



The Hon. Michael Wooldridge, Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis declared that NSPs are 'one of the most important health interventions we make in Australia.'



COAG Funding enabled the first ever National NSP Meeting held in 2002. Hosted by Anex the meeting brought together NSPs from across Australia.

COAG FUNDING

THE LIFELINE FOR NSPS

Since 2000, NSPs have received additional vital financial support from the Australian Government through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). This funding was extended in the 2003/04 Budget under the Illicit Drugs Diversion Initiative. It amounted

to \$38.6 million over four years. COAG funding was due to expire on 30 June 2007 but was given a reprieve for one year. It is now scheduled to end on June 2008. *full story on page 3.*

REFLECTIONS BE REFLECTIONS?



AN INTERVIEW WITH DR NEAL BLEWETT AC

Dr. Neal Blewett entered Federal Parliament in 1977. As the Health Minister in the Hawke Government he was responsible for the introduction of Medicare and the implementation of Australia's first National Drug Strategy.

An academic, politician and diplomat, Dr Blewett was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia in 1995 in recognition of his service to Australian society. Dr Blewett was the President of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia (ADCA) from 2002- 2006.

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NEWS BRIEFS

High risk of death post-release from prison. Canadian study focuses on street youth. *Page 2*

insight

He regularly meets and negotiates with the PM's Office; offers advice to the UN and WHO, an interview with Gino Vumbaca, head of the ANCD. *Page 4*

COAG FUNDING AT WORK AROUND AUSTRALIA

Every State and Territory has its own story. *Page 6*