
Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Sharon Neven

Email address: * sneven@nhp.com.au

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: INJECTING ROOM PROPOSAL

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Firstly, 2 quick points. I am not affiliated with any political party and side with no one. Secondly, most importantly, I support saving lives.

There are people in North Richmond who wouldn't want me to speak out against the room, they want me to tell you it's fantastic, that it saves lives and has little or no impact to our community so YOU too can have one and our "load" will be shared. I can't say that to you City of Melbourne. I would be lying. It's a war zone. The room is not utopia it is hell.

The injecting room is enabling drug use. It might be saving lives, albeit temporarily. The room in Richmond says it saved 21 lives over 18 month's but did it? Sure, it might have reversed the effect of the drug overdose on that day but where are those 21 people now? Are they drug free? I doubt it. Are they dead now? Maybe.

Build it and they will come and they come in their thousands, not all to use the room. They will hang about, drug affected, many violent, ruining your community, your businesses.

We all know drug use is a mental health issue and needs to be treated as such and not an addiction to be fed and prospered on by dealers and politicians trying to win votes and fat cats making six figure sums running the joint. What we need is more rehab, education and mental health initiatives funded by government. To give up on our most vulnerable and say here you go take drugs here in this room we built for you and then pat yourselves on the back saying you have done something amazing because you care about users makes me sick and just plain stinks of lazy policy. I have seen no evidence of the room changing lives for the better but everyday I see evidence of how it is ruining lives, not just the users but the community as well.

A 15-year-old boy. He died of a heroin overdose across the road from me and so they want to remove the age limit of 18 and allow children in. Now they want to allow pregnant women in.

Surely, we can help them in another way other than watching them inject ice and heroin. They would say they can lead these people to health services, but I haven't heard or seen any good news stories. Except one bloke who got new teeth. If they were doing such a great job why don't we hear these good news stories? I'll tell you why - there aren't any.

I'm mad and I'm sad. Save our city. North Richmond is already proof of how the injecting room destroys businesses and breaks the heart of the community. Our kids deserve better, we all deserve better, users deserve better.

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*

Name: * Loreto Valent

Email address: * ellevee03@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Public Submission

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I am a North Richmond resident living in close proximity to the MSIR.

The effects on this community and the emotional toll on children is unquantifiable.

It was proudly announced the Victorian MSIR was modelled on Sydney. No comparison.

Sydney's MSIR is not near a school, as legislated. The Victorian government omitted that paragraph.

Sydney's is not co-located with a community health centre.

Sydney's is in a commercial strip, not amid the highest density residential area in Australia.

There was no open community consultation with North Richmond residents before it was established.

The honeypot effect of inviting users from everywhere has had horrific consequences. The dealers lurk do users can buy illegally to go the room legally (?) but many, many have no intention and use our streets. In the open, often in front of children. And use our streets as their toilet.

Please consider the effects this will have in the destruction of Melbourne.

A sensible idea would be to establish rooms near all public hospitals. Allied health services available.

Why put one where the users are? If you build it they will come. Because the dealers will go there too....

MRACgroup.com (MSIR Residents Action Group) has robust and correct statistics and information available.

"Move The Injecting Room" Facebook group has 3 years of pictorial evidence of antisocial and dangerous drug induced behaviour. Many right next to the school.

Please consider this submission carefully.

Regards Loreto (Lola) Valent

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Rebecca Vinci

Email address: *

Becksley.felix@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: *

Council meeting

Date of meeting: *

Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: *

Proposed Victorian Government Medically Supervised Injecting Service in the City of Melbourne

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

As a shop proprietor in Flinder's Quarter, I just wanted it noted that we are not against the proposal to house a safe injecting room in the Yooralla building. Drug use is a known fact of the area and while you cannot stop the drug use entirely, safe injecting rooms go a long way in reducing the harm to the individuals affected.

