

## One-million injections at the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre

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### Evidence for supervised injecting facilities:

- 1) Attract high-risk drug users
- 2) Manage overdose and decrease overdose-related mortality and morbidity
- 3) Enhance safer injecting practice
- 4) Decrease public drug use and improve public amenity
- 5) Increase access to treatment and other health and social services
- 6) Cost savings by preventing BBV transmission and fatal overdoses
- 7) They do not increase drug use and related risks or crime

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(Belackova & Salmon see 2017; ISSN: 2208-4517) <sup>1</sup>

## Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)

- Established at Sydney Kings Cross in 2001 in response to high rates of overdoses & ambulance calls in the vicinity
- Operates under specific licensing and funding arrangements
- May 2001 through December 2016
- **1,007,966 injections supervised, 15,765** individuals registered
  - 99% among clients attending >3 times (54% all clients)
  - 43% heroin, 34% prescription opioids, 8% methamphetamine
- Clients spend a **mean of 41 minutes** in the service
- **ZERO fatalities**; 7599 adverse events, <1% of all injections
  - 90% were opioid overdose (90%)
  - Behavioural issues accounted for 2.4% of all AEs
- 68,626 interventions, 12,520 accepted referrals

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<sup>2</sup>

## Discussion

- ✓ Uniting MSIC provides effective supervision of illicit drug injecting
  - *Provides people with the time and space necessary for safer injecting*
- ✓ Overdoses effectively managed, with no fatalities and limited need for naloxone administration or ambulance transfer
  - Effective early intervention and management
- ✓ Very low rates of behavioural issues/aggression despite increased methamphetamine injection
- ✓ Each MSIC presentation represents a unique intervention
  - *Any referral, advice or other intervention would not have occurred in the absence of MSIC*

***Given the harm averted, the paucity of adverse events and the extremely marginalised population it serves, why has there been no expansion of these services?***

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<sup>3</sup>