

MEDIA RELEASE

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ADF COMMENDS VIC GOVERNMENT FOR MSIC TRIAL APPROVAL

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) commends the Victorian Government for its decision to approve a pilot Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) in North Richmond.

“The Victorian Government has listened to the overwhelming evidence in support of a pilot Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in North Richmond and is showing leadership and compassion in approving a trial,” said the Alcohol and Drug Foundation’s CEO John Rogerson.

“A pilot Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in North Richmond will save lives and give clients access to treatment services that are critical in helping them in their recovery journey,” Mr Rogerson added.

The pilot MSIC will be the second of its kind in Australia, following Sydney’s Kings Cross, where a successful MSIC has been running since 2001. In that time, staff have managed around 6,000 overdoses without any fatalities and more than 12,000 referrals have been made to support services.

The establishment of the MSIC in Kings Cross has also seen a huge reduction in the number of syringes left on the streets. The trial of an MSIC in North Richmond will no doubt see similar results, improving community safety.

“The approval of a pilot Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in North Richmond is a win for the community. It will help reduce the number of overdoses and discarded needles on the streets, as well as improving the lives of people battling addictions and local residents,” Mr Rogerson said.

With fewer public overdoses, a trial MSIC in North Richmond will reduce the number of ambulance call outs, freeing up ambulance staff to attend other emergencies. The MSIC will also help reduce the number of blood borne infections such as HIV and Hepatitis B and C.

With around 90 MSICs around the world, it is indisputable that trialing one in North Richmond will reduce overdose deaths and provide clients access to much needed health and welfare services.

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Media enquiries: Carmel Green // 0430 948 380 // adf.media@adf.org.au

About the Alcohol and Drug Foundation: Celebrating nearly 60 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is one of Australia’s leading bodies committed to preventing alcohol and other drug problems in communities around the nation. The Foundation reaches millions of Australians in local communities through sporting clubs, workplaces, healthcare settings and schools, offering educational information, drug and alcohol prevention programs and advocating for strong and healthy communities.