

cent) of the single-drug poisonings, analgesics containing an opiate compound accounted for 85 (11.9 per cent) deaths and methadone accounted for a further 61 (8.5 per cent) deaths. The number of deaths by poisoning in which cocaine was implicated rose from 5 in 1998 to 34 in 2005. Cocaine was implicated in 100 cases (6.4 per cent of all deaths by poisoning). Of the deaths where cocaine was involved, 29 per cent were attributable to cocaine alone. Prescription medication and over-the-counter medication were implicated in many of the deaths by poisoning. Benzodiazepines played a major role in poly-substance poisonings. Benzodiazepines were involved in 30 per cent of deaths by poisoning.

742. The Board takes note of the EMCDDA publication on Internet-based drug treatment interventions, a new and complementary approach to drug abuse treatment in some European Union member States. An Internet-based drug treatment intervention is defined as “an Internet-based programme that comprises a specially developed/adapted, structured and scheduled drug treatment intervention”. The report identifies several Internet-based drug treatment interventions designed for abusers of cannabis, cocaine and “club drugs” (such as MDMA (“ecstasy”)). Despite the need for further investigation and the evaluation of existing Internet-based drug treatment interventions, the available data show promising results for further research and development in the European Union. Internet-based drug treatment interventions may prove to be a useful option for reaching a population of drug users in need of support who are often not reached through more traditional approaches.

743. Access to opioid substitution treatment has expanded considerably over the past few years. According to EMCDDA, the total number of drug abusers receiving substitution treatment in member States of the European Union and in Norway in 2007 is estimated at 600,000, up from 570,000 in 2005 and 500,000 in 2003. The available data on the number of drug abusers in substitution treatment suggest an increase in all European countries except France, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands (countries in which the situation remained nearly stable) and Spain (where a decline that started already in 2002 has continued). The most rapid scaling up of such treatment was seen in Bulgaria (where in 2007 nearly 3,000 treatment places were available, compared with only 380 in 2003) and in Estonia (where the number of

drug abusers in substitution treatment increased from 60 to more than 1,000 within five years). The number of drug abusers in substitution treatment more than doubled in the period 2003-2007 in the Czech Republic, Finland, Latvia and Norway. An increase in excess of 40 per cent was reported in Greece, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Sweden.

E. Oceania

1. Major developments

744. Demand for MDMA (“ecstasy”) in Australia has increased in recent years. According to the World Customs Organization, approximately 36 per cent of the total amount of “ecstasy” seized globally in 2008 was destined for that country, where widespread use and stable prices underpin demand for that drug. While Canada has remained a significant source of “ecstasy” destined for Australia, Mauritius was also identified as the country from which a shipment of “ecstasy” departed for Australia, an indication that traffickers are devising new routes for smuggling that substance into Australia.

745. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the smuggling of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine into New Zealand, indicating continued illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants in that country. The number of pseudoephedrine tablets seized in 2008 was almost 13 times that seized in 2002. Most shipments of preparations containing pseudoephedrine appear to be organized by Asian organized criminal groups based in New Zealand that use Asian students studying in that country and other temporary visitors as “receivers” for those shipments. China has emerged as a major source of pseudoephedrine tablets seized at the New Zealand border. There have also been reports that pseudoephedrine tablets are smuggled into New Zealand from several countries in Oceania, including Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga.

746. The annual prevalence rate of amphetamine and methamphetamine abuse in New Zealand is among the highest in the world; nevertheless, that rate declined gradually from its peaked level at 5 per cent in 2001 to 3.4 per cent in 2006. A recent survey suggested that among persons aged 15-45, the annual prevalence rate further decreased to 1.4 per cent in 2009.

