



Hon Geoff Wilson
Member for Ferny Grove



Minister for Health

MI177540

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 9 September 2011, regarding Petition No. 1768-11, requesting an allocation in the next State budget, of funding to alcohol and drug services to provide specialist staff to develop and maintain treatment and referral linkages with key health and social services.

Under the *2011-2012 Queensland Drug Action Plan*, Queensland Health is working with the Department of Communities to increase linkages between clients and treatment services. Queensland Health is also establishing a regional network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and drug youth services to strengthen access to early intervention and treatment programs for young Indigenous people.

Queensland Health provides funding of approximately \$385,000 per annum to the Queensland Network of Alcohol and Drug Alliance (QNADA) to work with Queensland Health strategic leaders to improve coordination between non-government and Government alcohol and other drug services for people with substance use problems. For example, QNADA is a member of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service Improvement Group and the Alcohol, Other Drugs and Mental Health Collaborative.

These strategic committees are focused on improving the treatment and referral of clients to the services they need to make a difference to their outcomes. In addition, Queensland Health provides approximately \$20 million to 30 non-government agencies to provide longer term residential and non-residential rehabilitation and withdrawal support for people recovering from acute substance use problems. These services work closely with a wide variety of family counselling, housing, employment and education services to prevent relapse and to assist people participate in the community.

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Facilitating service coordination and reducing the barriers to effective referral pathways to other Government, non-government and private health and social services are core business of the 51 Queensland Health Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Services delivering treatment to people with often complex problems, including co-occurring mental illness. Strengthening the capacity of services to work collaboratively in the interests of the client is a priority for Queensland Health.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Health