

MEDIA RELEASE

FRIDAY, 28 MAY 2017

Multiple AOD initiatives welcomed

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) commends today's funding announcement from the Victorian Government to increase the capacity of the alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment sector to meet the very high levels of community demand.

The welcome announcement detailed additional funding of \$81.1M for the AOD sector as part of the 2017/18 state budget.

Mr Sam Biondo, EO, VAADA, says, 'this allocation demonstrates a serious commitment from government to work to address the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs through increasing the capacity of the chronically overburdened treatment sector'.

The announcement, aligned with Victoria's Ice Action Plan, provides allocations for the following activity:

- \$34.8M for 30 new residential rehabilitation beds, including additional support and treatment places for parents to assist in reuniting families;
- 960 treatment places for individuals on community corrections;
- \$14.1M to recruit an additional 34 Aboriginal Health workers to reduce AOD related harms within Aboriginal communities; and
- \$9.7M to acquire land to build new residential facilities.

Mr Biondo continues, 'this announcement sets in train the necessary expansion of the AOD sector to address the significant harms besetting our families and the broader community. We look forward to further details relating to these announcements and working with government in progressing these endeavours'.

VAADA is the peak body that represents over 80 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.