



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

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More funding to strengthen Paroo's Local Drug Action Team to tackle ICE

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 a total of \$25,000 in funding to deliver targeted local action in the Paroo region.

"The Coalition Federal Government has joined forces with the Paroo Shire Council to deliver targeted local action to help tackle drug use and addiction by forming the Mentoring Matters Local Drug Action Team," Mr Littleproud said.

"Under Round One and Two of this program, Mentoring Matters has already received \$10,000 in funding and this injection will bolster funding in the Paroo to a total of \$25,000 so far to deliver support services – particularly focusing on engaging with young people – in the region."

Mentoring Matters is one of 16 programs around Australia to receive additional funding for community level projects. In Maranoa, the Care Balonne program also received extra funding.

"Tackling ice has always been a strong commitment for me as drug and alcohol addiction destroys families and our communities – that's why this locally-focused action team is so important in stamping out this scourge," he said.

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, four LDATs are active in the Balonne, Blackall-Tambo, Granite Belt and Paroo regions 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.

"I've held forums across Maranoa – with more forums to come at the end of the year – 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 deliver.

“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.

All community groups are urged to consider joining the LDAT program, with the next application process to open on January 18, 2018.

For more information on the program or details on how to apply, organisations are encouraged to visit <https://adf.org.au/programs/local-drug-action-teams/>

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