

# Media Release – Increased Treatment and Support Welcomed

For immediate release

The South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services welcomes the announcement by Premier Jay Weatherill of increased funding to provide treatment and support to South Australians affected by drug use as a great step in addressing the impact of drugs on families and communities.

Of note is the announcement of \$3.6 million over 4 years to fund a 50% increase in outpatient counselling and at least 15 new regional residential rehabilitation beds. This funding will enable the extension of services to ensure that people can get treatment when and where they need it.

The increased funding to Family Drug Support to help families affected by a relative's drug use is also very welcome. Often it is families who bear the brunt of the harm a person with a drug dependence does to others. Supporting families is also a critical component of recovery, better enabling people to re-establish their lives.

Funding to community education capacity building has the potential to engage people before they come to significant harm, reducing the demand for drugs, minimising the burden on society and providing families, communities and workplaces with strategies to support people affected by drug use.

In undertaking the work of the State Taskforce, the Ministers and other Taskforce members listened to the voices of affected family members, people recovering from drug use, treatment service providers, health professionals and researchers. This enabled them to develop a comprehensive, evidence based understanding of the issues and tailor their responses appropriately.

Most importantly the Taskforce acknowledged that drug dependence is fundamentally a health issue and requires health interventions. Whilst there is a component of supply reduction in the Government's response (resources to police to reduce manufacture and trafficking), the focus on demand reduction (preventing people from getting into or being harmed by drugs, engaging people in treatment and supporting them to re-establish their lives) is comprehensively welcomed.

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