

MEDIA RELEASE
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Welcome investment for Victorian alcohol and other drug system



The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) commends the Victorian Government on allocating \$34 million in additional investment to alcohol and other drug (AOD) services across the state across a four year period.

VAADA also commends the Victorian Government on the implementation of a residential program to support mothers experiencing AOD issues to receive treatment and retain their parenting role.

The \$34 million allocation is a welcome addition to the AOD sector, which is considerably overburdened and under-resourced.

‘Increasing investment in AOD treatment services reduces demand on hospitals, ambulances and other health, welfare and justice related services’, Mr Sam Biondo, Executive Officer, VAADA said. ‘It also reduces the wait times for AOD treatment services, making these services more accessible to people when they need them.’

The residential facility for mothers in need of AOD treatment is a novel and welcome program for Victoria and addresses the service needs of individuals who may not have otherwise attended treatment due to the competing challenge of looking after a baby.

‘The Victorian Government should be commended on the outlay of \$4 million over four years for the development of this residential facility’, said Mr Biondo.

‘With the AOD sector currently in the midst of high level reform, these announcements are welcome and encouraging news’.

VAADA is the peak body that represents over 100 Alcohol and other Drug services across Victoria. On a daily basis these services are dealing with the effects of harmful alcohol and other drug consumption.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Sam Biondo on 0414 974 121 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.