

THEY SAID...

That **"Harm Reduction"** policies would...

- ...reduce drug-related deaths and harm
- ...reduce crime
- ...reduce new users
- ...lower youth uptake
- ...reduce strain on emergency services
- ...improve public health

THEY WERE WRONG!

From 2007 to 2017 deaths increased:

- Opiates 260%
- Antiepileptics 340%
- Non-opioid Analgesics 210%
- (Alcohol) 270%
- Amphetamines 440%
- Antipsychotics 590%
- Cannabinoids 570%
- Cocaine 290%

59%

Drug-related **deaths** increased after **Portugal** decriminalised drugs

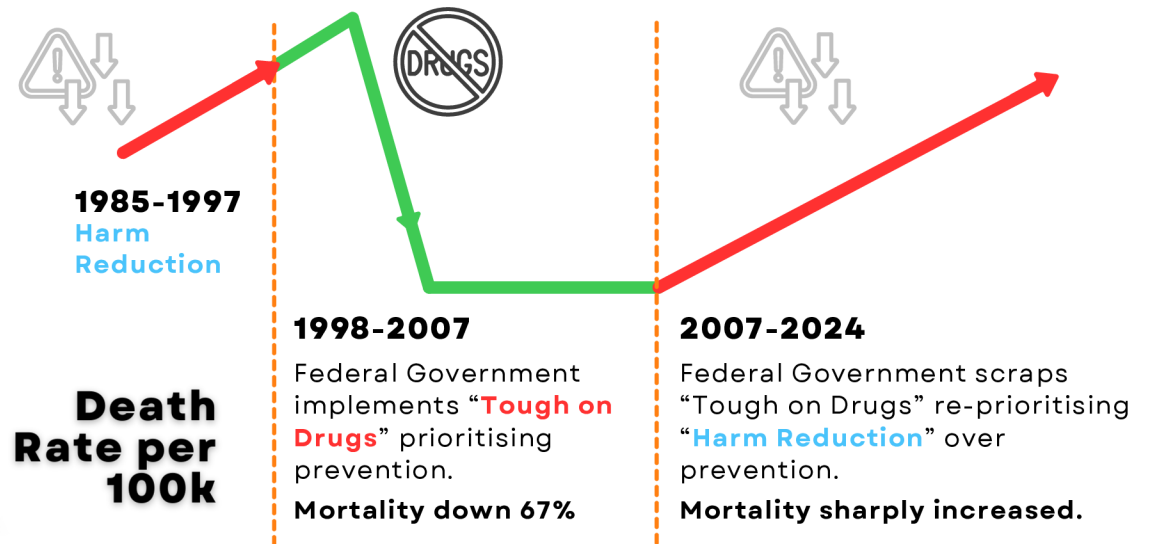
350 **1,116**

Opiate-related **deaths increased** in **Australia** under these policies between 1985 and 1999

250%

Increase in **Methadone fatalities** between 2007 and 2018

THE FACTS



DRUG FREE
AUSTRALIA

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We should never pretend that illicit drugs only harm the user, and that Parliamentarians should only ever focus on the harms that directly affect them, because drug harms go so much broader.

Kerryn has long been on the Board of Drug Free Australia. She battled an amphetamine addiction for many years and was also a heroin user. She came within a hairs-breadth of dying at age 25, and only just pulled through.

But she fully knows the impact of later getting free from those drugs but still having a partner caught in a continuing addiction.

“*My drug related health issues have not only impacted me and my family, but have cost the government much in \$\$ over the years including several long hospital stays (interferon in 1982 cost \$80,000 at the time which would be way more now), part disability pension for many years as well as health care card medications.”*

“*The devastation of living with a loved one battling addiction cannot be measured. Families across this nation are daily living with the chaos that surrounds addiction and it is heart-breaking. The lies, the missing money, the court cases, families desperately trying to help their loved one into rehab, neglected grandchildren needing care. Through all of this, there is the constant expectation of a knock on the door by police regarding yet another incident or even the worst possible news, their death. I know these feelings all too well. These are sadly some of the norms for so many Australians and something must change.”*

- Kerryn



DRUG POLICY WITHIN AUSTRALIA IS VERY FOCUSED ON HARMS TO THE USER, WHILE LARGELY IGNORING THE HARMS DONE TO SO MANY OTHERS. DRUG PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN DRUG POLICY PRIORITY.



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