

in 2008 were reported to involve more than one substance.

E. Oceania

1. Major developments

758. In Australia, traffickers are increasingly using the Internet to obtain not only precursor chemicals but also equipment used for the illicit manufacture of drugs. Recently, the Australian customs authorities launched an operation to monitor importation from Internet pharmacies based overseas. The operation dismantled an organized criminal group that ordered pharmaceutical products containing pseudoephedrine from overseas-based Internet pharmacies, with the intention of reselling them to illicit drug manufacturers.

759. The Government of New Zealand has given high priority to the fight against the illicit manufacture and abuse of methamphetamine. The national action plan to tackle illicit manufacture and abuse of methamphetamine, launched in October 2009, has led to the identification of new trafficking trends, the seizure of precursor chemicals and the dismantling of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in New Zealand. While most of the clandestine laboratories were small, they posed a significant risk to communities. In New Zealand, organized criminal groups were increasingly utilizing women and teenagers to smuggle methamphetamine and its precursors into the country.

760. Recent seizures in Oceania led to increasing concern over the use of some countries of the region as trans-shipment areas for smuggling drugs and precursors. The Oceania Customs Organisation highlighted the geographical risk factors leading to the use of those countries as transit areas for illicit drug shipments. In addition, the lack of comprehensive legislation and effective border control, as well as the fact that many States of the region are not yet parties to international drug control treaties, make these countries more vulnerable to drug trafficking. In July 2010, the Board held bilateral consultations with the Government of Papua New Guinea. The Board urged the Government to immediately take the steps necessary for Papua New Guinea to become a party to the 1988 Convention. The Board urges all States

concerned, such as Cook Islands, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, to accede to the international drug control treaties without further delay and to strengthen national legislation and border control.

2. Regional cooperation

761. Regional meetings in Oceania continued to play an important role in bringing countries together to address drug control issues. At the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network, held in Samoa in December 2009, participants highlighted the need for States in the region that were not yet parties to the international drug control treaties to ratify those instruments. The annual meeting of the Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum was held in Fiji in June 2010. The issue of transnational crime, including trafficking in drugs and precursors, remained high on the agenda. There was consensus among participants that the region remained vulnerable to threats posed by transnational crime and that countries in the region must respond collectively and promptly. Recommended actions included enhancing national legislation, strengthening law enforcement capacity and improving regional cooperation in drug control.

762. Lack of structures for monitoring and reporting on drug-related issues is a long-standing problem for many countries in Oceania. The Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network brings countries in Oceania together to share information and expertise on drug-related issues. At the fifth Meeting of the Network, held in Vanuatu in July 2010, representatives of 11 States of the region and international organizations, including UNODC, reviewed the latest developments and trends in drug and alcohol abuse at the national and regional levels and reiterated the need for strengthened and coordinated efforts to collect, analyse and report drug-related data. They also identified the urgent need to develop and implement effective legislation. The Board acknowledges the efforts of the Network in promoting drug-related research and information-sharing in the region and encourages participating countries to continue their monitoring and reporting with respect to drug-related issues in the framework of the Network.

763. In 2010, a joint initiative of the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Australia provided funding and training programmes to improve customs legislation and strengthen border control in Solomon Islands. Also in 2010, Australia launched the Framework for Law and Justice Engagement with the Pacific, aimed at strengthening legal and law enforcement cooperation throughout the region. Under the Framework, the Government of Australia is committed to supporting regional collaboration for combating transnational crime, including drug trafficking, with a focus on ensuring an appropriate legislative framework, the exchange of information, capacity-building, financial assistance and access to technical expertise.

764. Law enforcement agencies in Australia and New Zealand continued to provide support for capacity-building initiatives in Oceania. In June 2010, the Australian Federal Police and the Government of Papua New Guinea organized a workshop on drug trafficking and legislative reform in Papua New Guinea. Participants at the workshop shared the latest information on the situation with regard to trafficking in and illicit manufacture of drugs in Papua New Guinea and discussed possible legislative reforms to improve responses to emerging issues. With the assistance of the Australian Federal Police, the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre, established in 2004 and based in Samoa, continued to expand its network in the region. As of 2009, the network included seven transnational crime units, established in Fiji, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The Coordination Centre analyses criminal intelligence data and will enhance the sharing of law enforcement intelligence in the region. In addition, Australia and New Zealand have provided assistance to the Tuvalu Police Force in establishing a database to manage crime statistics, which will enhance law enforcement capacity in Tuvalu.

