

A close-up, artistic photograph of a film reel mechanism. The image is dark, with a bright, glowing light source in the center, possibly a lamp or a light reflecting off a surface. The light illuminates the intricate metal parts of the reel, including a large spool on the left and various gears and levers. The overall mood is dramatic and focused.

# The Injecting Rooms Scam

in the words of their government  
evaluators

6. Reducing ambulance overdose callouts

**DRUG  
FREE**  
AUSTRALIA

# Sydney

In 2010 NSW Parliament turned the 2001 injecting room trial permanent

- What evidence was used?

- [HANSARD\\_1222870222\\_61870.pdf](#)

The MSIC provides considerable benefits, including major savings to the wider health system. The number of local ambulance callouts to drug overdoses has fallen by 80 per cent in the Kings Cross Area. The two economic evaluations conducted on the MSIC to date (in 2003 and 2008) provide ample evidence of the savings to the health system, on top of the savings for the individuals involved in terms of their improved health, social well being and quality of life.

# Sydney

- The facility has constantly peddled the same misinformation

## Our Success story

- We've taken the pressure off emergency services with an early study showing the number of ambulance call-outs to Kings Cross dropping by **80%**.



Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre

**Get to know  
our story.**

**Uniting**

<https://www.uniting.org/content/dam/uniting/documents/community-impact/uniting-msic/Get-to-know-our-story.pdf>

# Sydney

## The truth:

places. Coincident with the opening of the MSIC there was a decline across New South Wales in events related to opioid-related overdoses that have been sustained over the past six years and attributed to a reduction in heroin availability and subsequent changes in patterns of drug use. Based on ambulance attendances, the reduction in opioid-related overdoses was much more substantial in the immediate vicinity of the MSIC than in other neighbouring areas and in New South Wales in general. This finding suggests that the Sydney MSIC provided an environment where injecting drug users at risk of overdose were able to receive early intervention and thereby avoid the need for ambulance services. It also suggests that supervised injecting facilities are most effective in preventing drug-related morbidity and mortality in areas of concentrated drug use and not in broader geographical areas.



NATIONAL CENTRE IN HIV  
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND  
CLINICAL RESEARCH

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre  
Evaluation Report No. 4:  
Evaluation of service operation and overdose-related events

A report for the NSW Department of Health  
by the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

