



Western Australian Network of  
Alcohol & other Drug Agencies

## Media Statement 16 December 2021

### Report Exposes Costs – and Harms – of Alcohol

A new report on the social and economic costs of alcohol use exposes the extensive impact of alcohol on our community.

Alcohol costs Australia at least \$66.8 billion each year according to a report released by the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University today. *Examining the Social and Economic Costs of Alcohol Use in Australia: 2017/18*, looks at costs including non-inpatient health care - such as GP, ED, and ambulance services - workplace costs; criminal justice; and road traffic accidents.

“The alcohol and other drug treatment and support sector are seeing the increasing impact of alcohol in the community,” says Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (WANADA) CEO Jill Rundle. “Alcohol has long been the Principal Drug of Concern for the sector. Every day, throughout the state, these services see the harms, and hardships, caused by alcohol use.”

“I am concerned that the impact of the pandemic may have worsened this already alarming situation” says Ms Rundle. “WANADA encourages all Western Australians to talk about the impact of alcohol in our lives and in our communities, and contribute to the discussion needed to address individual, family and community harms.”

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WANADA is the peak body for the alcohol and other drug sector and represents over 90 member services throughout Western Australia that provide prevention, treatment and support in the community.

Anyone wanting information, treatment or support related to their own or another person’s alcohol or other drug use is encouraged to contact the Alcohol and Drug Support Service on (08) 9442 5000 / 1800 198 024. The service is free, confidential and available 24/7.

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