



TAKE CONTROL
SAFER, SANER DRUG LAWS



MEDIA RELEASE

Government must move swiftly to release and respond to Ice Commission findings

Drug treatment experts say the NSW Government has a responsibility to release the Ice Commission's findings in full and respond urgently.

Matt Noffs, CEO of the Ted Noffs Foundation said: "The Premier said she would be confident in the Commission's findings. There is no reason to delay any release.

"Harm from drug use is happening right now and the current approach of punishment over treatment has been failing for decades – every day of delay means more suffering for young people who just need help.

Mick Palmer, former police commissioner and spokesperson for Take Control said: "If all the evidence is properly considered, and we put the protection of lives of young Australians firmly at the head of the drug use policy queue, as surely we must, then the case for a health and safety approach to personal drug use, and the removal of criminal sanctions is so strong that it almost screams out for adoption."

"Clearly many of the drug-related deaths that sadly devastate families and rock whole communities, are of young people who through fear, shame or embarrassment fail to seek help – or tell the truth – when something goes wrong. Unless we put protection ahead of punishment this is very unlikely to change," Mr Palmer said.

Gino Vumbaca, the President of Harm Reduction Australia and convener of Pill Testing Australia said that there needed to be more intervention than pill testing just at festivals: "Our consortium now has the independently proven experience and expertise to deliver pill testing for NSW. This includes testing for people about to consume drugs at festivals but just as importantly for drug use that is happening at home or away from festivals. We have a fully developed model for fixed site pill testing in health settings so we can reach people where health and safety advice can be delivered and is desperately needed. It just takes NSW to objectively look at the evidence and the track record of our services to know the next step needed."

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