



Alcohol, Tobacco & other
Drugs Council Tas Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

ATDC WELCOMES STATE GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN SERVICES

For immediate release

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The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (ATDC) welcomes the Tasmanian Government's announcement that \$4.8 million will be invested to tackle the problem of methamphetamine (Ice) and other drugs in Tasmania over the next 4 years.

Late last year the State Government released the *Final Report of the Review of Drug Use and Service Responses in North West Tasmania*. The report made a number of observations and recommendations about alcohol and other drug services within the North West and across Tasmania. Since that time the State Government has been working with the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Expert Advisory Group, to maximise community sector engagement in planning and priority setting.

The ATDC President Stuart Smith believes that the creation of 12 new residential rehabilitation beds and two specialist positions in the North and North West will strengthen the service system and create easier access to services for people in need.

"It is especially pleasing that the Government is committed to investing in treatment services bridging current gaps in the system, and is providing additional funding to the sector to ensure that outcome," he said.

Stuart Smith believes it is important that the Government increases investment in prevention and early intervention services to minimise harms associated with all forms of drug use.

"The development of data and information systems to provide up to date evidence about drug use to support service planning and delivery into the future is a welcomed initiative of this announcement."

"Although there is a significant focus on Ice at present it is important to remember that for many communities alcohol and cannabis are the drugs of great concern and this initiative will strength the sector's capacity to respond in a timely manner."

ATDC President Stuart Smith said that the ATDC is looking forward to continuing to work closely with the Government on the implementation of the recommendations of the review and to building the capacity of the alcohol and other drugs sector.

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