

February 2019

NSW Ministry of Health update

The NSW Government has formally responded to the Parliament's Portfolio Committee No.2 (Health and Community Services) Report 49 Provision of drug rehabilitation in regional, rural and remote New South Wales—[click here](#) [PDF] for the response. NADA is pleased to see the Government supports Recommendation 1 regarding adopting the Drug and Alcohol Service Planning Model (DASPM)—a population based planning tool for drug health services, and further, using this tool to ascertain how many residential and withdrawal beds are required throughout NSW. The Government is also supporting (in principle) Recommendation 2 which calls for tendering for the establishment of more residential rehabilitation and detoxification services throughout regional NSW including facilities for women and children, Aboriginal people, and young people.

NADA met with NSW Health Minister Hazzard last December to seek his support for these recommendations and he indicated he would welcome our submission for the new residential and withdrawal services. To this end we have commissioned Professor Alison Ritter from the Drug Policy Modelling Program to undertake a DASPM modelling of the need for these services across NSW. We will then develop a submission for funding for the new based on the DASPM analysis and our costing calculations (developed in consultation with our membership over the last few years). This will be formally submitted to the Minister's Office and NSW Health in late February for consideration in the next state budget. We will keep you informed on the progress of this important funding submission for our sector over the coming weeks.

Australian Government Department of Health update

Senator the Hon. Bridget McKenzie has announced (see [media release](#)) funding of \$61 million dollars for the continuation of the National Ice Action Strategy funding to NGOs commissioned through Primary Health Networks. The funding will form part of the broader treatment funding under the Strategy already at \$241.5 million for Primary Health Networks to commission additional drug and alcohol treatment services to meet local needs nationally.

NADA is also following up with Minister Hunt and the Department of Health about the continuation of the National NGO Drug and Alcohol program into the next three years. We understand from information provided by Minister Hunt's Office that the Minister has signed off on a package of continued funding to the NGO sector that has been in receipt of these funds for nearly two decades now. We are awaiting a formal public announcement from Minister Hunt in the next week or so.

Notice of treatment template to provide to employment services providers

NADA, with the AOD Peaks Network, have developed a template letter for members to adapt and give to employment services (*jobactive*) providers and Centrelink on behalf of clients that outlines the length of treatment. The Department of Jobs and Small Business has provided the template to the network of employment services providers with advice that the letter from AOD treatment providers should be accepted and satisfy the requirements of clients for the length of treatment. We understand that this is currently only for residential rehabilitation, but we will be meeting with the Department to have the notice accepted for all treatment types. [Click here](#) [DOCX] for the template.

For more information

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