

27 June 2017

To the Legal and Social Issues Committee of the Parliament of Victoria

In response to the Committee's request for additional information about Naloxone:

Naloxone is an opioid-receptor antagonist which reverses the central nervous system-depressant effects caused by opioid overdose. Naloxone is used in the USA, the UK, and in many countries in Europe and Asia. Essentially, the value of Naloxone is measured by the number of overdose reversals that is facilitated by its application. That result can be mediated by the extent of presence of Naloxone within critical target populations. A pilot study in Australia in the ACT in 2011 reported the successful overdose reversal in 23 cases (refer p61, Strang & McDonald below.)

Additional information is available from Strang J. & McDonald R. *Preventing opioid overdose deaths with take-home naloxone*, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Luxembourg 2016. This document can be downloaded from <http://fileserver.idpc.net/library/emcdda-preventing-opioid-overdose.pdf>

According to Mr Ross Broad of DHHS, in Victoria, Naloxone is available via prescription from a general practitioner and can be purchased over the counter. The price for a person with a prescription is \$38.80; for a person with a prescription and a health card or other concession, the price is \$6.30, while the over the counter price without a prescription, is likely to range from \$70.00–\$90.00.

Sincerely

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