



Annual Report 2008

National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)

PRN A9/0597

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Vision, Mission, Values

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



It gives me great pleasure to welcome the third Annual Report of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD). The NACD fulfils a very important role in providing research-based advice to Government in relation to drug use across the island of Ireland.

Notable achievements in 2008 include the publication of the results of the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey, and the publication of further findings from the Research Outcome Study in Ireland (ROSIE) which focuses on the outcomes of opiate treatment.

I want to congratulate Dr. Des Corrigan for his commitment to the work of the NACD and for his very effective chairing of the Committee. I also want to thank the members of the Committee for their wholehearted input to the work of the NACD. As well as this, the work of the NACD is greatly enhanced through the engagement of a significant number of people on its sub-committees. I also thank them and the research and administration staff of the NACD.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of the Director, Mairéad Lyons, who is moving on to pursue new challenges after seven years with the NACD. I wish her well in the future.

John Curran T.D.

Minister of State
with responsibility for the National
Drugs Strategy

Chairperson's Report



The work of the NACD during 2008 was a mix of both commissioned and in-house research as well as the publication of numerous important reports. Among the publications were four Bulletins on the results of the 2006/7 Population Survey on drug use in Ireland and Northern Ireland which have dealt with the overall pattern of drug use on the island as well as the regional data presented on a Regional Drugs Task Force basis. Subsequently, detailed prevalence, demographic and attitudinal data on Cocaine and Cannabis have been published. It is our hope that the wealth of detail in these reports and the changes since the 2002/3 Survey will provide service providers and policy makers at local and national levels with food for thought as strategies develop over the next few years. On a technical level it is not yet possible to look at trends in these surveys as another survey covering 2010/11 will be needed to allow for meaningful trend data to emerge.

The three Bulletins from the ROSIE study highlight not only what can be achieved through treatment of those dependent on opiates, but also the challenges facing services in progressing people through the treatment journey to full recovery and improvements in their physical and mental health. The NACD is particularly grateful to all those who shared a painful part of their lives with the researchers from NUI Maynooth so that others might benefit in the future.

In the 2007 Annual Report, reference was made to the collaboration between the NACD and the National Drugs Strategy Team (NDST) which resulted in a joint report to Government on Cocaine. This year has seen another such fruitful collaboration on a report on the provision of Needle Exchange. A number of initiatives are underway arising from the consideration of the report at the Inter-Departmental Drugs Group (IDG). This is important because implementation of NACD recommendations is a key performance indicator for us as the research and advisory arm of the National Drugs Strategy.

The varied and extensive work of the Committee would not be possible without the expertise and commitment of those who serve on the NACD, its Sub-committees and Research Advisory Groups. Members give unselfishly of their time and knowledge and they are deserving of our gratitude for what they continue to contribute.

The staff of the NACD are small in number but are a dedicated hardworking group without whom the Committee could not have achieved what it has since its establishment in 2000. They consistently produce work of the highest quality often under constraints of time pressure. My colleagues and I are deeply indebted to them for their hard work.

In particular the former Director of the NACD, Ms Mairéad Lyons played a central role in ensuring that our outputs were published on time and that the highest of standards were maintained. Her decision to leave the Committee after seven years was greeted with dismay not just within the NACD but also among all who knew of her talent and her commitment to work of the highest quality. We all owe her a huge debt of gratitude for the hard work and dedication which has been so vital in bringing the NACD to such a high level of productivity and recognition. We will miss her influence, energy, enthusiasm and commitment especially her ability to prioritise the needs of stake-holders. It is notable that Mairéad never lost sight of the fact that all our work, all our research, all our reports actually dealt with real people with huge problems. My colleagues and I wish her well in her new post. We know that she will bring her inimitable style to bear on the Irish Cancer Society to their benefit and that their gain is our loss.

The continued support of the Minister of State and his officials in the Drugs Strategy Unit at Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for the work of the NACD is not only welcome but has also been an essential element in helping us achieve so much.

Dr Des Corrigan FPSI
Chairperson

Executive Summary



Once again 2008 has been an extraordinary year for the NACD; seven full Committee meetings; 22 sub-committee meetings and 15 Research Advisory Group meetings culminating in the production of 15 publications, six of which were web-only publications. The collective wisdom and expertise of the NACD continues to create a unique synergy that drives its achievements. It is a committee whose collaborative endeavours are focused on achieving better services and outcomes for those affected by problem drug use and addiction.

Perhaps the highlight for 2008 has been the production of the ROSIE 3-year Outcomes in our ROSIE Findings series. These findings reflect excellent achievements for those drug users who participated in the study and for those service providers who have not given up on helping people to change their lives no matter how chaotic that life may be. The greatest lesson from the ROSIE Study was that when people drop out of treatment and return to try again, all those early gains are not lost but act as a foundation from whence the drug user can move closer to their goal.

