

## Media Release

11 December 2018

### **DIRECTIONS HEALTH WELCOMES ACT DRUG STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

Directions Health Services welcomes the ACT Drug Strategy Action Plan 2018-21 released today, particularly its focus on harm reduction.

“We have been calling for additional safe injecting spaces in Canberra, so would certainly support establishment of a medically supervised drug consumption facility,” Directions Health Services CEO, Bronwyn Hendry said.

“Expanding access to naloxone and pill testing has the potential to save lives. We are pleased to see these are priority actions under the plan.”

Canberrans impacted by alcohol and other drugs can struggle to access health care services, yet often experience the highest burden of disease.

“The commitment to improve pathways between AOD services and primary care is important. We would particularly like to see initiatives which deliver services where they are needed rather than rely on traditional settings,” Ms Hendry said.

“Demand for AOD services in the ACT is increasing, making it vital for funding of services to not only continue over the life of the Action Plan, but keep pace with the growing number of Canberrans reaching out for support.

“We commend the ACT Government on its commitment to working collaboratively with the AOD services sector to minimise harms from alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. The proposed broad make-up of the Advisory Group will help achieve the objectives and outcomes of the plan.

“Directions Health looks forward to helping implement the priorities that will make the greatest difference in the lives of Canberrans, that will reduce substance-related harm and improve personal and public health.”

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