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*

Name: * Natalie Lasance

Email address: * ohdearism@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Safe Injection Room Objection

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

As a resident of North Richmond, I would like to lodge an objection to the proposed SIR in the city. Please don't let our vibrant city centre become a drug and crime filled ghetto like has happened to my own neighbourhood.

We've never had so many discarded needles and crime in North Richmond as we've had the last couple of years. I myself have been assaulted while out with my baby twice in 2020 alone. The crime is just out of control here. We can't afford to let the same thing happen to our beautiful city. Please listen to residents who have actually been through it. Our kids are traumatised. It's just horrific.

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Christine Maynard

Email address: * msmaynard@bigpond.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council Meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Injecting room rejection

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

As a Richmond resident of 22 years, I've watch my suburb be turned into a drug den where the whole of Victoria comes to buy and sell illegal drugs including an enormous amount of "ice!" My child who is now 12 has seen dead bodies, OD'ed drug addicts on our street, drug addicts injecting in public in front of him, been attacked by drug addicts walking to school, open drug dealing and drug addicts behaving in a disgraceful manner including urinating and leaving human poo for all to see. You will even see drug addicts have sex and injecting in their cars and driving off one they have gained their drug paraphernalia from the Enabler Injection Room.

Drugs are ILLEGAL and all the government is allowing is for this to become a worse situation. Let's put one in Parliament House or next door then they will see the ramifications of this first hand. Exactly like we have had to endure and no one is listening.

The last thing this area near flinders st needs, is this kind of behaviour and let me assure you, it won't get better, it

will decimate all of those businesses and NO ONE will come into the CBD which you are trying to promote with vouchers and deals all the time!!! Why would you think this would be a good idea for tourists, business owners, residents and most importantly CHILDREN! NO CHILD should ever see what our children have had to see. Weapons including guns and knives are everywhere and if there was an emergency, Gish the access to the particular area is nothing short of pathetic. You should say NO to an enabler Injecting Room as you don't want to city to suffer like we have here in Richmond. Your residents/ratepayers deserve better and so do tourists who you want to come back into the CBD!

You need to support the people who matter and that's the business owners, residents and your ratepayers.

I would like to email photos to you all but it's only allowing me to add one.

INJECTING ROOMS SHOUDK BE IN HOSPITALS NOT IN RESIDENTIAL OR BUSINESS AREAS.

Try talking to the hundreds who have lost their businesses of 25-30 years who now gave nothing. It's inhumane.

**Alternatively you
may attach your
written
submission by
uploading your
file here:**



[8ef6e5e4c1ba4a68bdb10c72cb29573e.png](#) 3.26 MB · PNG

**Please indicate
whether you
would like to
address the Future
Melbourne
Committee or the
Submissions
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission:**

*(No opportunity is
provided for
submitters to be
heard at Council
meetings.) **

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Myongsuk Oh

Email address: * jackyoh3@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Injecting room

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Hi, my name is Myongsuk Oh but prefer to be called Jacky and would like to share my experience to live near the injecting room. I've been living with my kids at one of high rises on Elizabeth street, Richmond for 11 years and since the injecting room was open I have had drug affected guys at my door many many times that affected my mental as well as my kids and been feeling unsafe to get in and out of my home or walk in the streets. We have stopped going to shops in Victoria street as drug users conquered the street and a lot of businesses have closed down not only because of COVID pandemic but also they have lost customers due to the unsafe environment around Victoria street. I have witnessed drug users to shoot up in the streets or at a multilevel carpark that DHHS owns for the tenants. I have called security, police or ambulance to get help numerous times because of drug users who were found unconscious, behaved extremely dangerously or shooting up next to my car or parked cars and seen used or unused syringes at the carpark or in the streets. Also I have witnessed drug affected people's

outrageous behaviours outside the injecting room in the street where Richmond West PS is. School kids often witnessed drug affected people in the street which is not right at all. If drug users use the injecting room why have I seen syringes or passed out drug users outside the injecting room. The injecting room hasn't been working and we live in the loud sirens 24/7. Why did I see two guys at 6:43am this morning with a bucket to collect syringes in the streets if drug users used the injecting room. Once Melbourne city has a second injecting room it will damage businesses and make the city filthy with syringes or poops everywhere just like Richmond. People will experience what Richmond residents and have experienced and we will lose tourists and businesses. A second injecting room will make more people to get into drug habits and they wouldn't use the injecting room. Only a few would. If you are in doubt you need to visit Victoria street and Lennox street where the injecting room is.

