

Media Release: Yarra Drug and Health Forum

July 21ST 2017

NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY 2017- 2026 AFFIRMS THE NEED FOR SUPERVISED INJECTING FACILITIES – HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR ALL

The National Drug Strategy released this week highlights renewed policy commitment toward evidence-informed policy and practice under the banner of harm minimisation; supply, demand and harm reduction.

The National Drug Strategy states:

‘For the first time, Australia has a long-term framework for reducing and preventing the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs through the agreement of a ten-year National Drug Strategy.’

‘This is a national strategic framework built on the principles of partnerships, coordination and collaboration, national direction and jurisdictional implementation, and evidence-informed responses.’

‘Strategies that create safer settings reduce harm’

‘Medically supervised injection centres and drug consumption rooms’

The Executive Officer of the Yarra Drug and Health Forum Mr Greg Denham states:

‘The National Drug Strategy supports safer injecting practices including evidence based approaches such as medically supervised injection centres and drug consumption rooms. Surveys conducted of the Australian population consistently show that the majority support the establishment of these facilities where the need exists.’

‘We now call on the State Government of Victoria to commence a pilot of a Supervised Injecting Facility in the City of Yarra in line with the National Drug Strategy and the recommendations of Coroners Hawkins and McNamara.’

‘The City of Yarra is the epicentre of the illicit drug problem with the highest rates of overdose deaths in the State of Victoria. A supervised injecting facility will provide a safe space for drug affected people, reduce drug deaths, reduce demands on ambulance services, remove needle and syringes from the streets.’

‘A Supervised Injecting Facility in Yarra will reduce drug related harms and improve community health and safety.’

Greg Denham – 0424 193 857