

Member's Statement

April 18, 2005

AADAC Youth Drug Treatment Programs

Dave Rodney (MLA, Calgary-Lougheed): Mr. Speaker, the problem of addiction has been the cause of impassioned debate in this House recently. As chair of AADAC I hear first-hand about the lives impacted and the corrosive effects on society that result from addiction. Substance abuse is a serious matter, and it's especially tragic when it involves children. However, the government has it within its means to intervene in a positive way, as was demonstrated recently in this House.

Thankfully the new provincial budget, announced last week, includes an increase to AADAC's funding, which will allow the commission to begin operating almost immediately youth detoxification and residential treatment in this province. I'm pleased to say that there will be two programs, located in the Edmonton region and the Calgary region, with 24 new beds, eight for detoxification and 16 for residential treatment.

The programs are designed to help youths who are in serious difficulty with substance abuse and who require intensive intervention. Both the detoxification and residential programs will treat crystal meth users as well as users of other addictive drugs. Regarding crystal meth AADAC will provide a treatment protocol designed specifically for youth who are abusing this dangerous substance. The residential program will be 12 weeks in duration. However, in cases of long-term or severe substance abuse AADAC has the capacity to provide youths with up to a year of treatment through its spectrum of programs. AADAC has also as of April 1, 2005, increased its accreditation standards for all youth treatment programs we fund so that we can doubly ensure that young Albertans in our care are receiving the highest standard of help possible.

The new standards along with the detoxification and residential treatment programs are excellent enhancements to AADAC's range of services for youths and adults. AADAC already provides comprehensive outpatient programs for youths and their families at 26 area offices.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.



Legislative
Assembly
of Alberta