



**The College of Psychiatry of Ireland**

*Coláiste Síciatrachta na hÉireann*

Dear Colleague,

The Department of Health has published an alcohol strategy, termed the *National Substance Misuse Strategy* after over two years of work. Dr Tony Holohan, CMO, was the Chair of the Steering Group that compiled the report. Dr Eamon Keenan and I were the representatives for the College on the group.

Please find a letter from Dr Holohan for all medical practitioners and the report:  
Letter from Dr T Holohan                      National Substance Misuse Strategy report

Included in the report are recommendations for minimum pricing, a statutory framework to control alcohol advertising, the phasing out of alcohol sponsorship by 2016, a Clinical Directorate for Alcohol and a forum of stakeholders to progress the recommendations within *A Vision for Change* to establish clear linkages between the addiction services, mental health services and primary care.

I believe the report is to be welcomed, as it is an official recognition of the harm that alcohol can do. The report does not include all the suggestions the College made, however it does go much of the way.

Regards,  
William

**Dr William Flannery**  
Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry