



## ANNOUNCEMENT

1<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL FAMILY DRUG SUPPORT DAY  
24<sup>TH</sup> February 2016



The inaugural National Family Drug Support Day will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

The event will be celebrated at Parliament House Canberra at 10am and there will be other State events held around Australia. For updated details on all events go to <http://nationalfdsday.fds.org.au/>

Drugs affect all members of the community but it is the families and drug users themselves who bear the brunt of the problems. The National Day will deliver some key messages for affected families.

Tony Trimingham - Founder and CEO of Family Drug Support stated:

*'Any family anywhere in Australia, regardless of background, economic and other circumstances can be affected by drugs. Drug users and their families are often misrepresented, stereotyped and discriminated against. Families struggle with the negative effects of drug use. This is a barrier to them seeking help and support and hinders the prospect of positive outcome. We hope this new annual event will reach members of the community and change some of the negative attitudes that exist. We also hope it will encourage affected families to reach out for support – Let's Talk'.*

Mr Trimmingham also said *'Criminalising drug use has the opposite effect of what is intended. It hinders progress, wastes valuable resources and adds to the burdens carried by families. We hope to increase the understanding of dealing with drug use in the way the disability and mental health sectors have been successful in achieving!'*

As well as the key themes of:-

- 1) Reducing shame, stigma and discrimination for families
- 2) Promoting support services for families and friends affected by drug use
- 3) Promoting harm reduction to keep people safe

We also will be highlighting

- 1) The importance of volunteers in providing family support across Australia
- 2) Reducing fatal and non-fatal overdoses and other critical incidences as a result of drug use
- 3) Promoting greater support and resources for treatment services
- 4) How by giving people support and education can help families develop skills and strategies to deal with issues arising from drug use

There will be key speakers at each event and to keep up to date with speakers, events and other information on the National Family Drug Support Day please visit our website regularly for updates <http://nationalfdsday.fds.org.au/>

We would also like to acknowledge the vital support of sponsors and supporters. These are important organisations and networks that will help families have the confidence to reach out and talk.

Please see Our Sponsors at <http://nationalfdsday.fds.org.au/our-sponsors>

- ❖ Indivior
- ❖ Australian Drug Foundation
- ❖ We Help Ourselves (WHOS)
- ❖ Ogilvy CommonHealth
- ❖ Damian Trimmingham Foundation (DTF)

Please see Our Supporters at <http://nationalfdsday.fds.org.au/our-supporters>

- ❖ Alcohol & Other Drugs Peak National Network
- ❖ Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)
- ❖ Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)
- ❖ Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
- ❖ Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
- ❖ Drug & Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre (DAMEC)
- ❖ Harm Reduction Australia (HRA)
- ❖ National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACHHO)
- ❖ National Indigenous Substance Misuse Council (NISMIC)
- ❖ Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA)
- ❖ ScriptWise
- ❖ We Help Ourselves (WHOS)

For more details of the event and how to become involved please contact FDS on 02 47829222 or Tony Trimmingham on 0412 414 444