

LAW REFORM, DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO THE SUPPLY AND USE OF METHAMPHETAMINE IN VICTORIA

Addendum:

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Statement of Principles underlying the Recommendations

The Committee's recommendations have been guided by a series of principles. These Principles have been drawn from the research literature on methamphetamine use; evidence based best practice on 'what works'; national and state drug policies and frameworks; and the evidence given to the Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee, including written submissions and oral testimony given at public hearings.

1. An effective response to methamphetamine use and supply requires a multi-faceted approach.
2. An effective response to methamphetamine use and supply must also engage Commonwealth, state and local government, and should enlist the private and non-government (community) sectors and the general community.
3. An effective response to methamphetamine use must give equal (balanced) emphasis to supply, demand and harm reduction, consistent with the National Drug Strategy.
4. Methamphetamine abuse should be primarily regarded as a health issue.
5. Laws and legislation pertaining to drug-related crime should reflect the seriousness of the harms associated with methamphetamine.
6. An effective law enforcement response to methamphetamine must involve the collaborative engagement of all branches of the law enforcement apparatus including local, state and federal authorities.
7. Demand reduction for both illicit and licit drugs requires the development and dissemination of best practice strategies and information to diverse audiences.
8. An effective response to methamphetamine use and supply must address its underlying causes, such as the economic, social and personal problems encountered by people with drug dependence.
9. An effective response to methamphetamine use must be culturally sensitive, gender specific and tailored to take into account a range of individual needs.
10. An effective response to methamphetamine use in Aboriginal communities must be culturally sensitive and specific to particular community needs and be developed in partnership with affected communities.
11. An effective response to methamphetamine use in rural and regional communities requires tailored interventions that take into account the specific, evidenced based needs of the community.
12. An effective response to methamphetamine use must be based on recognition of the prevalence of poly-drug use.
13. An effective response to methamphetamine use must be based on an understanding that methamphetamine users consist of those who are dependent and 'non-dependent'.
14. An effective response to methamphetamine use must be informed by the views, opinions and input of drug users and take account of the cultures in which they live.
15. An effective response to methamphetamine use and supply must be informed by robust, quantitative, qualitative and evaluative research.