



26 March 2019

Mental Health Inquiry
Productivity Commission
22 March 2019

Dear Sir/ Madam

**The Social and Economic Benefits of Improving Mental Health
Productivity Commission Issues Paper**

The State and Territory Alcohol and Other Drug Peaks Network (the Network) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Inquiry's Terms of reference.

Efforts to reduce drug related harm for those accessing the mental health system continues to be a long-standing issue that requires improved capacity within the mental health sector, as well as proactive collaboration between mental health and alcohol and other drug programs and initiatives.

The costs and drivers of drug related harm however are substantial. Reducing a broad range of health, social and economic drug related harms could result in significant gain for those experiencing difficulties with their mental health and the population more broadly. Given this, the Network continues to support the call of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry Into Crystal Methamphetamine (ice) Final Report, March 2018 for a Productivity Commission inquiry into the costs and benefits of the National Drug Strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Lang
CEO, QNADA (on behalf of the State and Territory Alcohol and other Drug Peaks Network)

About the Network

The Network represents over 400 organisations delivering specialist alcohol and other drug services in Australia. Our vision is for an Australian community with the lowest possible levels of alcohol and other drug related harm as a result of evidence-informed policies and services.