

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Immediate release

**NEW FUNDING BOOSTS EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND  
REDUCE ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG-RELATED HARMS IN COVID-19**

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation has commended the Australian Government's \$6 million funding announcement for drug and alcohol-related services during Covid-19, saying it will play a key role in preventing and reducing harms such as accidents, violence and dependence.

Chief Executive Officer Dr Erin Lalor AM welcomed the funding, which includes \$2 million to support the Alcohol and Drug Foundation roll out initiatives to improve health and wellbeing during isolation.

"It's really tough at the moment and we know that in times of crisis some people turn to alcohol and other drugs as a coping mechanism," Dr Lalor said.

"What we don't want to see on top of current challenges is an increase in alcohol and drug use leading to an increase in dependence and other harms, such as violence, accidents or injuries.

"The new funding will support important efforts to increase awareness of the risks associated with alcohol consumption during isolation, help people understand the signs they may be developing problems with alcohol and steps to reduce intake," Dr Lalor added.

The awareness campaign will provide information, help and support relating to alcohol and other drugs and improve people's knowledge of where to get help. It will also assist with the launch of an online initiative for communities to connect and develop health promotion activities to prevent alcohol and drug harms during isolation.

"Feeling isolated is a risk factor for increased alcohol and other drug use. It's really important at this time that people strengthen their connections with others," Dr Lalor explained.

"We want to help and encourage community members as much as we can to stay connected with family, friends and others around them, even if it can't be face to face at the moment," Dr Lalor added.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation is strongly committed to supporting all Australians with quality information to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm. For further information about alcohol use and ways to reduce related harms during COVID-19, please visit <https://adf.org.au/covid-19/>

For free and confidential drug information or support, we encourage people to visit [www.adf.org.au](http://www.adf.org.au) or call [the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's DrugInfo line on 1300 85 85 84](tel:1300858584). The non-judgmental service provides the facts about alcohol and other drugs, advice on how to support loved ones, and connects people with relevant health and support services in their state and territory.

**ENDS**

For media enquiries please call the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's media team on 0430 948 380 or email [media@adf.org.au](mailto:media@adf.org.au)

**About the Alcohol and Drug Foundation:** Celebrating 60 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is one of Australia's leading bodies committed to preventing and minimising alcohol and other drug harms in communities around the nation. The Foundation reaches millions of Australians in local communities through sporting clubs, workplaces, health care settings and schools, offering educational information, drug and alcohol prevention programs and advocating for strong and healthy communities.

**The Power of Words:** There's power in the language we use to talk about alcohol and other drugs, and people who use alcohol and other drugs. Stigmatising language can negatively impact on a person's health, wellbeing and relationships. Using person-centric language, instead of focusing on an individual's substance use, has the power to reduce stigma and improve health and social outcomes. For a guide to using non-stigmatising language, please see the [Power of Words](#) or the [Mindframe Guidelines](#).