



Media release

Ice Taskforce Report:

Increased Commonwealth Investment in Specialist Treatment Sector Welcome

The State and Territory Alcohol and Other Drug Peaks Network welcome the Commonwealth's commitment to inject \$241.5 million into alcohol and other drug treatment services across Australia. The commitment was the central piece of the Turnbull Government's response to the National Ice Taskforce Final Report released on Sunday.

"We're pleased the Turnbull Government has recognised the fact we can't arrest our way out of this problem and shifted the focus of new investment into treatment and support services for those experiencing problems related to their methamphetamine use" said Larry Pierce, CEO of NADA.

"While there's still a way to go to work through the detail of how the funding will be distributed, the network members are well placed to support the process and ensure the Australian community gets the best return on this investment" said Sam Biondo, Executive Officer of VAADA.

The report of a recent review of the AOD Treatment system in Australia was also released on Sunday and highlighted the return on investment, finding for every \$1 invested in treatment services, more than \$7 is returned to the community through health and social benefits. The same report found current treatment services were unable to keep up with demand and suggested the number of treatment places should be increased.

"It just makes sense to ensure people experiencing problems are able to access the right types of support and treatment in a timely manner" said Rebecca MacBean, CEO of QNADA. "Reducing demand for alcohol and drugs is a key component of our National Drug Strategy, one that has languished behind supply reduction. It is refreshing to see the government recognising the value of treatment and harm reduction".

A detailed response from the AOD Peaks network is attached or can be found on the network member websites. For further comments, please contact:

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