



## Federal Budget 2022-23

### Member Briefing

The Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC) has summarised measures from the Federal Budget 2022-23 relevant to the alcohol and other drugs sector and the communities we support.

#### National Ice Action Strategy

As announced on 20 March by the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt MP, this federal budget extends the National Ice Action Strategy (NIAS) by a further four years at a total figure of \$343.6 million. In addition to funding for alcohol and other drug treatment services which is delivered through the PHNs, this funding will go towards:

- increased funding to Local Drug Action Teams (LDATs)
- the Cracks in the Ice and Positive Choices web portal
- the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screen Test (ASSIST)
- the National Centre for Clinical Research on Emerging Drugs of Concern (NCCRED), and
- a further \$27.9 million for additional treatment services in areas of identified need.

#### Addressing alcohol as a major cause of preventable harm

The budget invests \$9.2 million in reducing the impact of alcohol and other drug-related harm through short-term extensions to funding for the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Good Sports Program and its Reducing harm from illicit drugs through support for families initiative; Hello Sunday Morning's Daybreak program; and the SMART Recovery online platform. A further \$8.5 million goes to the Red Dust Program in the Northern Territory to provide support in remote communities, including in relation to AOD and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

#### Digital access

Telehealth changes introduced in response to COVID-19 have been made permanent for services including: specialist; GP; nursing; allied health; and mental health attendances. This includes changes to exempt certain patient cohorts from the requirement of a pre-existing relationship with a doctor to access telehealth for consultations including: smoking cessation; section 100 PBS prescriptions; and, drug and alcohol counselling.

#### Take Home Naloxone Pilot

The Take Home Naloxone (THN) program has been expanded with \$19.6 million invested in making Naloxone available at no cost and without a prescription in all states and territories.

#### National peak body funding

AADC will receive \$1.15 million total funding over the next three years through the Health Peak and Advisory Bodies Program, placing us well to expand and grow programs and services to the sector over the coming years.

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