**Alternatively you
may attach your
written
submission by
uploading your
file here:**



[669bf1a1abab4045b0efa3cae369dbb5.jpeg.jpg](#) 1.97 MB · JPG

Tonight you are voting on a proposed location that is at odds with what traders require and diminishes Melbourne as a global destination. We ask that a more appropriate location be selected and a more thorough consultation process be applied.

Please see attached the official stance of Adventure Tourism Victoria (ATV).

--

Regards,

Alex Hill
President
Adventure Tourism Victoria Executive Committee
www.atv.org.au
facebook.com/adventuretourismvictoria/





Monday, May 24th 2021

Response To Proposed Safe Injecting Site at 248 Flinders Street, Melbourne

Dear City of Melbourne Councillors,

As Victoria's peak adventure tourism body, Adventure Tourism Victoria (ATV), we are writing to you to voice our opposition to the proposed location of Melbourne's second safe injecting site.

The proposed location of the site is at odds with how it is used and marketed across Australia and the world as the starting point or gateway to the city and to the state.

Located within 300 meters of the proposed address is:

- Federation Square
- 2 super tram stops
- Flinders Street Station
- The new Town Hall station
- Degraes Street
- The arrival point of the new airport rail

All of these locations and landmarks above are the first impression of many, if not most visitors, to Melbourne. The equivalent location in Sydney would be for a safe injecting site to be located on Darling Harbour, a move that would diminish the reputation and perception of the city as a whole to a local and global audience.

On May 20th in the state budget this was announced: "An investment of \$107.4 million will drive the rejuvenation of Melbourne's CBD. An allocation of \$100 million for the *Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund* will be matched by the City of Melbourne to create a \$200 million pool to renew city spaces, finance CBD arts and cultural events and extend the 'parklet' al fresco dining revolution." It is hard to reconcile statements like this in support of tourism when there are potential decisions being made that would lessen the shine of what was once the "most liveable city in the world"

With Melbourne being in a state of rejuvenation post Covid and the Flinders Street footpath only recently reopening (albeit with intermittent closures) we as a tourism organisation feel it is completely unwise and underthought to add a facility like this to a location like this. All of these and landmarks above are the first impression of many, if not most visitors, to Melbourne.

Tonight you are voting on a proposed location that is at odds with what traders require and diminishes Melbourne as a global destination. We ask that a more appropriate location be selected and a more thorough consultation process be applied.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Hill
President
Adventure Tourism Victoria

We, the Directors and management of Tourism Adventure Group, located at 250 Flinders Street trading as **United Backpackers**, which shares a wall with the Yooralla building strongly oppose the proposal for a safe injecting site.

Tourism Adventure Group ask that a more appropriate location be selected and a more thorough consultation process be applied.

Our formal response to the proposed site is attached below.

Regards,

--

Alex Hill
General Manager United Backpackers,
Base Backpackers and Nomads St Kilda Beach
President Adventure Tourism Victoria

W: stayatbase.com | nomadsworld.com | unitedbackpackers.com.au



Monday, May 24th 2021

Response To Proposed Safe Injecting Site at 248 Flinders Street, Melbourne

Dear City of Melbourne Councillors,

We, the Directors and management of Tourism Adventure Group, located at 250 Flinders Street trading as **United Backpackers**, which shares a wall with the Yooralla building strongly oppose the proposal for a safe injecting site.

Our business and precinct has suffered significant disruptions and falls in revenue in the last 18 months due to Metro Tunnel works on Flinders Street which has resulted in an almost 95% drop in foot traffic to our accommodation venue and bar, Lost and Found Bar.

