



Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITIES GIVEN MORE POWER TO TACKLE DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE

Communities across the state will have more opportunity to reduce the local impacts of drug and alcohol abuse under a plan announced by the NSW Government today.

Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, Kevin Humphries, said that for the first time the Government will partner with the NGO sector to support NSW's Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs) to transform our local communities by raising awareness and tackling drug and alcohol related issues.

"Government action and services alone cannot meet the challenges posed by alcohol abuse, and that is why groups like CDATs are so important," Mr Humphries said.

"There are currently over 80 CDATs across NSW that undertake various projects in response to alcohol misuse including poster campaigns, information days, youth forums, music festivals and mentoring programs.

"CDATs are formed by local communities and they consist of community members who understand how their local communities work and how change can occur at a local level.

"The NSW Government wants to increase community participation in CDATs and their capacity to bring about real change.

"Through partnering with the NGO sector, the Government is aligning CDATs more closely with the sector which best understands community development and can most effectively support community based responses to drug and alcohol issues."

Mr Humphries said tenders to run the Community Engagement & Action Program - which supports the CDATs - opened today and will run until 21 May 2013.

"Through working with the community sector more closely, the NSW Government will ensure that the Community Engagement & Action Program has access to the strategic direction, skills and resources required to support and train CDATs and increase the number of people participating in these outstanding community groups," Mr Humphries said.

Key tender documents and application processes may be viewed at: www.tenders.nsw.gov.au/health. More information about CDATs and drug and alcohol services is available at: www.yourroom.com.au/Community-Action/.