



Criterion Conference Sydney

‘Consumption Rooms and the Reduction of the Impact of Ice.’

22 September 2015

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EO YDHF

Yarra Drug and Health Forum:

- formed in 1996 following a public meeting about heroin markets in the City of Yarra**
- representatives from AOD, government and non-govt agencies (social, welfare, health), residents, business sectors**
- advocacy, information, education, collaboration and engagement role**
- provides 'space' for membership to raise issues and discuss concerns**
- acts as a 'neutral' advocate on a range of issues membership raises**

- **Supervised drug consumption facilities can be found in over sixty cities world-wide and have been operating successfully for over thirty years.**
- **Supervised drug consumption facilities do *not* contravene UN Conventions.**

Majority of drug consumption facilities are focused on providing a range of health services to injecting drug users with the aim to:

- Reduce the acute risks of disease from unhygienic injecting**
- Prevent drug related overdose deaths**
- Connect clients with treatment and other health and social services**

Drug consumption rooms provide users with:

- **Sterile injecting equipment**
- **Counselling services**
- **Emergency care**
- **Primary medical care**
- **Referral services to social, welfare and treatment service**

Evaluations of the Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Sydney

- **Reduced public injecting**
- **No fatal overdoses**
- **Reduced transmission of BBVs**
- **Better injecting and healthcare practices**
- **No increased drug use**

Evaluations of the Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Sydney

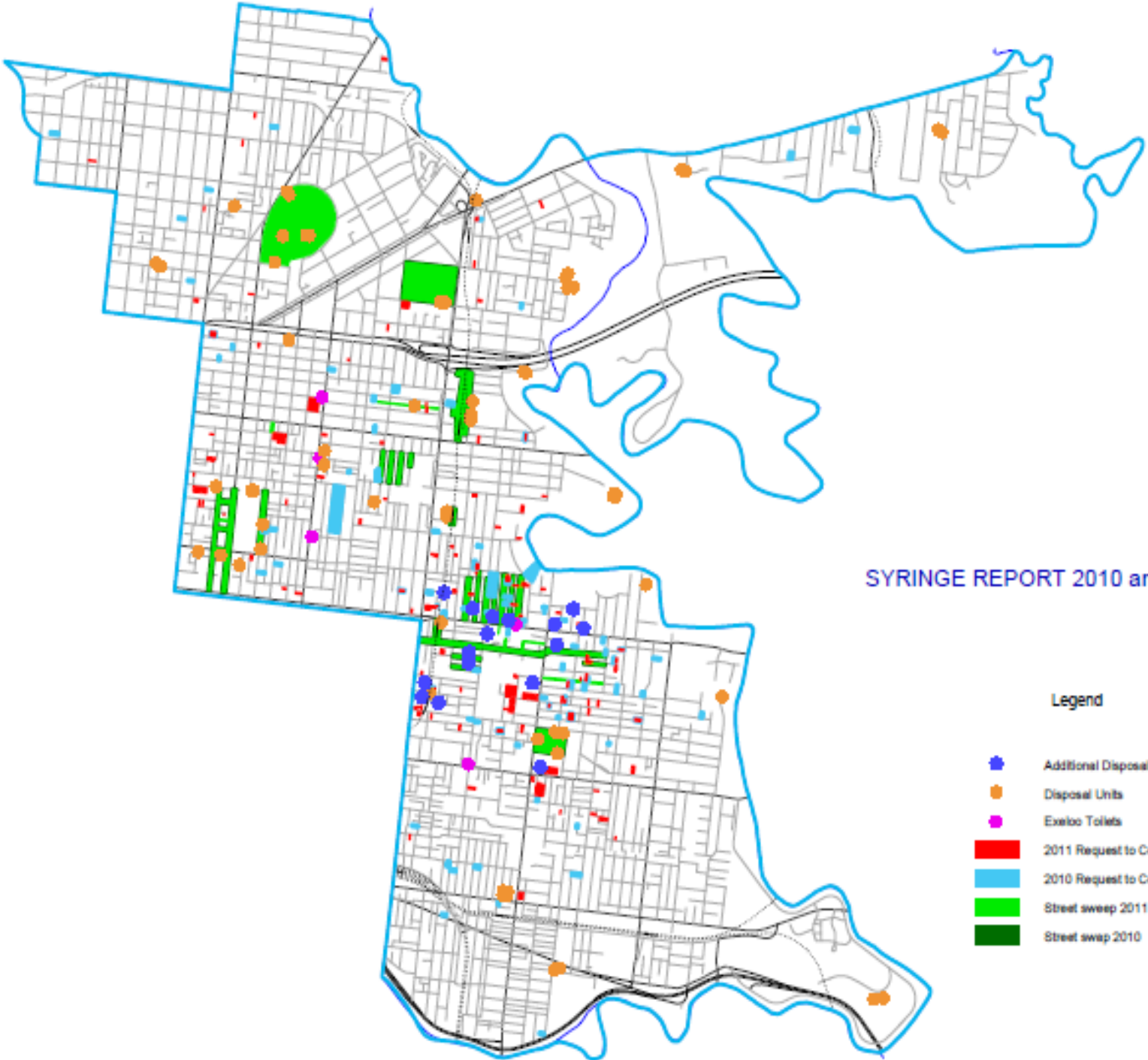
- **Provide a bridge to treatment**
- **Reduce demands on emergency services**
- **Improved amenity**
- **No increased crime**
- **Cost effective**

