



Supervised Injecting Facilities (SIFs) – The Facts:

- Evaluations of SIFs world-wide show that there is no increase in drug dealing, drug-related crime and rates of new injecting drug when a SIF is established in a community.
- The National Drug Household Survey 2010 reported that the majority of Australians support the introduction of SIFs.
- SIFs improve public amenity (cleaner streets and laneways) by reducing discarding of needles and syringes in public places.
- SIFs have an important role to play in providing access to treatment for illicit drug users as well as access to other important health and social welfare programs that support both them and their children.
- One of the clear benefits of a SIF is the ability to provide and observe the use of sterile injecting equipment which helps prevent the spread of blood borne viruses (diseases) such as HIV into the community.
- In Sydney a survey of local businesses people indicated that the majority (nearly 70%) supported the Kings Cross SIF and *there is now business support* for a SIF in Melbourne
- Another benefit of a SIF is the opportunity it offers to monitor the person who is using the facility and to reduce the risk of overdose and other adverse events.
- Ambulance services in NSW have reported reduced calls (and less siren noise) to attend overdoses in the vicinity of the Kings Cross SIF thereby saving ambulance time and resources.
- The establishment of a SIF in Victoria is supported by the Australian Drug Foundation, Anex, VAADA, UnitingCare Moreland Hall, City of Yarra and Australian Nursing Federation (Vic), religious leaders and numerous other agencies and individuals. *Recently the Victorian Branch of the AMA stated that they would support the trial of a SIF in Victoria.*
- Legal reviews suggest that the establishment of SIFs *do not* contravene international obligations under various UN Conventions on drugs.
- There are over sixty cities world-wide that have one or more Drug Consumption Rooms (SIFs). Many have been operating successfully for over twenty years.

Want to know more about how you can support the introduction of a Supervised Injecting Facility in Melbourne? email: info@ydhf.org.au or phone: 94682819 or go to: www.ydhf.org.au