



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Parliamentary Joint
Committee on Law Enforcement:

Inquiry into Crystal Methamphetamine (ice) – First Report and Final
Report

NOVEMBER 2025

Recommendations – First Report

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that all progress reports and the mid-point review provided to the Ministerial Drug and Alcohol Forum and Council of Australian Governments on the implementation of the *National Drug Strategy 2017–2026* and its sub-strategy, the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS), are made publicly available, and include but are not limited to:

- reporting on the implementation and achievement of actions outlined in the NIAS, with reference to qualitative and/or quantitative key performance indicators as appropriate;
- reporting on steps taken to enhance co-operation between health and law enforcement agencies;
- data on the prevalence of crystal methamphetamine use, particularly among vulnerable groups;
- information on new and existing treatment options, their accessibility and cost (to both government and patients);
- statistics from the justice system, including the number of crystal methamphetamine prosecutions, convictions and rates of recidivism in each Australian jurisdiction;
- reporting on the implementation and efficacy of drug courts and drug diversionary programs;
- reporting on local initiatives implemented through the Primary Health Networks; and
- the quantum of funding derived from proceeds of crime and allocated to initiatives to address crystal methamphetamine use.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2:

The committee recommends that Commonwealth, state and territory governments commit long term funding for the implementation, maintenance and ongoing use of the National Criminal Intelligence System.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3:

5.41 The committee recommends that Commonwealth, state and territory governments, as a matter of urgency, agree and enact nationally consistent unexplained wealth legislation.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4:

The committee recommends that, subsequent to the national review of drug diversionary programs articulated by the National Ice Taskforce and in the National Ice Action Strategy, states and territories commit to improving, expanding, or where no drug diversionary program(s) currently exists, implementing such programs across their jurisdictions.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5:

The committee recommends that Australian governments implement the electronic End User Declaration System as soon as practicable.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 6:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government strengthens eligibility criteria for Aviation Security Identification Cards and Maritime Security Identification Cards to address current inadequacies, particularly the use of criminal intelligence where a person may have links with serious and organised crime.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 7:

The committee recommends that the Australian government expand its leadership in relevant international fora and considers:

- strengthening ties with countries in the Asia Pacific, beyond existing ties with China, Cambodia and Thailand;
- collaborating to develop regional law enforcement and health and welfare responses to crystal methamphetamine;
- sharing its practices with a particular focus on demand reduction and harm reduction; and
- enhancing co-operation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 8:

The committee recommends that Australian law enforcement agencies, in addition to the number and volume of drug seizures, assess and report on the availability, purity and price of illicit drugs, particularly at the street level, to better determine the impact of law enforcement and other strategies on the illicit drug market.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendations – Final Report

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that the Department of Health and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare establish an expert group and progress their work to develop an alcohol and other drugs treatment waitlist item as part of the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2:

The committee recommends that Commonwealth, state and territory health departments ensure adequate pre- and post-care services are provided in partnership with residential treatment programs.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3:

The committee recommends that Australian governments individually and collectively develop and implement plans to increase the capacity of residential rehabilitation across Australia in a way that ensures equitable access.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, as a matter of priority, establish a national quality framework for all alcohol and other drug treatment services including public, not-for-profit and for-profit residential rehabilitation.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5:

The committee recommends that the development of a national quality framework for alcohol and other drug treatment services is undertaken in partnership with representatives of the alcohol and other drug treatment sector.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 6:

The committee recommends Australian governments, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, establish nationally consistent datasets and regular reporting of illicit drug use in Australia's correctional facilities.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 7:

The committee recommends that Australian governments continue to advance collaboration with Indigenous communities and Indigenous health experts to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate alcohol and other drug treatment services.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 8:

The committee recommends Australian governments ensure specialised alcohol and other drug treatment services are available to people with young children in all jurisdictions.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 9:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government ensures that future public awareness campaigns engender compassion towards drug users, and are targeted at and inform those people with the objective of encouraging them to seek treatment and support.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 10:

The committee recommends that the Australian Press Council develops and implements media reporting standards for coverage of drug use.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 11:

The committee recommends that the Department of Health considers using 2016 Census and National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program data to determine the allocation of National Ice Action Strategy funding for 2019–20.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 12:

The committee recommends that the Department of Health ensures that Public Health Network's conduct future tender processes with realistic timeframes and at appropriate times of year.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 13:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth, state and territory governments re-balance alcohol and other drug funding across the three pillars of the National Drug Strategy (supply, demand and harm reduction strategies).

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 14:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government refers to the Productivity Commission an inquiry into the costs and benefits of the National Drug Strategy as it is currently implemented.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 15:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government, under section 298 of the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002*, ensures Confiscated Assets Account funds are equitably allocated to crime prevention, law enforcement, drug treatment and diversionary measures.

Response:

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since the report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.