

MEDIA RELEASE

Peak Body welcomes Liberal Party commitment to alcohol and other drug services and programs

Sunday 25 April 2021

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania has welcomed the Tasmanian Liberal Party's funding commitment for the Tasmanian alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector.

ATDC chief executive Alison Lai said that while the Party's commitment doesn't provide solutions to all of the challenges being experienced by its members, it demonstrates that they have been listening to the concerns raised by the sector.

"The focus for all major parties during this election campaign should be firmly on ensuring the sustainability of existing programs and services and injecting additional funds into the sector to ensure that it can respond to increasing costs and demand," Ms Lai said.

"The Liberal Party's commitment will provide certainty to a number of existing programs and services whose funding is not guaranteed beyond 30 June 2021, particularly the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Good Sport's Program and our State's residential rehabilitation beds, which are all delivered in the community-managed sector.

"We also commend them for their commitment to provide additional funds to the Drug Education Network to respond to the steep increase in demand for their drug education programs and resources.

"As our sector embarks on an ambitious agenda of reform, the Liberal Party's commitment to provide a dedicated resource for our organisation also gives us confidence that they are serious about the community-managed sector being an equal partner in this work.

"It has also been pleasing to see the Liberal Party make commitments to address other key issues of importance to our members including smoking cessation, workforce training and a commitment to increase the number of staff delivering alcohol and other drug programs in the Tasmanian prison service."

With less than one week to go before election day, Ms Lai said that the government elected on 1 May would still need to rise to the challenge of addressing the issue of increasing costs and demand.

"Chronic underfunding is a long-term issue for our sector, and with the impact of COVID-19 placing increased pressure on our services we will be looking to the government to work with us to ensure our members can meet this demand and continue providing world-class alcohol, tobacco and other drug services and programs to all members of our community," she said.

Find out more about the ATDC's election priorities in our [2021-22 Budget Priority Statement](#).



No Harm, No Discrimination

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Who are the ATDC? The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania is the peak body representing and supporting community organisations, and the people they assist, to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harm for all Tasmanians.

Our vision is a Tasmania without alcohol, tobacco or other drug related harm or discrimination.

LANGUAGE MATTERS – Language is powerful, especially when discussing alcohol and other drugs and the people who use them. Stigmatising language reinforces negative stereotypes. “Person-centred” language focuses on the person, not their substance use.

When reporting on people who use alcohol and other drugs....	
Try this ↴	Not this ↴
Substance use, non-prescribed use	Abuse, misuse, problem use, non-compliant use
Person who uses drugs	Drug user, drug abuser
Person with a dependence on....	Addict, junkie, druggie, alcoholic
Person experiencing drug dependence	Suffering from addiction, has a drug habit
Person who has stopped using drugs	Clean, sober, drug-free
Person with lived experience of drug dependence	Ex-addict, former addict, used to be a...
Please see the <i>Language matters</i> resource at: www.nada.org.au/resources/language-matters/	



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