

## 'REDI' to go to school

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## New drug resource welcomed by National Council

Today the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) welcomed the launch by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, of a new drug education package for schools.

The Resilience Education & Drug Information (REDI) package has been designed to give schools and teachers practical strategies to help address drug issues faced by young people.

Major Brian Watters, Chair of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) said, "A previous ANCD report on drug use and young people highlighted the need to target young people at different stages of their life if we are to influence the likelihood of them using drugs. Clearly, schools represent a critical opportunity for drug prevention and intervention. Providing teachers with resources, such as REDI, allows them to assist young people in developing the resilience they need to deal with life's challenges."

Commenting further on the resource, Mr Terry Woolley, Principal of Unley High School and an ANCD Member, said, "As a Principal and a teacher who is in daily contact with young people, I am very confident that the REDI package will have a positive impact on how schools and teachers deal with the difficult issue of student drug use. Certainly, I am very aware that teachers have been wanting more resources on drug issues and this package will be a welcome addition."

The REDI resources are a product of the funding provided to Australia's School Drug Education Strategy and the ANCD endorses this week's Federal Budget announcement of an additional \$5.3 million allocation to allow the strategy to continue.

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*The ANCD is the principal advisory body to Government on drug and alcohol issues.*

For further information, please contact:

Mr Gino Vumbaca (Executive Officer)

0408 244 552 or 02 6279 1650

Mr Terry Woolley (ANCD Member)

0401 121 218

