

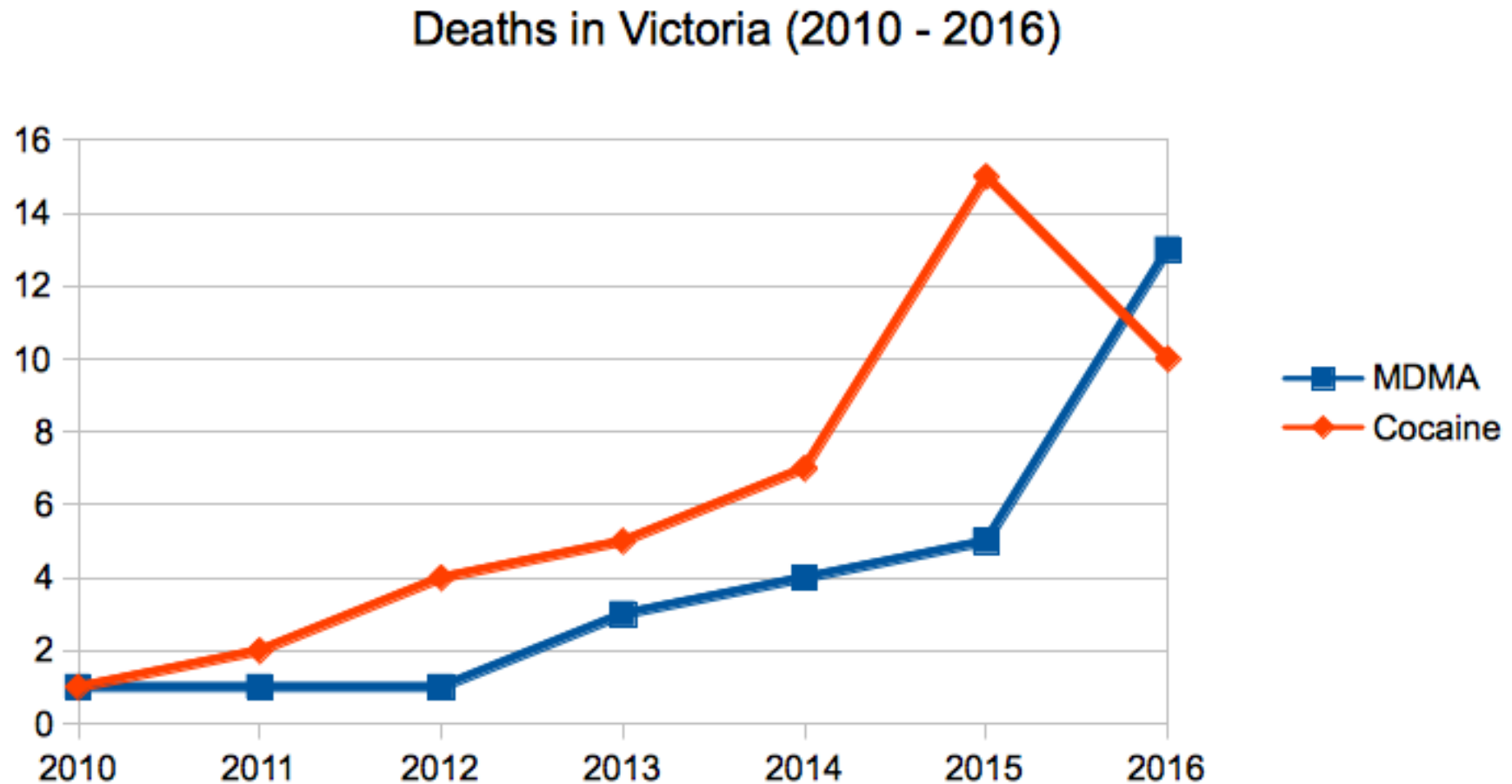
PILL TESTING

Reducing drug use.
Preventing overdose.
Saving lives.

Nina Springle MLC & Collen Hartland MLC



Why pill testing?



'Lucky they didn't die': Mass overdose at Festival Hall rave

Neelima Choahan

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A mass drug overdose at a Festival Hall rave could have proved lethal if partygoers hadn't received medical help as quickly as they did, an Ambulance Victoria official says.

Nine people were taken to hospital, some of them in a critical condition, after being treated for suspected drug overdoses at the I Am Hardstyle event at the West Melbourne venue on Friday night. Several others affected made their own way to hospital.



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Three people die from drug overdoses in Melbourne after 20 hospitalised, court told

By Stephanie Anderson
Updated 16 Jan 2017, 7:05pm

Three people have died and more than 20 were taken to hospital in Melbourne over the weekend due to suspected overdoses of the drug MDMA, police have told the Melbourne Magistrates Court.

On Monday, French national Sebastien Verger-Giambellucco, 30, faced the court charged with trafficking and possessing MDMA and possessing the proceeds of crime.

Police told the hearing there were five suspected overdoses at the Revolver nightclub on Chapel Street in South Yarra.

It was alleged Verger-Giambellucco was identified by a friend of one woman who suffered a suspected overdose as having sold drugs to her at the nightclub.

During the hearing, police told the court there had been weekend and that the number was out of the ordinary

Police media could not provide more details on the drugs

The court was told there was no evidence linking the drugs

More than 20 drug overdoses at Electric Parade dance party

Neelima Choahan, Benjamin Millar, Steve Lillebuen

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Family members have made frantic calls to an emergency department in an effort to find loved ones after one of Melbourne's worst incidents of mass drug overdose.

Twenty people were hospitalised and 40 arrested at the Electric Parade dance music festival at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl on Saturday night.



