

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Ice funding announcements – a step in the right direction

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) today acknowledges the Government announcement on the allocations of funding associated with Victoria's Ice Action Plan.



The Ice Action Plan released earlier this year, committed funding to a number of areas over a four year period, including:

- \$18 million to alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services
- \$3.2 million to family support services
- \$1.8 million to Needle Syringe Programs (NSP) providers
- \$1.48 million for the development of a family drug education program; and
- \$500,000 community activities.

We congratulate those services which have received funding associated to the provision of treatment services, family support services, expanded NSP provision and family drug education.

We also congratulate those community groups which have received Community Ice Action grants.

VAADA notes that while these announcements are welcome, more needs to be done to alleviate the adverse impact of the recommissioning on the sector.

Mr Brad Pearce, Program Manager, VAADA, says, 'the determination of these allocations will provide for the increased capacity of a number of agencies to address AOD related harms, including those associated with ice. To that end, we congratulate the recipients of this funding'.

Mr Pearce continues, 'However, we note that there are still a number of services experiencing significant challenges within the recently recommissioned service system, and look forward to future funding announcements to further address the harms associated with ice and other substances and increase the capacity of the AOD sector as a whole'.

VAADA will continue to work with government to reduce AOD related harms, including those associated with ice, and look forward to further supporting the Ice Action Plan.

*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 Brad Pearce on 0409 959 861 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.**