765. The Board recognizes the efforts of countries in Oceania in combating drug-related crime with the support of bilateral assistance. The Board notes the lack of adequate resources and capacities in some countries to effectively tackle those problems. The Board encourages countries in the region, especially those that are not yet parties to the international drug control treaties, to continue their drug control efforts involving regional cooperation and capacity-building

in order to be well equipped to ratify and implement the international drug control treaties.

3. National legislation, policy and action

766. Drug abuse among young people was the focus of the National Drugs Campaign in Australia launched in February 2010. The second stage of the campaign is aimed at reducing abuse of MDMA (“ecstasy”), methamphetamine and cannabis among young people by helping them understand the harm caused by drug abuse and directing them to counselling and treatment services. The Australian Customs (Prohibited Imports) Amendment Regulations 2009 (No. 6), which came into effect in March 2010, makes it illegal to import tablet presses without prior authorization.

767. In line with the national campaign targeting drug abuse among young people, in July 2010, the Government of Australia launched the National Youth Policing Model. The initiative identified six major strategies to tackle youth crime, including one to strengthen the police response to drug abuse among young people. Australian states and territories will adopt initiatives that help prevent young people from committing crime or becoming victims of crime. The Model also provides the police, communities and all levels of government with examples of effective local solutions to youth crime.

768. In October 2009, the Government of New Zealand launched a three-year national action plan to tackle the increasing problem of abuse of methamphetamine in the country. The comprehensive action plan contains relevant measures to be implemented by all the government agencies concerned. Under the action plan, New Zealand will restrict the availability of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine, improve treatment services for methamphetamine abusers and enhance school education and community programmes to reduce the illicit demand for methamphetamine. The Government has developed the new drug education guidelines for schools and will continue to support the Community Action on Youth and Drugs, with a focus on problems associated with methamphetamine abuse.

769. Under the New Zealand national action plan on methamphetamine, a number of legislative instruments have been implemented or are currently under review by the Government. The New Zealand Crimes Amendment Act 2009 strengthened the ability of the

police to target gangs and organized criminal groups, which are responsible for a significant proportion of the activities involving illicit drug manufacture, trafficking and supply. The maximum penalty for participation in an organized criminal group has been extended from 5 to 10 years of imprisonment. Furthermore, with respect to treatment for drug abusers, the New Zealand Law Commission is reviewing the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act 1966 to include a new system for compulsory treatment for people with severe drug dependence.

770. In February 2010, the New Zealand Law Commission published an issues paper on the review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. The paper included preliminary proposals to amend national drug laws to enable a better response to emerging issues related to drug control. For instance, the Law Commission proposed establishing a new control mechanism for substances not under international control and imposing strict control measures to prevent the abuse of prescription drugs. Moreover, on the issues of possession of drugs in small quantities and personal use of drugs, the paper proposed to place more emphasis on the delivery of effective treatment and less emphasis on conviction and punishment. The Board trusts that the Government will ensure that New Zealand fully complies with its obligations under the international drug control treaties when considering amendments to the national drug legislation.

771. In October 2009, the Government of Samoa adopted the Narcotics Amendment Act 2009, amending the Narcotics Act 1967. The Act established the penalty of life imprisonment for offences related to drugs such as cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine and included provisions on the control of substances listed in the Tables of the 1988 Convention. To prevent Samoa from becoming a transit area used by traffickers for shipping precursors used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, the Narcotic Amendment Act established severe penalties for all illegal activities associated with trafficking in and the diversion of precursor chemicals. The Board encourages Samoa to further strengthen drug control in line with its obligations under the international drug control conventions.

