

MEDIA RELEASE

Mental health and drug abuse support welcomed

Medicines Australia welcomes the Government's announcement of \$214.1 million in new funding for programmes to combat illicit drug use, tackle alcohol misuse and support of drug and alcohol treatment services in Australia.

Mental illness, including schizophrenia, and drug and alcohol abuse can go hand in hand and the Government's initiative will help address this issue.

It is an important and substantial commitment of the Government's to communicate to the public the link between illicit drug use and mental health.

Medicines Australia is also pleased to see \$10 million for education and training measures to strengthen the capacity of drug and alcohol counsellors, psychologists and clinicians to deal more effectively with psychostimulants, including ecstasy and amphetamines. This money will also go towards the development of new treatment options for people using psychostimulants.

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