

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Conference brings world-class alcohol, tobacco and other drugs experts to Tasmania

Friday 4 June 2021

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The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council (ATDC) 2021 Conference *Courage. Change. Impact.* will challenge, engage and inspire over 140 delegates from around Tasmania with a high quality and stimulating program in Hobart, on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

ATDC chief executive Alison Lai said the conference had been three years in the making and that choosing the theme of courage, change and impact was purposeful.

"Change is constant, sometimes it is planned and sometimes not, but it often requires courage to overcome challenges, pitch a different approach or reshape a project," Mrs Lai said.

"We want to not only showcase examples of best-practice but shine light on the people courageously driving change to deliver impact across the Tasmanian alcohol, tobacco and other drugs sector,"

Several high-profile speakers are on the conference program, including Iain McGregor, Professor of Psychopharmacology and Academic Director of the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics in the Brain and Mind Centre at the University of Sydney.

Medicinal cannabis use is rapidly expanding in Australia, bringing with it increasing concerns from patients around safety behind the wheel and prosecution from positive roadside drug testing.

As the director of a Lambert Initiative research program with a major focus on cannabis and driving, Professor McGregor will discuss this research and the implications for drug policy and cannabis users.

Professor Dan Lubman AM, Executive Clinical Director, Turning Point & Director, Monash Addiction Research Centre, will deliver the opening keynote address on the national Rethink Addiction campaign, confronting stigma and harnessing the power of real stories.

Prof Lubman a national expert in the field of addiction, and most recently well-known for his involvement in the SBS documentary series *Addicted Australia*.

With addiction continuing to be one of the most stigmatized health conditions globally, *Addicted Australia* follows the journey of 10 Australians and opens the door on the realities of addiction to provide a deeper understanding of the disorder, to challenge the stigma and show what effective treatment and recovery looks like.



### *No Harm, No Discrimination*

Suite 1, Level 1, 175 Collins Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7000  
PO Box 4702 Bathurst Street PO, Hobart TAS 7000  
9am – 5pm Monday to Friday | P 03 6231 5002  
E [admin@atdc.org.au](mailto:admin@atdc.org.au) | [atdc.org.au](http://atdc.org.au)

Other keynote speakers include Chris Gough (Executive Director, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy), Prof Nicole Lee (Director, 360Edge), Mark Chenery (Co-founder, Common Cause Australia).

In an example of changes already taking place in the sector, Launceston City Mission will be making a special announcement about upcoming improvements to residential treatment services.



From July 1, 2021, Launceston City Mission's residential, alcohol and drug services are transitioning to become smoke-free including, Missiondale and Serenity House.

"Missiondale and Serenity House provide very important services for those in the community requiring drug and alcohol rehabilitation." City Mission chief executive Stephen Brown said.

"For years we thought it was a step too far to ask our clients to give up smoking, however, the response has been overwhelmingly positive."

"By going smoke-free we anticipate that 25 per cent of our clients will have improved outcomes when recovering from all substances at once," he said.

"While we know this transition will be a challenging one, we are excited to welcome the health, financial and social benefits it will have for our clients and services."

### **Interview opportunity**

Thursday 10 June 2021, 10:30-10:45am

Mezzanine foyer, Hotel Grand Chancellor, 1 Davey Street, Hobart, Tasmania

### **Available for interview:**

- Alison Lai - CEO, ATDC
- Prof Iain McGregor - Professor of Psychopharmacology & Academic Director, Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics, University of Sydney
- Prof Dan Lubman AM – Executive Clinical Director, Turning Point & Director, Monash Addiction Research Centre (due to COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria, Prof Lubman will not be physically present at this time but is available for pre-arranged interviews via screen or phone)
- Stephen Brown - CEO, City Mission
- Abby Smith - Director, QUIT Tasmania

### **Media contact:**

- Liz Knox - Communications and Engagement Coordinator, ATDC - [liz@atdc.org.au](mailto:liz@atdc.org.au)

**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.



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**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....	
<b>Try this</b> ↴	<b>Not this</b> ↴
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 Language matters resource at: <a href="http://www.nada.org.au/resources/language-matters/">www.nada.org.au/resources/language-matters/</a>	

**Seek support**

- Alcohol and Drug Information Service - 1800 811 994
- Family Drug Support - 1300 368 186
- Alcohol and Drug Services - 1300 139 641
- Tasmanian alcohol and other drug service directory – [www.atdc.org.au/service-directory](http://www.atdc.org.au/service-directory)



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