

MEDIA RELEASE

Tasmanians come together to raise overdose awareness

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania and their members have been inundated with thousands of origami cranes for the third year running, after calling on members of the community to help fold cranes for International Overdose Awareness Day.

Accidental drug overdose impacts Tasmanians of all backgrounds, with new data expected to be released in Australia's Annual Overdose Report from the Pennington Institute, on 31 August.

Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council CEO Alison Lai said the response from the community shows that awareness of overdose is increasing in Tasmania.

"We've been blown away by the support for our International Overdose Awareness campaign yet again, with thousands of cranes added to the Hobart art installation over the past week," Mrs Lai said.

Hobart's artwork is expected to get even bigger on Tuesday, along with the art installations in the North and North West.

"Support from the community has been so strong over the past couple of years that we're pleased to be working with our members City Mission, Anglicare Tas and Youth Family and Community Connections who are hosting events in Launceston and Devonport.

"This increase in community involvement and awareness is important as we expect the latest Overdose Report to confirm the trends of previous years, showing overdose continues to impact Tasmanians from all walks of life.

"Prescription medicines are a particular risk for unintentional overdose, so I would encourage everyone to have a conversation with their family, friends, doctor or pharmacist," Mrs Lai said.

Observed on the 31st of August every year, International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) seeks to create better understanding of overdose, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and create change that reduces the harms associated with drug use.

This year, the ATDC is partnering with Anglicare Tasmania, Youth Family and Community Connections and Launceston City Mission to simultaneously unveil 3 interactive artworks.

We are inviting Tasmanians to fold cranes for overdose awareness, and bring them to our events in Devonport, Launceston or Hobart on the 31st of August, International Overdose Awareness Day.

Available for interview:

Alison Lai, ATDC CEO (m) 0450 517 017

Helen O'Byrne, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia TAS Branch President (m) 0419 383 347



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
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Photo and interview opportunities

Hobart

Tuesday 31 August 2021, 10:15am Waterside Pavilion, Argyle St, Hobart

Available for interview: Alison Lai, CEO of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council

Event contact: Liz Knox liz@atdc.org.au 0434 443 173

Launceston

Tuesday 31 August 2021, 10:00am Reception Room, Town Hall, St John Street, Launceston

Available for interview: Stephen Hill, Launceston City Mission

Event contact: Stephen.Hill@citymission.org.au 0407 303 035

Devonport

Tuesday 31 August 2021, 10:00am RANT Arts, 45-47 Stewart Street, Devonport

Available for interview: Dr Jackie Hallam, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council

Event contact: Sean Robinson s.robinson@anglicare-tas.org.au 0449 936 744

[Images for media use available here](#)

The ATDC gratefully acknowledges the City of Hobart, City of Launceston and RANT Arts for supporting our International Overdose Awareness Day 2021 events. [See previous media release for event details](#)

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 Language matters at: www.nada.org.au/resources/language-matters/	



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