772. In 2009, the Government of the Cook Islands adopted the Narcotics and Misuse of Drugs Amendment Act 2009, amending the Narcotics and Misuse of Drugs Act 2004. Also in 2009, Papua New

Guinea passed the Dangerous Drugs Act 2009 to better respond to emerging challenges in drug control in the country. In December 2009, the Government of the Marshall Islands established a substance abuse prevention advisory council to lead national activities related to drug abuse prevention. The Government also endorsed the prevention strategies for the period 2010-2014 for strengthening the role of communities in preventing drug abuse. In addition, a number of countries in Oceania, including Fiji and Vanuatu, are currently reviewing or reforming existing national drug control legislation.

773. Despite the progress in legislative reform in a few countries in Oceania, drug control legislation in many other countries in the region appears to be outdated and insufficient to respond to new issues such as the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants. The Board urges the countries concerned to strengthen national drug control legislation to enable a better response to emerging issues.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

Narcotics

774. Cannabis continues to be the drug seized most often in Oceania. As there is extensive illicit cultivation of cannabis plants in Oceania, smuggling of cannabis into the region remains at a low level. In the period 2008-2009, the number of domestic cannabis seizures in Australia reached the highest levels in 10 years — an increase of 12.5 per cent over the number of seizures in the period 2007-2008. However, the total amount of seized cannabis decreased from 8,900 kg in the period 2007-2008 to 5,600 kg in the period 2008-2009, a year-on-year decrease reflecting the large amount of cannabis seized (total: 3,500 kg) in the state of Queensland in the period 2007-2008. Regarding seizures of cannabis at the Australian border, most were of amounts less than 100 grams; over 50 per cent of the total amount seized had been smuggled in air cargo. In terms of the number of seizures of cannabis shipments at the Australian border, the Netherlands was the country most often identified as the country of departure, whereas over half of the total amount of cannabis seized at the Australian border involved shipments that had departed from the United States. The majority of the cannabis-related seizures at the Australian border involved

seeds, which were believed to be for use in the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants on Australian territory.

775. In 2009, New Zealand reported having seized approximately 640 kg of cannabis, an amount similar to the amount seized in 2008. The New Zealand National Cannabis Crime Operation achieved significant results in the period 2008-2009: 141,000 cannabis plants were destroyed, and 190 firearms were seized by the police. In April 2010, in Operation Lime, which targeted the sale of equipment and materials used for illicitly cultivating cannabis plants, New Zealand Police detected about 150 sites used for illicitly cultivating cannabis plants indoors, and seized about 65 kg of drugs, including cannabis, methamphetamine and MDMA ("ecstasy"). Operation Lime also resulted in the seizure of a large number of weapons, which were believed to be closely linked with organized criminal groups.

776. The illicit cultivation of cannabis plants and the seizure of cannabis are increasingly being reported in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. In Fiji, cannabis-related offences decreased significantly, by 42 per cent, from 2008 to 2009 (253 cases in 2008 compared with 148 cases in 2009). However, it appears that the illicit cultivation of cannabis has persisted in Fiji, despite the cannabis eradication campaigns conducted by the Fiji Police in the period 2009-2010 and the nationwide awareness-raising programmes carried out in recent years. In addition, cannabis plants have been illicitly cultivated in some remote areas where eradication is difficult. The Board urges the Governments concerned to take measures to address the problems of illicit cannabis plant cultivation and illicit cannabis production and trafficking in countries in Oceania.

777. The increasing illicit demand for cocaine in Australia is reflected in the fact that the amount of cocaine seized has remained relatively high since the period 2002-2003. During the period 2008-2009, the total amount of cocaine seized in Australia was about 1,100 kg, of which 506 kg were seized at the border. Colombia continues to be the main source of cocaine seized at the Australian border. Mexicans and South Americans with strong links to illicit cocaine manufacturers in South America were involved in the smuggling of most of the cocaine seized at the Australian border. During an 18-month operation in the period 2008-2009, the Australian authorities dismantled an international drug syndicate that had

used airport staff to smuggle cocaine into the country. In June 2010, the Australian authorities seized 240 kg of cocaine concealed in stone pavers from Mexico; that was the fifth largest cocaine seizure in Australian history.

778. Customs authorities of Fiji and Papua New Guinea reported seizures of cocaine from South America and Central America that had been smuggled in air cargo and by air passengers. Although the total amount of cocaine seized was small, it indicated that those countries were being considered as possible new markets for the drug.

