

# The Melbourne Medically Supervised Injecting Room: Another piece of the puzzle in reducing overdose deaths

Sarah Hiley

Harm Reduction Practitioner Team Leader

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# For anyone who missed the memo:



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## North Richmond drug injecting room opens

RYAN TENNISON, Herald Sun


June 30, 2018 9:08pm

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VICTORIA'S first controversial safe injecting room has opened — with little fanfare.

The North Richmond centre unlocked its doors from 9am to 5pm yesterday with staff declaring the first day a “success”.

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## North Richmond safe injecting centre opens after mass overdose deaths

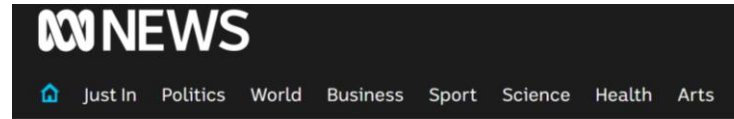
IN A small, inner-city suburb of Melbourne, drug use is rampant and flagrant. But the solution has caused division among locals.








Rohan Smith [@ro\\_smith](#)

 **news** CONFIRMED @ JULY 6, 2018 9:38AM

 Video  Image



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## Melbourne's first safe injecting room, clean, sterile and 'will save lives'

By state political reporter [Stephanie Anderson](#)

Updated 29 Jun 2018, 7:32pm



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Dozens of syringes found in car park

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## Up to three overdoses a day at the new Richmond injecting room

[Genevieve Alison](#) and [Tom Minear](#), Herald Sun

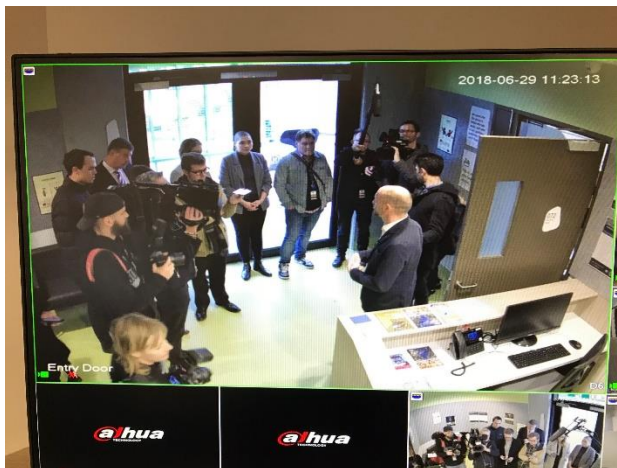
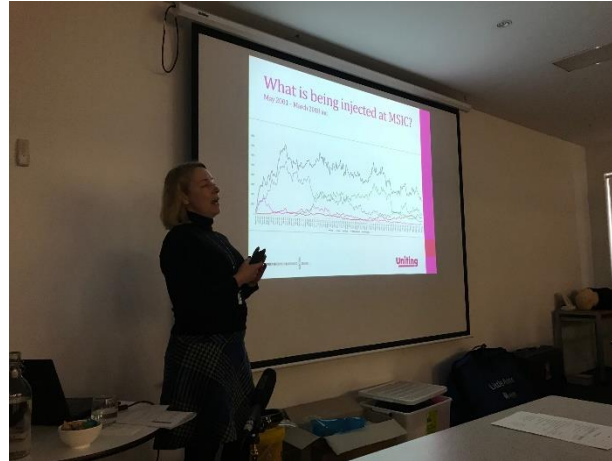
July 5, 2018 9:00pm

