

MEDIA RELEASE

26/7/2022

[starts]

Welcome commitment for additional residential AOD services

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) welcomes the commitment from the Victorian Opposition to resource additional residential rehabilitation and withdrawal capacity in Shepparton, Warrnambool, La Trobe as well as Frankston and Melbourne.

This commitment, on top of the Victorian government's earlier uplift would create equity in access across most of Victoria with regard to residential rehabilitation and reduce the excessive waitlists which have surged during the pandemic.

This commitment would lift Victoria's residential capacity close to per capita levels in Queensland and NSW.

	Resi rehab beds per 10,000 head of pop	post commitment
Vic	0.74	0.97
Qlds	1	1
NSW	1.22	1.22

Mr Sam Biondo, EO of VAADA, says 'this is a welcome announcement, which, in combination with uplifts in 2018, would effectively double the capacity of Victoria's residential rehabilitation system from 6 years ago. In 2016, Victoria only had 0.45 residential rehabilitation beds per 10,000 head of population.'

This commitment also recognises the need to more seamlessly co-ordinate transition between withdrawal facilities and residential services particularly in regional Victoria.

'There is a scarcity of residential withdrawal in regional Victoria with some large regions having only 1 or 2 beds situated in regional hospitals. A commensurate uplift in residential withdrawal is needed to support the community and is in alignment with Infrastructure Victoria's 30 year strategy.'

'With up to 500 people waiting at any given time for residential rehabilitation, with some providers noting wait times of 6 months, this uplift will improve access for many Victorians.'

'There is still a way to go in addressing the broader capacity deficits, workforce and the neglected forensic system.'

To access VAADA's election statement and companion summary, see:

Summary: https://www.vaada.org.au/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=30375

Full Statement: https://www.vaada.org.au/?smd_process_download=1&download_id=30372

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Media stories on alcohol and other drugs may be traumatic for some people. Support is available and we ask that media agencies consider publishing the details below:

If this story has raised issues about your own or others drug and alcohol use, please contact the national hotline for confidential counselling and referral on 1800 250 015

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, EO of VAADA, on 0414 974 121 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.