



## MEDIA RELEASE

# “Behind every drug user is a family”

18<sup>TH</sup> January 2016



In 2012 the ABS reported that there were over 1,400 fatalities due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco).

All across the country families have been left devastated by these tragedies.

NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
485	317	292	170	98	40	23	9

The truth is that many of these deaths were preventable and the failure to do so has families having to now deal with ongoing grief and stigma created by loss of a family member to drug use.

Tony Trimingham - CEO and founder of Family Drug Support and organiser of the National Family Drug Support Day on the 24<sup>th</sup> February said today:

*“Behind every statistic, at least ten other people are affected and in all our efforts to deal with Australian drug issues we have to make sure families are not forgotten. We have to ensure families aware that support is available and accessible.*

*The National Day will focus awareness on the importance of family support and will help reduce the number of drug fatalities and other negative impacts and harms from drug use. It is essential that Australia commits to assisting families to cope and be effective in dealing with drug users!”*

Mr Trimingham who lost his 23 year old son Damien to a heroin overdose in 1997 and added:

*“When someone dies it is the end of hope- but not the end of pain. Too many families have suffered the grief due to fatalities- over 20,000 in the 19 years since Damien died.”*

**February 24 is the date for families and to recognise the day.**

For details of the event and registration go to <http://nationalfdsday.fds.org.au>

For enquiries please contact FDS on 02 47829222 or Tony Trimingham on 0412 414 444

We would also like to acknowledge the vital support of our sponsors and supporters.

- ❖ Indivior
- ❖ Australian Drug Foundation
- ❖ We Help Ourselves (WHOS)
- ❖ Ogilvy CommonHealth
- ❖ Damien Trimingham Foundation (DTF)
- ❖ Alcohol & Other Drugs Peak National Network
- ❖ Australasian Therapeutic Communities Association (ATCA)
- ❖ 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 (NACCHO)
- ❖ National Indigenous Substance Misuse Council (NISMIC)
- ❖ Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA)
- ❖ Scriptwise