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**Supplementary submission to the Inquiry into public communication
campaigns targeting drug and substance abuse**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this supplementary submission to this Inquiry. The PFA made an initial submission to this Inquiry in January 2020 (submission number 9 on the Committee's homepage).

Following on from the PFA's evidence to the Inquiry in October 2020, and subsequent discussion and research, we wish to make the following comments by way of this supplementary submission.

The issue of drug rehabilitation services provided by both private and public money has been raised on a number of occasions. The PFA is of the view that greater research needs to be undertaken to review and seek to determine the success rates of the array of drug rehabilitation programs available. Such a review needs to specifically deal with the issue of recidivism rates. The research could also include some form of cost benefit analysis of harm minimisation through such programs against the benefits of public awareness campaigns.

Another issue that has been raised with the PFA, is the possibility of regulating or accrediting the array of drug rehabilitation programs, particularly those programs made available for parole or other diversions programs.

The PFA does not have a specific view on this however we believe a review/study, that incorporates such issues, would be of benefit to governments, the general public and particularly those people suffering from drug addiction.

Therefore, the PFA recommends –

That the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) be funded to undertake research into the various drug rehabilitation programs on offer, including their success rates against recidivism rates, and whether drug rehabilitation programs provide good value for money when compared with public awareness campaigns.

Further

That the AIC be funded to research a possible system of regulation or accreditation of drug rehabilitation programs, particularly those programs that are linked to the criminal justice system via parole or diversionary programs.

Sincerely yours

Scott Weber
Chief Executive Officer
22 January 2021