

MEDIA RELEASE

5 February 2019

Drug and alcohol services boosted to tackle ice in CQ

The PHN welcomes today's announcement by the Minister for Regional Services, and the Government's ongoing investment in alcohol and drug services.

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast Primary Health Network (the PHN) will use the funding to continue to improve access to services for individuals and families affected by drug and alcohol use.

PHN Senior Manager for Central Queensland, Riaz Ahmed said, "By talking to people across the region, we know many communities are struggling with the effects of alcohol and other drugs, including methamphetamine (ice).

"A key challenge we see for people in regional and remote communities is accessing services locally.

"As a result, our programs focus on increasing on the ground services in regional and remote communities across CQ. Being able to see a qualified counsellor in your own community is a vital step for individuals and families in addressing problematic drug and alcohol use.

"Extending the hours that services are available is another way we support communities. Drug and alcohol problems aren't confined to business hours, and this funding has allowed us to offer counselling, withdrawal and support services for clients at the times they need it.

"This funding will help members of our community get their lives back on track and provide more opportunities for people to access the help they need."

***** **ENDS** *****

**For media enquiries or to arrange an interview, please contact Jess Barr 0404 159 763
communications@ourphn.org.au**