



# Program to help frontline workers

## COMMUNITY Region

A NEW program to help frontline workers deal with the escalating ice problem is being rolled out across the Greater Green Triangle region.

The Standard Frontline Worker 'Ice' Training Package was developed by Flinders University's National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCE-TA) as part of the Victorian Government's Ice Action Plan.

Greater Green Triangle University Department of Rural Health Director (GGT UDRH) Professor Peter Harvey said the program was being introduced as a trial to gauge its effectiveness in a rural area and with Aboriginal communities.

"We are involved because of our position and our work in rural health and Aboriginal health," Professor Harvey said.

"We will look to use our local connections to identify

clinicians who work with people who are affected by ice."

The training package has been designed to meet the needs of a wide range of frontline workers including those from the health and welfare, education, criminal

justice and transport sectors.

NCETA Director, Professor Ann Roche, said the package provides information and resources for frontline workers to enhance their existing skills and knowledge and guide workers' practice when assisting clients and their families.

"There is a pressing need for support for people who use crystal methamphetamine (ice), their families, friends, and co-workers," Professor Roche said.

The package includes information about ice and its use and harms, how it affects people and communities, supporting people who use ice, and organisational responses.

"We are encouraging

organisations to include the package as part of their induction for frontline workers, embed it into professional development programs and use it to deliver training and standard approaches for responding to people affected by ice," she said.

In the past 12 months, 1.4 per cent of Australians used ice, with rates being higher in regional and remote locations and among unemployed people.

The training resource can be accessed from: [www.ice.vic.gov.au/icetraining](http://www.ice.vic.gov.au/icetraining).