The NACD is staffed by a small team of very hard-working and enthusiastic people who never quibble when the going gets tough and deadlines add pressure to the working day. I am deeply indebted to Alan Gaffney the NACD Office Manager; to Dr Gemma Cox the NACD Research Officer; to Ms Mary Jane Trimble who provides reception and secretariat support to the NACD; to Dr Teresa Whitaker, Researcher; to Ms Sheena Duffy providing part-time administrative support and for a brief period in 2008 Dr Justine Horgan, Researcher.

This is my last report for the NACD and therefore my last opportunity to express my

deepest appreciation for the wonderful support given to me by the NACD and in particular its Chairman, Dr Des Corrigan. He has provided excellent leadership and great support, always keeping us focused and ensuring we never lost sight of our primary role: to provide advice to Government on the impact drugs have had or are having on individuals, families and communities. I wish to acknowledge the four Ministers with whom I have worked during my term with the NACD, (Eoin Ryan TD MEP; Noel Ahern TD; Pat Carey TD and John Curran TD).

Finally, thank you to all those with whom I have worked over the last seven years across Government (Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, NDST, IDG, RDTFs, LDTFs), PHIRB, HSE, members of the various NACD Research Advisory Groups and other agencies such as the Family Support Network.

Mairéad Lyons
Director

Glossary of Terms

ADRU	Alcohol and Drug Research Unit of the Health Research Board (formerly known as the DMRD)	ROSIE	Research Outcome Study in Ireland evaluating drug treatment effectiveness
C&AG	Comptroller and Auditor General	UCD	University College Dublin
DSU	Drugs Strategy Unit	VDTN	Voluntary Drug Treatment Network
DTMS	Drug Trend 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		
OJEU	Official Journal of the European Union		
PHIRB	Public Health Information and Research Branch		
PQ	Parliamentary Question		
RAG	Research Advisory Group		
RDTF	Regional Drugs Task Force		
RIWG	Research and Information Working Group		

Background and Functions of the NACD

1.1 Origins

The NACD was established in July 2000 to advise the Government on problem drug use in Ireland in relation to consequences, prevalence, prevention, and treatment including rehabilitation, based on its analysis and interpretation of research findings and information available to it. It also provides 'early warning' advice to Government. The Committee comprises representation from Government Departments, Academia, Community, Voluntary and Statutory sectors and reports to the Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy. Further information can be obtained from the website www.nacd.ie.

Arising from a Government decision to renew the NACD mandate in 2004, a further work programme was developed. A consultation process was undertaken with key interest groups and stakeholders to explore further research and information opportunities. The business plan developed incorporates the continuation of the current programme and identifies ongoing gaps in knowledge. The business plan was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion and is published on the NACD website ("Business Plan 2005-2008").

Over the years the NACD has worked closely with other agencies and organisations to optimise skills and resources in gathering information and filling gaps in knowledge. In particular, the NACD works closely with the Health Research Board's Alcohol and Drugs Research Unit on meeting the information needs of the EU Five Key Indicators of Drug Use. The NACD is engaged in ongoing collaborative work with colleagues in the Public Health Information and Research Branch of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland, gathering information on drug prevalence amongst the general population on the whole island.

The work programme and modus operandi of the NACD is an evolving process and further information can be obtained on the NACD website. However, its core functions were set down by Government in 2000 and these have not altered - see over.

1.2 Functions

On its establishment in 2000, 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 sets 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 three-year prioritised programme of research and evaluation as recommended by the Interim 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;
 - e) commissioning 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 and Work Programme

2.1 Structures

2.1.1 The NACD

The NACD comprises 19 members who, with the exception of the Chairperson, participate on a voluntary basis. Since 2005, the Chairperson receives a small honorarium. Members serve at the invitation of the Minister of State and their participation requires them to sit on the NACD main committee and at least one sub-committee. NACD meetings are generally scheduled to take place every six weeks excluding July and August. In 2008, seven standard meetings, one reflection meeting and one meeting to consider the NACD's submission to the National Drugs Strategy (NDS) Review were held. Full membership is detailed in Appendix 1.

2.1.2 Sub-Committees

Due to the complexity of the drugs issue the NACD manages its work programme through sub-committee structures including research advisory groups (RAGs). There are five sub-committees in operation: Consequences; Early Warning Emerging Trends; Prevalence; Prevention; and Treatment/Rehabilitation. Each committee meets as required and according to the needs of the NACD work programme. In 2008, a total of 22 sub-committee meetings were held as follows: Consequences (3); Early Warning Emerging Trends (5); Prevalence (6); Prevention (4); and Treatment/Rehabilitation (4). There were a total of 15 RAG meetings in 2008. Full sub-committee membership is detailed in Appendix 2.

