



Press Release

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Service welcomes the announcement of increased funding and training for workers assisting people with alcohol and other drugs issues.

Today the Commonwealth Government through Primary Health Tasmania have announced the funding of a Workforce Development Project for the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector.

“Whilst alcohol and other drugs are less of an issue for the Aboriginal community compared to what we see in the wider community; it is absolutely vital that we have well trained and capable Alcohol and Other Drug Workers”, said Ms June Sculthorpe of the service.

“We are pleased that the government has chosen the Drug Education Network of Tasmania to undertake the Project”, said Mr Jessop Training and Development Coordinator for the Service. “We know from past dealing with the DEN that they understand the issues facing Aboriginal people and have the expertise and skills to complete such a project. We are very excited by the staff development that will come with the project” he added.

Aboriginal people also suffer more affects and the risk of chronic disease from even moderate drinking over time. “So programs that reduce the consumption of these substances are a good thing”, said Ms Sculthorpe. With this sort of extensive certified training all Health Services working with Aboriginal people can improve and expand their current range of services to reach more people more of the time, and more effectively. “These enhancements will add to our extensive A&OD Services” said Ms Sculthorpe.

“We look forward to training and qualifying over 20 new Cert IV Alcohol and Other Drug Workers, most of whom will also be Aboriginal people, for the Aboriginal Community across Tasmania. The project will be run both in the North and South and is open to all Services working with alcohol and other drugs and Aboriginal people”, said Mr Jessop.

Importantly the Project will work within the sector, with quality face to face training, and projects to enhance their workplaces. “This is not micky-mouse training and is designed to grow the whole sector. As a fully funded project it is great news to the workers and their employers as there is no upfront costs or fees to pay off after you complete”, concluded Mr Jessop.

For further information contact the DEN.

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