At no point have we been consulted on how such a facility would impact our business and we fear that a site like what has been proposed would only further impede foot traffic to our area.

We are a tourism business heavily embedded in Melbourne and the proposed location of the site is at odds with how it is used and marketed across Australia and the world as the starting point or gateway to the city and to the state.

Located within 300 meters of the proposed address is:

- Federation Square
- 2 super tram stops
- Flinders Street Station
- The new Town Hall station
- Degraes Street
- The arrival point of the new airport rail

With Melbourne being in a state of rejuvenation post Covid and the Flinders Street footpath only recently reopening (albeit with intermittent closures) we as a business and as a member of the local community feel it is completely unwise and underthought to add a facility like this to a location like this. All of these and landmarks above are the first impression of many, if not most visitors, to Melbourne.

Tourism Adventure Group ask that a more appropriate location be selected and a more thorough consultation process be applied.

Yours Sincerely,

Alex Hill
General Manager United Backpackers
Acting on and behalf of Tourism Adventure Group Directors

Privacy acknowledgement: *	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
Name: *	Gene Swinstead
Email address: *	geneswin@gmail.com
Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: *	Council meeting
Date of meeting: *	Tuesday 25 May 2021
Agenda item title: *	Injection Room
Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u> We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.	If you continue with this madness no-one will ever return to the city. It will become just like Victoria Street, Richmond.

Subject: Flinders St injection site

To the Lord Mayor and Council Members,

I'm writing to express my concern and objection to the planned heroin injection site across from Flinders St Station.

The stats on crime from the Richmond site clearly show that the area will become less safe and a less attractive location.

As a local resident, I am concerned about personal safety, local businesses, and overall image for the area.

Please reconsider at tomorrow's council meeting.

Sincerely,

Megan Ji

Subject: Flinders st injection site

To the Lord Mayor and Council Members, I'm writing to express my concern and objection to the planned heroin injection site across from Flinders St Station. The stats on crime from the Richmond site clearly show that the area will become less safe and a less attractive location. As a local resident, I am concerned about personal safety, local businesses, and overall image for the area. Please reconsider at tomorrow's council meeting. Sincerely,
Adam Scarf

Privacy acknowledgement: *	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
Name: *	Rey Pearce
Email address: *	rev.den@bigpond.com
Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: *	Council meeting
Date of meeting: *	Tuesday 25 May 2021
Agenda item title: *	Injecting Room in the City
Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u> We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.	<p>Please do not open a 2nd room in the City. I was in favour of the Richmond one but it has been a complete failure due to the location. These rooms need to be near a hospital where addicts can get help. Not in a residential area near a school. Crime has increased, the streets are filthy, I see used syringes every day. Listen to the people, lots of life time Labor voters are talking about voting Liberal as they are the only ones listening to the citizens of Richmond. The retailers in the city have had enough what with Covid, construction etc this will be the death knoll.</p>

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Lyn Dixon

Email address: * ldixon3207@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Supervised Injecting Room City of Melbourne

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Dear Councillors, I used to live in the Richmond Public Housing Estate and I can tell you the drug problem was not as horrific then as it is now. I am a member of a group called MRAC (who I am sure will contact you) We have a facebook page called MOVE THE INJECTING ROOM and also a petition on Change.org MOVE THE INJECTING ROOM. Please feel free to look at the Facebook page especially the pictures. Without any real consultation, the Government fronted by Fiona Patten (who pushed and pushed for the SMIR) decided to build this facility right next to a Primary School and in the Backyard of the largest Public housing Estate in Victoria. The community has suffered greatly with many residents re-locating out of the area. Kids see things every day that they should NOT. Zombie's walking the streets after their shot inside the MSIR and equally as many who just shoot up in the streets, laneways, residential front yards – anywhere really. We are not against Injecting rooms as such, but their location is the most important factor. We are fighting and will continue to fight for the Richmond MSIR to be moved to a more appropriate

location. I personally will assist you in any way I can to lobby the Government (not that they will listen to us) We have repeatedly written to and sent pictures to all the Labor crew and Fiona Patten who continue to ignore the problems. The only comment they repeat is "it is saving lives" a very debatable statement as there have been numbers of overdose in the area surrounding the MSIR, since its opening. Planning Minister, Richard Wynne wiped all planning requirements for the Nth Richmond MSIR.