2.1.3 Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for sub-committees and research advisory groups are available on the NACD website.

2.2 Work Programme of NACD

In 2001, the NACD published its first work programme and a business plan was published in 2002. The NACD was externally reviewed by Talbot Associates in 2004 and this led to Government approving a renewed mandate to the end of 2008. A three-year business plan was published in 2005. This set out a new work programme incorporating projects from earlier work programmes that had still

to be completed and research that needed to be repeated. At the beginning of each year the NACD agrees actions for the year towards achieving its work programme goals.

In 2008, one new research project was commissioned and there were eight ongoing research projects. A total of 15 publications was achieved; six of which were web-only publications with the remainder printed and distributed.

2.2.1 Summary of 2008

The ongoing work programme in 2008 comprised the following:

- Analysis of data from the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey;
- Further analysis and publication of the ROSIE study 1-year and 3-year data;
- Completion of the evaluation of the National Drug Awareness Campaign;
- Ongoing fieldwork and data analysis on drug use and prostitution research;
- Ongoing fieldwork and literature review on a comparative study of drug use amongst early school leavers and attendees research;
- Report on Needle Exchange provision in Ireland, which was a joint project with the NDST;
- Repeat Capture Recapture Study;
- Interagency Working Briefing Paper.

Newly commissioned research was as follows:

- Research into drug markets in Ireland.

Internal work - summary of activities:

- Early School Leaving study - ongoing contact with study centres, Ipsos MORI and the RAG - all managed internally;
- Drug Markets Study - monitoring and support;

- Drug Users, Prostitution and the Risk Environment - completion of fieldwork, preparation of analysis and writing of report to NACD - all managed internally;
- Drug Prevalence surveys - prepared and published four bulletins, prepared confidence intervals (CIs) for bulletins 1 and 2 (06/07 survey) and updated 2002/3 CIs;
- Review of and liaison with C&AG re Drug Treatment Effectiveness;
- Review and guidance to research team on ROSIE Findings 5, 6 and 7 and publications managed;
- Preparation of a DVD on the ROSIE 3-Year outcomes;
- NDS Review - submission prepared, meetings and consultations attended, ongoing review and feedback of report chapter drafts;
- National Drug Awareness Campaign - participation in meetings and launch of campaign event;
- Compilation and editing of Needle Exchange Report by NACD research officer which was a joint project with the NDST. Report published;
- Monitoring and support to the research team on the repeat Capture Recapture study;
- Feedback to IDG on Drug Related Deaths report and letter sent to the Minister;
- Public health notice to A&Es arising from NACD action in relation to Cocaine adulterants especially lignocaine;
- Prepared the 2007 Annual Report and published it on the web;
- The Director represented the NACD on the National Drugs Strategy Review Group during the public consultation and in the preparation of the new drugs strategy;
- The Director participated on the Traveller Implementation Group;
- Maintenance of the website and ongoing Irish translation of relevant uploads to website.

2.2.2 The Research Process

All research has the support of a Research Advisory Group (RAG). The Terms of Reference for these RAGs have been noted in previous reports and are now available on the website. The RAG comes together once the research question has been decided and a commissioning process must be embarked upon. Research is externally contracted via requests for tenders, direct engagement or internal action. The RAG, which generally comprises relevant stakeholders or experts, oversees the research process, coaching and mentoring the researchers, advising and guiding when appropriate and reviewing written output before finally signing off on a report for consideration by the NACD.

2.2.3 Commissioned Research

One research project was commissioned in 2008 as outlined below;

Drug Markets Study

The NACD, the Health Research Board and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform agreed jointly to research 'Drugs Markets' in a number of locations in Ireland. The shared funding and contract arrangements were finalised and the project commenced in 2008. A street survey was completed in September/October and data collection among key agencies started in November. The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) will carry out a study in support of the research, analysing drugs samples seized for purity and potency. The NACD and Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform have agreed to provide the FSL with the additional resources required for this special initiative. The final report is expected in December 2009.

2.2.4 Ongoing Research

(i) Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey

This series of Bulletins present the key findings from the second drug prevalence survey of households in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. A representative sample of people aged between 15 and 64 years was surveyed during late 2006/early 2007, according to the standards set by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The data in these bulletins relate to drug prevalence

rates on a lifetime, last year (recent) and last month (current) basis for illegal and other drugs including alcohol and tobacco. Statistically significant differences in prevalence rates between 2002/3 and 2006/7 are also presented. Close collaboration with colleagues in Northern Ireland took place to ensure matching standards and to develop joint publications of the data for both jurisdictions. There were six publications in 2008:

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: First Results from the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey Bulletin 1. Published in January 2008.

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland: First Results from the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey. Bulletin 1. *CONFIDENCE INTERVALS*. Published in May 2008 and made available on the web only.

Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/2007. *Technical Report*. Published in May 2008 and made available on the web only.

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Regional Drugs Task Force (Ireland) & Health and Social Service Board (Northern Ireland) Results Bulletin 2. Published in June 2008.

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results Bulletin 4. Published in October 2008.

Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cannabis Results Bulletin 3. Published in December 2008.

Further publications on Polydrug use and Sedatives or Tranquillisers, and Anti-depressants will issue in 2009. In addition, the NACD will analyse the data on alcohol use across both surveys with a view to publishing an Alcohol bulletin by summer 2009.

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

In 2002 the NACD commissioned the ROSIE Study under Action 99 of the National Drugs Strategy. It is the first national, prospective longitudinal multi-site

drug treatment outcome study in the country. The Study recruited and followed up on 404 opiate users, from the commencement of a new treatment episode (treatment intake) and monitored progress at time-anchored points: 6 months; 1-year; and 3 years after treatment intake. The participants were recruited on entry into three different types of treatment: methadone maintenance (53.2%); structured detoxification (20%); and abstinence-based treatment (20.3%); and a sub-sample of opiate users were recruited from needle-exchange facilities (6.4%).

Four ROSIE Findings bulletins were published in 2007, the first (ROSIE Findings 1) reported on the outcomes at 1-year for drug-use, involvement in crime, injecting-related risk behaviour, and physical and mental health outcomes. The subsequent three bulletins (ROSIE Findings 2, 3 and 4) reported on the 1-year outcomes for each method of treatment (detoxification, abstinence, and methadone). These publications are available on the NACD website www.nacd.ie

Analysis and Publication of 1-year and 3-year data. Further analysis of the ROSIE data for 1-year and 3-year outcomes was ongoing at the end of 2007 and a further three 'ROSIE Findings' bulletins were published in 2008.

ROSIE Findings 5, provided analysis of the similarities and differences by gender at 1-year follow-up. Published in October 2008.

ROSIE Findings 6, presented a summary of 3-year outcomes for the whole study population (follow-up rate of 88%) described as those who completed interviews at intake and 3 years. Published on the website only in October 2008.

ROSIE Findings 7, presented findings for those who completed all three interviews (follow-up 72%) at intake to treatment, at 1-year follow-up and at 3-years. These participants are referred to as the 'Per Protocol' group. Published in October 2008.

Analysis of the ROSIE data for 3-year outcomes will continue into 2009 and further ROSIE Findings

publications will focus on crime, polydrug use and predictors of treatment outcomes.

The ROSIE Final Report is at the editing stage and will be published and distributed early in 2009. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the study and presents treatment intake data and outcomes at 1-year and 3 years.

In 2008, the NACD also commissioned a DVD to tell the story of Drug Treatment Outcomes in Ireland and this was completed in December. This will be launched early in 2009 together with the final report.

(iii) National Drug Awareness Campaign - Complete Evaluation Report

The full report was published on the web in January 2008 and an Executive Summary was printed and disseminated in February 2008.

(iv) Exploring the Risk Environment of Problematic Drug Users who Engage in Prostitution in Dublin

The NACD is acting as Principal Investigator in this study. It was designed internally and received ethical approval for its implementation from the Drug Treatment Centre Board Research Ethics Committee. Fieldwork was completed by NACD researchers in mid-2008, data were analysed and interpreted and a first draft of the report was sent to the NACD in December 2008. The final report will be published and disseminated in 2009.

(v) Comparative Study of Drug Use Among Early School Leavers and School Attendees

The NACD is also acting as Principal Investigator in this internally designed study. The NACD received ethical approval for the study implementation from the Drug Treatment Centre Board Research Ethics Committee. The study is examining drug use among early school leavers and school attendees in the context of risk and protective factors. Following completion of the pilot study, a tender issued for the fieldwork element of the main study and this was awarded to Ipsos MORI. Fieldwork was completed in 2008 and analysis of the data is under way. It is anticipated that preliminary findings will be available early in 2009.

(vi) Needle Exchange Provision in Ireland

The NACD and NDST prepared a joint paper to the IDG on needle exchange provision in Ireland and this incorporated information on blood-borne viruses. The paper "Blood-borne viruses and harm reduction strategies: An assessment of needle exchange provision in Ireland" was published on the website in December 2008.

(vii) Repeat Capture Recapture Study

This is a repeat of the Capture Recapture Study which provided estimates on the prevalence of problem opiate use in Ireland for the period 2000 to 2001 using three data sources: the Central Treatment List, Garda PULSE data and the HIPE (Hospital In-Patient Enquiry) database. The aim of the repeat study is to provide updated estimates based on data for the period 2006. The contractor, Dr Alan Kelly from the Small Area Health Research Unit (SAHRU) has received all the data from the required datasets and final data cleaning is underway. It is hoped to have preliminary figures early in 2009.

