



## Whole-of-Government Drug Strategy

The Government will continue to tackle drug and alcohol abuse, funding a comprehensive package to ensure people get the right services and support, when and where they need it. More alcohol and other drug treatment services will be established, including in rural, remote and regional areas. Additional investment in treatment centres include the OzCare residential rehabilitation facility in Mackay, QLD as well rehabilitation centres run by the Salvation Army. Additional investment through the National Ice Action Strategy will also expand the number of drug treatment services available in the community. Families and friends of people struggling with the impacts of illicit drug use will also be able to seek help through local family drug support services, to be rolled out nationally.

The Government will build on its efforts to reduce prescription opioid use. The Rural Health Outreach Fund will be expanded to give people better access to pain management specialist services and train providers to improve prescribing habits. An Australia-first take-home naloxone program will help reduce deaths caused by opioids. This is part of a comprehensive whole-of-government effort to address the supply of, demand for, and harm caused by, drugs.

### Why is this important?

The Government is committed to tackling drug and alcohol abuse. Illicit drugs, and the abuse of prescription drugs, can have a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities. Family and friends play an important role, providing support to people battling drug and alcohol issues. It is important that they, too, are supported. Providing on-the-ground, local support services – particularly in rural, regional and remote areas – will ensure that help can be found close to home.

Naloxone is a drug that can temporarily reverse opioid overdose. Rolling out this take-home naloxone program complements other steps the Government is taking to reduce opioid misuse. Improving access to specialist pain management services in rural Australia will help reduce the incidence of opioid misuse.

### Who will benefit?

People battling drug and alcohol issues, along with their families, will benefit from added support, particularly in rural, regional and remote areas.

### How much will this cost?

This will cost \$189.1 million from 2018–19 to 2022–23.