

National Leadership Forum On Ice 2006

14 December 2006

Communiqué

Coordinated action against 'Ice'

Australian State, Territory and Commonwealth Governments as well as the New Zealand Government today came together to the National Leadership Forum on Ice in recognition of the urgent need for a comprehensive and coordinated response to combat 'Ice'.

The NSW Premier the Hon Morris Iemma called for today's historic Forum to draw on all available evidence and expertise to find urgent solutions to target 'Ice'.

Governments have agreed today that the most successful approach to tackling 'Ice' is a coordinated approach that ensures jurisdictions' are working together, building on existing strengths, identifying gaps and opportunities for better responses.

The adopted Terms of Reference called for the Forum to:

- Investigate how 'Ice' is getting into Australia, how it is being transported around Australia, and how the ingredients and equipment to manufacture 'Ice' are being obtained;
- Investigate how law enforcement responses should be enhanced to fight dealing, manufacture and use of 'Ice';
- Find solutions to keep our borders secure and stop illegal manufacturing operations;
- Consider whether our laws and the penalties they contain are strong enough to deal with 'Ice';
- Investigate how the spread and use of this drug can be prevented, and how community action could contribute to combating this drug'
- Identify measures to increase the ability of the health system, and other social services, to cope with 'Ice', including examination of available treatment and support options for those affected and their families;
- Examine whether special measures are required to keep our young people safe from this scourge;
- Identify national coordination mechanisms to ensure that solutions are found and disseminated, and emerging trends can be monitored and solutions identified and implemented early.

While it was recognized that all jurisdictions have taken significant steps to address 'Ice' and methamphetamine use, the Forum acknowledged that improved methods, targeted

resources and a coordinated effort were necessary to achieve the significant advances necessary to tackle this drug and its associated harms.

Governments today agreed that future efforts should support, enhance and build upon the existing initiatives and strategies and that existing structures and channels be used to implement the broad ranging recommendations.

Resolutions agreed are as follows:

Session 1: International and National trends, prevalence and impacts – who uses ice – what are its effects - the evidence base

- 1.1 The Forum notes the work done by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy in tackling issues related to illicit drug use in Australia and New Zealand and their efforts with regards to tackling problems related to amphetamine-type substances.
- 1.2 Agree that methamphetamines, and ice in particular, are a key issue of concern to the community and that their health and social impacts require particular attention from governments.
- 1.3 That jurisdictions ensure that they maintain a balanced approach to deal with the harms arising from the misuse of amphetamine-type substances that focuses on social and health interventions as well as law enforcement.
- 1.4 Agree to the principle that all jurisdictions continue and enhance their cooperation in their approach to addressing 'ice' and methamphetamine use and associated harm across all government portfolios.
- 1.5 Agree that activities and strategies to combat 'ice' and methamphetamines be evidence-based and include prevention, reduction of harm, law enforcement, education, treatment and research.
- 1.6 Agree that any future action build on existing initiatives and be aligned with the National Drug Strategy priorities and objectives.
- 1.7 That a cost shared funding arrangement be considered by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy to implement targeted initiatives for 'ice' and methamphetamines under the National Amphetamines-Type Stimulants Strategy.
- 1.8 That opportunities be explored for targeted data collection on 'ice' and methamphetamines through existing mechanisms and to integrate and coordinate these mechanisms, such as:

- the National Drug Strategy Household Survey;
 - the Australian Secondary School Students Alcohol And Drugs Survey;
 - the Illicit Drug Reporting System;
 - Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System;
 - Australian Illicit Drug Report;
 - Illicit Drug Data Reports;
 - National Minimum Data Set for Alcohol and Other Drug Services;
 - Drug Use Monitoring In Australia;
 - Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey;
 - Australian Federal Police and Australian Customs Service.
- 1.9 That the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy be asked to consider additional research into social, ethnographic and epidemiological aspects of the use of 'ice' and methamphetamines, including links to risky sexual behaviour, impact on foetal development and prevalence in Aboriginal communities.
- 1.10 That papers prepared for the Forum be forwarded to the ministerial council on drug strategy to inform the development of the National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy.

Drug trafficking across National and jurisdictional borders – rates – issues – existing law enforcement legislation and measures

- 1.11 That routine assessments be conducted by all law enforcement agencies of the effectiveness of drug law enforcement based on relevant data sources including classified intelligence and indicators, for example, price, purity, level of use and surveys of availability of 'ice' and methamphetamine.
- 1.12 That agencies continue to support law enforcement responses to investigate organised crime groups involved in the production and trafficking of 'ice' and methamphetamine, including participating in joint agency interjurisdictional operations.
- 1.13 That jurisdictions continue to enhance the already significant collaboration between state/territory and national law enforcement agencies in conducting specialised joint agency investigations to disrupt high level crime groups involved in 'ice' and methamphetamine production and trafficking (*jurisdictional initiatives relating to this resolution to be included in annexure*).
- 1.14 That jurisdictions note and agree to monitor changes to the dynamics of the illicit methamphetamine market as a result of the rescheduling of pseudoephedrine, including trends in illicit diversion of pseudoephedrine and increases in other

crime types such as identity fraud, violence and property crime to access pseudoephedrine.

