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NADA releases new toolkit: *Tools for Change: A new way of working with families and carers*

The Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) recently launched the toolkit, *Tools for Change: A new way of working with families and carers*. The toolkit has been developed to assist non government drug and alcohol services in working with the families and carers of clients with co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol problems that are accessing their services.

Tools for Change was launched at the joint NADA/MHCC Conference, *Outside In: Community Responses to Complex and Diverse Needs* on Friday 8 May 2009 by Mr David McGrath, Director, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office, NSW Health. Mr McGrath congratulated NADA on the development of the toolkit, suggesting that the toolkit will become an invaluable resource in developing family inclusive practice within non government drug and alcohol services.

Mr Tony Trimingham of Family Drug Support provided his support at the launch, commending Government for funding projects that support families affected by substance misuse.

The toolkit has been developed by NADA in consultation with its membership and forms part of the NGO Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Family and Carer Project funded by the Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Office, NSW Health.

“During the consultation we identified that our members understood the benefits of working with families, but were looking for options and ideas to build their capacity in this area based on existing evidence,” Mr Robert Stirling from NADA said.

Tools for Change caters to the diverse range of services provided by NADA members, and the clients accessing those services. It contains a range of interventions, practice tips, service models, resources and training organisations to assist services in working with families. A CD-Rom is also included which contains useful tools such as template policies for working with families, a family inclusive practice workplace audit, assessment tools, checklists and a list of family and carer support services.

The toolkit will be distributed to non-government drug and alcohol services in NSW and will also be available for download on the NADA website at <http://www.nada.org.au/>. While the toolkit has been developed for non government drug and alcohol services, it is also transferable for use within any organisation that works with clients who have independent or co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol problems.

For more information on NADA’s Family and Carer Project please contact Robert Stirling on 02 8113 1320 or robert@nada.org.au.

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Larry Pierce, CEO of NADA is available for interview on 02 8113 1311 or 0411 747 106 or email larry@nada.org.au.

NADA is the peak body for non government drug and alcohol services across NSW.

Visit www.nada.org.au for further information.