

18 January 2023

Robert Stirling  
Chief Executive Officer  
Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies

Dear Mr Stirling

### **NADA Election Issues Paper**

I refer to the priorities identified by the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) for the upcoming 2023 State Election to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm and ensure the sector remains sustainable into the future.

I have long pursued alcohol and other drug policies that are evidence-based, focus on harm minimisation, and prevent stigma of people who use drugs. I am a member of the NSW Parliament Harm Minimisation Roundtable and have repeatedly advocated to government and in Parliament for a new approach that does not criminalise people for using drugs but rather ensures they can access support if they need it. I support decriminalisation, pill testing, ending drug detection operations and strip searches, expanding medically supervised injecting facilities and services, and trialling needle and syringe programs in prisons.

In response to your question on the key drug law reform I will pursue if I am re-elected, I will again work with colleagues across the political divide to find common priorities and determine what is achievable. I hope that with the A.C.T. Government's leadership, members will be more open to a genuine move away from the criminal justice approach and I am committed to a strong push towards the decriminalisation of drug use in the next Parliament.

I support the recommendations of the ice inquiry and will continue to advocate for its implementation. I am concerned that the government's response does not go far enough and is a missed opportunity to deliver real change for those affected by illicit drug use. The response does include delivering a new 'alcohol and other drug strategy' aimed at coordinating approaches across health and community services, education, and law enforcement and I will monitor this process to ensure it takes a whole-of-government approach, covering promotion, prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

The ice inquiry identified the need for a massive boost in funding to the alcohol and other drugs sector and if I am re-elected, I will push for better funding. I share widespread community concern about unsustainable funding models for non-government organisations delivering services that the community relies on. I strongly support your request for five-year contracts to provide for greater stability and long-term planning and for rolling contracts where service delivery is ongoing. I am committed to advocating for secure and appropriate funding in the social services sector.

I hope to continue to work with the alcohol and other drug services sector to help reduce harm in the community caused by alcohol and other drug use into the future.

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich  
**Member for Sydney**

