



# DRUG FREE AUSTRALIA

Our mission: To lobby for the prevention, treatment & elimination of drug abuse.

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We are a not-for profit  
community based group of  
Australian organisations  
and communities, working  
for a Drug Free Australia.

## Injecting Room Report 2003 'THE ROAD TO NOWHERE'

### Letter to the editor

Friday 12th September 2003

#### Injecting Room a costly failure

Drug Free Australia's analytical analysis of the Kings Cross Injecting Room (MSIC) Report, is a critical report for two reasons. Firstly we used the injecting room's own data and simply cut away the marketing hype.

By its own criteria the injecting room failed to reduce crime or reduce illicit drug use. Two typical statements they make are; On *page 59*; "*There was no evidence that the operation of the MSIC affected the number of heroin overdose deaths in the Kings Cross area.*"

On *page 60* the report itself states that *community overdoses, and ambulance call outs (to the Kings Cross area) have not varied.*

Secondly the MSIC is unable to demonstrate any role in moving illicit drug users into treatment with a drug free outcome. Although they have claimed referrals to Methadone Maintenance Treatment, MMT, they cannot demonstrate that any person referred is no longer still in the cycle of crime and illegal drug use in addition to methadone use.

The publicly funded injecting room profits no one but its operators and drug dealers and its scandalous failure demonstrates the need to adopt a prevention focus in policy.

Drug Free Australia will continue to call for the closure of the injecting room with funds to be diverted into preventing induction to addiction and programs to help people become drug free."

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