



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

January 9, 2018

More funding to strengthen the Balonne'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 \$30,000 in funding to deliver targeted local action in the Balonne.

"The Coalition Federal Government has joined forces with Care Balonne Indigenous to deliver a clinical youth worker to help tackle drug use and addiction through the Local Drug Action Team program," Mr Littleproud said.

"Care Balonne has already received \$10,000 in funding and this injection will bolster funding in the region to a total of \$30,000 so far through Round One and Two.

"The new funding for a clinical youth worker will see a focus on strengthening social inclusion and connectedness to Indigenous culture, all while delivering drug and alcohol education."

During police raids in October, the St George community has said, 'enough was enough' and took a strong stand in the fight against drugs as 25 people were arrested during raids in the town.

"Local police said my St George Community Ice Forum, held in August, played a part in this result and I'm glad we were all able to pull together because the community have shown they don't want drugs in their town," he said.

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

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

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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