



THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing

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Health messages on the cards for Indigenous Australia - Drug Action Week

Messages about the dangers of alcohol and other drugs will literally be put into the hands of Indigenous communities, with a new set of playing cards.

The playing cards have been produced by the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) of South Australia with funding from the Australian Government to raise awareness and understanding of alcohol and other drug related issues in Indigenous communities.

The cards were launched yesterday by Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing Christopher Pyne and ADAC Director Scott Wilson. The launch coincided with the fourth day of national Drug Action Week, which has a different theme for each day. Yesterday's theme was Indigenous drug use.

Mr Pyne said the Australian Government was strongly committed to reducing the massive damage that alcohol and other drugs caused in Indigenous communities.

"These cards are an important new resource for Indigenous communities across the nation," Mr Pyne said. "They deliver the right messages about alcohol and drugs in appropriate language and with graphics designed by Aboriginal people. ADAC is to be congratulated on this work."

"Packs of these cards will be delivered to Indigenous communities and relevant service agencies across the country and will hopefully get people to think and talk about the effects of alcohol and other drugs."

Mr Pyne said the development of the cards was an example of the positive partnerships being forged by the government to improve the health of Indigenous people.

The 2005 Budget also provided \$8 million over four years to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities deal with drug and alcohol related problems, and an additional \$9.6 million for a fuel replacement program to combat petrol sniffing.

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