779. The total amount of heroin seized in Oceania remains low compared with seizure totals in other regions. However, the quantity of the heroin seized has increased since 2005. In Australia, the total amount of heroin seized in the period 2008-2009 (300 kg) was almost double the amount seized in the period 2007-2008 (170 kg). While South-West Asia and South-East Asia continue to be major sources of the heroin smuggled into Australia, the number of countries from which heroin shipments depart for Australia increased significantly in the period 2008-2009, indicating that new smuggling routes are being used to smuggle the drug into the country. About 80 per cent of the heroin seized at the Australian border was smuggled in air cargo or by air passengers. South Africa was the country of departure for the largest shipment of heroin seized at the Australian border in the period 2008-2009: about 18 kg that had been concealed in air cargo.

780. At the Australian border, the number of seizures of pharmaceutical preparations containing opioids increased from 12 in the period 2007-2008 to 20 in the period 2008-2009. Half of the seizures involved morphine, while most of the remaining seizures were of pharmaceutical preparations containing oxycodone or hydrocodone. Most of the pharmaceutical preparations were purchased on the Internet, a trend that the Australian authorities expect will continue. Most of the shipments seized in the period 2008-2009 had been concealed in mail originating in countries including France, India, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Psychotropic substances

781. The illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants continue to pose a great challenge for countries in Oceania. In Australia, the

total amount of amphetamine-type stimulants (excluding MDMA (“ecstasy”)) seized at the border in the period 2008-2009 increased by 58 per cent compared with the period 2007-2008. Ninety per cent of the shipments of amphetamine-type stimulants seized had been sent in the mail. Most of the amphetamine-type stimulants seized at the Australian border were found in shipments that had departed from Hong Kong, China (50 per cent), followed by mainland China, Zambia, Canada and South Africa. Zambia was the country of departure of a seized shipment of 68 kg of amphetamine. Seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants continued to be reported in 2010. Most of the crystalline methamphetamine seized at the Australian border was found in shipments that had departed from, in descending order, Canada, Myanmar, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Cambodia, Indonesia and China. In January 2010, Australian law enforcement authorities seized 50 kg of crystalline methamphetamine that had been concealed in a shipment of car parts sent from China to Australia.

782. In New Zealand, seizures of methamphetamine continued to be reported in the period 2009-2010. Sources of the seized drug included, in descending order, the United States, China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan Province), and the United Kingdom. In 2010, law enforcement authorities in New Zealand seized methamphetamine smuggled by air passengers arriving from China (Hong Kong and Taiwan Province) and continued to dismantle clandestine methamphetamine laboratories in the country. An increasing number of women were involved in methamphetamine-related offences such as trafficking and illegal possession. As a result, since the period 2003-2004, the number of women serving prison sentences in New Zealand has almost doubled, and methamphetamine-related offences account for a significant proportion of the increase.

783. Increasing numbers of seizures of methamphetamine have been reported in other parts of Oceania. In 2009, authorities of French Polynesia reported the seizure of 340 grams of crystalline methamphetamine. The drug had been concealed in liquid sent by mail from Mexico and had subsequently been transformed into high-purity crystalline form in a local laboratory. Smuggling of methamphetamine into French Polynesia was first reported in 2004 and continued in 2005 and 2006. In Tonga, methamphetamine was seized in 2009 and 2010. The

seizures raise concerns about Tonga becoming a trans-shipment area used by drug traffickers.

784. Most of the amphetamine-type stimulants found on the illicit market in Oceania have been clandestinely manufactured within the region, as evidenced by the detection of an increasing number of clandestine laboratories. Although most of those clandestine laboratories are small, they pose a serious risk to communities, as many are located in residential areas. In Australia, detections of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants (including MDMA (“ecstasy”)) increased by 17 per cent, from 271 in the period 2007-2008 to 316 in the period 2008-2009. Twenty-four clandestine laboratories seized in the period 2008-2009 were each found to have been illicitly manufacturing more than one type of drug, for instance, methamphetamine and “ecstasy” had been illicitly manufactured in the same laboratory. In New Zealand, clandestine laboratories are the predominant source of amphetamine-type stimulants. Approximately 137 such clandestine laboratories were dismantled in 2009. In 2010, seizures of clandestine laboratories manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants continued to be reported. Organized crime syndicates were found to be illicitly manufacturing the drug and distributing it locally.