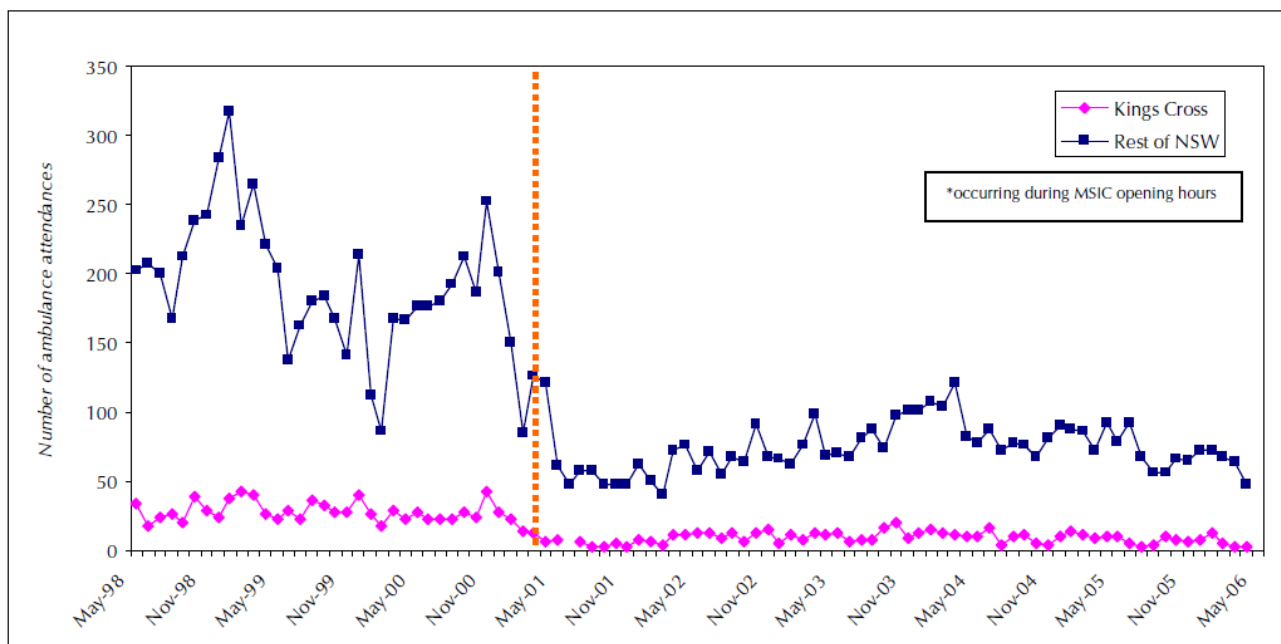
June 2007

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing,  
and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales

# NSW reductions

- Evaluation 4 - p 26

Figure 6: NSW Ambulance attendances at suspected opioid overdoses, within MSIC opening hours: May 1998 to end April 2006



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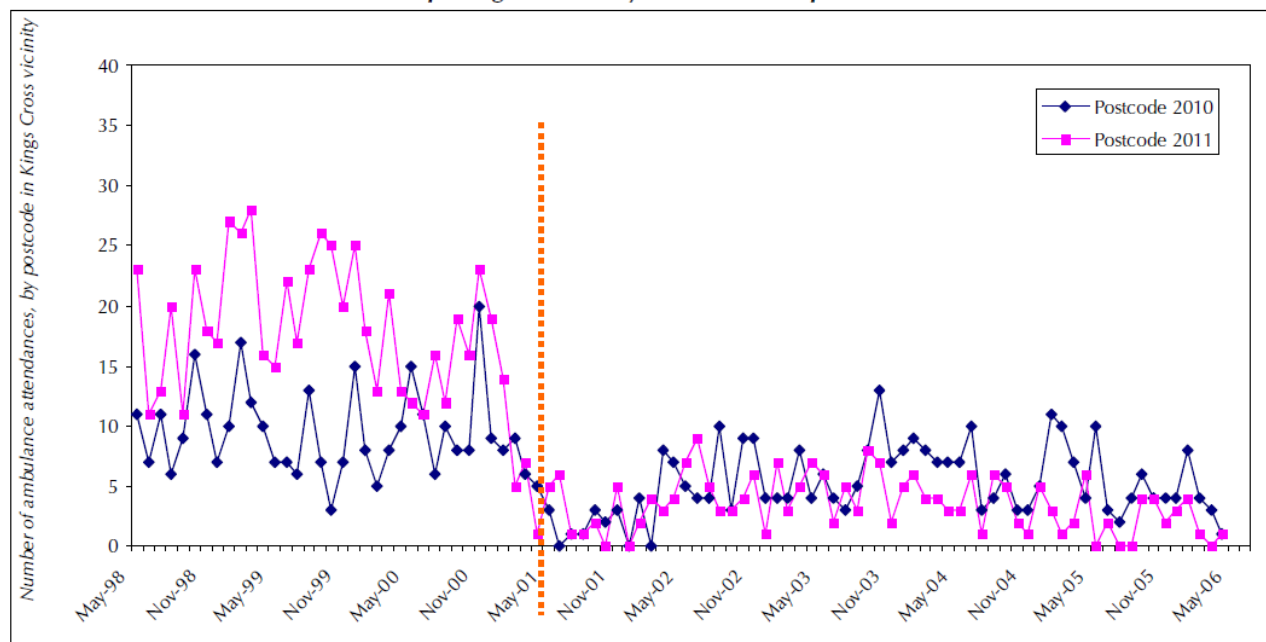
June 2007

