

Dear member,

NADA has received the final report from the recent NSW Upper House Health and Community Services Standing Committee on the 'Provision of drug rehabilitation services in regional, rural and remote NSW'. NADA and many of our members provided submissions to the inquiry and provided evidence at consultations the inquiry hosted in Parliament House and across the state. We are pleased to see the report reflects these consultations and the views of the non government specialist AOD sector, and we are very pleased with the reports major recommendations. The NADA Board has endorsed the recommendations and we have written to the committee, to the Premier and to the Health Minister in response. We are currently seeking a meeting with Minister Hazzard to discuss the report recommendations and their implementation.

NADA plans to make the recommendations from this important committee report a key element of our advocacy campaign for the upcoming state election in 2019. We therefore seek the support of our members in endorsing the report recommendations and will actively engage with you in terms of our advocacy on your behalf over the coming months. We have copied the recommendations from the committee report below for your information.

[Click here for a copy of the full report.](#)

Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1 62

That the NSW Ministry of Health implement, as a matter of urgency, a population-based planning tool, such as the Drug and Alcohol Service Planning model, to ascertain what rehabilitation services and how many beds are required throughout New South Wales, and in which regions.

Recommendation 2 64

That the NSW Government significantly increase funding to drug and alcohol-related health services, and use the data gathered through the population-based planning tool as outlined in recommendation 1, to:

- tender for the establishment of more residential rehabilitation services throughout regional New South Wales, including facilities for women and children, Aboriginal people, and young people including those aged 13 to 16
- tender for the establishment of more detoxification services throughout regional New South Wales, including facilities for Aboriginal people and young people
- investigate the benefits of establishing multi-purpose facilities in regional areas that provide detoxification, residential rehabilitation and outpatient services
- fund local social services and Aboriginal Medical Services in regional, rural and remote New South Wales to assist in transporting patients to and from drug and alcohol treatments
- provide incentives for qualified drug and alcohol professionals to relocate to regional areas and to upskill workers based in regional areas
- work with universities, in collaboration with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, on initiatives to develop more specialists in the drug and alcohol field
- investigate the efficacy of subsidising beds in regionally-based private, for-profit residential rehabilitation facilities to ensure more people from regional areas can access rehabilitation.

Recommendation 3 65

That the NSW Ministry of Health, as a matter of urgency, establish a central register for New South Wales of all available beds and facilities for drug and alcohol rehabilitation, which:

- includes real-time data concerning wait lists and wait times
- encompasses private health and medical services
- is publicly available as a resource for service providers, legal professionals and the community.

Recommendation 4 65

That the NSW Government conduct a review of the Drug Court and the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment program, including the feasibility of establishing them in additional regional areas.

Recommendation 5 65

That the NSW Government pilot a Drug Court in Dubbo in parallel with an increase in rehabilitation services for the area.

Recommendation 6 66

That the NSW Government:

- commit to providing funding grants to non-government drug and alcohol-related service providers that run for a minimum of three years, with the option for a two year extension
- advocate through the Council of Australian Governments for the Australian Government to commit to the same practice.

Recommendation 7 66

That the NSW Government establish a standards framework for the private, for-profit residential rehabilitation industry.

Recommendation 8 66

That the NSW Government ensure that public housing tenants who undertake residential drug rehabilitation or detoxification, not exceeding 12 months, do not lose their housing while undergoing treatment.

Recommendation 9 66

That the NSW Government:

- acknowledge the health, social and economic benefits of prevention of drug and alcohol abuse
- investigate the efficacy of implementing a state-wide school nurse program which includes targeting young people with preventative action and support.

Recommendation 10 83

That the NSW Ministry of Health report to the NSW Parliament annually on the progress of the implementation and outcomes of the Good Health – Great Jobs: Aboriginal Workforce Strategic Framework 2016-2020 in regards to the drug and alcohol rehabilitation sector.

Recommendation 11 83

That the NSW Government investigate the efficacy of establishing a scheme to establish a full time local Aboriginal trainee position alongside every skilled position recruited in areas with a significant Aboriginal population.

Recommendation 12 83

That the NSW Government:

- trial adult and youth Koori Courts in various regional New South Wales locations for a period of twelve months
- then conduct a comprehensive review to determine the appropriateness and need for further Koori Courts in other locations in regional New South Wales.

For more information

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