

Media Alert

Everyday drugs causing everyday problems!

“Most drug problems in our community are caused by the drugs we all accept and embrace, not the illicit drugs that are so often the focus of media and community concern” according to Carol Bennett, Executive Officer of the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA).

This will be the topic of debate this week at a conference to be held in Melbourne: ***“Everyday drugs, everyday problems: tackling alcohol and other legal drugs”***. The conference will be an opportunity for drug and alcohol experts to debate how we can reduce the harm associated with the drugs that are used by most people in the community.

Keynote speaker at the conference, Ms Geraldine Moses said ***“we often think that drugs like anti-depressants and pain relievers cause more harm. The truth is that readily available drugs like complimentary medicines in some cases cause serious side effects”***.

Major topics of discussion at the conference include: misuse of medications (including complimentary medicines), alcohol, tobacco, chroming and assisting health professionals to overcome addictions.

The keynote speakers include:

- Ms Geraldine Moses (Founder and Executive Officer of the Queensland Medication Helpline)
- Mr Brian Kearney (Victorian Liquor Licensing Commissioner)
- Mr Todd Harper (Executive Director, QUIT)
- Dr Jack Warhaft (Medical Director, Victorian Doctor’s Health Program)
- Mr Cameron Boardman (Chairman, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee Victoria)
- Mr Paul McDonald (Director, Drug Policy and Services, Department of Human Services).

“It’s important that efforts to reduce harm don’t just deal with illicit drugs such as heroin and amphetamines. Alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceutical misuse and chroming clearly need more attention if we are to reduce drug related harm in our community. It’s about time we tackled these drugs and developed better responses to the problems they cause” Ms Bennett concluded.