

NADA congratulates the Australian Government on its response to the National Ice Taskforce report recommendations

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The Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies congratulates the Australian Government on the release of its "Taking Action to Combat Ice" response. The Government has announced it will invest nearly 300 million dollars to improve treatment, after care, education and community engagement to assist people using and becoming dependent on methamphetamines and other drugs.

The government will invest \$241.5 million dollars through Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to fund local level treatment and support agencies and specialist drug and alcohol service providers. NADA CEO Larry Pierce welcomes the new funding and says, "We are looking forward to developing a close partnership with the PHNs and want to ensure that the delivery of evidence based drug and alcohol treatment services can continue through specialist non-government drug and alcohol services that have been heavily invested in by both Commonwealth and State governments over the last twenty years".

The Government further notes that given the close correlation between mental health and drug abuse, they have closely aligned delivery of drug and alcohol services with the delivery of mental health packages through PHNs. Mr Pierce commented, "Mental health service delivery is quite different to specialist drug and alcohol treatment service delivery in a number of fundamental ways and the specialist NGO drug and alcohol treatment agencies in NSW have over fifteen years of experience of combining mental health and drug treatment in holistic client centred models of care".

NADA also congratulates the governments focus on enhancing indigenous specific treatment services and the focus on enhancing services in rural and regional areas. "It is also gratifying to see an expansion of funds to research and funding to assist families and communities respond to crystal methamphetamine use in their local communities and NADA looks forward to strengthening our partnerships with the research sector and the prevention sector", says Mr Pierce.

For further comments please contact Larry Pierce on 0411 747 106.