



MEDIA RELEASE

DRUG USE IN FAMILIES

The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) welcomes the report released today by the Australian National Council on Drugs on the number of Australian children living in households affected by alcohol or other drugs.

The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association represents forty Therapeutic Communities providing alcohol and other drug treatment in Australia & New Zealand. Of these forty, only 6 programs in Australia are resourced adequately to have the capacity to work with children of parent/s who have alcohol and/or other drug issues.

3 of these 6 programs rely on private fundraising to provide this service. The others struggle to maintain a level of government funding needed to work with these vulnerable families.

Ms Janice Jones, Executive Officer ATCA, said today, “Commonwealth and jurisdictional governments need to understand that alcohol and other drug issues cannot be treated in isolation, especially where families are concerned. Families have been overlooked for long enough. The expertise to work with the whole family is there, but treatment agencies need to be able to establish interventions to work with these children together with their families. This takes money and government commitment”.

The ATCA is calling for an improvement in funding by Commonwealth and jurisdictional governments for Therapeutic Communities and other agencies to allow them to focus on the whole family and the specific needs of these extremely vulnerable children.

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