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing,  
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# Close to Sydney facility

Compare Kings Cross (pink) with Darlinghurst next door (blue) – p 27

Figure 7: NSW Ambulance attendances at suspected opioid overdoses in postcodes 2010 and 2011, within MSIC opening hours: May 1998 to end April 2006



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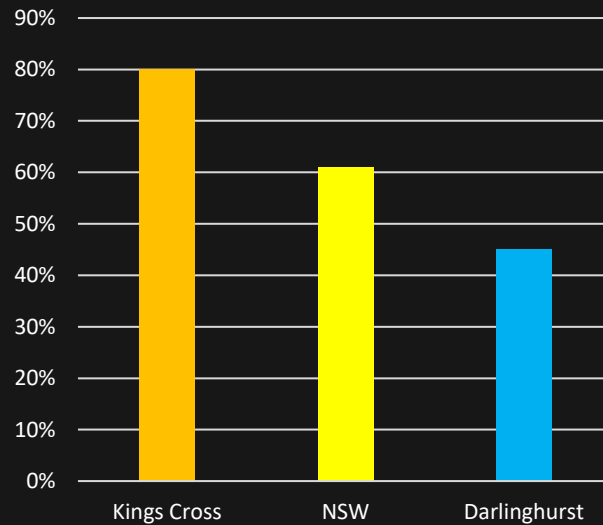
The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing,  
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# Sydney

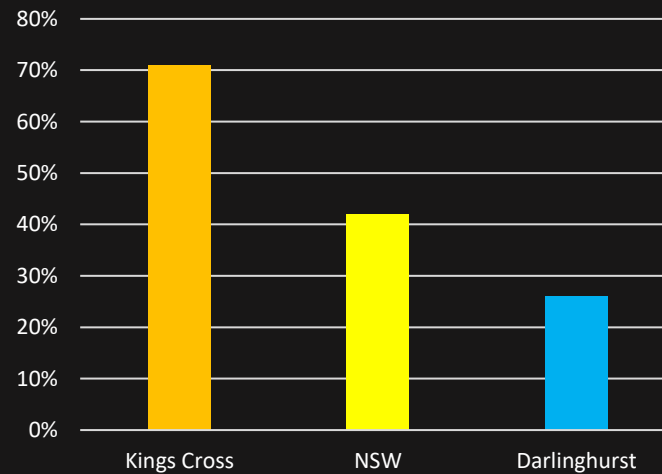
## It can't be the injecting room

- ambulance callout reductions **greater when it was closed**

Reductions in ambulance callouts caused by heroin drought - **injecting room hours**



Reductions in ambulance callouts caused by heroin drought - **injecting room closed**



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> [Addiction](#). 2010 Apr;105(4):676-83. doi: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2009.02837.x. Epub 2010 Feb 9.

### The impact of a supervised injecting facility on ambulance call-outs in Sydney, Australia

Allison M Salmon<sup>1</sup>, Ingrid van Beek, Janaki Amin, John Kaldor, Lisa Maher

Affiliations + expand  
PMID: 20148794 DOI: 10.1111/j.1360-0443.2009.02837.x

#### Abstract

**Aims:** Supervised injecting facilities (SIFs) are effective in reducing the harms associated with injecting drug use among their clientele, but do SIFs ease the burden on ambulance services of attending to overdoses in the community? This study addresses this question, which is yet to be answered, in the growing body of international evidence supporting SIFs efficacy.

**Design:** Ecological study of patterns in ambulance attendances at opioid-related overdoses, before and after the opening of a SIF in Sydney, Australia.

**Setting:** A SIF opened as a pilot in Sydney's 'red light' district with the aim of accommodating a high throughput of injecting drug users (IDUs) for supervised injecting episodes, recovery and the management of overdoses.

