

FAMILY INFORMATION SHEET

It's not just the drug

When a person uses a drug, is their experience only because of the drug they have used? Simple answer - No. Drug use affects everyone differently.

When setting up open lines of communication to talk with your children about alcohol and other drugs, it is important to be aware of individual differences and the factors involved in drug use.

The information provided on this sheet can help you to have those discussions.

The Drug Use Triangle shows how the effects and harms of drug use rely on the combination of three factors – The Person, The Drug and The Environment.

> Experience? Male or female? Age? Body size? Mood? Personality? Expectation of the drug? Food intake?

Person

THE DRUG USE **TRIANGLE**

Type of drug? How much taken? Over what time? Other drugs used? Strength of drug? Purity of the drug?

tain and the state of the state On what occasion? Supervision? Time of day/week? Activities after taking the drug?

Want to know more?

- Drug Aware www.drugaware.com.au has reliable information about all drugs
- Australian Drug Foundation www.adf.org.au has reliable information about all drugs
- Alcohol and Drug Support Line (08) 9442 5000 or 1800 198 024 (country callers)
- Parent and Family Drug Support Line (08) 9442 5050 or 1800 653 203 (country callers)
- · Aboriginal Alcohol and Drug Service (08) 9221 1411

Any drug has the potential to cause harm. Illegal drugs especially can have unexpected effects as the substances in them are often unknown and potentially dangerous. Understanding the factors involved in the drug use triangle can help to minimise the potential risks.



Where used?

With whom?