

A Melbourne CBD supervised injecting service will save lives and transform lives.

We stand in support of the trial of a supervised injecting service in the City of Melbourne.

The proposal for a supervised injecting service in the CBD will save lives, give highly vulnerable people access to treatment support and healthcare, and reduce public injecting and needle litter in our city.

But this is not just our opinion.

Studies of more than 120 injecting services around the world, some of which have been operating for decades, show they are one of the most effective tools in combating the serious harm caused by drug dependence in our community.

Every day, people are risking death by injecting drugs on Melbourne's streets; in car parks, laneways and public toilets. Approximately one person a month dies after using heroin in the City of Melbourne.

These deaths are unnecessary. These are sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. All loved and mourned by families and friends.

Our response as a community to this health issue should be a health solution, underpinned by care, support and compassion.

A small, discreet supervised injecting service, embedded within a broader range of community health services such as mental health, housing, sexual health, oral health and allied health, is the best way to connect people with the help they need, when they need it.

A health response will deliver benefits to everyone, reducing the impact of drug use on the whole CBD community, as well as the people who use the service.

Those who are drug dependent have some of the highest health and social support needs, yet tragically have the lowest rates of access due to shame, stigma and other barriers.

We need to look beyond the emotion, judgement and fear, and assess the hard evidence.

As leading organisations and experts in drug dependence, health and medicine, homelessness, justice and youth services, we are speaking out in support of the trial of a supervised injecting service in the CBD.

Because we know, and the evidence shows, these services save lives, connect people to pathways out of drug dependence, and reduce the impact of public drug use.



Anna Robinson, CEO
Access Health and Community



Lisa Fitzpatrick, Branch Secretary
Australian Nursing & Midwifery
Federation, Vic Branch



Michael Geary, CEO
Banyule Community Health



Debbie Warner, Director
APOD Family Support



Suzanne Fraser, Director
Aus. Research Centre in Sex, Health
and Society, La Trobe University



Gerard José, CEO
Bendigo Community Health Service



Paul McDonald, CEO
Anglicare Victoria



Lisa Darmanian, Secretary
Australian Services Union Vic. Tas



Damian Ferrie, CEO
Better Health Network



Vaughan Winther, CEO
Australian Community Support
Organisation



The Australasian Professional Society
on Alcohol and other Drugs

Elizabeth Baxter, EO
Australasian Professional Society on
Alcohol and other Drugs



Nicole Bartholomeusz, CEO
cohealth



Erin Lalor, CEO
Australian Drug Foundation

Cr. Dr. Olivia Ball



Adam Searby, President
Drug & Alcohol Nurses of Australasia



Roderick McRae, President
Australian Medical Association
Victoria



Sean Duffy, CEO
Ballarat Community Health



Karen Field, CEO
Drummond Street Services



Natalie Sullivan, CEO
EACH Social and Community Health



Fr Bob Maguire, Founder and
Chairman
Fr Bob Maguire Foundation



Sione Crawford, CEO
Harm Reduction Victoria



Tony Trimmingham, CEO
Family Drug Support Australia



Leigh Rhode, CEO
Gateway Health



Paul Healey, State Secretary,
Health and Community Services
Union



Louisa Gibbs, CEO
Federation of Community Legal
Centres Victoria

Dr. Bernie Geary OA



Diana Asmar, Secretary
Health Workers Union



Patrick Lawrence, CEO
First Step



Anne-Maree Kaser, CEO
Gippsland Lakes Complete Health



Sara Pheasant, CEO
Inner Melbourne Community Legal



Kristine Olaris, CEO
Fitzroy Legal Service



Greg Little, CEO
Grampians Wimmera



Jayne Nelson, CEO
IPC Health



Karen Fletcher, EO
Flat Out



Alex Wodak, Ambassador
Harm Reduction Australia



Julie Edwards, CEO
Jesuit Social Services



Bevan Warner, CEO
Launch Housing



Major Brendan Nottle
Melbourne City Salvos 61:4
Salvation Army Australia



Northern District Community Health

Mandy Hutchinson, CEO
Northern District Community Health



Elena Pappas, CEO
Law and Advocacy Centre for Women



Charlotte Jones, CEO
Mental Health Legal Centre



Stefan Gruenert, CEO
Odyssey House Victoria



Elaine Montegriffo, Interim CEO
LiverWELL® (incorporating Hepatitis
Victoria)



Marcelle Mogg, CEO
Mental Health Victoria



Pat McGorry, CEO
Orygen



THE LOOP AUSTRALIA

Cameron Francis, CEO
The Loop Australia



Maryanne Tadic, Acting CEO
Merri Health



Clare Davies, CEO
Self Help Addiction Resource Centre



Matt Hammond, Secretary
Medical Scientists Association of
Victoria



Amanda Mullins, CEO
Nexus Primary Health



April Long, CEO
SMART Recovery Australia



Vicki Sutton, CEO
Melbourne City Mission



Patricia Collocott, CEO
North Richmond Community Health



Cheryl Holmes, CEO
Spiritual Health Association



Robina Bradley, CEO
St Mary's House of Welcome



Simon Ruth, CEO
Thorne Harbour Health



Emma King, CEO
Victorian Council of Social Service



Nick Kent, National Director
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
(SSDP) Australia



Dan Lubman, CEO
Turning Point



Leigh Clarke, CEO
Victorian Healthcare Association



Chloe Span, Secretary
SSDP University of Melbourne



Bronwyn Pike, CEO
Uniting



Rosemary Kelly, Secretary
Victorian Psychologists Association



Phillip Ripper, CEO
Sunbury Cobaw Community Health



Jill Gallagher, CEO
Victorian Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation



Annie Nash, CEO
Villamanta Disability Rights Legal
Service



Simone Heald, CEO
Sunraysia Community Health Services



Sam Biondo, CEO
Victorian Alcohol and Drug
Association



Western Health

Russell Harrison, CEO
Western Health



Raymond Blessing, CEO
TaskForce



Craig McGregor, Secretary
Victorian Allied Health Professionals
Association



Geoff Soma, CEO
Western Region Alcohol & Drug
Centre Inc.



Andrea McLeod, CEO
Windana



Dr Stephen McNally, EO
Yarra Drug & Health Forum



Kent Burgess, CEO
Your Community Health



Ben Vasiliou, CEO
Youth Projects



Andrew Bruun, CEO
Youth Support & Advocacy Service



Ariel Couchman, CEO
Youthlaw