**Measurements:** A total of 20,409 ambulance attendances at opioid-related overdoses before and after the opening of the Sydney SIF. Average monthly ambulance attendances at suspected opioid-related overdoses, before (36 months) and after (60 months) the opening of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), in the vicinity of the centre and in the rest of New South Wales (NSW).

**Results:** The burden on ambulance services of attending to opioid-related overdoses declined significantly in the vicinity of the Sydney SIF after it opened, compared to the rest of NSW. This effect was greatest during operating hours and in the immediate MSIC area, suggesting that SIFs may be most effective in reducing the impact of opioid-related overdose in their immediate vicinity.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20148794/>



# Cause?

- Displacement
- changed 2001 policing sent users into a frenzy

ZDNet / Nsw Police Minister / Story

## UPDATE: Drug sniffer-dog alert site strains under pressure

By Rachel Lebihan, ZDNet.com.au on May 23rd, 2002

Topics

nsw police minister,  
drug detection dogs,  
nsw council for civil  
liberties,



The controversial site, that sends registered members of the public SMS messages to warn them where police are patrolling drug detection dogs, was swamped by so many people yesterday that outages were prevalent as the server struggled to cope with demand.

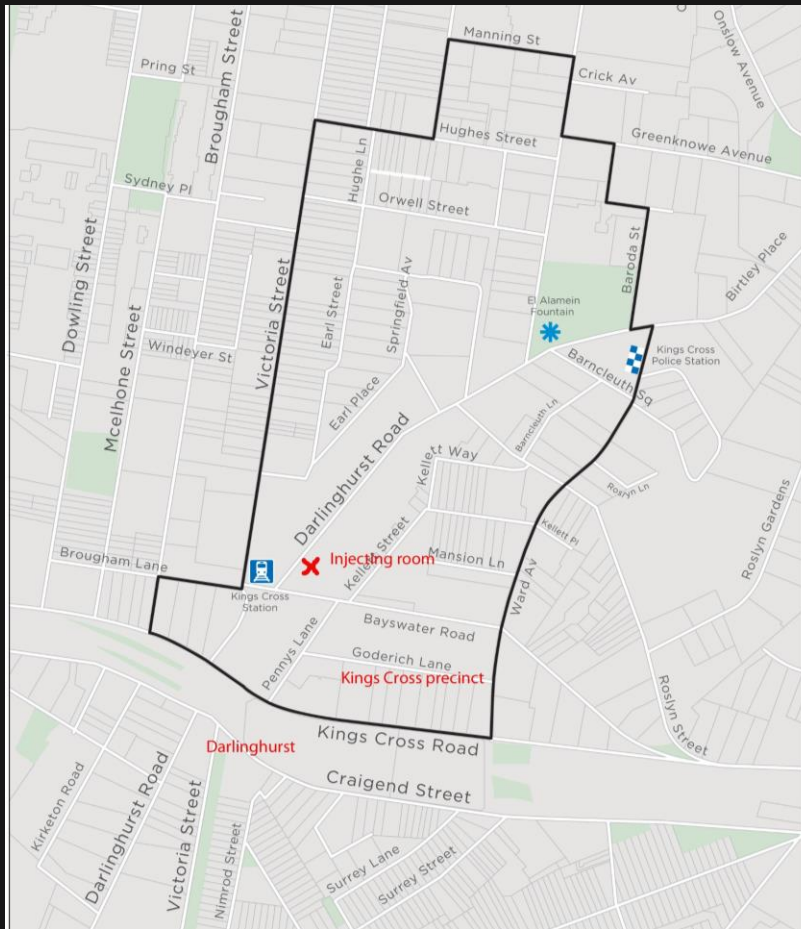
- Sniffer dog policing commenced operations 3 weeks after the injecting room opened - see

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Hansard/Pages/HansardResult.aspx#/docid/HANSARD-1323879322-25542/link/11>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120630003925/http://www.zdnet.com.au/update-drug-sniffer-dog-alert-site-strains-under-pressure-120265435.htm>