(viii) Interagency Working Briefing Paper

The NACD prepared a briefing to Government on Interagency working for drug prevention and this was used to form the basis of a joint submission with the NDST to all departments regarding the preparation of their strategy statements. The report supporting this submission is in the process of being completed and will be published on the website in 2009.

2.2.5 Collaboration

Collaborative working is a core principle of the NACD and every effort is made to involve stakeholders at various levels in relevant discussions, research projects and research activities. Over the last year the NACD has been very active in collaborating with colleagues in Northern Ireland on the All Ireland Drug Prevalence Survey. This joint working relationship has continued since 2002. In addition, the NACD convened relevant stakeholders in the various research advisory groups to support other research projects. They involve officials from the Departments of Education and Science; Justice, Equality and Law Reform; Health and Children; The

Health Research Board; The Drugs Strategy Unit; The Drug Treatment Centre Board; Trinity College; National Addiction Centre, London; Ruhama; Chrysalis; UISCE; Women's Health Project; Gay Men's Health Project; Dublin Aids Alliance; Gay HIV Strategies; An Garda Síochána; The Forensic Science Laboratory; and The Customs Drugs Law Enforcement Unit of The Revenue Commissioners.

2.2.6 NACD/NDST Collaboration

The NACD works closely with the NDST in providing technical support, advice and information on tendering of research projects to Local and Regional Drugs Task Forces (L/RDTFs). L/RDTFs were supported in considering research needs in their areas, commissioning and managing research projects through telephone, email and face to face meetings. The NACD also collaborated with the NDST in 2008 to prepare a joint paper to the IDG on needle exchange, incorporating information on blood-borne viruses.

2.3 Performance Management

2.3.1 Staff

The NACD has four core posts supported directly through secondment and contract by the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs. The Director and Research Officer are contracted to the Department and the Higher Executive Officer (HEO) and part-time Clerical Officer (CO) are seconded from the Department.

2.3.2 Balanced Scorecard

In 2008 the NACD had an efficiency rate of 85%. This is in line with our targets for the year. There were 30 internal meetings (seven of which were team meetings) held to manage the flow of work and to maintain the high levels of productivity from such a small team. The remaining 23 meetings related to the work of sub-committees, research advisory groups and visitors to the NACD.

Briefings to the Minister were provided on three occasions and 52 external meetings were attended, relating to the provision of support to the L/RDTFs, to other agencies and to the research programme of the NACD.

In addition to commissioning and managing its research, the NACD work programme generates a range of other activities which adds another project management dimension to the operations of the NACD. Internal work includes providing secretariat support to the various committees, organising events, media relations and managing the publication process (which involves proofing, editing, checking in great detail all drafts going to and coming from the design house and co-ordinating the printing process). Each publication generates a series of activities related to planning and organising the dissemination of reports, and in 2008 over 9,000 reports were circulated to key stakeholders.

2.3.3 Freedom of Information (FOI)

The NACD makes most of its information available on-line. Nonetheless, it receives FOI requests from time to time. A reference book has been published on the website 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 NACD, 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 at www.nacd.ie and upon request from the offices of the NACD.

The FOI Officer at the NACD is Mary Jane Trimble. Alan Gaffney is the FOI Decision Maker and internal appeals are dealt with by the Director. There were no FOI requests in 2008.

2.3.4 Drugs Strategy Unit (DSU) Support

The NACD provided information in response to Parliamentary Questions (PQs) to the Drugs Strategy Unit of the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and provided other information in response to general queries on drug issues throughout 2008. The DSU supported the NACD in the preparation and signing of contracts and in the administration of financial resources allocated to NACD.

The Director represented the NACD during the National Drugs Strategy (NDS) Consultation Process, attending eight of the 15 Public Consultation meetings throughout the country. The Director was also involved in the new National Drugs Strategy drafting process, attending 23 review meetings in total for 2008, ten of which occurred in the last four months of 2008. This commitment was over 40 working days for the Director in support of the Review and preparation of a new Drugs Strategy.

2.3.5 Participation in Training

Ongoing professional development of staff continued in 2008 through participation in various seminars and conferences and through participation on specific courses agreed through the professional development plan. These courses covered the areas of:

- Effective Business Writing;
- Time Management;
- Multi-level Analysis;
- Gaeilge;
- Addiction Studies;
- Software packages for data analysis SPSS, QSR NVivo.

Communications

The core functions of the NACD require a commitment to communications in its broadest sense to promote and encourage debate and discussion of drug issues internally and externally amongst the wide range of stakeholders who interact with it. The publication and distribution of NACD research is a further dimension to using communications tools in achieving goals. 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.