747. In Oceania, a number of regional initiatives, including meetings and training courses, to address drug control issues have been successful, and countries in the region continue to participate actively in those initiatives. In spite of that, the Board noted that with the exception of Australia and New Zealand, all countries in the region have reported limited drug-related data to the Board. In view of the information available, the Board is concerned that countries in the region other than Australia and New Zealand are being targeted for trafficking in and illicit manufacture of drugs. The Board has also noted the involvement of organized crime syndicates in drug trafficking in those countries. The low rate of accession by States in Oceania to the international drug control treaties and the geographical proximity of the region to illicit drug manufacturing countries in South-East Asia make Oceania more vulnerable to drug trafficking. The Board urges the States in the region that are not yet parties to the international drug control treaties to ratify those instruments and encourages them to provide comprehensive drug-related data.

2. Regional cooperation

748. A number of regional conferences continued to bring countries in Oceania together to address drug control issues. The annual meeting of the Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Fiji in June 2009, addressed the need for closer regional cooperation in combating transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, in Oceania. Participants also highlighted the importance of training programmes offered by Australia and New Zealand relating to detection skills, intelligence-gathering and other core skills such as document examination. In July 2009, the fourth meeting of the Pacific Drug and Alcohol Research Network was held in Vanuatu. Representatives of 11 countries in Oceania, WHO, UNODC and research institutions shared information on the latest trends in drug and alcohol abuse at both the regional and national levels. Participants agreed that more comprehensive data should be developed throughout the region and that more funding should be provided for drug abuse research and treatment.

749. Trafficking in precursor chemicals in Oceania has become an issue of particular concern. In September 2008, the South Pacific Precursor Control Forum convened a workshop in Samoa to consider the

implementation in the region of further legislative and regulatory measures to prevent the diversion of precursors for use in the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, in particular the development of model laws on drugs. Participants also discussed the importance of regional compliance with the international drug control treaties. The twelfth National Chemical Diversion Congress of Australia was hosted by New Zealand in November 2008. The Congress, which was attended by representatives of Governments of States in Asia and the Pacific, addressed the situation regarding the diversion of substances in New Zealand and made recommendations regarding ways to reduce the diversion of precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants from domestic distribution channels.

750. Australian and New Zealand law enforcement agencies continued to provide support for capacity-building initiatives in Oceania. The customs authorities of both countries organized training programmes for law enforcement agencies in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The New Zealand Police continued to expand its Overseas Police Liaison Network, through which New Zealand police officers are posted to what are believed to be major transit areas for illicit drugs and precursor chemicals destined for New Zealand, including the South and West Pacific. The network has helped to reduce the smuggling of drugs into New Zealand and improve intelligence-sharing among law enforcement authorities in Oceania. The Board encourages the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to continue to strengthen regional cooperation by sharing expertise and providing assistance in drug control in the region.

3. National legislation, policy and action

751. The Board appreciates the efforts of the Government of Australia to control precursors of amphetamine-type stimulants. In 2008, the Australian Crime Commission established the National Clandestine Laboratory Database as a repository for information provided by law enforcement and forensic agencies in Australia with regard to clandestine laboratories. The database is expected to strengthen the intelligence-gathering capacity of the Australian law enforcement agencies. As one of the priorities under its National Amphetamine-Type Stimulant Strategy 2008-2011, Australia has developed a precursor chemical

information resource which will be made available to law enforcement, forensic and health officers to enable them to identify precursor chemicals more easily. In August 2007, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia introduced “Project Stop”, an online tool which has been playing an important role in preventing the diversion of pseudoephedrine for use in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine by enabling pharmacies to monitor sales of pharmaceutical preparations containing pseudoephedrine in real time. To date, approximately 63 per cent of pharmacies in Australia have registered to use the tool.

752. In April 2009, the Government of Australia launched a national campaign against illicit drugs, entitled “Illicit Drug Use — Targeting Young Methamphetamine Users”, the overall aim of which is to help to reduce the abuse of methamphetamines, “ecstasy” and cannabis among young Australians aged 15-25 by raising awareness of the harms associated with illicit drug use and directing young drug abusers to relevant support, counselling and treatment services. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service has developed a drug and precursor strategy for the period 2008-2010 to strengthen its capacity to detect, investigate and prosecute the smuggling of drugs and the illegal importation of precursor chemicals into Australia.

