



MEDIA RELEASE

27 November 2006

TABLELANDS DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE (TADS)

Recent developments including the expansion of other drug and alcohol services on the Tablelands, challenges in the recruitment and retention of a suitably experienced team of personnel and an internal business assessment have led to a re-assessment of the current model.

Wuchopperen Health Service has been the community-based auspice for the Tablelands Drug and Alcohol Service for the past seven years.

TADS is a whole-of-Tablelands Community Program aimed at preventive interventions to reduce the uptake of drug and alcohol and providing assistance to individuals experiencing drug and alcohol problems, through counselling and support.

The Service is primarily funded by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing, under the National Illicit Drug Strategy's Non-Government Treatment Grants program (\$220,000 per annum). The Service also receives funding for Drug Diversion activities, through the Queensland Illicit Drug Diversion Initiative (\$50,000 per annum).

The CEO, Joy Savage said today "it was regrettable that impending changes to TADS had broken on the weekend, as the impact on clients and staff affected has been and will continue to be the highest priority in negotiations". She said "the quality and sustainability of these important services for the Tablelands community have been paramount in these considerations".

Wuchopperen can confirm that discussions with other service providers and the relevant funding agencies have been productive and we are working on plans to ensure the continuation of service delivery for all of the Tablelands community.

Such has been the support from other drug and alcohol and other support services on the Tablelands that we have already put in place transitional arrangements to ensure that any person experiencing any difficulty in accessing services are welcome to contact the following service providers.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service	4092 9365
Atherton Neighbourhood Centre	4091 3733
Mareeba Information Support Centre	4092 1948
Alcohol & Drug 24 hour Telephone Counselling & Information Service	1800 177 833

Joy Savage (07) 40801006
Jan Robertson (07) 40801036

PO Box 878, Manunda Qld 4870
Phone: 0740 801000 Fax: 0740 324961