Yours sincerely

Lyn Dixon

Port Melbourne.

Subject: Objection to self injecting room 250 Flinders Street Melbourne

Dear Councillors

Please find attached Objection Letter emailed to Lady Mayoress for your information to vote to disapprove location of injecting room.

Kind regards

Mark Laurence

Senior Owners Corporation Manager

teskacarson

6 Yorkshire Street | Richmond Vic 3121
PO Box 4192 | Richmond East Vic 3121

Level 9, 423 Bourke Street | Melbourne Vic 3000



Teska & Carson Pty Ltd
ABN 53 7 9 298 316
ACN 060 569 502
Licensed Estate Agent
6 Yorkshire Street
Richmond Victoria 3121
PO Box 4192
Richmond East Victoria 3121
Telephone 03 9421 7000
Level 19 423 Bourke Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Directors
I Teska
L Takis
M Luski
M Taylor
A Boutsakos
M Feld
S Fein

21 May 2021

Lord Mayor
City of Melbourne
90-120 Swanston Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Via Email: lordmayor@melbourne.vic.gov.au

Dear Lady Mayoress

Re: Objection to Safe Injecting Room

Teska & Carson Pty Ltd are the Owners Corporation Manager for OC438037J - 250 Flinders Street and Degraeves Street Melbourne which comprises ten (10) businesses / tenants and landlords which encompasses Backpacker Business, Restaurant, Belgium Waffles and seven (7) shops.

Being right next door to the proposed self-injecting room at 248 Flinders Street Melbourne, we as a business community contributing to our City at all levels, object on the strongest possible terms (our landlord, clients, tenants and ourselves) to this proposed facility.

After the last twelve (12) months the City has endured and continues to suffer, and it beggars belief that the State Government could even contemplate this facility in the heart of the CBD.

The City at present needs every incentive possible to gather momentum and get back to normal pedestrian activity and business – this facility would be catastrophic for the City and this precinct – we don't need it or want it in the CBD.

The subject location is close to the bustling Degraeves Street, opposite the busiest tram stop in Melbourne, has a residential apartment building on one side and a Backpackers on the other side.

Furthermore, the Government is constructing the Metro Tunnel / Station just to the east which will have major entry points from Flinders Street with billions of dollars being invested. It is completely ill conceived and will damage this location and the City.

I understand Council is considering the matter next Tuesday night and ask that all Councillors unite to fight and object to this proposal in the best interests of the City, your Ratepayers & Voters.

Yours faithfully

Mark Laurence
Owners Corporation Manager
Phone: 9421 7086
Email: mlaurence@teskacarson.com.au

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*

Name: * Mardi Farrant

Email address: * mardif65@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Injecting room

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

We own & operate a business on the corner of Centreplace & Flinders Lane. The area is severely adversely impacted by COVID. Degraives St , Centreplace & Flinders Lane are a high tourist traffic area where prior to Covid, we were often photographed as a popular tourist destination. Indeed during Covid the news presentations often captured images from this popular, iconic city spot. It is therefore my strong opinion that the proposed injecting site on Flinders St will significantly affect this iconic image of this high turnover tourist precinct. We desperately need the tourists back to boost our business back to pre Covid capacity. My fear is the injecting site will poorly reflect on our businesses & detract the tourists from visiting our little cafes . It is difficult enough now to keep customers engaged whilst they wait for their food / drink order standing in Centreplace without additional homeless/beggars/mental health/drug / alcohol affected people hassling customers for money or food or being screamed at or abused. We need tourists enticed by positivity & vibrancy . The injecting site will not entice customers from all around the world to continue supporting & photography our fabulous area. Images which travel all around the world . Is this what you want Melbourne City Council....?

