

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Turning Point receives \$1.5 million for online drug and alcohol support services

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Turning Point - Australia's world-leading national addiction treatment and research centre - today received \$1.5 million of Federal Government funding towards up-scaling Counselling Online, it's 24/7 nationwide drug and alcohol support and counselling service.

Professor Dan Lubman, Executive Clinical Director at Turning Point, welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt.

"This funding comes at a critical time and will enable us to increase our online support services and improve our ability to offer ongoing support to Australians who need help. We would like to thank Minister Hunt for recognising this important health issue and for providing such timely support.

Counselling Online plays a key role in offering immediate assistance to anyone concerned about their alcohol or drug use, their families and support people and its often the first point of contact when people reach out."

The announcement is part of a \$6 million package to allow drug and alcohol services to meet increased demand caused by isolation and social distancing measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Lubman says, "These services are more important than ever during this time of isolation and uncertainty, and we want people to feel they can reach out for support whenever they need. We know that many people are struggling during these challenging times, and it's crucial that services are available around the clock."

The funding will be rolled out by June 2020 and is in addition to more than \$800 million over four years already allocated by the Australian Government to drug and alcohol programs.

Empowered through its unique connection to Eastern Health, Turning Point is dedicated to providing high quality, evidence-based treatment to people adversely affected by alcohol, drugs and gambling, integrated with world-leading research and education.

[For further details on the announcement](#)

If you or someone you know requires help, please contact visit [www.counsellingonline.org.au](http://www.counsellingonline.org.au) or contact 1800 250 015.

**Media:** For more information or an interview with Professor Dan Lubman, please contact Tania Palich, Media Coordinator, Eastern Health 0417 316 616 or [tania.palich@easternhealth.org.au](mailto:tania.palich@easternhealth.org.au)