785. While the quantity of precursors of MDMA (“ecstasy”) seized at the Australian border in the period 2008-2009 was small, the illicit manufacture and supply of “ecstasy” in Australia appears to have continued. Seizures of clandestine laboratories for manufacturing “ecstasy” increased significantly in Australia, from 11 in the period 2007-2008 to 19 in the period 2008-2009. In January 2010, for the first time, the Australian authorities dismantled a clandestine laboratory that had been used to extract and process sassafras oil, a substance used in the illicit manufacture of “ecstasy”. New Zealand authorities seized about 14,000 “ecstasy” tablets in 2009.

Precursors

786. The total amount of precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants seized in Oceania has increased significantly in recent years. Pseudoephedrine contained in pharmaceutical preparations became the precursor most commonly seized in the region. In Australia, 2,014 kg of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine were seized at the border in the period 2008-2009,

nearly double the total amount of all precursors seized in the period 2007-2008. Nearly 80 per cent of the seizures were of pseudoephedrine. Most of the pseudoephedrine seized had been shipped from China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan Province), New Zealand, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition to being smuggled into Australia, a large amount of pseudoephedrine, including in the form of over-the-counter pharmaceutical preparations is diverted from domestic distribution channels in that country. In addition to ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, Australia reported seizures of 40 litres of sassafras oil in the period 2008-2009, destined for the illicit manufacture of MDMA (“ecstasy”) in the country. In 2009, Australian authorities seized a shipment of safrole that had departed from Papua New Guinea, indicating that traffickers are looking for new trafficking routes.

787. In New Zealand, the illicit importation of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine continues to pose a significant challenge for law enforcement authorities. Seizures of the substance reached a record high in 2009 (over 1 ton of cold medication containing pseudoephedrine was seized). China continues to be the main source of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine seized at the New Zealand border. Some of those preparations had been smuggled out of New Zealand into Australia. Many of the shipments seized were found to have been organized by criminal groups using teenagers. Furthermore, over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine continue to be diverted in New Zealand.

788. The Board is concerned about the use of countries in Oceania as trans-shipment areas for precursor chemicals destined for use in illicit drug manufacture in Australia and New Zealand. Evidence shows that traffickers have attempted to smuggle pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine from several countries, including Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, into New Zealand. Some of those preparations appear to have been diverted from licit distribution channels in those countries. In order to prevent the diversion of over-the-counter medicines containing pseudoephedrine, the Fiji authorities have strengthened regulations to require registration of sales of such medicines and restrict the quantity of each transaction.

Substances not under international control

789. In Australia, illicit drug manufacturers continue to look for precursors not under international control that can be used for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants. While the extraction of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine from medicine used for treating colds continues to be a common method of obtaining those two precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants, restrictions on the sale of pharmaceutical preparations containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine have forced illicit drug manufacturers to look for alternative precursors not under international or national control. For instance, in 2008, the Australian authorities dismantled a clandestine laboratory that produced *l*-phenylacetylcarbinol, a precursor of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Furthermore, in 2009, about 28 kg of ephedra, a plant containing ephedrine, were seized at the Australian border. In view of the increasing trend of using precursors not under international control for the illicit manufacture of drugs, the Board urges countries in Oceania to apply appropriate control to those substances and to provide the Board with any information available on precursors not under international control and new methods used for the illicit manufacture of drugs.

790. In recent years, the New Zealand customs authorities have seen increasing illicit importation of mephedrone into the country. Mephedrone is an analogue of methcathinone (also known as 4-methylmethcathinone, or 4-MMC and “meow”) and is reported to have effects similar to those of cocaine and MDMA (“ecstasy”). While the substance is not under international control, it is subject to national control in a number of countries, including Australia and New Zealand. The first seizure of mephedrone by the New Zealand authorities was made in November 2009. As at January 2010, a total of 15 seizures of mephedrone were made in New Zealand, mostly of shipments sent in the mail from China or the United Kingdom.

