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## rehab at luxury centres in Asian

EXCLUSIVE

## tropics Mandy Squires, News Corp Australia Network (f) (y) (≅) April 21, 2018 6:40pm Subscriber only

addicted members at luxury overseas rehab centres.

ONE of the country's biggest unions is bankrolling the treatment of drug-

On its website, which sports the CFMEU logo among others, The Dawn describes itself as

The Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)

is offering members special cut-price deals at one of Thailand's most

exclusive clinics, The Dawn in Chiang Mai, to kick their habits.

dollars a month. The cut-price deals are available to the union's national membership base of

"Asia's leading, luxury rehab facility", with treatments costing thousands of

150,000 workers and their families, with some members also able to receive financial support to help cover the remaining cost of their treatment.

**REVEALED:** The ice capital of Australia

ICE NATION: A journey into despair



treatment because in Australia, my understanding is, there is a huge need for rehab," Mr Poolsawaddi said. PAUL CARTER: Former NRL star opens up about drug addiction

CEO of The Dawn Ohm Poolsawaddi said there were currently two family

members of a CFMEU member at the rehab centre on the special union rate.

He was now in talks with Incolink, the CFMEU's redundancy fund, about the

"We've been in touch with them, and it's still in progress, but they are happy

to support their union members financially for them to be able to afford

role it may play in supporting members to go to The Dawn in future.

Mark Dryden said he used to have a \$1000-a-day ice habit. The support from the CFMEU saved

Former ice addict Mark Dryden said the CFMEU donated \$10,000 towards

The donation, which was "raised internally", helped fund his two-month stay

his treatment at Thailand's exclusive DARA rehabilitation centre in late-

at DARA and helped him quit a \$1000-a-day ice habit, the construction

Grateful for the assistance, he initiated a relationship between the CFMEU

and The Dawn, in a bid to help other union members overcome their

addictions by arranging discounted fees for rehab, Mr Dryden said.

his life, he says. Picture: Jason Edwards

2015.

worker said.

He was now working to secure discounted rates at The Dawn for all Australian addicts, not just CFMEU members, he said.

Mr Reardon said he had known Mr Dryden since he was a child growing up

on Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, so when the worker asked for support from

his employer and the union to combat his raging ice addiction, he chose to

The tranquil surroundings at The Dawn don't come cheap, charging \$13,000 per month for treatment. Picture: Supplied At the time he helped Mr Dryden, ice was a growing problem on building

sites and a pilot drug testing program — supported by the union — was being

There was a sharp focus on drug use by tradies and a push to help workers

who requested it, and also a dire lack of drug detox beds in Australia, with

rolled out in Geelong, where Mr Dryden was working, he said.



Some of the marketing images for The Dawn are almost reminiscent of a luxury getaway resort.

An advertising feature on The Dawn in the Spring 2017 issue of the CFMEU

Victoria Worker magazine states members will receive 30 per cent off the

The first five people to take up the deal received a 50 per cent discount.

The CFMEU also supports the Construction Industry Drug and Alcohol

Those partnerships hit the headlines during the Royal Commission into

Trade Union Governance and Corruption in 2015 when Master Builders

Foundation and a 28-day residential drug, alcohol and gambling rehab in

The Dawn normally charges about \$13,000 a month for treatment.

Sydney called Foundation House, which relies largely on charitable

Picture: Supplied

donations.

Picture: Supplied

overseas clinics.

past two years.

cocaine.

regular price of treatment.



**DRUGS ON CONSTRUCTION SITES: THE FACTS** 

TWENTY-ONE of nearly 5000 workers have tested positive to drugs or

of a pilot — were provided to the Electrical Trades Union this week.

They reveal eight workers out of the 4870 randomly tested on Victorian

worksites over the last two years had opiates in their system, five had

amphetamines or methamphetamines, seven had alcohol and one had

alcohol in union-sanctioned tests on Victorian construction sites over the

The results of testing — carried out by Victoria's Holmesglen Institute as part

The Dawn offers a resort-style pool, games room, laundry and maid service, kingsize beds, alfresco dining area, health spa, sauna, outdoor patio with river views, Wi-Fi and a fitness area.

Other Australian unions contacted by News Corp National this week said

counselling, education and support services.

they supported members battling drug and alcohol addictions through free

Some said they also put members in touch with rehab services and centres.

News Corp understands at least one other building industry union has

residential drug or alcohol rehabilitation, but at Australian rather than

tapped into discretionary funds in the past to help members pay for

was consistent with prescribed use, the Holmesglen report states. Of the seven workers who tested positive for alcohol, only four returned a positive result a second time, when tested an hour after the initial test, the report shows.

results suggested less than a half-a-per cent of workers on Victorian

construction sites were drug-affected on the job.

"This is a good news story I think," he said.

community."

Of the eight workers who tested positive for opiates, one had heroin in their

recent drug use before testing and for whom the amount of codeine detected

Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union Victoria branch, Troy Gray, said the

system and the other seven had codeine, four of whom had declared their

A doctor treats a rehab inpatient at The Dawn. Picture: Supplied

"It's something we have championed, along with the CFMEU over the last couple of years," he said. "Nearly 5000 construction workers - that's a hell

COMMENTS 43

The union-supported, drug testing across major Victorian construction sites had started as a pilot program two-years-ago, Mr Gray said. of a lot of tests done out there. The figures are undeniable. The construction industry has been presented as a sort of sinful den of drug abuse but these figures show that while there is an issue, it's no worse than in the general

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Originally published as Union helps members kick drug habit

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