



Call for Political Party Commitments – State Election 2017

Alcohol and other drugs are a health issue that requires urgent attention. Western Australia's alcohol and other drug use statistics are significantly above the national average.

Political leadership is needed to deliver a proactive and evidenced approach to address the complexity of alcohol and other drug issues in our communities.

WANADA calls for a commitment from State Leadership to:

1. Improve the funding balance across alcohol and other drug law enforcement, treatment and harm reduction to deliver sustainable and cost effective outcomes. This includes a need to:
 - quarantine alcohol and other drug treatment and harm reduction resources from funding cuts until state statistics demonstrate we have addressed the issue and significantly reduced community concern.
2. Maintain a comprehensive long term plan that is fully resourced to address alcohol and other drug education, prevention, treatment and support in Western Australia. This approach must:
 - be driven by the needs of local communities and the sector
 - fast track the long overdue Aboriginal-specific alcohol and other drug residential service in the south of the State
 - ensure all Western Australian communities can access the alcohol and other drug services they need, particularly at-risk and marginalised population groups
 - develop centres of excellence offering state-wide systems of support for consistent best practice and maximised cost efficiency
 - guarantee prevention initiatives are founded on community engagement to maximise relevance and facilitate better, more informed choices
 - support the demonstration of outcomes and value for money through an improved data system that will also enable informed policy, planning and practice.
3. Implement the well-evidenced intensive therapeutic community treatment model within Western Australian prisons to reduce recidivism and future crime.
4. Lead initiatives that increase access to treatment and support, particularly by supporting cross-sector early intervention and addressing entrenched stigma and discrimination.
5. Recognise community concern, and clearly demonstrate government commitment, by having the titles of the relevant minister's portfolio and government department specifically reference alcohol and other drugs.