



Media Release

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ACT Government's increased investment in specialist drug services will save lives

The ACT's peak drug body, Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association ACT (ATODA), today congratulated the ACT Government for announcing additional funding to reduce drug and alcohol related harms.

"The ACT Government's additional \$6 million investment in specialist drug services will help to prevent opioid overdoses, reduce waiting times, provide more rehabilitation and deliver services specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," said Ms Carrie Fowlie, Executive Officer, ATODA.

"This funding responds to the public's concern about the impacts of methamphetamine and other drug related harms and the growing demand for drug treatment in the Canberra community."

"There has been a 36% increase in demand for specialist drug services in the ACT, this investment will help reduce waiting times and provide more rehabilitation."

"As too many Canberra families tragically know, fatal opioid overdose numbers are the highest in a decade. The trail-blazing evidence-based take-home naloxone program will be maintained by this funding. Availability of this overdose reversal drug is key to preventing avoidable deaths in the ACT."

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people disproportionately experience methamphetamine and other drug related harms. This funding will maintain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled capacity to deliver specialist drug and alcohol services."

"Specialist drug interventions are a good investment, they are cost-effective and can reduce demand in the more expensive hospital and criminal justice systems."

"This funding will mean that more Canberrans with drug and alcohol problems can get help when, where and how they need it," said Ms Fowlie.

The Minister for Health, Mr Simon Corbell MLA, made the announcement this morning at the alcohol and other drug sector's international conference at the National Portrait Gallery of Australia.

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