



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Forty-eighth session

Vienna, 7-14 March 2005

Agenda item 5

#### Drug demand reduction

#### Australia: revised draft resolution

#### Competencies required to address drug abuse

*The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,*

*Recognizing* that the range and complexity of drug-related problems have increased over the past decade and the impact and stress this has caused for a variety of health, welfare and law enforcement workers and those concerned with the care of people affected by drug abuse,

*Concerned* that the plethora of substances with which communities have to contend require the maintaining and building of improved knowledge, skills and competencies of those persons working with people affected by drug abuse, including those involved in the daily work with and treatment and referral of people with drug-related problems,

*Noting that* any human resource development strategy in this area needs also to address ways to improve performance effectiveness, recruitment and retention of workers,

*Wishing* to support efforts to identify the specific skills and competencies of those workers and to develop strategies to translate research findings into practical responses that can be implemented by those workers involved in prevention, law enforcement, demand reduction, and treatment and rehabilitation services,

*Recalling* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,<sup>1</sup> and the determination of Member States to provide the necessary resources for treatment and rehabilitation and to enable social reintegration to restore dignity and hope to children, youth, women and men who

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.



have become drug abusers and to fight against all aspects of the world drug problem,

*Recognizing* that developing human resources is an important element in countering the devastating impact of drug abuse,

1. *Invites* Member States to specify the variety of skills and competencies needed to respond effectively to drug abuse;

2. *Recommends* that Member States assess the extent to which personnel engaged in responding to drug abuse possess those key skills;

3. *Also recommends* that Member States consider creating strategies and address particular efforts:

(a) To develop, or improve, strategies to recruit, support and retain workers with key skills;

(b) To build the capacity and willingness of other relevant professional groups to respond effectively to people affected by drug abuse;

(c) To disseminate best practices and relevant research initiatives.

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