



MEDIA RELEASE

PEAK BODY CALLS FOR MORE SUPPORT TO THE FAMILIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO ADDRESS GROWING ALCOHOL ABUSE

The Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA) congratulates the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) on the publication of its report into *Supporting the Families of Young People with Problematic Drug Use*.

This timely report coincides with the concerns of the Prime Minister, Mr. Kevin Rudd and his Health Minister, Ms Nicola Roxon, regarding the abuse of alcohol by young people. It provides the evidence that all Australians should be concerned about the effect alcohol abuse has on our society, not just in a fiscal sense, but also with regard to the heartache suffered by those impacted by alcohol abuse.

Ms Janice Jones, Executive Officer of the ATCA, said today, "There are 40 Therapeutic Communities in Australia providing treatment for those affected by alcohol and drug misuse and only five of these are designed to treat young people. This is not nearly adequate and does not go far enough in addressing the growing community concerns in relation to alcohol abuse, especially amongst young people".

In response to these concerns the ATCA is calling on the Federal Government to fund specifically designed Therapeutic Communities that will work with young people and their families.

Ms Jones added, "The modified Therapeutic Community model has been found to be especially useful in addressing the needs of young people. It provides a community model of support, while helping the young person address underlying personal and family issues within a structured and safe environment. Programs are also able to work with the extended family by addressing the family's concerns and supporting them to better communicate and support each family member".

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