

MEDIA RELEASE

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**ADF CALLS FOR UNIFORM
REAL-TIME PRESCRIPTION MONITORING SYSTEMS ACROSS AUSTRALIA**

The [Alcohol and Drug Foundation](#) is calling on all states and territories to introduce uniform real-time prescription monitoring systems, to reduce preventable prescription drug-related harms such as fatal overdoses and dependencies.

It comes as the Victorian Government shows leadership by announcing it will roll out its real-time prescription monitoring system, '[SafeScript](#)' across the whole of the state tomorrow, after its launch in Western Victoria last year.

Real-time prescription monitoring provides medical professionals with timely information about a patient's previous scripts for specific drugs, which can prompt discussions with the patient about their prescription history.

SafeScript will monitor the prescription drugs that present the biggest risk of harms to Victorians, including strong opioid painkillers and some medicines for anxiety or insomnia. These drugs can be highly addictive and even fatal when not taken as prescribed.

Chief Executive Officer Dr Erin Lalor said prescription drugs are responsible for more deaths in Australia than illicit drugs. She called on all jurisdictions to urgently introduce uniform real-time prescription monitoring systems.

"If every jurisdiction had complementary real-time prescription monitoring systems, medical professionals would have access to accurate information about a patient's prescription history, regardless of location. This would improve quality of care for patients and could even save lives," Dr Lalor said.

Real-time prescription monitoring is part of a suite of measures needed to help reduce pharmaceutical-related harms. Australians should also be informed about the dangers of prescription drugs and be encouraged to treat pain without prescription medication where possible.

"Perceptions that pharmaceutical drugs are 'safe' means many people may overlook the risks. Everyone should know that the non-prescribed use of pharmaceutical drugs can lead to drug dependency, overdose and even death," Dr Lalor warned.

More information about real-time prescription monitoring and SafeScript can be found [here](#) on the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's website.

If someone feels that they have a prescription medication dependency, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation strongly recommends they talk to a GP or pharmacist.

People can also call the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's [DrugInfo line](#) on 1300 85 85 84. The confidential service provides drug information and puts people in touch with relevant support and health services in their state or territory.

ENDS

For media enquiries please call the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's media team on 0430 948 380.

About the Alcohol and Drug Foundation: Celebrating 60 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is one of Australia's leading bodies committed to preventing and minimising alcohol and other drug harms in communities around the nation. The Foundation reaches millions of Australians in local communities through sporting clubs, workplaces, health care settings and schools, offering educational information, drug and alcohol prevention programs and advocating for strong and healthy communities.