

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## MORE THAN JUST ADDICTION

This week is Drug Action Week and today, Tuesday 19th June the focus is on treatment.

The 40 member agencies of the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association provide rehabilitation to over 4,000 drug and alcohol dependent people annually.

But they don't just treat the addiction. The focus of a Therapeutic Community is to treat the whole person and help them work through the underlying issues that their addiction has been obfuscating for many years.

Therapeutic Communities help people rebuild their lives, their relationships and their ability to be a contributing member of society. It gives them confidence in themselves, an ability to communicate with others and positive techniques for coping with negative impacts.

Neil had been in and out of goal for 10 years and abusing drugs and alcohol since he was 14. He had a violent nature, had not spoken to his mother for many years and had a string of broken relationships. The last job Neil had was as a drug runner for the local bikie gang. Since his rehabilitation Neil has been clean for 4 years. He now works in a nursery, visits his mother regularly and is about to get married. "It was hard work, facing my demons, but it was worth it. TCs gave me insight into myself and how aggressive I had been to others. I now have a new focus and a new life, and the best thing is I like myself."

Therapeutic Communities provide programs for adolescents, males, females, single parents and couples with children.

For more information contact:

Janice Jones, Executive Officer ATCA, MBL: 0422 904040