Session 2: Prevention education and community responses to address use and related harms

- 2.1 That as part of the National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy social marketing and health education initiatives be considered and supported that target current users and those groups identified as 'at risk' of use, with the aim to reduce use, prevent harm and reduce likelihood of transition to dependent use.
- 2.2 That as part of the National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy access to training for front-line workers, corrections officers and service providers (eg. health and youth workers) be encouraged to increase their capacity to identify problematic drug use and to provide early interventions, support and appropriate referrals.
- 2.3 That community-based initiatives being supported by the jurisdictions be encouraged to enable communities to actively participate in the prevention of drug use through local solutions.
- 2.4 That the Forum supports social marketing and education campaigns that are evidence based and notes that special consideration is being given to:
 - targeting parents and carers by providing information and guidance;
 - special occupational groups which are known to use 'ice' and methamphetamine, including the hospitality and transport industries;
 - targeted messages to discourage use of 'ice' and methamphetamines;
 - messages around the consequences of using 'ice' and methamphetamines such as the risks of Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, other infections arising from injecting drug use and issues associated with polydrug use.
- 2.5 That consideration be given to accompanying any national social marketing and education campaign targeting 'ice' and methamphetamines with increased access to telephone advice and website information, including for young people.
- 2.6 That all States And Territories ensure that information about the harms associated with 'ice' and methamphetamines is available to young people and that evidence-based school drug education is provided where appropriate.
- 2.7 That consideration be given to strategies that respond to the needs of people affected by another person's amphetamine type stimulants use including peers and care givers.

- 2.8 That jurisdictions be encouraged to work with existing networks and community groups to support and engage young people, parents and families to deal with 'ice' and methamphetamines and related harms.
- 2.9 That consideration be given to any national social marketing and education campaigns targeting 'ice' and methamphetamines are coordinated with states and territories and are consistent with existing strategies.
- 2.10 That opportunities be explored to provide special training to security personnel in knowledge, awareness and handling of 'ice' and methamphetamines problems in public places and events.

Session 3: Rehabilitation - treatment and other support responses – families, community, courts, corrections – existing measures and recommendations to strengthen

- 3.1 That all jurisdictions agree to share best practice examples of treatment and other support responses to 'ice' and methamphetamine use through regular reports to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy.
- 3.2 That all jurisdictions recognise the efforts and successes of front line services to date in dealing with 'ice' and methamphetamine users and agree that these efforts should be acknowledged and supported.
- 3.3 That jurisdictions note expert advice that 'ice' and methamphetamine users are hard to engage and keep in treatment and agree that this is a critical area of research and clinical focus.
- 3.4 While acknowledging the work already being done in jurisdictions the Forum supports research to identify appropriate models of prevention, early intervention and care for 'ice' and methamphetamine users including trialing different treatment options (both pharmacological and non-pharmacological).
- 3.5 That the Forum acknowledges the jurisdictions' workforce development initiatives for police, ambulance staff, emergency department staff, corrections officers and other frontline staff in the management of methamphetamine related issues and recommend that they be expanded as part of the National Amphetamines Type Stimulants Strategy.
- 3.6 That consideration be given to customising the national drug strategy management of patients with psychostimulant toxicity guidelines for ambulance services and emergency departments for a wide range of non-specialist workers including youth, family and community service workers, justice staff, teachers and hospitality workers.

- 3.7 That a proposal for the development of withdrawal management guidelines for methamphetamine users be proposed for cost shared funding through the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy.
- 3.8 That better integration of National drug and mental health initiatives and strategies be supported.
- 3.9 That the National Corrections Drugs Strategy be consistent with the National Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Strategy and respond to issues arising from 'ice' and methamphetamine use in prisons or on entry to the prison system, including the workforce development needs of corrections officers managing psychosis and violent behaviour.
- 3.10 That the Forum recognises that comorbid drug and mental health issues are a significant problem for participants in diversion programs and that jurisdictions be encouraged to target funding to support this.
- 3.11 That further consideration be given to funding non-government organisations for comorbidity initiatives under the National Action Plan on Mental Health to assist services to deal with clients with 'ice' and methamphetamine psychosis and other mental health issues.
- 3.12 That consideration be given to further funding for drug and alcohol initiatives targeting non-government organisations and general practitioners, so as to complement existing jurisdictional 'ice' and methamphetamines initiatives and strategies.

Session 4: Issues including manufacture and supply of ingredients and equipment and existing law enforcement legislation and measures

- 4.1 That all jurisdictions, consistent with Australasian Police Minister's Council resolutions, support the rollout of the National Clandestine Laboratory Database Project and the National Roll Out Of Project Stop and continue to monitor its impact.
- 4.2 That all jurisdictions continue their cooperation and remain focused on reduction initiatives in relation to amphetamine type stimulants, including 'ice' and precursors via the various projects managed through the national precursor working group, in accordance with the national precursor strategy.

- 4.3 That State and Territory jurisdictions consider introducing legislation creating an aggravated offence where children are exposed to the manufacturing and production processes or clandestine laboratories.
- 4.4 That all jurisdictions support the work of the precursor working group in developing the National Clandestine Laboratory Remediation Framework.
- 4.5 That all jurisdictions continue to support health and police working collaboratively to develop strategies designed to manage 'ice' and methamphetamine dependant people, including their referral to appropriate services.
- 4.6 That all jurisdictions adopt a standard definition for amphetamine-type substances, including 'ice', and work collaboratively towards analysing purity data as a means to better understand methamphetamine markets and use patterns.
- 4.7 That all jurisdictions consider legislation creating an offence of possessing recipes or formulas for manufacturing 'ice' and methamphetamines without lawful excuse.
- 4.8 That all jurisdictions pursue common objectives in legislation dealing with the illegal possession and trafficking of precursors and relevant equipment.

Potential for Coordinated Action At a National Level

That this Forum acknowledges the wide range of existing national structures and channels to address 'ice' and methamphetamines use in Australia.

That key issues and resolutions arising from this Forum be referred to existing National structures and channels for consideration and potential action.

Note that the outcomes from the Forum will be reported to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy by the NSW Minister for Health on 15 December 2006.

Note that the NSW Premier will inform the Prime Minister and relevant National councils and conferences of the outcomes of the Forum to ensure that recommendations are adopted in national strategies and activities.