



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

September 22, 2017

Local Drug Action Team to be rolled out tackling drug use in the Granite Belt

ICE: It's one of the most destructive and addictive drugs of our time and Maranoa MP David Littleproud has made it his mission to fight this scourge by securing funding to deliver targeted local action on the Granite Belt.

"Tackling ice has always been a strong commitment for me as drug and alcohol addiction destroys families and our communities," Mr Littleproud said.

"That's why the Coalition Federal Government has joined forces with the Community Development Services to deliver targeted local action to help tackle drug use and addiction by forming the Granite Belt Drug Action Team.

"Under this program, the Granite Belt Drug Action Team will receive an initial \$10,000 in funding to deliver support services in the region."

Across Australia, the Coalition Federal Government will invest \$19.2 million in funding to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation for the Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) program and, over the next three years, 220 LDAT will be rolled out.

"In Maranoa, two LDAT are active in the Balonne and Blackall-Tambo regions and today the Granite Belt and Paroo Shire teams were announced but I'm also working to secure other targeted local action in other regions in my electorate," he said.

Mr Littleproud's passion to develop locally focused and responsive action plans to reduce the impact of drugs – with a particular focus on ice – has kicked off an innovative approach.

"This year I've held forums across Maranoa – including the Southern Downs – to ensure our unique community needs are represented in the approach to tackle ice," he said.

"There are more than 200,000 Australians using ice so, to help people stop using, we need to get the right mix of services and I believe community involvement is key to securing the best outcomes for our rural communities.

"Whether you're a user, recovering from addiction, family member, medical professional, involved in community support or law enforcement – and everyone in-between – we need an open and honest discussion and that's what my forums delivered.

"Because what works in one region may not be suitable for another community and that's why a targeted and engaged approach is so important."

The LDAT initiative is part of the Coalition Federal Government's \$298 million investment, over four years, to combat illicit drug and alcohol use.

The Coalition Government has already made significant investments in policing our borders and streets to combat the supply of ice. The AFP has seized more than 12 tonnes of methamphetamine since January 2013.

Interested community groups can apply for the next application round, which opens in late 2017. For more Local Drug Action Teams information, visit: www.adf.org.au/ldat

A new, web-based toolkit has also been launched providing tailored information for those affected by ice and addiction (including users, community groups, families, friends, teachers and frontline service providers). Visit: cracksintheice.org.au

Fact box: What's 'ice' and its consequences?

- Also referred to as crystal meth, ice is the purest and most potent form of methamphetamine and is highly addictive.
- Methamphetamine psychosis – which can last hours or, if symptoms are severe, can last for days – can involve feeling overly suspicious, hearing and seeing things that aren't real and can result in violent outbursts.
- Apart from being illegal, behaviours associated with ice can cause significant disruption and distress for families, friends and the community. Misuse can play a role in family dysfunction, breakdown and conflict, financial stress and mental health issues.

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Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
