



PARENTSPREPARED

PARENTS PREPARED EVALUATION REPORT 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parents Prepared Program is part of Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre's (MDECC) community drug action strategy to address drug and alcohol use. The program utilises peer education as a strategy to educate parents about the harms of both illicit and licit drug use whilst also acting as an intervention addressing familial issues. The primary aim of Parents Prepared is to provide parents with up to date knowledge about drugs and drug use and for them to spread this information throughout their community.

Since its development in 1998 up until June 2005, this program has been delivered with funding sourced from the local community. In September 2005 MDECC received a two year funding grant from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation (AERF) to continue and further develop the program. This report details the progress of the Parents Prepared Program from November 2005 to October 2006. During this period three peer education programs were held at Manly with forty one parents participating and thirty eight of these attending all sessions.

Note: A fourth program has just recently been completed in November 2006 at Mona Vale with a further fourteen parents attending. The results from the Mona Vale program are not included in this report.

Prior to the AERF funding each program was evaluated by MDECC. The AERF has engaged the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at the University of NSW to conduct an independent evaluation of the project over the two year period. The NDARC Progress Report is included in this report.

The funding support provided by the AERF has enabled the Parents Prepared Program to be implemented on a more regular basis. In addition, a second stage is currently being planned to enhance and build onto an already well evaluated peer education program for parents.

Stage One: Parents Prepared Program Training Component

Stage Two: Parents Prepared Network & Web-Link

Stage Two involves the establishment of a Parents Prepared Network and Web-Link. The Network will enhance sustainability of the peer education training component by ensuring that the Parents Prepared peer educators are kept motivated and updated with accurate information. In addition, Stage Two will involve the development of an interactive email-based group whereby Parents Prepared peer educators can interact with each other and the MDECC Intervention Program Team in relation to alcohol and drug education and community issues.

The Steering Committee, formed in November 2005 with members representing previous Parents Prepared participants, local P&C associations, NDARC and MDECC staff has contributed valuable expertise, feedback and support to the program.

MDECC would like to thank the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation for providing funding to enable such a valuable community program to continue and further develop.