



WAPHA
WA Primary Health Alliance

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PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,
COUNTRY WA
An Australian Government Initiative

Media Release

WAPHA welcomes State Budget funding to tackle ice

13 May 2016

The WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) welcomes the State Government's announcement of \$14.9 million in its 2016-17 State Budget to tackle the health and social impact of methamphetamine (ice) use in WA.

The State funding, which is part of a funding boost for the Mental Health Commission over two years, includes;

- 52 methamphetamine rehabilitation beds;
- 8 low medical withdrawal beds;
- Drug support nurses to be placed in hospital Emergency Departments;
- A dedicated Ice helpline, and
- A pilot specialist methamphetamine clinic to provide rapid intervention and treatment.

WAPHA also welcomes the announcement of \$7.1m for the construction of a 10 bed Mental Health Observation Area at Joondalup Health Campus, which is intended to streamline the treatment of people with mental illnesses presenting at the hospital's busy Emergency Department.

WAPHA General Manager of Mental Health, Dr Danny Rock, said the State funding demonstrated the commitment by both levels of government to address the health impacts of ice use which is having a devastating impact on communities across the State and overwhelming hospital Emergency Departments.

In November 2015, the Australian Government announced that WAPHA, which operates WA's three PHNs, will share in \$241.5 million of funding over four years to commission new, regionally based alcohol and drug treatment services.

Dr Rock said WAPHA will continue to work collaboratively with the WA Mental Health Commission, Department of Health, health services and other agencies to improve health outcomes for Western Australians following the mental health and ice initiatives announced in the State Budget.



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“WAPHA and the WA PHNs are working closely with the WA Mental Health Commission and other key stakeholders to enhance the integrated delivery of mental health, alcohol and drug services across the State,” he said.

“These partnerships are key to the achievement of a more effective and efficient system of services, a reduction in the overlap and duplication of services and in addressing service gaps.

“The priority of WAPHA is to keep Western Australians well in the community.

“WAPHA has a unique opportunity to facilitate close alignment of Commonwealth and State primary care services in WA and to co-commission services where this is in the best interests of Western Australians.”

For more information:

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