# Cause?

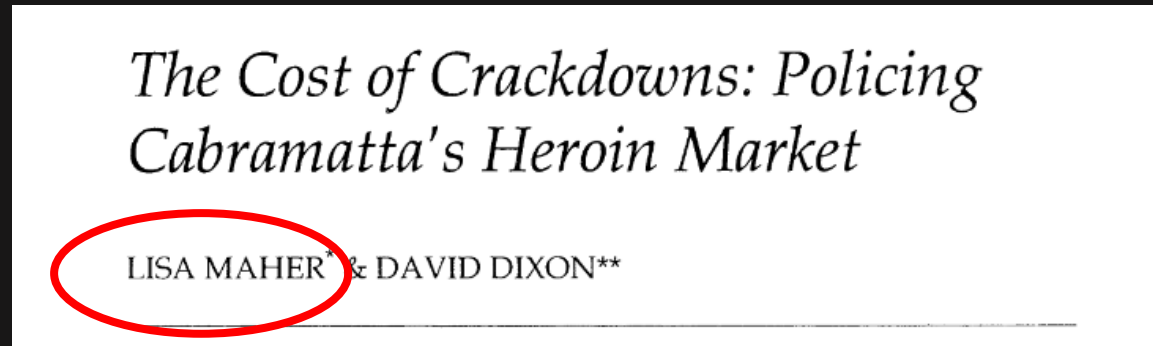


<https://druginfo.sl.nsw.gov.au/drugs/drugs-and-law/police-powers>

[LIQUOR ACT 2007 - SCHEDULE 2 \(austlii.edu.au\)](#)

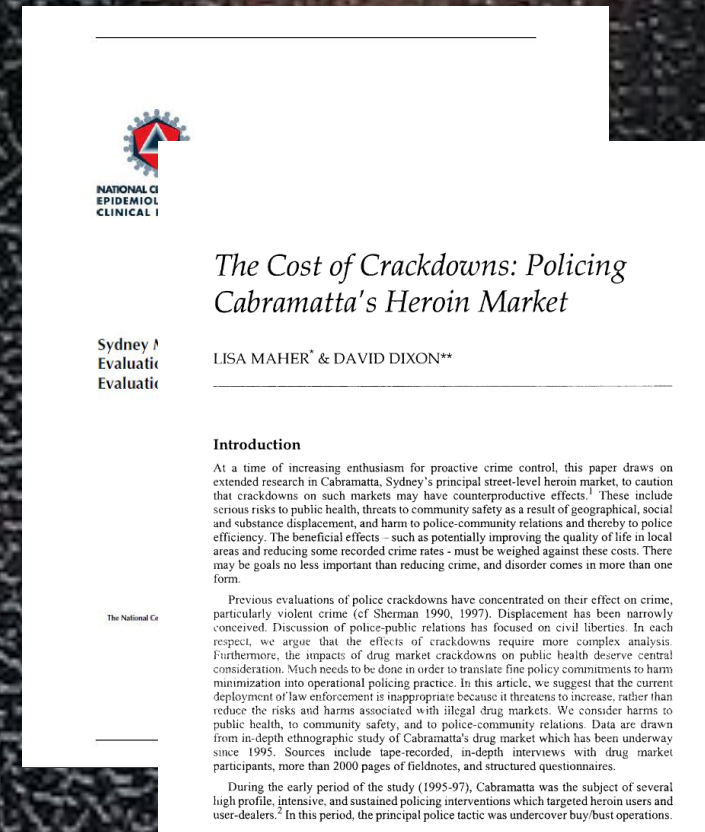
# Displacement

- The gurus of the 2001 policing displacement effect



- Authors of the 2007 injecting room study

This report was prepared for the NSW Department of Health by Ms Allison Salmon, Professor John Kaldor and A/Professor Lisa Maher of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research (NCHECR), University of New South Wales.



