



# MEDIA RELEASE

11 JUNE 2009

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## DRUG ACTION WEEK 21 – 27 JUNE

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Huon Valley Council's Youth Service is hosting Straight Talk - an alcohol and other drug information night for parents, carers and the broader community, as part of Drug Action Week 2009.

Making safe choices about alcohol and other drug use is a major challenge facing young people in the community. Every year, too many young Australians are harmed by alcohol misuse through violence, car accidents, unsafe sex and other preventable problems.

The Huon Valley Council's Youth Service will be presenting the opportunity for parents, carers and the broader community to help young people deal with alcohol and other drugs safely and responsibly.

Council's Youth Service is hosting a parent, carer and broader community alcohol and other drug information night as part of an innovative program to reduce alcohol and other drug related harms among young people. Research shows that families are an important influence over teenagers' alcohol and drug use.

Youth alcohol and other drug misuse is of great concern to parents and the community. It is anticipated that by involving parents/ carers and broader community members in this night, it may assist families to deal with the challenging and complex issues that arise when teenagers start drinking alcohol or misusing other drugs.

While many young people will not consume alcohol or other drugs at all, research shows that the majority young people regularly drink alcohol with 60% of 15-16 year olds and 85% of 17-18 years olds reporting that they have consumed alcohol in the past month.

The Straight Talk- alcohol and other drug information night is being conducted during Drug Action Week 2009 and will be held at the Huon Valley Community Health Centre on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009, from 7.00 pm-8.30 pm. Anyone wanting to register their attendance or further information please contact:

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**For additional comments, please contact:**

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