



## MEDIA RELEASE

**The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association** welcomes the Prime Minister, John Howard's, announcement yesterday committing; *"over \$100 million for new drug rehabilitation services and further support for those in the drug and alcohol sector."*

It is reassuring to know that the Prime Minister acknowledges the positive work done by rehabilitation programs in addressing addiction and especially those addicted to methamphetamines.

Our Association currently has thirty members providing over 40 alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs throughout Australia and New Zealand. These Therapeutic Communities provide treatment to more than 3000 people annually, as well as supporting families affected by drug and alcohol abuse. **But still there are waiting lists.**

In his statement yesterday The Prime Minister said: *" we're going to put \$103 million into...strengthening the additional rehabilitation services, which means that organizations will get more money to do the things they are now doing so well and to do them better"*

Janice Jones the Executive Officer of the Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association said today; *"These new funds will help address the frustration families endure when trying to obtain treatment for their loved ones."*

*Sustainability of services has been a great concern for the sector recently, The increased costs of employing professional staff, meeting OH&S requirements and rising insurance premiums has meant that many services have had to cut programs. This additional funding will breath fresh life into addiction treatment services and provide the support families are searching for."*

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