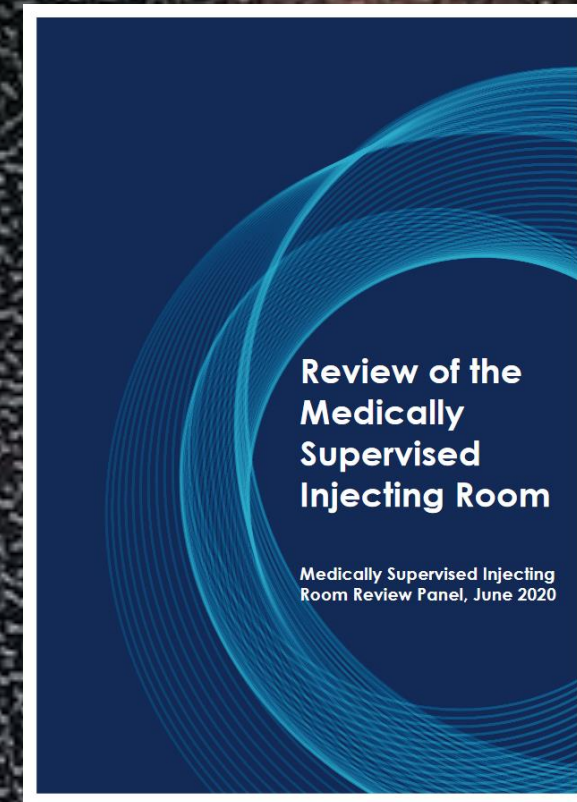
[https://www.popcenter.org/sites/default/files/Responses/police\\_crackdowns/PDFs/Maher&Dixon2001.pdf](https://www.popcenter.org/sites/default/files/Responses/police_crackdowns/PDFs/Maher&Dixon2001.pdf)

<https://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/EvalRep4SMSIC.pdf>

# Melbourne

## Melbourne – no mention of police crackdowns – p xi

- **“There has been a reduction in ambulance attendances involving naloxone in the vicinity of the facility during opening hours.** Ambulance attendances involving naloxone have reduced by 25 per cent within 1 km of the MSIR since it opened. This decline was greater for attendances during MSIR opening hours, with the number reducing by 36 per cent. Frequent users of the MSIR trial have had fewer ambulance attendances involving naloxone since the MSIR opened. The MSIR has called an ambulance in only 30 of the 2,657 overdoses responded to in the MSIR.”



# Melbourne

NEWS > NATIONAL

**HERALD**

## Vic police blitz targets drug traffickers

By Christine McGinn  
Updated January 7 2019 - 3:16pm, first published 3:12pm



 Police are cracking down on drug deals near the injecting room in the Melbourne suburb of Richmond.

Just hours into a two-week police operation targeting drug dealing near Melbourne's supervised injecting room, officers arrested a man

<https://www.newcastleherald.com.au/story/5838300/vic-police-blitz-targets-drug-traffickers/>

