

INQUIRY INTO LAW REFORM ISSUES REGARDING SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Organisation: National Drug Research Institute
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The Chair
Committee on Legal Affairs
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Inquiry into law reform issues regarding synthetic drugs

The National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) conducts and disseminates high quality research that contributes to the primary prevention of harmful drug use and the reduction of drug related harm in Australia.

We have conducted the first survey of Australian synthetic cannabinoid users. 316 Australians who had tried synthetic cannabinoids responded, including 60 from NSW. The survey collected information about their demographics, patterns of use and harms, and their knowledge of and attitudes towards the law.

We will be presenting preliminary results from these data at a community forum run by the Yarra Drug and Health Forum in Melbourne on Monday April 16. We will also prepare academic papers and summaries of the results as soon as possible.

Should it be possible to fit this into the schedule for the Inquiry we would welcome the opportunity to make a written and/or oral presentation of our findings to assist with the Inquiry's deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Ms Monica Barratt
Research Fellow

Prof Simon Lenton
Deputy Director and Program Leader