



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Upper House Committee calls on the government to significantly increase funding to regional drug and alcohol health services

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6 August 2018**

The Upper House committee inquiry into the provision of rehabilitation services to regional, rural and remote New South Wales has today tabled its report.

The committee travelled to several regional locations throughout the state to examine the unique challenges faced by regional drug and alcohol services firsthand. They heard from public and private service providers in Nowra, Batemans Bay, Dubbo, Broken Hill, Grafton and Lismore. The committee benefitted from hearing the personal experiences of health care providers, rehabilitation workers, survivors of drug and alcohol addiction and representatives from regional Aboriginal communities.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, said, "...this report, indeed I would argue any report, simply cannot capture the utter misery, dysfunction, violence, humiliation, brokenness, despair and in far too many cases, the tragic loss of life caused by alcohol and drug addiction."

Mr Donnelly continued, "... there is no doubt that more, indeed much more can be done to assist so may in great need who suffer from alcohol and drug addiction in regional, rural and remote New South Wales. Citizens of this state who happen to live away from the major population centres should, in the 21st century, not have to experience such disadvantage."

The recommendations in this report call on the government to significantly increase drug and alcohol rehabilitation funding and services in regional, rural and remote New South Wales. The report also recommends several measures for addressing drug and alcohol related crime throughout the state.

Mr Donnelly particularly acknowledged the participants from Aboriginal communities across the state, "I wish to specifically thank all those Aboriginal men and women who are working so diligently and selflessly to care and support those in their communities suffering from alcohol and drug addiction. Your voices were heard and we must do more to assist you."

The committee will hold a press conference in the Media Room on Level 6 at NSW Parliament at \_\_\_\_ am/pm today. Further information about the inquiry, including the final report, submissions and hearing transcripts, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, on 9230 2280*