Case Study:

Supervised Injecting Facility (SIF)

Melbourne

The City of Yarra (particularly North Richmond and Abbotsford) continues to experience the kinds of conditions that have led to the establishment of SIFs in other locations.



SYRINGE REPORT 2010 and 2011

Legend

- Additional Disposal Units
- Disposal Units
- Exelco Toilets
- 2011 Request to Council
- 2010 Request to Council
- Street sweep 2011
- Street sweep 2010









Evidence Supporting a SIF in Melbourne:

- **Parts of Melbourne (particularly North Richmond and Abbotsford) continue to experience the kinds of conditions that have led to the establishment of SIFs in other locations.**

SIF Position Paper:

The YDHF established a SIF Working Group as a sub-group of the YDHF. This group works toward gathering evidence and developing advocacy strategies to raise awareness on the need for a SIF.

On the 22nd June 2010, the Yarra Drug & Health Forum launched the Position Paper 'The potential and viability of establishing a Supervised Injecting Facility (SIF) in Melbourne' which was prepared for us by the Burnet Institute.

The factors supporting the development of a SIFs in Yarra:

- For the past 4 years Richmond continues to remain one of the biggest, if not the biggest, street drug market in Victoria**
- Dealing takes place all over North Richmond, particularly near Victoria Street, by local dealers and also those who live in outer suburbs. People come from all over Victoria to purchase heroin in Richmond**
- There is an incredibly high volume of inappropriately discarded equipment around Richmond**

City of Yarra Support :

- ***In May 2011 CoY Council voted 6-1 in support of the establishment of a SLF.***
- ***Significant amount of media interest was generated – overwhelmingly supportive of the establishment of a SLF.***

