

MEDIA RELEASE

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Government change shouldn't affect alcohol and drug reform



The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) today congratulates Dr Denis Napthine on his appointment as Premier of Victoria.

VAADA looks forward to working with Premier Napthine and Minister Wooldridge in continuing to drive the reforms currently occurring in the Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Sector.

The Alcohol and other Drug Treatment Sector is currently undergoing high level reform which will result in the recommissioning of the adult non-residential treatment sector. These reforms have been led by Minister Wooldridge and involve a range of elements.

VAADA hopes that these reforms will result in a stronger alcohol and other drug treatment sector which is more accessible to all Victorians and continues to demonstrate the highest level of expertise and good practice.

Mr Sam Biondo, EO of VAADA, says, 'with approximately 50,000 Victorians engaged in alcohol and other drug treatment each year, 356 acute alcohol and other drug related deaths in Victoria in 2011, and over 290,000 alcohol and other drug related hospital days annually, these reforms provide a unique opportunity to ensure that we can continue to provide necessary treatment to Victorians in need and drive down the alcohol and other drug burden on the hospital system.'

Mr Biondo continues, 'we would hope that Premier Napthine will support the AOD sector during this reform period and allow Minister Wooldridge to continue to lead these reforms. We would also hope that the opposition will see the dire need of reform in the alcohol and other drug treatment sector and support these necessary changes'.

'We look forward to continuing to work with the Victorian Government to ensure that Victorians continue to receive the best quality alcohol and other drug treatment services.'

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.