



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**October 2022**

### **Odyssey House NSW welcomes the NSW Government's investment in response to the ice inquiry**

**Odyssey House NSW welcomes the NSW government's four-year \$500 million investment into alcohol and other drugs services in response to the Ice Inquiry recommendations.**

Julie Babineau, CEO of Odyssey House NSW says, "The landmark report, commissioned by Professor Dan Howard SC, was the best research and consultation that had been done in NSW since the 1999 Drug Summit. We are encouraged by the NSW Government's response to the recommendations and that we will see a real positive change in our vulnerable communities."

Over the past two years since the issues identified in the January 2020 ice inquiry report have only worsened as a result of COVID-19.

Odyssey House NSW has recorded an increase of 15% more clients since the onset of the pandemic, as well as a spike in enquiries that the organisation was unable to admit into treatment.

"We see the impacts of ice every day at Odyssey House. In the past 12 months, 46% of our residential and Parent's and Children's Program clients; and 29% of community clients told us ice was the main reason for seeking treatment.

"In addition, more than half of our clients present with mental health concerns that are often not diagnosed until they are with us. This is only the people who seek treatment at Odyssey House – there are so many more people in the community, this new investment will support services to expand our reach and help further," Ms Babineau said.

"We are happy to see that this is a whole-of-government response, and look forward to supporting this initiative with NSW Health, the courts, and more importantly the clients."

**- ENDS -**



**ODYSSEY HOUSE**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

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**ABOUT ODYSSEY HOUSE NSW**

Odyssey House NSW, provides treatment, support and education for those wishing to address harms related to substance use. We reconnect lives, families and communities. These include physical, mental, social and economic harms, all of which have a significant impact on our communities. Over the past 45 years, Odyssey House NSW has helped more than 45,000 people turn their lives around through their community and residential rehabilitation programs.