



Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education

MEDIA STATEMENT

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QLD PREMIER SHOWS LEADERSHIP: SUPPORT FOR AOD SERVICES DURING COVID-19

15 April 2020: The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) welcomes today's announcement by the Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk for a \$28 million fund to support the state's community-based health service groups including alcohol and other drug treatment clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"COVID-19 has changed the way we live our lives, placing greater stress on families and communities which is unfortunately leading to an increase in alcohol use and higher risk of alcohol-fuelled harm," says FARE CEO Caterina Giorgi.

"Community-based health services such as alcohol and other drug services are especially important at a time when many of us are understandably feeling stressed or anxious during this pandemic.

"The Queensland Premier has demonstrated great leadership in taking this step to ensure that our communities and these critical community-based services are supported during this rapidly changing and unprecedented time," Ms Giorgi said.

FARE CEO Caterina Giorgi is available for interview. Contact Clare Ross 0429 291120

The **Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE)** is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working to stop the harm caused by alcohol. Alcohol harm in Australia is significant. Nearly 6,000 lives are lost every year and more than 144,000 people are hospitalised making alcohol one of our nation's greatest preventive health challenges.