



Funding cut shock for award-winning rehab centre

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Staff at a Hunter drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre say a Federal Government funding cut will leave a massive hole in crucial services around the region.

"The Glen" is based at Rothbury, as well as Chittaway Bay on the Central Coast, and Assistant Co-ordinator Joe Coyte says the service found out this week about a 15 per cent cut in funding.

The service supported more than 170 men last year and recently won a state-wide Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Network award for "Program of the Year".

Mr Coyte says their minimum three-month residential program gets results.

"We won't be able to supervise our clients as well," he said.

"We won't be able to make that holistic service which means clients, they'll still come in, we'll address as best we can with them their drug and alcohol problems but, will we be able to get to the nitty gritty of maybe what's causing the drug and alcohol abuse?"

"I mean, we'll definitely be doing our best but we can only do what we can do."

Mr Coyte says he can't understand the logic behind the cut because the service saves the government money in the long run.

"It's a lot cheaper for the Government to have a guy in a residential rehab facility, working on his issues, trying to get well, than having him locked up in a correctional facility," he said.



PHOTO: A funding cut for a Hunter drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre.

(Giulio Saggin, file photo: ABC News)

MAP: Newcastle 2300

"We take a lot of guys that are on bail and on parole so we actually do save the government a lot of money in that way."

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