

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Winemakers support focus on drug and alcohol services**

The Winemakers' Federation of Australia applauds the attention paid to the needs of people requiring drug and alcohol related services at the most recent meeting of the Australian National Council on Drugs.

"The ANCD is the principal advisory body to the Government on drug and alcohol policy, so it is both appropriate and pleasing to see it discussing the importance of such services being considered as part of health care reforms," said WFA's chief executive, Stephen Strachan.

"This can only be a win-win. There is evidence from other countries that targeting at-risk groups within the general population can be successful in changing the abuse profile of high-risk drinkers. At the same time, greater coordination of intervention activities can reduce the long-term disease burden and acute care requirements on the Australian health system.

"As the health and hospitals reform package is rolled out across Australia, there is a real opportunity to address the preventative health needs of many Australians specifically affected by alcohol abuse without the need to penalise the vast majority who consume responsibly."

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