

MEDIA RELEASE

Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania 2024 election statement

4 March 2024

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania (ATDC) has sought commitments from all political parties and independent candidates in the 2024 state election to prioritise policies to reduce alcohol and drug-related harm in Tasmania.

ATDC CEO Dr Jackie Hallam said alcohol and other drug services were shrinking across the state, but particularly in regional Tasmania.

“Community-managed services are having to make difficult decisions directly linked to inflation and cost pressures,” she said.

“This means potentially laying off staff and the closure of some programs just to keep their doors open.

“This is against the backdrop of increasing demand for service and greater wait times for Tasmanians to get the assistance they want.”

Dr Hallam said rates of use of alcohol and other drugs in Tasmania were above the national average, and the cost to the health system and the wider community was significant.

“Research shows that evidence-based alcohol and other drug treatment, support and education lowers harm across the community, and helps people to be healthier and connected” she said.

“Community-managed programs reach into our communities, often in areas where there is a lack of other health services such as bulk billing GPs.

“These services are doing the heavy lifting in our communities and need urgent support.”

The ATDC is therefore calling on Tasmanian political leaders to show courage, compassion and to commit to providing the funding required to drive positive change in Tasmania with regard to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.



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 | atdc.org.au

“There are abundant opportunities to build on the work underpinning the soon-to-be-released draft Tasmanian Drug Strategy,” Dr Hallam said.

“It is critical that we draw on the latest evidence and listen to those who are directly affected to fund the services that help Tasmanians who need support for alcohol or drug use.”

For further information:

Jackie Hallam – mobile 0438 347 056 or ceo@atdc.org.au

Media contact:

Nicolas Turner – mobile 0418 538 865 or nicolas.turner@corcomms.com.au



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What is 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/	
Mindframe for Alcohol and other Drugs: https://mindframe.org.au/alcohol-other-drugs	
The Power of Words: https://adf.org.au/resources/power-words/	

Add help-seeking information

Always include help-seeking information alongside any story about alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.

Help and support for alcohol, tobacco or other drugs in Australia (24 hours 7 days a week):

- Alcohol and Drug Information Service - 1800 811 994
- Counselling Online - counsellingonline.org.au
- Family Drug Support - 1300 368 186

Tasmanian alcohol, tobacco and other drug support services including face-to-face services:

- ATDC Service Directory atdc.org.au/service-directory



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