



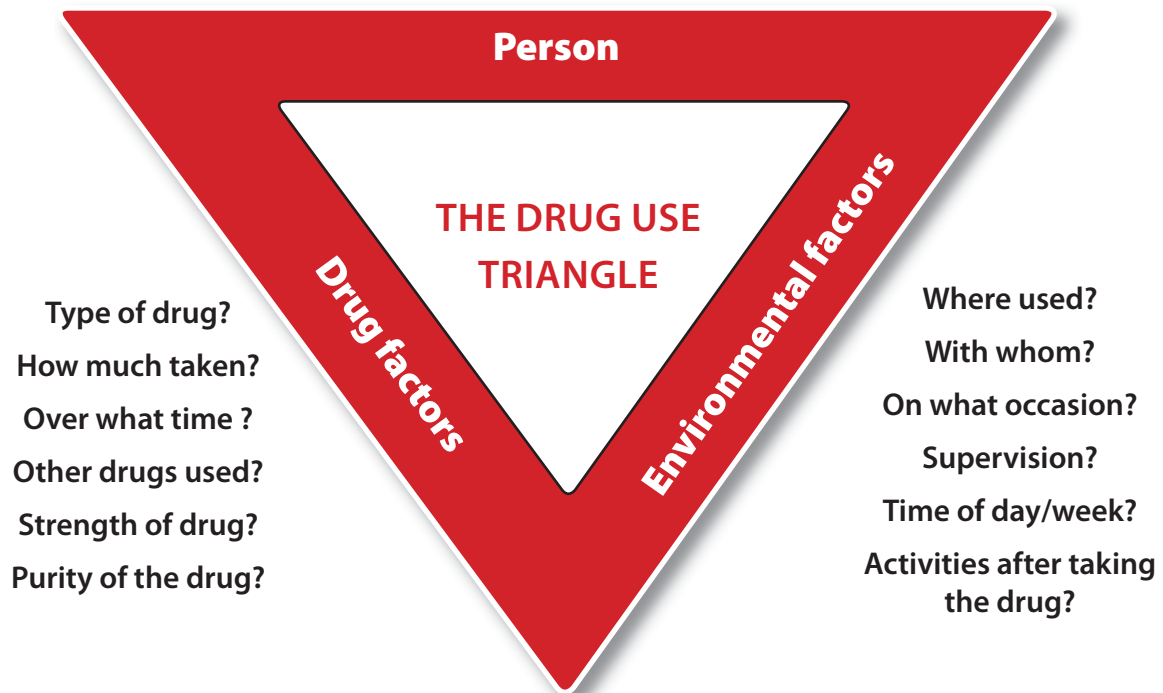
## It's not just the drug

When a person uses a drug, is their experience only because of the drug they have used? Simple answer – No. Drugs affect everyone differently and each person's experience may be different and influenced by multiple factors.

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 these discussions.

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

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



*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 for those who decide to use alcohol and/or other drugs.*

### Want to know more?



- Drug Aware [www.drugaware.com.au](http://www.drugaware.com.au) has reliable information about all drugs
- Australian Drug Foundation [www.adf.org.au](http://www.adf.org.au) has reliable information about all drugs
- National Cannabis Prevention and Information Service [www.ncpic.org.au](http://www.ncpic.org.au)
- Alcohol and Drug Support Line 9442 5000 or 1800 198 024 (Country callers) for a 24 hour counselling, information and a referral service for anyone concerned about their own or another person's alcohol or other drug use
- Alcohol Think Again [www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au](http://www.alcoholthinkagain.com.au)