



MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING BOOST NEEDED FOR ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS TREATMENT SERVICES

The Network welcomes the funding for alcohol and other drug treatment announced by the Prime Minister and Minister for Health on 12 December 2018 as part of the Liberal and Nationals' Government commitment to improving the health of the Australian community.

Every year between 200,000 to 500,000 Australians are unable to access alcohol or other drug treatment.

"If the alcohol and other drug treatment system is to meet demand for services, it requires a funding boost of at least \$1 billion per year, based on figures in the New Horizons report commissioned by the Australian Government," according to Larry Pierce, spokesperson for the State and Territory Alcohol and Other Drug Peaks Network.

The Network, which is made up of the alcohol and other drug peak bodies in each state and territory, is joining with a group of health and welfare organisations calling for all governments, both state and federal to fill this gap so that communities have the types of services they need.

"Services have been calling for some time for investment in ageing infrastructure and the workforce required to deliver services. It's a big funding gap and we'll need to work together to ensure people get access to the right kind of care, at the right place, at the right time that they deserve."

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The State and Territory Alcohol and other Drug Peaks Network (the Network) represents over 400 treatment, harm reduction and prevention agencies in Australia. Our vision is for an Australian community with the lowest possible levels of alcohol and other drug related harm, as a result of evidence-informed policies and services.

