



Minister Andrew Barr MLA
ACT Treasurer
budgetconsultation@act.gov.au

ATODA Submission to the ACT Budget Consultation 2013 - 2014

Dear Minister Barr,

The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) would like to thank the ACT Government for the opportunity to provide a submission to the public consultation for the ACT Budget 2013 – 2014.

ATODA is the peak body representing the alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) sector in the ACT and seeks to promote health through preventing and reducing ATOD related harms.

The ACT ATOD sector leads Australia in many areas such as opioid maintenance therapy, needle and syringe programs, drug diversion and opioid overdose prevention and management. The ACT community can be proud of its ATOD treatment and support sector and be confident that when help is needed, they will receive high quality support.

The sector is predominantly funded through ACT and Federal funding, the sector seeks to utilise these scarce public resources in the most effective, efficient and evidence-informed ways it can. For instance, significant sector initiated reforms continue to take place, including through pro-actively seeking to prioritise and implement the recommendations from the ACT Government 2012 *Review of the need to expand alcohol and other drug (AOD) rehabilitation services*.

However, the sector has identified some areas where existing resources cannot be used or don't exist or where reform is not possible without an additional funding injection.

The requests for funding in this submission are modest and considered within the context of the challenging fiscal realities of the ACT economy and Canberra's ambitious social policy agenda. The priorities identified therefore are those which would seek to have a long term benefits for individuals, families and communities of Canberra.

The process for developing this submission has included monthly discussions and development of draft proposals with the sector and key stakeholders. These proposals are summarised in this submission and the full proposals are available from ATODA.

ATODA acknowledges the ACT Government for its ongoing commitment to engaging with the community to identify resourcing priorities through the ACT Budget consultation process.

This submission includes the following five initiatives to prevent and reduce ATOD related harms in the ACT:

1. Collaboratively develop an evidence-informed ATOD outpatient services model for the ACT, which aligns with the ACT Labor Government's election commitment with funding commencement in 2013/14, with the service to begin in 2014.
2. Provide subsidised nicotine replacement therapy (not currently covered on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) to provide equity across non-government and government ATOD service consumers and to complement tobacco reduction and cessation interventions.
3. In preparation for the opening of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm in 2014, commence the development and implementation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ATOD Workforce Development Strategy, including placements and traineeships.
4. To reduce young people's involvement with the criminal justice system, promote their safety and that of the community, and to address problematic alcohol consumption through providing a health intervention by expanding sobering up services in the ACT to accommodate referrals for young people under 18 years of age.
5. To prevent chronic disease and promote healthy behaviours and workplaces, by:
 - a. Including, as a requirement of ACT Government funding, health agencies develop and implement workplace tobacco management policies and programs particularly for those who work with disadvantaged groups who have high smoking rates.
 - b. Supporting non-government health services funded by the ACT Government to develop and implement workplace tobacco management policies.

As the peak body for the ATOD sector, ATODA stands ready to work with the ACT Government to identify, and support the implementation of, resourcing priorities to prevent and reduce ATOD related harms in the Canberra community.

Sincerely,



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The Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA) is the peak body representing the alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) sector in the ACT and seeks to promote health through preventing and reducing alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) related harms.

ATODA works collaboratively to provide expertise and leadership in the areas of social policy, sector and workforce development, research, coordination, partnerships, communication, information and resources.

ATODA is an evidence based organisation that is committed to the principles of public health, social justice and human rights. ATODA participates in ACT and national government and non-government advisory structures and is funded by the ACT and Australian Governments.