

MEDIA RELEASE



International Family Drug Support Day 2020

Families Welcome Significant Announcement by The Australian Government

24 February 2020

Founder and CEO of Family Drug Support (FDS), Tony Trimingham OAM, who started the organisation after the death of his son Damien 23 years ago to the day welcomed the Australian Government funding announcement on such an important day:

“In the 20 years Family Drug Support has been supporting families dealing with alcohol and other drugs we have had many ups and downs.

Today has been an excellent day thanks to the announcement from the Health Minister, the Hon Greg Hunt, announcing funding to allow FDS to continue our national toll-free telephone support line for families.

This funding will enable FDS to recruit and train volunteers in all jurisdictions. The national number - 1300 368 186 currently receives over 25,000 calls each year from families dealing with drug and alcohol issues and are answered by our trained and dedicated volunteers”

This is the 5th year of International Family Drug Support Day and FDS wishes to thank the speakers at the Federal Parliament House event and indeed all the events held around Australia and across the world. Today, in Canberra, the Minister of Health Greg Hunt, Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Senator Richard Di Natale, Rebekha Sharkie and Senator Jacqui Lambie, as well as family members, all spoke in support of FDS and this international day of recognition for families. The unanimity of support across political views for families dealing with drug and alcohol issues is vitally important for families.

FDS also thanks our many sponsors and the courageous family members who spoke at International FDS Day event. We particularly appreciate their tributes to the importance of supporting families and the work of Family Drug Support.

Mr Trimingham added:

“This funding will ensure a continuous operation of our 24 hour 7 day a week support line and referral to our support groups and courses as well referral to treatment services”.

Highlighting the important work of FDS, family member Anne also welcomed the announcement and added:

“Family Drug Support is more than a telephone support line. It is a community of people - many of whom have experienced what we are experiencing. FDS supports families and friends, as we navigate our way through the chaos of knowing that someone we love uses drugs. FDS support comes in many ways - support groups, the telephone line, and workshops. The support is always there - it is never judgmental and is always caring. FDS helps families to manage our fear, and the chaos that happens when someone you love is using drugs. I firmly believe that we, as a family, would not have survived without the love and support of the FDS community.”

The [Australian Government has announced](#) it will be providing \$900,000 to Family Drug Support Australia so it can continue providing a free 24-hour support line for families dealing with drug issues over the next three years. This is in addition to the support for the Family Drug Support’s Bridging the Divide activities already supported by the Australian Government.

Mr Trimingham in particular wanted to thank the many [sponsors](#) and [supporters](#) that are helping mark the date and supporting families.

For more information about International Family Drug Support Day please visit: [International Family Drug Support Day](#)

For further information, please contact:

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About Family Drug Support

- Established by Tony Trimingham in 1997, Family Drug Support volunteers take over 25,000 calls to their support line every year.
- The Service provides 24/7 support (Phone: 1300 368186) and support groups in capital cities and a growing number of regional centres.
- FDS also offers the Stepping Stones course for families/friends supporting someone with drug and/or alcohol problems.
- For more information, visit: www.fds.org.au