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Melbourne

More than 20 drug overdoses at Melbourne music festival

Revellers in critical condition after 25 overdose on what was believed to be the synthetic drug GHB at Electric Parade Music festival



More than 20 people have been hospitalised after overdosing at a Melbourne music festival.

Overall ambulance officers treated 30 people who attended the Electric Parade Music festival, with 25 of them being hospitalised after taking what was believed to be the synthetic drug GHB at the Myer Music Bowl.



What kind of pill testing are we talking about?

DIY reagent pill testing kits

- Can't detect most substances
- Can't tell you the potency
- Big room for error in interpreting results

Lab- grade pill testing

- Lab- grade equipment
- Conducted by experts
- Can detect all substances and potency
- Counselling with health professional required when getting results

Questions we often get asked

How does pill testing address drug use at nightclubs?

How does pill testing reduce drug use?

Don't people already understand the risks?

Doesn't it send the wrong message and/ or encourage illegal drug use?

Is it realistic to think pill testing could actually happen?

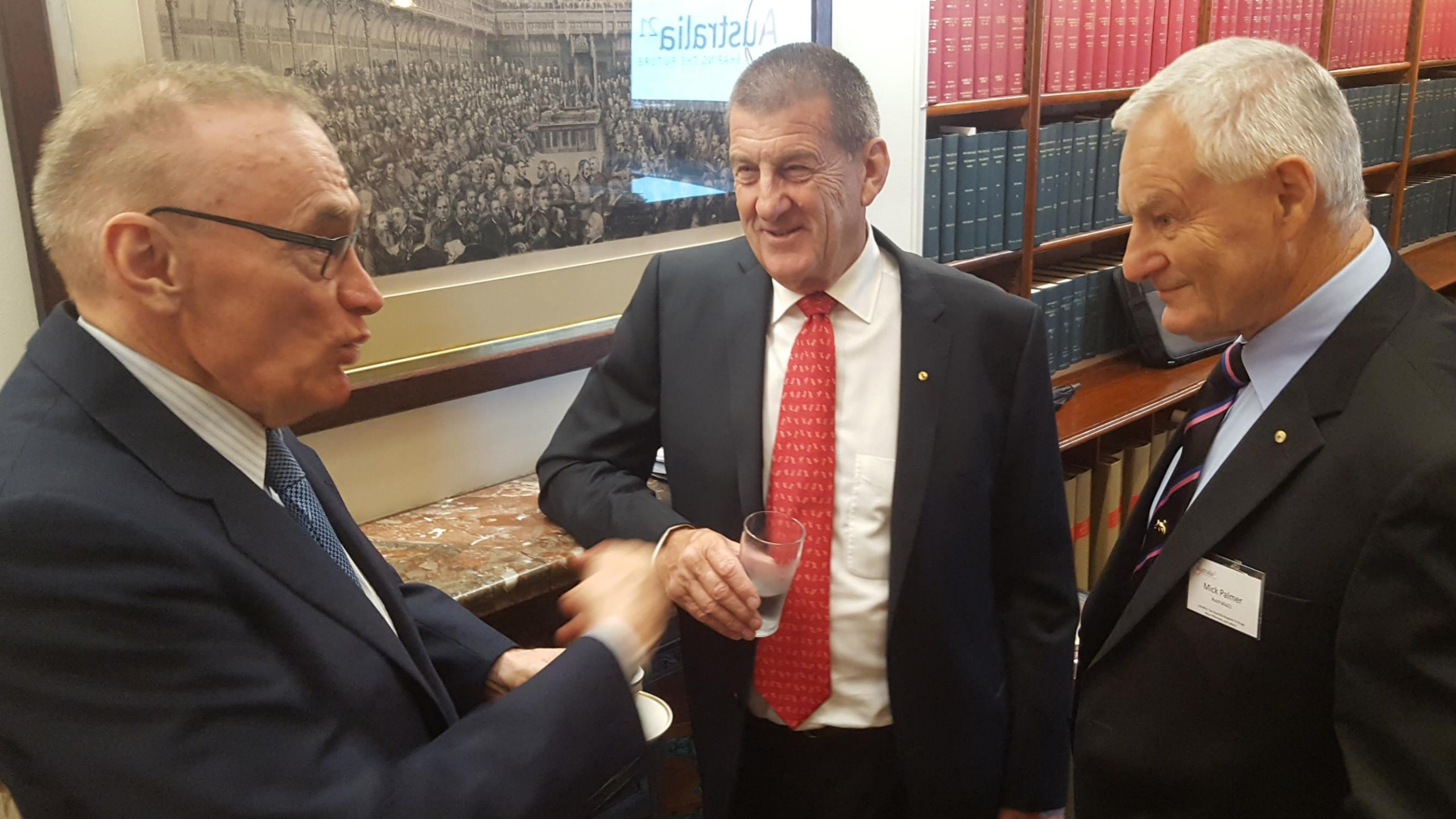
Two ways we can make it happen

1 : GOVERNMENT COOPERATION

2 : PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL
& COMMUNITY SUPPORT

What does our bill look like?

- Remove criminal liabilities for medical and forensic experts to conduct lab-grade pill testing (forensic testing of illicit recreational drugs) at major events for the duration of a pilot period.
- Require those conducting the pill testing to provide forensic data to Victoria Police & DHHS during the pilot period, and for relevant information on particularly harmful substances to be made available to the public through public health warnings.
- Require an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pilot to be conducted and reported on following the pilot period.



What can you do to help?

1. Write to your local MP. Tell them why you support pill testing and harm reduction, and ask them if they will support pill testing too.
2. Keep talking about pill testing, we need to keep the issue on the agenda and build support in the community.

*You can stay in the loop with our campaign at:
www.pilltestingsaveslives.org.au*