

Media Release

PHNs funded to tackle ice

7 December 2015

The Federal Government announced yesterday that they will invest almost \$300 million over four years to improve treatment, after care, education, prevention, support and community engagement to tackle the drug ice.

In the announcement made by the Prime Minister, Mr Turnbull said that his government would adopt all 38 recommendations from the National Ice Taskforce, with most of the funding expected to go to 'grassroots' organisations.

From the package \$241.5 million is to be invested through the 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs), which will use their local knowledge to boost the alcohol and other drug treatment sector and reduce demand for ice.

Murray PHN Chief Executive Officer Matt Jones said that he is pleased that the support to addressing methamphetamine usage involves additional funding and the ability to enable communities to develop locally responsive solutions.

"Murray PHN will work with service providers and local communities to identify, develop and commission treatment services that will be based upon addressing need and most effective and required responses. The approach to addressing ice use incorporates support to empower communities, prevention, treatment, research and law enforcement.

"The highly pervasive and extremely destructive consequences of ice usage requires a comprehensive and coordinated community based response. The initiatives recently announced by the Prime Minister and Assistant Health Minister are a significant development to help communities to be able to work together to access tailored treatment services as part of much needed comprehensive and coordinated approach," said Mr Jones.

The remainder of the package will consist of;

- An additional \$13 million to introduce new MBS items for Addiction Medicine Specialists to increase the availability of treatment.
- An additional \$24.9 million to help families and communities by providing the resources, information and support they need to respond to ice.
- An additional \$18.8 million to establish better research, evidence and guidelines on ice, including a new Centre for Clinical Excellence for Emerging Drugs of Concern.

Media contact

For more details, contact Murray PHN Communications Coordinator Zhoe Jess on 0400 952120 or email communications@murrayphn.org.au