3.1 Advice to Government

The NACD provided advice to Government on several occasions during 2008 through its participation on the IDG, in its briefings with the Minister and through recommendations made based on research or information it had considered. In 2008 this advice covered the areas of drug treatment outcomes, drug prevalence, blood-borne viruses and harm reduction strategies. The NACD also provides ongoing advice and support to the Drugs Strategy Unit in responding to parliamentary questions and general queries.

3.2 Media Relations

In 2008 the NACD continued to generate considerable media interest. Each of the five report launches were attended by a broad range of media representatives, with the Minister, Chairperson, Director and other NACD members

participating in interviews on various issues arising from the research.

NACD publications generate instant news coverage and in 2008 the NACD was mentioned in news bulletins on television, across 19 local radio stations including four independent stations in Dublin, and on RTE One, 2FM, Today FM and Newstalk Radio. Fifty one interviews were given on national and regional radio and television news and current affairs programmes including programmes on RTE One, 2FM, BBC Northern Ireland, Newstalk Radio, FM104, City Channel, Today FM and 18 other local and regional channels.

Forty articles relating to publications released by the NACD or research carried out by the NACD appeared in national newspapers including: The Irish Times; The Examiner; Irish Independent group; Irish Mirror; and Daily Star and 38 articles featured in regional newspapers. There were a further 23 articles published on 12 web based media sites.

Throughout the year NACD is regularly contacted when there has been a large seizure or when the tragic consequences of drug misuse such as a fatality or serious harm occur. On these occasions, the NACD provides factual responses on the drug prevalence, treatment and prevention of drug misuse thus contributing to general awareness among the population.

3.3 NACD Website

The website contains all the necessary information about the NACD, including its vision, mission and values, functions and membership. Information on the sub-committee structure and the NACD's programme of work is also included.

The site has been restructured to make it more user-friendly and has been updated to include the research projects, events and seminars which took place in 2008 and in previous years. Additional links have been added to the website.

All NACD reports are published simultaneously on the website and can be downloaded free of charge. The website is in bilingual format - English and Irish - thus Irish versions of annual reports, business plans, press releases and research summaries dating from 2003 can be downloaded.

3.4 Seminars/Briefings 2008

3.4.1 Seminars/Conferences attended by NACD staff in 2008

February

Addicted to Treatment? Reflecting and rethinking responses to client progression

Conference organised by Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force.

Carlton Hotel, Dublin.

March

Prostitution, Policy New Directions

Organised by Eaves/Poppy Project for women in Prostitution.

South Bank University, London.

First Biennial Conference of the Irish Youth Justice Service- 'Best Practice for Youth Justice, Best Practice for All'

Organised by the Irish Youth Justice Service.

Ballyconnell Cavan.

April

Safer Injecting Seminar: An Injection of Common Sense

A seminar focussing on reducing the harm associated with injecting drug use and promoting positive health responses.

Organised by Merchants Quay Ireland.

Launch of the MQI: Safer Injecting Guide by Minister of State, Pat Carey TD.

International Society for the Study of Drug Policy (ISSDP) Conference

Themes: Developing drug policy evaluation, defining drug policy models, the integrated approach to licit and illicit drugs, security and nuisance concerns.

Supported by the EMCDDA and Instituto da Droga e da Toxicodependencia (IDT).

Lisbon.

SIPTU

Joint Trade Union-Community Seminar on Drugs and Alcohol 2008

The Dublin CityWide Drugs Crisis Campaign in conjunction with SIPTU's Dublin Regional Executive Committee hosted a half day seminar in order to: Develop awareness of the drugs and alcohol issue among union members; Identify practical responses that can be developed and supported by the unions; Engage with the partners who will be involved in these responses - such as the community sector, employers, State agencies and Government. Liberty Hall Theatre, Dublin.

May

Women in Prison, The Need for a Critical Review

Keynote speaker: Baroness Jean Corston.

Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice.

The Bar Council Law Library, Dublin.

June

Ana Liffey Project: Annual Report Launch

Gay Health

Organised by the Gay Men's Health Project. Dublin Castle.

September

First Global Conference on Methamphetamine, Science Strategy and Response.

Methamphetamine (MA) global prevalence, epidemiological and ethnographic perspectives, clinical and psychological challenges and the legal framework guiding drugs policy and strategies. Prague.

Economic Development 50 Years On 1958-2008

Institute of Public Administration in association with the Department of Finance.

Dublin Castle.

October

Family Matters: Exploring Key Concepts, Principles and Practices In Relation to Addiction and the Family

Organised by Ballymun Local Drugs Task Force.

Carlton Airport Hotel, Santry.

3.4.2 Presentations given by the NACD during 2008

February

Launch of the National Drug Awareness Campaign

Ms. Mairéad Lyons made a presentation.
Mansion House Dublin.

March

NDS Review

Ms Mairéad Lyons made a presentation to the NACD about the NDS review.

