

The intelligent approach is expanding the options for families

The Gold Coast Bulletin [article](#) released today suggesting that “dumb” people with uncontrollable “ice” problems breeding more kids is the cause of a spike in defendants in the local Children’s Court” is simplistic and fails to acknowledge a lack of effective prevention strategies or treatment options.

QNADA is the peak organisation for the non-government alcohol and other drug treatment sector, representing the views of 47 organisations. Through our knowledge of the sector, network of experienced members and links across complementary human service delivery sectors, QNADA is well-placed to provide practical advice and front-line service delivery experiences to inform policy and program advancement for the sector.

CEO of the QLD Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, Rebecca Lang stated:

“This article should have highlighted the need for effective treatment options for parents seeking support for problematic substance use. It is critical that parents have access to residential treatment options that are family friendly as well as evidence based non-residential treatment options of varying intensity, yet they are sadly lacking in Queensland.”

She further stated: “Treatment for problematic methamphetamine use is possible and not that different to treatment for other types of alcohol or drug use, with the difference at times being that longer treatment is required, due to the potential for a protracted withdrawal syndrome.”

“Supporting parents to seek help as soon as possible for problematic substance use so children can safely remain with their family is the best outcome for all involved, but first we need options for parents.”

The article shows a complete absence of analysis of what support services are in place and doesn’t acknowledge where there may be service gaps for young people and families on the Gold Coast.

Promoting the need for treatment and recognising the hard work of local treatment services that work with young people at risk and their families is a far more constructive response. Suggesting people who use methamphetamine or other drugs lack intelligence is offensive and contributes to stigma, which we know prevents people from seeking assistance where their drug use has become problematic.

If you or someone you know has identified that help is needed for problematic alcohol and other drug use, please contact the Alcohol and Drug Information Service on 1800 177 833 and/or Family Drug Support on 1300368 186. Both provide a free 24 hour/7 day counselling, information and referral service for anyone with concerns about their own or someone else’s use of alcohol or other drugs.

For more information, anecdotes or comment, please contact Rebecca Lang on 0408669590.