



Preventive health – Alcohol and other drugs

The Australian Government will build safe and healthy communities through significant continued investment of \$74.1 million, to reduce the impact of drug and alcohol misuse.

Through this measure the Australian Government is supporting certainty of funding for alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services that have been required to modify their practices because of COVID-19, including:

- \$16.8 million to maintain funding for drug and alcohol treatment services, including residential rehabilitation services treating clients with severe substance use disorders
- More than 400 additional sporting clubs will join the Good Sports Program and be supported to develop and implement alcohol, illicit drugs, mental health and healthy eating policies
- \$1.5 million to support the Hello Sunday Morning Daybreak Program, available online or via mobile app, to help Australians who want to change their relationship with alcohol and live healthier lives, and
- \$49.9 million for additional alcohol and other drug treatment services to Cashless Debit Card participants and their communities.

Why is this important?

Alcohol is a major cause of preventable harm in Australia. In 2015, alcohol was the sixth leading risk factor contributing to about 4.5% of the disease burden across the country.

The use of methamphetamine or ice and other illicit drugs is a contributor to poor health outcomes, social dysfunction and criminality around Australia. The Australian Government is committed to building safe and healthy communities by reducing the impact of drug and alcohol misuse.

The Daybreak Program has helped more than 50,000 Australians reduce harmful alcohol consumption in an anonymous, safe, affordable and supportive environment. Online and telephone-based services overcome many of the barriers to people seeking support for healthier lifestyles, especially for women and people living in regional, rural and remote communities.

Sustainable funding for drug and alcohol treatment services is essential to ensure access to services for some of the most vulnerable members of the community, particularly in rural and remote areas where services are limited.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation currently supports approximately 10,000 Good Sports clubs with more than 2.6 million members across Australia. Among the aims of this program is to reduce sporting clubs' reliance on alcohol sales revenue. It also helps instill responsible

service of alcohol practices and other activities that discourage and reduce harmful drinking and drug use.

Who will benefit?

Australians who are affected by drug and alcohol misuse will benefit from these measures. This investment will particularly support vulnerable Australians to have access to treatment for the most severe substance abuse disorders, including services for mental health and substance abuse disorders that have been exacerbated by COVID-19.

The Good Sports program has a direct benefit for community sporting clubs and associations that participate. This also flows to their members, volunteers and families. It's also been found that such benefits go beyond the clubs themselves and contribute to their local communities as well.

How much will this cost?

The Australian Government is investing \$74.1 million over 2 years, from 2021–22.