753. In view of the high prevalence rate of abuse of *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP) abuse in New Zealand, in 2008, the Government of that country strengthened the control of BZP and related substances that are active ingredients in most “party pills”, drugs which have a similar effect to that of MDMA (“ecstasy”). The new control measures prohibit the possession, use, sale, supply, import, export and manufacture of BZP.

754. In February 2009, the New Zealand Police launched its “Illicit Drug Strategy to 2010”, the aim of which is to reduce the supply of and demand for illicit drugs, particularly cannabis and methamphetamine, which are the drugs most widely abused in New Zealand. The Strategy also provides for tightened precursor control, the strengthening of the National Intelligence Centre to provide more effective assistance in drug-related investigations and the implementation, by 2010, of the Government’s Organized Crime Strategy, which targets the relationship between illicit drug manufacture and organized crime. In order to reduce cannabis supply,

the New Zealand Police has been conducting a nationwide operation to counter the illicit cultivation, distribution and abuse of cannabis and related crime. During the period 2008-2009, the operation resulted in the eradication of a total of 141,000 cannabis plants — the highest number in 10 years — and the arrest of 1,100 offenders. The New Zealand Police has also established special response teams to detect and dismantle methamphetamine laboratories with the aim of reducing supply of that drug. In addition, the entry into force of the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009 is expected to strengthen the capacity of the Police to recover the proceeds of illicit drug crop cultivation and illicit drug manufacture and trafficking.

755. In October 2009, the Government of New Zealand announced a new national action plan to tackle the problems of methamphetamine in the country. The action plan is aimed at reducing the use of methamphetamine by restricting public access to pseudoephedrine (the precursor used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine), strengthening the capacity of law enforcement authorities and improving treatment service for methamphetamine abusers.

756. The Board welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the Governments of Fiji and Samoa to tackle the growing problems of illicit drug manufacture and trafficking. Samoa is considering amendments to its Narcotics Act in order to strengthen precursor control and increase penalties for drug-related offences. In view of the growing problem of the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants in Fiji, the Police of Fiji have developed a community policing model whereby the community joins forces with the police in eradicating cannabis plants. The initiative has gained significant momentum and will eventually be adopted nationwide. In 2009, the Drug Unit of the Fiji Police Force developed a programme to raise awareness of the risks associated with drug abuse through presentations in prisons, schools and villages throughout Fiji.

4. Cultivation, production, manufacture and trafficking

Narcotics

757. Illicit cannabis cultivation continues to be reported in Oceania. Cannabis plants are illicitly cultivated not only in Australia and New Zealand but also in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga. It appears that in recent years, organized criminal groups

have been involved in the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cannabis in those countries. There is concern that the development of the “cannabis industry” will facilitate the investment of profits from that industry in the illicit manufacture of other drugs, in particular methamphetamine. In view of the lack of systematic surveillance systems in those countries, the Board urges the Governments in question to take measures to prevent the illicit production of and trafficking in cannabis.

758. Cannabis continues to be the drug most commonly seized in Oceania. Most of the cannabis seized in the region had been produced domestically, while a very small proportion has been smuggled from other regions. During the reporting period 2007/08, Australia seized a total of 5,400 kg of cannabis nationwide, including 54 kg seized at the customs border. Major sources of the cannabis seized at the border include the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and the United States of America. In New Zealand, 98 per cent of cannabis abusers surveyed in 2008 as part of an annual study described the availability of cannabis as “very easy” or “easy”. In 2008, New Zealand reported the seizure of 700 kg of cannabis herb and 156,000 cannabis plants. In 2009, Fiji also reported large seizures of cannabis plants, including 15,000 cannabis plants eradicated by the Fiji Police Force during “Operation Yadra Viti Rua”.