April

CityWide Drugs Crisis Campaign Conference

Dr Gemma Cox made a presentation.

July

NDS Review Group

Dr Teresa Whitaker made a presentation on the recommendations arising from the research on Drug Use, Sex Work and the Risk Environment in Dublin.

November

Workplace Drug Testing

Dr Teresa Whitaker made a presentation to a SIPTU conference.
Wexford.

3.5 Publications and Submissions

1. **NACD Papers on Rehabilitation** submitted to working group in 2005 and published on the Web only January 2008. www.nacd.ie.
2. Sixsmith, J., NicGabhainn, S. (2008) **Evaluation of the National Drug Awareness Campaign**. Full Research Report published on the Web only January 2008. www.nacd.ie.
3. **Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland First results from the 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey Bulletin 1**. Published in January 2008.
4. Sixsmith, J., NicGabhainn, S. (2008) **Evaluation of the National Drug Awareness Campaign**. Executive Summary printed for dissemination. Published in February 2008.
5. **Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland**. First results from the 2006/2007 drug prevalence survey. Bulletin 1. **CONFIDENCE INTERVALS**. Published in May 2008 and available on the Web only. www.nacd.ie.
6. **Drug Prevalence Survey 2006/2007 Technical Report**. Published in May 2008 and available on the Web only. www.nacd.ie.
7. **Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Regional Drugs Task Force (Ireland) & Health and Social Service Board (Northern Ireland) Results Bulletin 2**. Published in June 2008.
8. Cox, G, Kelly P, Comiskey C (2008). **ROSIE Findings 5 Gender Similarities and Differences in Outcomes at 1-Year**. Published by NACD in September 2008.
9. Comiskey C, Kelly P, Stapleton R (2008). **ROSIE Findings 6 A Summary of Outcomes at 3-Years**. Published by NACD in October 2008 and available on the Web only. www.nacd.ie.
10. Comiskey C, Kelly P, Stapleton R (2008). **ROSIE Findings 7 A Summary of Outcomes for the Per-Protocol Population**. Published by NACD in October 2008.
11. **Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results Bulletin 4**. Published in October 2008.
12. **Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/2007 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cannabis Results Bulletin 3**. Published in December 2008.
13. **Needle exchange provision in Ireland. A Joint paper by the NDST and NACD**. Published December 2008 and available on the Web only. www.nacd.ie.
14. **Annual Report 2007**. Published on web December 2008.
15. Research summaries published in December 2008 with Annual Report.

Chapter Four

Finance

4.1 Research - Funding Allocations

(for Research Projects Commissioned in 2008)
(includes VAT where applicable)

Research Advisory Groups

Drug Markets Study

€189,237.95

Alcohol and Drugs Research Unit, Health Research Board

(The NACD contributed €111,390.36 towards the total cost of the study with the Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform providing €27,847.59. The Health Research Board made a contribution of €50,000)

Supporting Actions/Activities

Media Relations

Montague Communications

€23,690.28

Total NACD Allocation

€135,080.64

4.2 NACD Expenditure

An annual budget of approximately €1.3 million was allocated 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 2008. 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 2008

€639,896.87

NACD expenditure on general administration, including pay, media relations and legal services for 2008

€343,331.82

Appendix One

Membership of NACD Committee at 31st December 2008

Chairperson

Dr Des Corrigan, Visiting Academic, 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 Michael Conroy, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
 Senator Maria Corrigan, Clinical Psychologist
 Mr Joseph Doyle, HSE
 Ms Anna Quigley, Community Sector
 Mr John Garry, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
 Ms Mairéad Kavanagh, VDTN
 Dr Eamon Keenan, Consultant Psychiatrist, HSE South Western Area
 Dr Jean Long, ADRU, Health Research Board
 Mr Eamon Corcoran, Dept. of Health and Children
 Supt Barry O'Brien, Garda National Drugs Unit
 Mr Liam O'Brien, Community Sector
 Ms Mary O'Shea, IAAAC
 Dr Máirín O'Sullivan, Dept. of Education & Science
 Ms Vivienne Fay, HSE
 Vacancy, NDST

Retired NACD Members (2008)

Ms Sunniva Finlay, Community Sector
 Mr David Moloney, Dept. of Health & Children
 Ms Patricia O'Connor, NDST

Members of Sub-committees throughout 2008 (Not sitting on Main Committee)

Consequences

Ms Alison O'Reilly, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
 Dr Hugh Gallagher, HSE
 Ms Margaret O'Gorman, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
 Mr Gabriel Staunton, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Early Warning/Emerging Trends

