

MEDIA RELEASE

Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania 2024 election statement

21 March 2024

On the eve of the 2024 state election, the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council Tasmania (ATDC) says it is yet to receive a commitment from either major political party about how they will reduce alcohol and drug-related harm in Tasmania if elected.

ATDC CEO Dr Jackie Hallam said there was currently no plan or public commitment to address the fact that alcohol and other drug services were shrinking across the state.

“Tasmanian organisations are asking questions and wondering why there is silence on how the major parties will lower alcohol and other drug related harm,” she said.

“This problem is felt in every part of the state, in every social strata.

“It affects individuals, families, lowers workplace productivity, lessens life expectancy and contributes to filling hospitals and prisons.

“There is increasing demand and greater wait times for Tasmanians to get the assistance they need.”

Dr Hallam said people were presenting to services with greater and more complex needs and rates of use of alcohol and other drugs in Tasmania were still above the national average, and the cost to the health system and the wider community was significant.

“For example, there are currently 80,000 Tasmanians drinking at a level that is likely to cause harm – either to themselves, the people they know or the community,” she said.

Dr Hallam said funding was required to drive change with regard to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and turn the problem around.

“If we continue to ignore this issue, services to the regions will continue to shrink and this will result in noticeable, preventable, harm in Tasmania,” she said.



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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“There is substantial research that evidence-based alcohol and other drug treatment, support and education prevents and lowers harm across the community.

“We need our politicians to take account of this 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:

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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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