5. Abuse and treatment

791. According to the results of the 2007/08 New Zealand Alcohol and Drug Use Survey, one in six adults aged 16-64 years (16.6 per cent) had used illicit drugs in the past year. Among them, young people aged 16-34 years were more likely than other age groups to have used illicit drugs. Among the

past-year drug abusers, only about 3 per cent had received assistance in the past year. The Board encourages the Government of New Zealand to provide better assistance and treatment services for people with drug-related problems.

792. Cannabis continues to be the most widely abused drug in Oceania. In New Zealand, the annual prevalence rate of cannabis abuse among individuals aged 14-64 years was 14.6 per cent in 2008. Although the rate decreased slightly from 2003, it was among the highest in the world. About 13.4 per cent of past-year cannabis abusers had used cannabis daily; about 54 per cent had used cannabis at least once per month in the past year. Cannabis abuse among young people is an increasing concern in New Zealand. The population aged 18-24 years had the highest prevalence rate of past-year cannabis abuse of all age groups. Among individuals who had ever used cannabis, 16.2 per cent had first tried cannabis when they were 14 years or younger, and 80 per cent had first tried cannabis between the ages of 14 and 20 years.

793. Cannabis abuse among young people was also widespread in countries in Oceania other than New Zealand. Lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse in Fiji and Papua New Guinea was about 47 per cent and 55 per cent, respectively, with an average age of first use of about 18 years. In Fiji, the abuse of cannabis among students in primary and secondary schools increased steadily from 1999 to 2005. In Palau, annual prevalence of abuse was about 24 per cent among people aged 16-64 years. According to the 2009 Palau Youth Risk Behaviour Survey, lifetime prevalence of cannabis abuse among students in secondary schools was about 60 per cent, a significant increase from the 49 per cent recorded in 2005. Among them, 29 per cent of males and 10 per cent of females first tried cannabis before the age of 13 years. In addition, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu reported that about 50 per cent of persons aged 15-24 years had tried cannabis. Micronesia (Federated States of) and Tonga also reported increased cannabis abuse in recent years.

794. Although annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines (excluding MDMA ("ecstasy")) has been decreasing over the years in Oceania, it remains high compared with other regions. In 2008, Australia reported decreased abuse of methamphetamine among persons who regularly abused drugs by injection. The 2007/08 New Zealand Alcohol and Drug Use

Survey shows that annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines in the country decreased from about 3 per cent in 2003 to 2.1 per cent in 2008. Young males aged 18-24 years had the highest annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines among all population segments.

795. Abuse of other types of amphetamines is very limited in most countries in Oceania except Australia and New Zealand. Nevertheless, increased availability and abuse of amphetamines (including MDMA ("ecstasy")) in Fiji was reported by the Fiji Police Force in 2009. In Palau, annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines in 2007 was about 1.6 per cent. Lifetime prevalence of abuse of amphetamines in Palau is about 7 per cent, which is among the highest rates in the region.

796. Annual prevalence of abuse of MDMA ("ecstasy") in Oceania has been increasing steadily in recent years, Australia having the highest annual prevalence of such abuse worldwide. In Australia and New Zealand, "ecstasy" has replaced amphetamines as the second most abused drug. In Australia, annual prevalence of abuse of amphetamines increased from 0.9 per cent in 1995 to 3.5 per cent in 2007. Similarly, in New Zealand, annual prevalence of such abuse among the population aged 16-64 years increased from 2.3 per cent in 2003 to 3.3 per cent in 2008. The increasing abuse of "ecstasy" may lead to increased demand for the substance in the region.

797. Drug abuse by injection continues to be reported in Australia and New Zealand. In Australia, the average age of first-time abuse of drugs by injection is about 19 years. A 2009 Australian national survey revealed that the drug most commonly abused by injection was heroin (37 per cent), followed by methamphetamine (26 per cent). In 2009, New Zealand reported that approximately 30,000 people in the country had abused drugs by injection during their lifetime.

