



Family Drug Support

"Supporting families since 1997"

MEDIA RELEASE:

Family Drug Support response to Glenelg Rehab Facility 31st August 2023

Family Drug Support ([FDS](#)) is a national organisation who provide information and support to families and friends of people who use substances. The South Australian FDS team is in contact with thousands of people each year and we know that drug and alcohol issues impact all communities, regardless of socio-economic or cultural background. When families reach out to FDS they want support for their loved one; their daughter, son, brother, sister, mother, father, husband, wife – the person they care for whomever that may be.

Polarising, stigmatising and de-humanising language and labels used in the media encourages an 'us and them' narrative and is discriminatory. This directly impacts our service as people delay reaching out due to shame, stigma and fear of judgment. This effect is tenfold for those seeking drug and alcohol treatment.

FDS advocates for an increase of free, accessible, and evidence-based treatment in local communities. The current lack of available services disproportionately impacts families and loved ones, who are often called upon to provide unpaid care. Lack of accessible support has a significant impact on us as a community and is felt by all. The people we support and work alongside are like everyone else and are in EVERY suburb.

The families we work with regularly voice their frustrations due to barriers to treatment for their loved ones. Alcohol and drug treatment is a health service and they need to be local and accessible. Protesting these services is counterintuitive to a safe community. When referral pathways and options are hindered or blocked due to fear or negative public discourse, the issues and adverse problems generally associated with alcohol and drug use become evident on our doorstep. We call on people and the media to have empathy, understanding, and accurate information before resorting to unsubstantiated views.

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