, training and consultation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Since its establishment by the Australian Government in 1986, NDRI has played a critical role in influencing state and national drug policy, including liquor licensing decisions, guidelines for responsible drinking, and repeat drink driving and cannabis legislation. It has also been highly successful in developing harm-minimisation interventions that work at a community level.

To provide just one illustration of NDRI's research, the Institute is involved in national monitoring of patterns of alcohol use and associated levels of harm over time. This research is important as it is essential to understand the incidence and patterns of alcohol use, as well as the different contexts in which use takes place, to develop effective policies and interventions. The Institute's National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP) monitors and reports on trends in alcohol-related harm across Australia at national, state and local levels. A first for Australia, the development of this project arose from increasing concerns over levels of alcohol related harm in the Australian community, and the need for an efficient monitoring system on alcohol.

One of the main objectives of the NAIP is to produce and disseminate summary bulletins that highlight the major points from each research area. Twelve statistical bulletins have been released, dealing with topics such as: alcohol-caused morbidity and mortality; serious alcohol-related road trauma; risky drinking patterns; per capita consumption; alcohol and violence; youth alcohol consumption; under-aged drinking; alcohol and the elderly; alcohol-attributable mortality among Indigenous Australians; and most recently, updated economic cost estimates for alcohol attributable mortality and morbidity for all states and territories in Australia. This research has provided for the first time a clear picture of trends in alcohol consumption and related harm for individual states and territories and for Australia as a whole. Of course, alcohol is a key issue in other priority research areas, such as Indigenous Health, Offender Health, and research into the contexts and influences of alcohol use among young people.

For further information about NDRI, and its full range of research, visit ndri.curtin.edu.au. All NAIP Bulletins are available on the website and hard copies can be obtained on request.

AOD RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA)

www.adac.org.au

Australian Centre for Addiction Research

www.acar.net.au

Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

www.aic.gov.au

Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP)

www.dpmp.unsw.edu.au

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

www.nhmrc.gov.au

Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC)

www.uq.edu.au/qadrec

Turning Point

www.turningpoint.org.au