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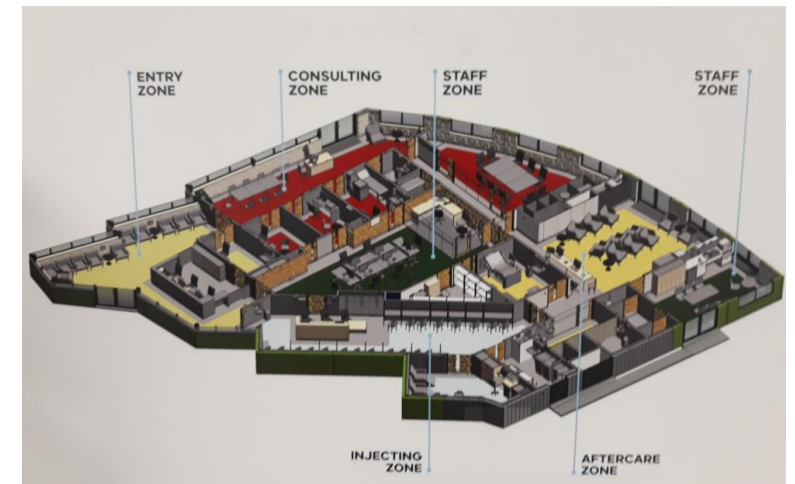
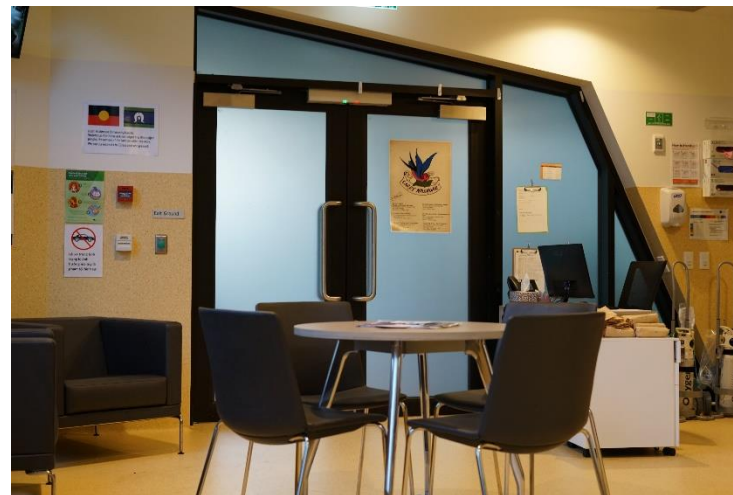
THE lives of several heroin users have been saved at Melbourne's controversial new safe injecting room, where there have been 12 overdoses in the five days since it opened.

# From woe to go in seven months



# Inside the temporary facility

To organise a tour of MSIR for your organisation, pls email [msir@nrch.com.au](mailto:msir@nrch.com.au)  
General public should book through Eventbrite



# In our first 63 days of operation:

- 8000 visits
- 140 overdoses responded to
- 30 of the overdoses requiring Naloxone
- Some days more than 200 visits
- Clients seeking treatment and referrals to other services



# Client feedback

Please leave your comments and suggestions here

I find this place is safe friendly & helpful the staff are amazing with help. I feel so safe in this environment was a good idea putting the injection room

A BIG THANK YOU

ALWAYS FEELING PROBLEMS, BUT IS A LOT BETTER THAN HAVING A PLAY IN THE CARPARK AROUND KIDS & FAMILIES,

Please leave your comments and suggestions here

STAFF WHERE EXCELLENT GOT NEEDED RES

Today I witnessed kindness, caring and compassion amongst my fellow users. I was roused from a deep nod that could have been dangerous on my own. This place will and has saved lives. Thank you to humane staff.

35 Well done - It's about time people stopped dying in the street.

HELLO! A SHOUT OUT TO ALL + EVERYONE WHO PUT THIS PLACE INTO ACTION! BEFORE, I WAS USING BY MYSELF HOPEING THAT NO ONE CAME TO ROB ME OF MY GEAR + MONEY (WHICH HAPPENS A LOT!) THE STAFF HERE ARE SO NON-JUDGEMENTAL + CARING. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, I APPRECIATE IN GREATLY. thanks heaps AGAIN! XXXX

I love how we are kept out of the cold, have assistance when needed and if anything should go wrong they have well trained friendly staff there to call out to. overall its a great place and we should have had it years ago. Thank-you.

# What we've learnt already

- Cost of non-fatal overdoses
- Reasons people choose to use MSIR
- Importance of relationships
- Teachable opportunities during the injecting process
- Changing staff mindsets re: medical responses to OD
- Changing client mindsets re: OD and voluntary naloxone doses
- Similarities with Sydney

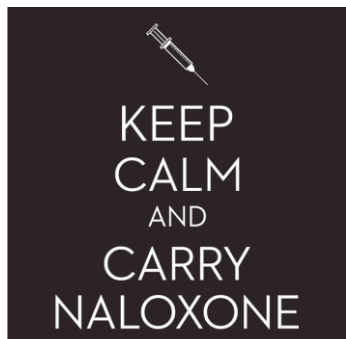


# Key messages

- MSIRs save lives
- Pre-plan- you never know when the will of the political gods will align.....
- Don't reinvent the wheel- use what others have done already

## **BUT**

- Injecting rooms are only one part of the puzzle
- Need a range of approaches including:
  - Saturation of Naloxone in community
  - Naloxone training and prescription to people who inject drugs, their family and carers, community workers and.....
  - Increase funding for treatment options
  - Easier access to pharmacotherapy
  - Removal stigma and discrimination



The image features a person from the chest up, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a light blue shirt and a dark tie. They are holding a rectangular, cream-colored sign with both hands in front of their chest. The sign has the word "QUESTIONS?" written on it in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The background is a solid green color with a subtle, wavy, topographical-like pattern. The lighting is even, and the focus is sharp on the sign and the person's hands.

**QUESTIONS?**