

PRESS RELEASE

7/3/2023

[starts]

A logical decision which will save lives

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) welcomes the release of the key findings and recommendations from the final report into the *Review of the Medically Supervised Injecting Room* (the report).

We welcome the continuation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) and commend the government on their ongoing support of this service.

The report lists 10 recommendations which, with the exception of one, have been endorsed by government.

We await details on the implementation of these recommendations noting that many of the issues canvassed in the report are highly complex.

We look forward to working with government in supporting this service and the progression of these recommendations.

Mr Sam Biondo, Executive Officer of VAADA says, 'the cohort supported by this life saving service often experience a range of morbidities including trauma and we therefore look forward to the development of the wrap around service. We also commend the government on committing to the commitment to provide hydromorphone as a pharmacotherapy, which for some people, will assist them in their recovery journey.'

'We note that there is more work to do in this space, with various data sources pointing to a persistent level of harm relating to heroin and other opioids throughout Victoria. With there being so many preventable overdoses occurring in this state, there is still much work to do. We look forward to a forthcoming announcement regarding the implementation of a second MSIR in Victoria.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Sam Biondo, EO of VAADA, on 0414 974 121 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.

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Media stories on alcohol and other drugs may be traumatic for some people. Support is available and we ask that media agencies consider publishing the details below:

If this story has raised issues about your own or others drug and alcohol use, please contact the national hotline for confidential counselling and referral on 1800 250 015

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.