

ADHD WA — HALDANE HOUSE

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.49 pm]: I recently attended a sundowner at ADHD WA's brand new support hub located at Haldane House in my electorate. ADHD WA is a not-for-profit research-based support and information agency that assists and empowers people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and associated conditions. ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterised by patterns of inattentive, impulsive and sometimes hyperactive behaviour, and is frequently accompanied by emotional regulation challenges. It affects one in 20 Australians; that is over 144 000 Western Australians. Disturbingly, it is estimated that around one in three people in prison has ADHD. If it is untreated, ADHD can negatively affect almost every aspect of a person's life, from personal relationships through to their ability to succeed in education and gain employment.

There is considerable public misunderstanding about ADHD and this often leads to highly pejorative personal criticisms of people who have the condition and ill-informed disparagement of the proven drug treatments, Concerta and Vyvanse. The principal clinically proven drug treatments for ADHD are not administered in prisons and that is a direct cause of many behavioural issues that we often see in prisons. Administering ADHD medication in prisons would be the single greatest change we could make to reduce the prison population.

The new premises will allow ADHD WA to more than double its assessments, increase therapy sessions by more than 30 per cent and provide new health and wellness programs, as well as increase its phone support services. I especially thank the City of Nedlands and Mayor Fiona Argyle for agreeing to reduce the rent on the premises by 50 per cent, which enabled this move. I thank also the many dedicated staff and volunteers at ADHD WA and wish them every success in their new premises. I recognise Senator Jordon Steele-John, who is a passionate supporter of ADHD WA and who also attended the event.