759. While cocaine seizures in Oceania account for only a very small proportion of global seizures of that drug (0.1 per cent in 2007, according to UNODC), the quantity of cocaine reported to have been seized in the region has increased in the past few years. Australia accounted for 99 per cent of such seizures effected in the region in 2007 and reported the seizure of 842 kg of cocaine in 2008. Eighty per cent of the cocaine seized at the border had been concealed in sea cargo shipments. The smuggling of cocaine from Canada continues to pose a serious problem in Australia. In addition, cocaine is increasingly being smuggled into Australia through China (including Hong Kong). West African criminal groups are believed to have been involved in a number of cases of cocaine smuggling detected at the Australian border. Mexico has also emerged as the country from which a shipment of cocaine departed for Australia. In early 2009, Australian law enforcement authorities detected an organized criminal group that was attempting to smuggle 144 kg of cocaine from Mexico into Australia.

Cocaine seizures in New Zealand remained at a low level in 2008, while Samoa reported one incident in 2008 in which an attempt had been made to smuggle cocaine into that country by mail. Very limited information on cocaine trafficking and seizures in other countries in the region was reported to the Board.

760. South-West and South-East Asia remain major sources of the heroin smuggled into Australia. Australian criminal groups with long-established links to South-East Asian heroin traffickers continue to be actively involved in smuggling that drug. Heroin smuggled out of Malaysia and Viet Nam has also been detected in Australia. In May 2009, Australia reported the seizure at Sydney Airport of 2 kg of heroin from a passenger arriving from Malaysia and a further 1.4 kg of the drug from a passenger arriving from Viet Nam. Heroin is smuggled into Australia chiefly by mail, air cargo and air passenger. New Zealand reported the seizure of only a very small amount of heroin (34.5 grams) in 2008. Very limited information regarding trafficking in and seizures of heroin in countries in Oceania other than Australia and New Zealand has been reported.

Psychotropic substances

761. Combating the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants remains a priority for law enforcement authorities in Oceania. Domestic clandestine manufacture remains the main source of such substances in Australia, where 271 laboratories engaged in such manufacture (including MDMA (“ecstasy”) laboratories) were seized during the period 2007-2008, a number consistent with the steady trend observed since 2004. While the clandestine laboratories found to be manufacturing amphetamine-type stimulants in Australia tend to be large, so-called “box labs” — small and highly mobile laboratories that can be easily packed away for storage and transportation — have also been detected in that country.

762. Most of the methamphetamine seized in New Zealand had been illicitly manufactured in that country. In 2008, a total of 133 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were dismantled in that country, a significant decrease from 190 in 2007 and 211 in 2006. While stricter legislative control measures and the introduction of the Organized Crime Strategy may have played a significant role in reducing illicit

methamphetamine manufacture in New Zealand, the decrease in the number of laboratories dismantled and the fact that the amount of precursors seized at the border remains large suggest that illicit drug manufacturers may be devising new methods.

763. Although amphetamine-type stimulants are supplied primarily by domestic clandestine manufacturers, evidence shows that they are increasingly being smuggled into Oceania. In Australia, the quantity of amphetamine-type stimulants seized at the border has increased almost 10-fold from 27 kg during the reporting period 2006/07 of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to 263 kg during the reporting period 2007/08 of that body. Major source regions include North America and South-East Asia. In November 2008, Australian law enforcement authorities in Adelaide seized 80 kg of methamphetamine concealed in a shipment from China. The seizure was one of the largest methamphetamine seizures reported in Adelaide to date. New Zealand reported the seizure of 96 kg of methamphetamine in December 2008, one of the largest seizures of methamphetamine in that country to date.

764. There is evidence that other countries in Oceania are also being targeted by traffickers of amphetamine-type stimulants. The Board notes that in French Polynesia in 2008, a methamphetamine trafficking network was detected and 19 persons were sentenced for drug-related offences. The network was believed to have been operating in that territory for at least a few years before it was dismantled.

Precursors

765. The quantity of precursors seized in Oceania is increasing. During the reporting period 2007/08, Australia reported the seizure of a total of 1,169 kg of precursor chemicals at the border, a dramatic increase compared with the 295 kg seized during the reporting period 2006/07. According to the New Zealand Customs Service, the number of seizures of precursors has increased by 12 times in the past six years.