Dr Daniel O'Driscoll, Forensic Science Laboratory
 Dr Bobby Smyth, HSE South Western Area
 Ms Jean Burdette, Drug Treatment Centre Board
 Ms Siobhan Stokes, State Laboratory / Drug Treatment Centre Board
 Dr Richie Maguire, Medical Bureau of Road Safety
 Ms Noreen Quinn, Dept. of Health & Children
 Ms Maria Ryan, Revenue Commissioners
 Ms Breda O'Shea, Revenue Commissioners
 Mr Gerry Hayes, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform
 Det Garda Pat Davis, Garda National Drugs Unit
 Ms Anya Pierce, Toxicology Department, Beaumont Hospital
 Ms Helen Crosse, Toxicology Department, Beaumont Hospital
 Mr Michael McDonagh, Crosscare Drug & Alcohol Programme
 Mr Andy Osborne, Crosscare Drug & Alcohol Programme
 Ms Niamh Arthur, Irish Medicines Board
 Dr James Gray, Emergency Dept. AMNCH
 Mr Liam Regan, State Laboratory
 Ms Fiona Walsh, HSE Western Area
 Mr Gabriel Staunton, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Prevalence

Mr Barry McGreal, Dept. of Justice, Equality & Law Reform

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

Prevention

Mr Robbie Breen, Dept. of Health & Children

Ms Ruby Morrow, Church of Ireland College of Education

Ms Mary Johnston, Walk Tall Programme Support Services

Mr Bill Ebbitt, HSE

Ms Marie Mc Bride, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Ms Linda O'Rourke, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Treatment

Ms Anna May Harkin, Dept. of Health & Children

Mr Alan Bell, Dept. of Health & Children

Dr Íde Delargy, Irish College of General Practitioners

Ms Frances Nangle-Connor, Irish Prison Service

Mr Tony Barden, HSE South East Region

Ms Linda O'Rourke, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Ms Marie McBride, Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

Appendix Two

Table of Sub-Committee Membership at 31st December 2008

		Consequences	EWET	Prevalence	Prevention	Treatment
Dr Des Corrigan	Visiting Academic, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College	✓	✓	✓		
Dr Mary Ellen McCann	Academic Appointment	✓			✓	
Prof Joe Barry	Academic Appointment			✓		✓
Ms Jackie Blanchfield	VDTN		✓			✓
Senator Maria Corrigan	Clinical Psychologist				✓	✓
Ms Anna Quigley	Community Sector	✓		✓		
Ms Mairéad Kavanagh	VDTN	✓			✓	
Dr Eamon Keenan	Consultant Psychiatrist, HSE South Western Area	✓				✓
Dr Jean Long	ADRU, Health Research Board	✓	✓	✓		✓
Mr Eamon Corcoran	Department of Health and Children		✓	✓		
Mr Joseph Doyle	HSE			✓		
Supt Barry O'Brien	Garda National Drugs Unit	✓		✓		
Mr Liam O'Brien	Community Sector	✓				✓
Vacancy	NDST		✓	✓	✓	
Ms Mary O'Shea	IAAAC	✓				✓
Dr Máirín O'Sullivan	Department of Education and Science				✓	
Mr Gabriel Staunton	Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs	✓	✓			
Ms Alison Reilly	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform	✓				
Dr Hugh Gallagher	HSE	✓				
Dr James Gray	Emergency Dept. AMNCH		✓			
Mr Gerry Hayes	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform		✓			
Det Garda Pat Davis	Garda National Drugs Unit		✓			
Mr Liam Regan	State Laboratory		✓			

		Consequences	EWET	Prevalence	Prevention	Treatment
Dr Daniel O'Driscoll	Forensic Science Laboratory		✓			
Ms Noreen Quinn	Department of Health and Children		✓			
Ms Helen Crosse	Toxicology Department Beaumont Hospital		✓			
Dr Bobby Smyth	HSE, South Western Area		✓			
Dr Richie Maguire	Medical Bureau of Road Safety		✓			
Ms Maria Ryan	Revenue Commissioners		✓			
Mr Andy Osborn	Crosscare Drug & Alcohol Programme		✓			
Ms Niamh Arthur	Irish Medicines Board		✓			
Ms Fiona Walsh	HSE Western Area		✓			
Ms Siobhan Stokes	Drug Treatment Centre Board		✓			
Mr Eddie Arthurs	Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs			✓		
Mr Barry McGreal	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform			✓		
Mr Robbie Breen	Department of Health and Children				✓	
Ms Ruby Morrow	Church of Ireland College of Education				✓	
Ms Mary Johnston	Walk Tall Programme Support services				✓	
Mr Bill Ebbitt	HSE				✓	
Ms Marie McBride	Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs				✓	✓
Ms Anna May Harkin	Department of Health and Children					✓
Mr Alan Bell	Department of Health and Children					✓
Mr Tony Barden	HSE South East Region					✓
Dr Íde Delargy	Irish College of General Practitioners					✓
Ms Frances Nangle-Connor	Irish Prison Service					✓

Appendix Three

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

