

A stylized map of Australia is centered on the left side of the slide. The map is rendered in a vibrant, multi-colored palette, with various shades of purple, blue, green, yellow, and orange. The map is overlaid with numerous semi-transparent, overlapping circles in the same color scheme, creating a dynamic and abstract visual effect. The background of the entire slide is a light blue gradient.

Trends in drug use and policy

Drug Free Australia



NDS Household Survey 2016

Every three years the Federal Government conducts the National Drug Strategy Household Survey with 25,000 people giving input on their drug use. Early data for 2016 indicates:

- Cannabis use has risen from 10.2% of Australians in 2013 to 10.4% in 2016
- Ecstasy use has decreased from 3.5% in 2007 to 2.2%
- Speed and ice use has decreased from 2.1% in 2013 to 1.4%, a surprising decrease
- However ice use has increased sharply amongst amphetamine users and use of speed in powder form has substantially decreased
- Cocaine has gone from 2.1% in 2013 to 2.5%
- Heroin use has moved from 0.1% in 2013 to 0.2% and abuse of pharmaceutical opiates was 2.1%, now 3.6%



Current agitation for policy change

- Pill testing
 - Based on the outright falsehood that it is impurities in ecstasy pills which kill
 - Australian coroners' toxicology reports continually indicate ecstasy deaths due to an allergic reaction to ECSTASY, not impurities
 - It is the ecstasy which kills, therefore pill testing for impurities is meaningless



Current agitation for policy change

- Pill testing
 - Recent deaths and hospitalisations in January in Melbourne were due to a drug called GHB
 - The users KNEW exactly what they were taking
 - There would have been no point in testing the GHB pills for impurities



Current agitation for policy change

- Medical cannabis
 - Push for medical cannabis was really about legalising home-grown cannabis
 - Drug Free Australia was one of two key players undermining this push for home-grown cannabis, particularly in the ACT
 - All medical cannabis in Australia must be in a pharmaceutical preparation, not smoked or consumed raw. Drug Free Australia's push was for pharmaceutical-only medical cannabis



Current agitation for policy change

- Richmond Injecting Room
 - Victorian government inquiry into an injecting room for Richmond currently being held
 - Parliamentary bill introduced by the Sex Party
 - The bill is heavily supported by the usual drug liberalisation players
 - Drug Free Australia is concerned that the Labor government says it won't implement an injecting room, but will probably do it nevertheless



Current agitation for policy change

- Second Victorian Inquiry
 - Currently a second inquiry proceeding into drug law reform
 - There is a push here for injecting rooms, pill testing, drug decriminalisation and legalisation, heroin on prescription, free needles in prisons and banning sniffer dogs at festivals

Current agitation for policy change

- Go to Drug Free Australia's website for this document exposing the misinformation on decriminalisation