766. Trafficking in ephedrine and pseudoephedrine as raw materials — mainly concealed in cargo transported by air or ship or in international mail items — continued to be reported in Australia and New Zealand. East and South-East Asia remains the major source region for most of the consignments seized. In 2008,

Australian law enforcement agencies seized 1,100 kg of ephedrine, a large proportion of which had originated in China (including Hong Kong), India, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea or Viet Nam. Japan was also identified as the source of a seized shipment of ephedrine destined for Australia. In June 2009, the Australian Customs Service reported a large seizure of 1.8 tons of precursor chemicals, including 200 kg of pseudoephedrine, concealed in a shipment from China. In 2008, New Zealand reported the seizure of 14.5 kg of ephedrine that had originated in India and 154 kg of pseudoephedrine concealed in cement plaster shipped from China. In the latter case, two men were subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment for their involvement.

767. While the illicit manufacture of MDMA (“ecstasy”) continued to be reported in Australia, the quantity of seized precursors of MDMA decreased. In 2008, Australia reported having seized 1 litre of isosafrole compared with a total of 255 litres of isosafrole and 1,900 litres of 3,4-MDP-2-P seized in that country in 2007. No seizures of those substances were reported in other countries in Oceania, including Fiji and New Zealand.

Substances not under international control

768. An increasing quantity of GBL is reported to have been seized in Oceania. In 2008, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service detected 18 shipments of GBL, the combined weight of which was 2,263 kg (equivalent to 2,534 litres). The shipments had originated mainly in China, Germany, Japan, Poland or the United Kingdom. Seizures of GHB continued to be reported in Australia in 2009, while New Zealand reported the seizure of a combined total of 837 litres of GBL and GHB in 2008, a sharp increase from 5 litres in 2007.

769. While the annual prevalence of ketamine abuse has remained low in Australia (0.3 per cent in 2004 and 0.2 per cent in 2007), seizures of that substance have continued to be reported. In 2008, 26 consignments of ketamine totalling 3.8 kg were seized in Australia, having been detected primarily in mail items or smuggled by air passengers. The majority of the consignments had originated in China (including Hong Kong), India, New Zealand, Peru or Thailand.

770. Evidence shows that traffickers are turning to natural plant extracts in an effort to circumvent

tightened controls over ephedrine. In September 2008, Australian law enforcement authorities seized a shipment from India consisting of five drums of powdered extract of the plant *Sida cordifolia*; approximately 6 kg of ephedrine could have been obtained from that shipment.

771. In recent years, New Zealand has reported having seized an increasing quantity of iodine and hypophosphorous acid. It is believed that the seized substances were to have been used for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine. In 2008, New Zealand reported 63 seizures of solid iodine totalling 52 kg, a significant increase of 58 per cent compared with the 33 kg seized in 2007. Moreover, 45 litres of hypophosphorous acid were seized in that country in 2008, almost three times the amount seized in 2007.

5. Abuse and treatment

772. In Australia, according to the results of the 2007 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, 38.1 per cent of the population aged 14 or older had used an illicit drug at some time in their lives, while 13.4 per cent had used an illicit drug in the past 12 months, a considerable decrease from 15.3 per cent in 2004. Female teenagers were more likely than male teenagers (both in the age group 14-19) to have ever used an illicit drug (26.5 per cent compared with 21.1 per cent). However, in all other age groups, males were more likely than females to have ever used an illicit drug (41.4 per cent compared with 34.8 per cent). The average age at which respondents had first tried illicit drugs was about 19 years old.

773. The prevalence rate of drug abuse by injection remained low in Australia (an annual prevalence rate of 0.5 per cent in 2007), consistent with the trend of the past several years (0.6 per cent in 2001 and 0.45 per cent in 2004). Methamphetamine and amphetamine are the drugs most commonly injected, followed by heroin. About 30 per cent of persons who abuse drugs by injection do so daily, and approximately 59 per cent obtain needles and syringes from pharmacies; 62.5 per cent had never shared a needle or other injecting equipment with another person.

