

WITH CONVICTION

Illicit drugs enter Australian prisons regardless of the level and sophistication of security measures. Prisons are **incubators of blood borne infections**, including HIV and hepatitis C, because prisoners share injecting equipment.

Until governments and prison administrators can guarantee a totally drug-free environment, it is their **duty to manage the risk of infections** that are contracted by sharing unsterile injecting equipment in prisons.

Needle and Syringe Programs reduce HIV and hepatitis C infections by providing access to sterile equipment. This **saves our community an estimated \$27 for each \$1 invested** by governments. Currently prisoners do not have access to sterile equipment. They share needles and contract infectious diseases.

Almost all prisoners return to our communities. Reducing hepatitis C and HIV transmission in prison by allowing access to sterile syringes will **protect the health of the whole community**. Infections prevented in prison will reduce healthcare costs.

Numerous Needle and Syringe Programs have been implemented successfully in prisons overseas and syringes have **never been used as a weapon against prison staff**.

Prisons with Needle and Syringe Programs maintain drug control measures and can increase access to voluntary drug treatment.

Establishing a controlled Needle and Syringe Program in prison is not going soft on drugs. It is getting tough on preventable drug harms.

The respected citizens listed below support a TRIAL of Needle and Syringe Programs in Australian prisons. For more information visit www.anex.org.au/prisons

Professor James Angus AO, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne

Professor Peter Baume AC, former Chancellor Australian National University, former Federal Minister for Health and Education

Mr Bill Bowtell, Director, Lowy Institute, HIV/AIDS Project

Associate Professor Shane Carney, School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Newcastle

Professor Suzanne Cory, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, University of Melbourne

Professor Peter Doherty AC, Laureate Professor, University of Melbourne, Winner Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology

Sister Regis Mary Dunne RSM, AO

Associate Professor Brett Emmerson, Discipline of Psychiatry, University of Queensland

Professor Michael Good AO, Chair, National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Brian Kay AM, Deputy Director, Queensland Tropical Health Alliance, Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Professor Stephen Kent, Head, HIV Vaccine Laboratory, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne

The Honourable Duncan Kerr SC, former Federal Minister for Justice

Professor Susan Kippax, Professorial Research Fellow, University of NSW

Professor Rob Moodie, Chair of Global Health, Nossal Institute of Global Health, University of Melbourne

Professor Brian Morris, School of Medical Sciences and Institute for Biomedical Research, University of Sydney

Emeritus Professor Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE, Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne

Professor Kerin O'Dea, Director, Samson Institute for Health Research, University of South Australia

Dr George O'Neil, Medical Director, Fresh Start Recovery Program

Professor Ned Pankhurst, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), Griffith University

Emeritus Professor David Penington AC, Chair, Bio21 Australia Ltd

Professor Chris Puplick AM, Former Chair, Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases

Dr Sepehr Shakib, Director, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Royal Adelaide Hospital

Professor Cindy Shannon, Director, Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland

Emeritus Professor Richard Smallwood AO, University of Melbourne

Professor Robert Stable, Vice Chancellor and President, Bond University

Associate Professor Janelle Stirling, Aboriginal Health, University of Sydney

Dr Alex Wodak AM, Director, Alcohol and Drug Services, St Vincent's Hospital

Dr Marion Woods, Senior Specialist Infectious Diseases and Director of Advanced Training RACP, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Groups that have supported a trial of Needle and Syringe Programs in prison:

Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Australia

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

Australian Hepatitis Council

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League

Australian Medical Association

Australian Health Ministers Conference

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia

Family Drug Support Australia

National Centre in HIV Social Research

Public Health Association of Australia

Royal Australasian College of Physicians



Anex does not condone drug use, but strives to protect people from drug-related harm when at their most vulnerable. Anex convenes the expert Harm Minimisation in Prisons Committee whose membership is listed at www.anex.org.au/prisons

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