



Western Australian Network of
Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

Media Statement

5 April 2018

Alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment answer to WA's methamphetamine crisis

National Inquiry Into Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice) Report Welcome

Prevention and treatment services have the potential to play a much bigger role in reducing Western Australia's high rates of methamphetamine use, according to the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA).

New figures released by the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program show that methamphetamine use across the state is almost double the national average.

"We can reduce demand for methamphetamine through funded prevention, education and treatment services," says WANADA CEO Jill Rundle. "For too long funding has favoured law enforcement over treatment and does not reflect the extent of methamphetamine use in WA."

WANADA therefore welcomes the final report of the Australian Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Crystal Methamphetamine, released last week. The Committee recommends that "governments re-balance alcohol and other drug funding across the three pillars of the National Drug Strategy (supply, demand and harm reduction strategies)" and that "the Department of Health considers using 2016 Census and National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program data to determine the allocation of National Ice Action Strategy funding for 2019–20."

"The benefits of change are clear, and strongly evidenced," says Ms Rundle. "The recommendations acknowledge the need for more equitable access to services, as well as for awareness campaigns that encourage people to seek treatment and support."

The Committee also identified that stigma and discrimination associated with alcohol and other drug use is a barrier to treatment.

"If we're to make a difference, the whole community needs to better understand the health and social factors that lead to alcohol and other drug-related harm," says Ms Rundle. "The media has an important role to play."

"We now have multiple Commonwealth, State and Territory Government reports that identify the need for change. We must act now to reduce methamphetamine-related harm in our communities."

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