774. Although cannabis remains the drug most commonly abused in New Zealand, the prevalence rate of cannabis abuse in that country has declined in recent years. The annual prevalence rate of cannabis abuse among persons aged 15-45 decreased from 20.4 per

cent in 2003 to 17.9 per cent in 2006. Despite low demand for cocaine in New Zealand, cocaine abuse in that country has increased in recent years. In 2006, 1.1 per cent of the population aged 15-45 had used cocaine in the past 12 months, a significant increase from 0.5 per cent in 2003. The annual prevalence rate of the abuse of MDMA ("ecstasy") abuse in New Zealand has increased in recent years, from 2.9 per cent in 2003 to 3.9 per cent in 2006.

775. According to a recent survey in New Zealand, 70 per cent of persons who abused drugs frequently were male, 63 per cent of persons who frequently abused MDMA ("ecstasy") were college and secondary-school students and 81 per cent of persons who frequently abused drugs by injection were unemployed or receiving sickness benefits. The drug most commonly injected was heroin. Eighty-nine per cent of frequent drug abusers obtained needles through a needle exchange programme in 2007; 91 per cent had not shared a needle with another person in the past six months.

776. For most of the countries in Oceania other than Australia and New Zealand, published surveys on drug abuse are not available. However, according to information available to the Board, cannabis is the drug most commonly abused in those other countries, mainly on account of its ready availability and low cost. Cannabis is generally consumed in combination with alcohol. The number of male cannabis abusers is significantly higher than that of female cannabis abusers. The majority of cannabis abusers are young persons aged 15-20. The Board urges States in the region to develop surveillance systems to monitor the situation with regard to drug abuse.

777. In 2007 and 2008, a total of 658 agencies were registered as providing treatment for the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in Australia; of these, 50 per cent were non-governmental providers. The drugs for the abuse of which treatment was most commonly sought were cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and heroin. Counselling was the most common type of treatment in the period 2007-2008, followed by withdrawal management (detoxification), assessment, education and rehabilitation.

778. In Australia, opioid addicts have been treated using opioid pharmacotherapy for a number of decades. According to a survey by the Government of Australia, as at 30 June 2008, a total of 41,347 persons

were receiving pharmacotherapy treatment, 2,500 more than in 2007. Of that total, about two thirds were male. Persons aged 30-39 accounted for the largest proportion of those receiving treatment (38 per cent); persons in the age group 20-29 accounted for 25 per cent, while those aged 40-49 accounted for a further 25 per cent. Seventy per cent of those receiving treatment were treated with methadone; the remainder were treated with buprenorphine or buprenorphine with naloxone, a combined preparation that is used more commonly in Australia than buprenorphine alone as a treatment for opioid dependence. Approximately 65 per cent of those surveyed received treatment from a private treatment provider. In 2008, there were some 1,400 practitioners authorized to prescribe pharmacotherapy drugs in Australia, a slight increase since 2007.

779. During the period 2007-2008 in New Zealand, an estimated 23,500 drug abusers received treatment from public services. Of that number, 35 per cent were female. The service most commonly sought by persons who frequently abused drugs by injection was the needle exchange programme, whereas persons who frequently abused methamphetamine and MDMA (“ecstasy”) were more likely to seek the help of a social worker or counsellor. The source of assistance most commonly sought by secondary-school students with drug-related problems in New Zealand was consultation with friends, followed by discussions with parents, school counsellors, family doctors and services for the treatment of drug abuse.

780. The Government of New Zealand has established drug treatment units in prisons as part of a programme to reduce drug abuse among prisoners. The units offer an intensive six-month programme that includes behavioural therapy and the provision of information on the dangers of drug addiction. The establishment of the drug treatment units has yielded satisfactory results to date. It is expected that the units will be able to provide treatment for alcohol and drug abuse to 1,000 prisoners by 2011.

781. Countries in Oceania other than Australia and New Zealand have reported limited information on treatment for drug abuse to the Board. However, it is noted that in certain countries, such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, treatment for drug abuse is provided mainly by general or psychiatric hospitals. In general, such treatment is received on a voluntary basis and drug abuse issues are usually addressed through counselling. The Board encourages countries in the region other than Australia and New Zealand to develop comprehensive and effective programmes for the treatment of drug abuse and demand reduction strategies.