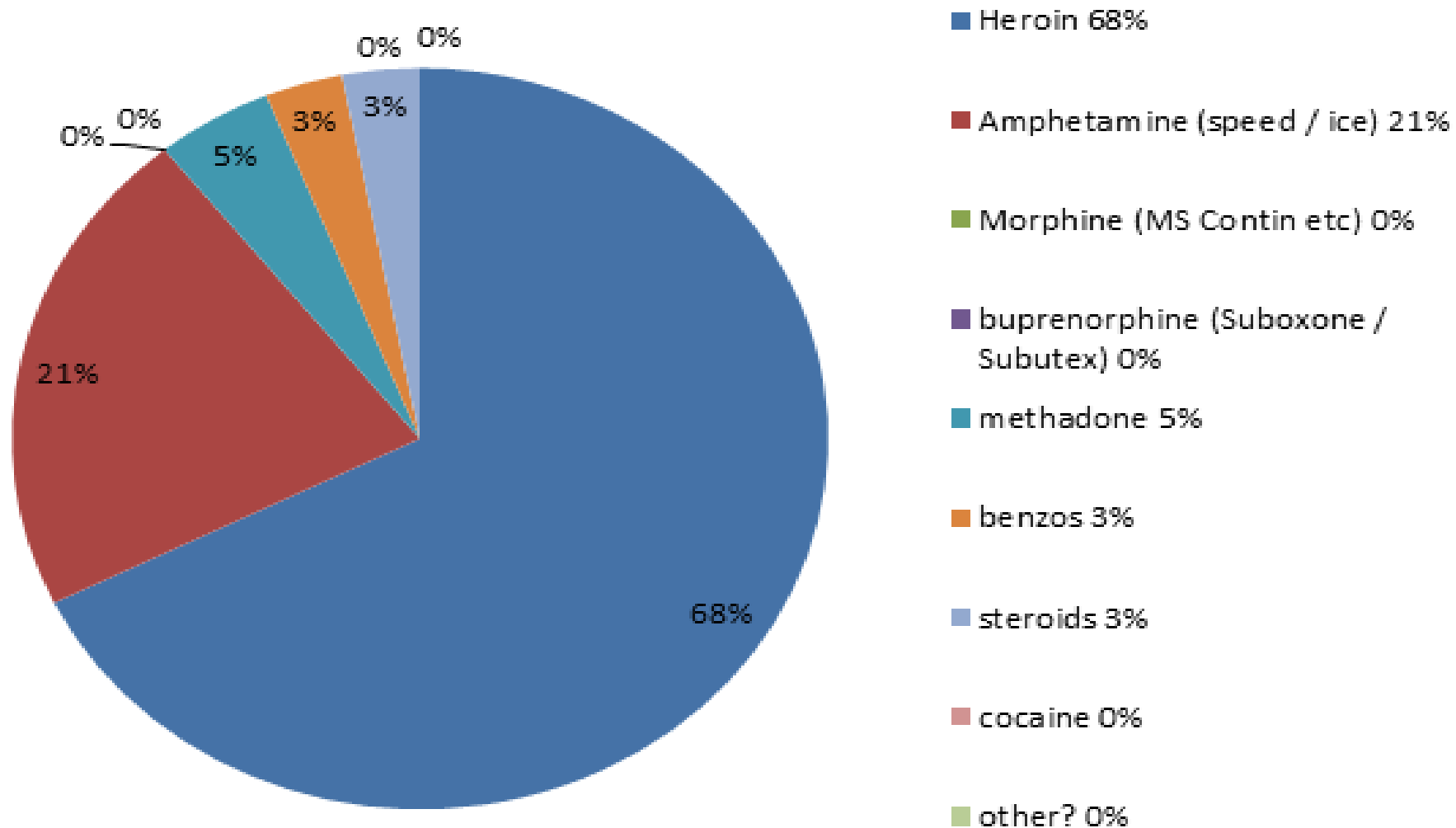
Consumption Rooms in Yarra:

The Yarra Drug and Health Forum has actively pursued the establishment of a Consumption Room in Melbourne over recent years because an identified need for such a facility.

The factors supporting the development of a SIFs in Yarra:

- Public injecting occurs close to the NRCH centre, in public car parks, in driveways, laneways, behind homes, in stairwells, in front yards, along the railway line, in cars, between cars.....**
- NRCH sees approximately 2 overdoses a month. Clients who live in the housing estate report many more. Most of these are reported as non fatal.**
- Violence, particularly amongst the injecting community, is an ongoing problem in Richmond.**
- There are 15+ (known) 'hidden' zones in alley ways and confined public spaces near Victoria Street where people gather to inject together**

2014 Last Drug Injected?



How did you know you were in psychosis?

‘I woke up strapped to a trolley in hospital.’

‘I couldn’t remember a thing.’

‘I thought I was God.’

‘I thought I could walk across Hoddle St and cars couldn’t touch me.’

‘I thought I could make things happen by thinking them.’

On mental health generally:

‘You’ve got to know when to remove yourself.’

Yet total spending in the Australia's drug budget in 2009/10:

- **\$1.7 billion with two thirds of this spent on law enforcement.**
- **Treatment received about a fifth, prevention one tenth.**
- **Harm reduction just 2%.**

Policy narratives are important:

‘...heroin trial would send a very bad signal...it would say to the community it represents the first step...towards a far more liberal approach to drug activity and the drug trade...’

‘....the path to success does not lie in giving in to the drug barons; it does not lie in giving in to the harm minimisation philosophy...’

‘This is about human beings and we need to stop treating users like criminals and help them find a way to live in the best way possible.....I believe it would help users, who primarily feel so terrible about themselves, not be treated like lesser human beings than non-users.’

Moreland Hall client 2011