

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release:

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Loss of more than just jobs – it's a loss of community capacity.

This week we have heard of the loss of 400 jobs in the health and community services sectors. These are on top of the loss of many jobs in manufacturing, automotive and mining industries announced over the last six months. All of these job losses have significant impacts on our community's capacity to support itself.

However, in a climate of job losses in these large industries, the loss of health and community sector jobs becomes even more concerning. Community workers not only support themselves (and their immediate family) but support many others through their work. Most health and community service workers spend their days (and sometimes nights and weekends) supporting their clients. Both directly and indirectly they support their client's partners, parents, children and their communities. For each community service worker who loses their job roughly ten other families lose the direct support that may be critical to their managing or recovering from mental health issues, dealing with their drug and alcohol issues, finding and staying in secure or emergency housing, re-training or finding employment, staying safe from family violence, or keeping their kids in school when faced with poverty and hardship.

At a time when many families are facing the loss of their income, losing the support of their community or health worker can be the last straw.

We call on the government of South Australia and the federal government to consider the significant impact the loss of these jobs will have on the wider community and to fund these services appropriately.

SANDAS is the peak body for non-government drug and alcohol services in South Australia. Our vision is to lead and strengthen community responses to the harms caused by alcohol and other drugs. For more information about SANDAS please visit www.sandas.org.au

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SANDAS is the Peak Body supporting NGOs delivering services in the Alcohol and Other Drugs field in South Australia