



Senator Fiona Nash  
Deputy Leader of the Nationals in the Senate  
Assistant Minister for Health  
senator.nash@aph.gov.au

### **Defunding of the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia**

Dear Assistant Minister,

I am writing to you to express the Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT's serious concerns regarding the decision to defund the Alcohol and other Drug Council of Australia (ADCA).

ADCA provides crucial services and representation to support some of the most disadvantaged families and individuals in Australia. Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs negatively impacts almost every family in Australia. ADCA has been an Australian community leader for half a century, and has helped our nation to be healthier, safer and make meaningful decisions that have saved lives and money.

Amongst its invaluable work, ADCA runs the world's largest specialist alcohol and other drug library. This service has ensured that Australia has had access to the evidence base to make informed decisions about the clinical care and policy. Australia is considered a world leader in alcohol and other drug policy and treatment, and much of this has been due to the ongoing leadership of ADCA for half a century.

ADCA has provided non-partisan advice and support to all Australian governments since 1966, including under the leadership of Prime Minister Robert Menzies and Prime Minister John Howard.

The alcohol and other drug sector provides essential services in Australia and our sector needs leadership from ADCA.

We urge you to urgently reconsider this decision. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter on (02) 6255 4070 or [carrie@atoda.org.au](mailto:carrie@atoda.org.au).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carrie Fowlie'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carrie Fowlie  
Executive Officer  
Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT  
[www.atoda.org.au](http://www.atoda.org.au)

27 November 2013