

Media Release

1 February 2017

Alcohol and other Drug Sector 2017 WA State Election Forum

With alcohol and other drug issues prominent in the 2017 WA State Election, the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) is pleased to host the -

Alcohol and other Drug Sector 2017 WA State Election Forum

Thursday 2 February 2017

10am – 12.30pm

Level 1, 1 Nash Street, Perth

Facilitated by Cathy O'Leary, Health and Medical Editor at WA Newspapers, the event will hear from the Hon Andrea Mitchell MLA, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC and Greens WA candidate for the North Metropolitan region Alison Xamon.

Alcohol and other drug service CEOs, workers and consumers will participate in the forum to gain a better understanding of each party's approach to alcohol and other drug issues.

"Every year, thousands of individuals, families and communities experience harm related to their own or someone else's use of alcohol and other drugs," says WANADA Chairperson Terry Murphy. "Political leadership is needed to deliver a proactive, effective and evidenced approach to alcohol and other drug issues in Western Australia."

Priorities for the sector include:

- A comprehensive, long-term plan that is fully resourced to address alcohol and other drug education, prevention, treatment and support in Western Australia.
- An Aboriginal-specific alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation service in the state's south.
- A well-evidenced intensive therapeutic community treatment model within WA prisons to reduce recidivism and future crime.
- Lead initiatives that increase access to treatment and support, particularly by supporting cross-sector early intervention and addressing entrenched stigma and discrimination.

"Specialist services provided by the alcohol and other drug sector are proven to be effective and make a meaningful difference in the community," said Mr Murphy. "WANADA calls on state political parties to show genuine community leadership and support a diverse alcohol and other drug sector through increased resources."

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