



(L-R) Angie Paskevicius, Holyoake CEO; Helen Morton, Minister for Mental Health; and Marylyn New, Holyoake Chairperson, officially opening the new building.

Northeast Metro Community Drug Service relocation

The **Northeast Metropolitan Community Drug Service** has a new home in Midland, following the purchase and renovation of a building in Stafford Street by Holyoake.

The service is delivered through a partnership between Holyoake and Next Step Drug and Alcohol Services, and is available for people living in Midland and surrounding suburbs.

Holyoake CEO Angie Paskevicius and Chairperson Marylyn New, along with the Mental Health Minister Helen Morton, officially opened the new building on 22 June.

Ms Paskevicius said the new site was a great improvement on the previous premises, both in terms of size and quality of the space.

"This new building is centrally located and will be more accessible for our clients who are seeking help for alcohol or other drug related issues," Ms Paskevicius said.

"The Northeast Metro Community Drug Service offers counselling, prevention and medical services, along with the Drug and Alcohol Withdrawal Network to help people manage their withdrawal from alcohol and other drug use in their own home."

The redevelopment and office fit-out was funded by a Lotterywest grant of \$1 million, with the Drug and Alcohol Office also contributing \$250,000.

Training@DAO calendar event: Alcohol and other drug use in the workplace

Alcohol and other drug (AOD) use problems affect many people within the community, including problems from personal use, or from another's use, be it a friend, child, parent, colleague or neighbour. The majority of people that have problems related to AOD use are employed. Therefore, the workplace can be an important setting to help reduce these problems.

The economic benefits of reducing alcohol related harm within the workplace are considerable, with Australian research estimating that lost productivity in the workplace attributable to alcohol costs the economy \$3.5 billion annually. Other costs to the economy are the result of absenteeism and employee illness.

The Drug and Alcohol Office (DAO) aims to provide workplaces with consultation and support to tackle the complex issue of AOD use. DAO has assisted a number of organisations and agencies in the creation of AOD 'Fitness for Work' policies and procedures, that aim to reduce the harms associated with AOD use within the workplace, whilst seeking to help and support members of their workforce who may have AOD related problems.

Mr Gary Kirby from DAO said the development of effective policies and procedures was an important first step for many organisations, but it is by no means a 'silver bullet'.

"These policies and procedures need to be understood, accepted by the workforce, and also be complemented by working within a supportive environment where the health, wellbeing and safety of staff is the primary concern," he said.

Along with assisting organisations with AOD policies and procedures, DAO provides AOD training support for supervisors and managers and follow up consultation, as required.

Leigh Cleary from the Workforce Development Branch said the training aimed to provide a brief policy development overview for organisations who are considering doing this.

"Topics will include the reasons why people use alcohol and other drugs, as well as exploring how effective policy development, along with other supporting mechanisms, can result in a workplace that is proactive as opposed to reactive in addressing AOD issues. Drug testing and health promotion will also be discussed," he said.

The first workshop being offered is on the Training@DAO calendar event, 'Alcohol and other drug use in the workplace' to be held on 18 September 2012. For more information please visit the website at www.dao.health.wa.gov.au