



The Hon. Luke Hartsuyker MP
Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister
Member for Cowper

The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP
Assistant Minister for Health
Member for Lyne

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$3.4M funding for drug and alcohol treatment services across the North Coast

The NSW North Coast region is well placed to fight alcohol and other drug misuse, with the North Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) commissioning a range of innovative early intervention, treatment and workforce development services.

Federal Assistant Health Minister and Member for Lyne, Dr David Gillespie MP, today joined with the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister and Member for Cowper, Mr Luke Hartsuyker MP, at a Port Macquarie showcase of mental health, alcohol and other drug treatment services across the North Coast region.

“The Federal Coalition Government remains concerned about the impact of drugs — particularly ice—in our communities. We are committed to educating and preventing people from taking up drugs and improving the available treatment options,” Minister Gillespie said.

“Our Government is investing \$3.19 million in the North Coast PHN to commission drug and alcohol treatment services, in line with local needs. This includes annual funding of \$1.9 million allocated as part of the National Ice Action Strategy.

“In addition, we are providing \$194,000 annually in direct funding to the North Coast region for residential treatment services.”

Minister Hartsuyker said the showcase highlighted both the range of services available and the opportunities for collaboration between service providers.

“Their services represent a significant investment by the Federal Coalition Government in the health and wellbeing of residents across the North Coast,” Minister Hartsuyker said.

“The services cover the broad spectrum of needs—from early intervention and counselling support, withdrawal and case management for those with more complex issues through to day stay rehabilitation.

“There are also dedicated, culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and services that help build health workforce capacity to help better manage alcohol and other drug misuse issues.

“Today’s event also allows service providers to talk with each other and see how they can work together to ensure patients receive better and more holistic treatment.”

Minister Gillespie said the showcase event is particularly timely, with the recent launch of the National Drugs Campaign.

“This Federal Coalition Government campaign raises awareness of the harms associated with illicit drug use, particularly ice, and promotes available support and treatment services,” Minister Gillespie said.

“It’s vitally important that we increase our efforts against illicit drugs, particularly with growing drug use in Australia.

“It’s great to see the broad range of Australian Government-supported alcohol and other drug services across the North Coast that will help people with misuse issues to get help and turn their lives around.”

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