798. The Government of Australia has conducted surveys of drug abuse among criminal offenders in recent years. Although drug abuse among police detainees has declined, the issue of drug abuse in prison is an increasing concern for the Australian authorities. It is estimated that 71 per cent of prisoners have abused drugs in the past 12 months. Female inmates reported a higher level of drug abuse, including by injection, than did male inmates. The inmate population segment with the highest proportion

of drug abuse in the past 12 months was that of prisoners aged 25-34 years (77 per cent) and the lowest rate of abuse was that of prisoners aged 45 years or older (43 per cent). The drug most frequently abused by prisoners in the past year was cannabis (52 per cent), followed by amphetamines (30 per cent), heroin (19 per cent) and MDMA ("ecstasy") (18 per cent). About 55 per cent of prisoners had at some point in their life abused drugs by injection. Of those who had abused drugs by injection, 15 per cent had shared injection equipment with others. The needle exchange programme and opioid substitution treatment were available in prisons.

799. In Australia, substitution therapy is one treatment option for people dependent on opioids. According to an annual survey by the Government of Australia, as at 30 June 2009, a total of 43,445 persons were receiving pharmacotherapy treatment, a number that had slowly increased since 1998. Of that total, 70 per cent received methadone, and the remainder received buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, a trend that has remained stable since 2006. A total of 1,350 prescribers were authorized to prescribe pharmacotherapy treatment in the country, each prescriber having on average 32 patients. In 2009, there were approximately 2,150 dosing points in Australia, most of which (85 per cent) were located in pharmacies.

800. The drug treatment units located in the prisons of New Zealand continue to contribute to reducing drug abuse among prisoners. Under the Department of Correction's drug and alcohol strategy for the period 2009-2014, three new drug treatment units will be established, and annual participation is expected to increase from 500 to 1,000 prisoners. In addition to a six-month treatment programme offered to prisoners serving more than 12 months, the drug treatment units offer an intensive three-month programme for people serving less than 12 months. Methadone maintenance treatment for opioid-dependent prisoners is part of the programme.

801. Even though Australia and New Zealand have comprehensive drug treatment response programmes, they are still facing the problem of insufficient treatment capacity, which may limit the effective delivery of treatment service. In Australia, there is a shortage of qualified general practitioners who can prescribe pharmacotherapy treatment. In New Zealand,

only about 24,000 people are treated each year for alcohol and drug dependence through the publicly funded health system. Currently, there are about 630 alcohol and drug treatment residential beds, 100 of which are suitable for moderate or severe abusers. Measures are being taken by the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to address this issue. Australia will provide funding to train more qualified doctors. In New Zealand, funding will be provided for 80 additional treatment beds by 2012, so that an additional 3,100 drug addicts can receive treatment.

802. In Fiji and Papua New Guinea, treatment for drug abuse is mostly provided by general and psychiatric hospitals. Cannabis abuse was the most common problem for which drug abusers sought treatment. In Fiji's hospitals, in 2008, a total of 178 patients were treated for substance abuse problems; 60 per cent of those patients were treated for cannabis abuse. Papua New Guinea reported a lack of financial and other resources for treatment of drug abuse. In view of the increasing abuse of drugs in those countries, the Board encourages Australia and New Zealand to share expertise and provide assistance to improve treatment services for drug abusers in other countries in Oceania.

803. During the period 2009-2010, awareness-raising and education programmes aimed at reducing drug abuse were launched in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. In response to the increasing abuse of cannabis in primary and secondary schools throughout the country, the Ministry of Health of Fiji launched the drug-free school concept in 2010, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. In 736 primary schools and 174 secondary schools in Fiji, many activities focusing on the harm caused by drug abuse were organized with a view to reducing drug abuse among students. In addition, the Fiji National Substance Abuse Advisory Council conducted training programmes related to drug abuse and the prevention of HIV/AIDS for community leaders, teachers and staff of government agencies and non-governmental organizations. Moreover, training workshops for inmates and prison officers took place in Fiji's prisons. In 2009, the authorities of Papua New Guinea provided training workshops for health-care professionals and medical students. In Tonga, the Tonga Alcohol and Drug Awareness Centre organized weekly training programmes in schools and drug and alcohol abuse awareness-raising workshops in prisons and provided training for staff of non-governmental organizations.