



30<sup>th</sup> March, 2026

While acknowledging the efforts ARUC is doing to regulate the cannabis association, OASI Foundation refers to the [press conference](#) where the Authority for the Responsible Use of Cannabis is sponsoring children's sports activities.

We appreciated that the entities in this event stated that they want to promote sport rather than drug use. It is however of concern to us that our children are being sponsored by cannabis related finances, as this is contradictory to the aim stated earlier on and raise ethical and moral difficulties. No professional worker operating in the substance use prevention field can affirm that this strategy is conducive to preventing substance use.

While as a country, we have removed all promotion related to cigarette smoking and moving towards similar strategies when it comes to alcohol and gambling, one cannot say it is the case when it comes to cannabis. One must acknowledge that this partnership is giving out the wrong subliminal message to our younger generation. As we have mentioned several times in the past, we strongly feel that the use of the word "responsible" in conjunction with any substance or behaviour that had mind altering effects and addictive properties, is counter productive to promoting healthy practices in our population.

It is worth while noting a study in Australia covering a cohort of 8841 shows that 50.4% who started using stimulants developed stimulant use disorders. Similarly, 37.5% of those who started using alcohol, developed alcohol use disorder, while 34.1% of those who started using cannabis developed cannabis use disorder (Marel et al., 2018).

While conscious that all drug use is one of the main triggers to mental health complications, the OASI Foundation therefore urges policymakers and relevant authorities to carefully reconsider the implications of associating cannabis-related funding with minors' activities and to ensure that prevention principles remain consistent across all addictive substances and behaviours. Our responsibility as a society is to safeguard the wellbeing of young people by promoting environments that clearly support healthy lifestyles, free from messages that may unintentionally normalise substance use.

## References

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