

MEDIA RELEASE

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[starts]

Additional supervised injecting capacity vital in addressing reduce drug harm

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association welcomes the announcement of a second Injecting room following the release of the Hamilton report.

Mr Biondo, EO VAADA says, 'the benefits outlined in the report align with international evidence on the lifesaving practices that occur in supervised injecting facilities with the North Richmond facility carrying the additional benefit of having made 13,000 referrals to health and social services during its' time in operation'.

'Many of these referrals and the subsequent benefits in housing, health and welfare may not have been otherwise achieved'.

'The surging tide of heroin harms highlights the wisdom in establishing a second facility to further reduce the harms, increase referrals and in part reduce the burden on the overstretched MSIR'.

'We also welcome the announcement to improve amenity in North Richmond and look forward to the benefits to the local community, including traders.'

[ends]

VAADA is the peak body that represents over 80 Alcohol and other Drug services across Victoria. On a daily basis these services are dealing with the effects of harmful alcohol and other drug consumption.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Scott Drummond on 0400 722 859 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.