# Melbourne


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News / National

## Almost 200 drug traffickers arrested in Richmond near safe injecting facility

By Chanel Zagon | 7:20pm May 22, 2020



North Richmond injecting room under investigation

1 NOW North Richmond injecting room under investigation

2 Multiple-vehicle crash on Sydney Harbour Bridge sparks delays

3 Truck driver on NSW Central Coast has lucky escape after his vehicle explodes on motorway

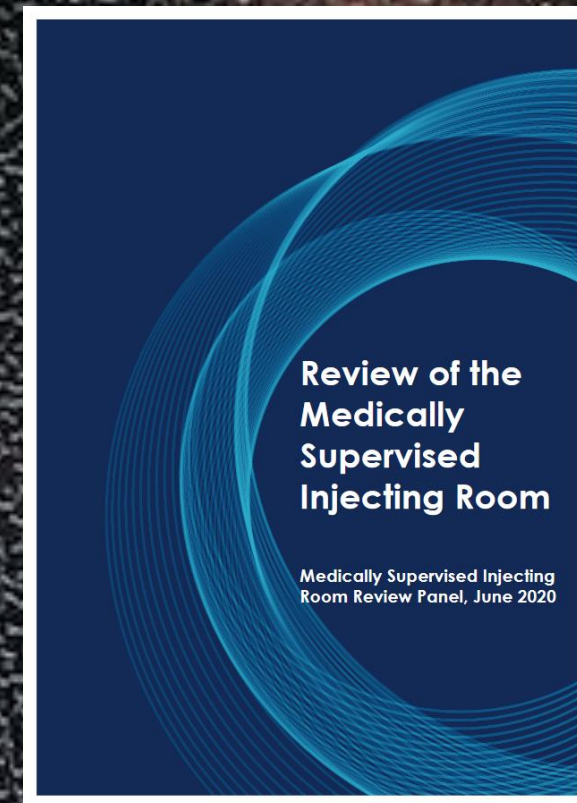
4 Sydney facing another day of hazardous conditions as fire burns continue

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/police-arrest-nearly-200-drug-traffickers-richmond-melbourne/1c10ede9-e49c-4e39-9ed8-28a0008a831c>

# Melbourne

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# Irony

## Melbourne's total heroin injections – p x

Total injections – 112,831

The MSIR trial has supervised 116,802 injections (96.6 per cent of which involved heroin) and responded to 2,657 overdoses, with no fatalities. Compared with other people who inject drugs,

## Street rate of overdose

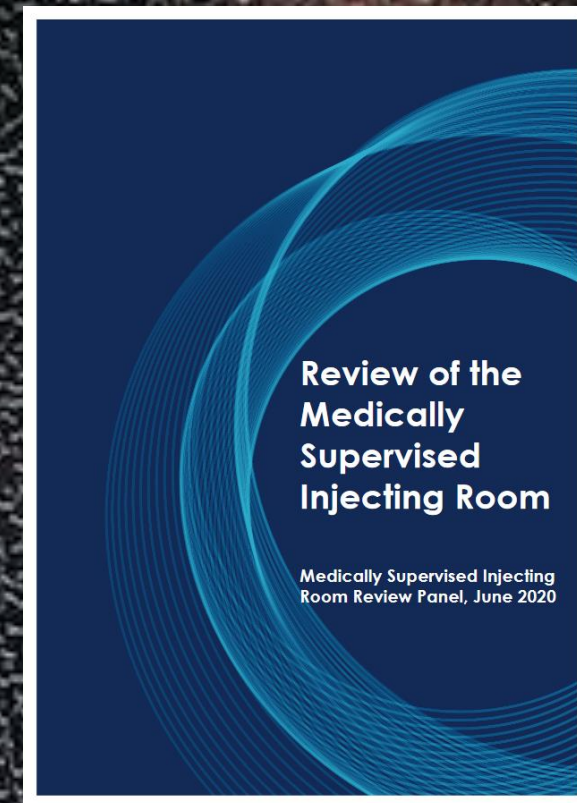
- One overdose for every 4,380 injections – see Episode 1

## Expected ambulance callouts

- 112,831 injections/4,380 = 26 ambulance overdose callouts

## BUT

have had fewer ambulance attendances involving naloxone since the MSIR opened. The MSIR has called an ambulance in only 30 of the 2,657 overdoses responded to in the MSIR.”



# Scorecard

- Government-ordered objectives

1. save lives (episode 1& 2)	multiple \$\$millions to save a single life
2. reduce public nuisance (episode 3)	Fail
3. referral to treatment/rehab (episode 4)	Fail
4. reduce blood-borne viruses (episode 5)	Fail
5. reduce ambulance callouts (episode 6)	Fail





# The Injecting Rooms Scam

in the words of their government  
evaluators

7. Misleading the public