Please consider the world wide implications here.....we are on display in our little iconic area. It needs protection & nurturingstop the injecting site...please.

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Rafael Camillo

Email address: * rafacamillo@hotmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Future Melbourne Committee meeting

Date of meeting: * Friday 25 June 2021

Agenda item title: 6.10 Injection Room

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Dear City of Melbourne,

I would like to provide my opinion as a resident of the CBD and based on my experience in working close to the community as a president of Residents3000.

I'm not against to injection rooms but I'm against on the way those have been proposed:

1) I still standing that injection rooms should be built on the suburbs that state government has identified first – such as St. Kilda and Dandenong and others. On a smaller capacity, easier to control and managed the amenities that is created. We should be decentralising services from the CBD. We also could avoid with this resolution the "migrating" effect of people coming to city to use drugs.

2) The Hoddle Grid is accommodating a high number of temporary housing for the homeless and those that are suffering mental health issues and drug addiction in hotels. As a result, causing increase in drug traffic and consumption. So we should be first housing these people to a permanent solution and then creating a task force in conjunction to the police to target the Hoddle grid current amenities. The CBD needs more than ever to revive after COVID and more support from State government. We have bussineses struggling to survive, plus very low rates of occupancy in apartments. I have myself battling with council to have campaigns to promote city living. Do we really think that is the time to add an injection room in the CBD ? Does that will help improve amenities to bring more residents, visitors or tourism? Should we really take a risk in such fragile environment after COVID ? The decision to have one in the CBD was prior COVID.

The report from State Government in Richmond instates that NO improvements in amenities have been achieved. Why would I support to put our LOCAL community more in risk that they already are ? Does anyone ever talk about the traumas in local communities in dealing with the abuse of those using drugs?

3)Can we afford to take risk ? We are in a very delicate moment, more burden added can also jeopardize the future and reputation of our CBD. Can we afford that ? Why not decentralise the process with smaller rooms in the suburbs to subdivide the high impacts that is caused in our society ? Let's test this first ?

4)I believe that injection rooms are not design for heavy foot traffic areas such as our hoddle grid. Can you imagine the burden for emergency services during pick hours, new year's eve, protests, white night ? Plus the general public need to deal with all the population of drug users under the effect of drugs.

5)The state and federal government cannot even offer proper rehabilitation centres for drug users and mental health issues conditions. We have many individuals that are leaving today in our streets for years and we can even provide a solution for them as we don't have the proper resources. How can we offer injection rooms without the way to rehabilitate individuals ? We are always putting the carriages in front of the horses.

To conclude, I do not recommend the Hoddle Grid to be the next injection room.

Yours Sincerely,

Rafael Camillo

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the Future
Melbourne
Committee or the
Submissions
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your

submission:

*(No opportunity is
provided for
submitters to be
heard at Council
meetings.) **

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * David Lydiate

Email address: * d.lydiate@optusnet.com.au

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Submission to Proposed Safe Injecting Facility Located CBD

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

I would like to object to the location of the second facility of a new Safe Injecting facility being located at 244–248 Flinders Street.

My reasons are, that I believe this is a totally unacceptable location considering the effect it will have on the current fight back of the CBD economic recovery. There is clear evidence that there has been no improvement in North Richmond to the surrounding amenities as reported in the MSIR report of June 2020 and that it had in fact become worse. Tourism, residents, businesses and workers may all be affected and thus the recovery placed in jeopardy. A more suitable location needs to be considered. The MSIR suggests that the various locations of community housing are the main hot spots for drug use and dealing as is the case in North Richmond and so in my opinion be a much more suitable location. Safety is of a prime concern of mine both for my staff and customers and the local workers who work quite late shifts and thus become more vulnerable at night.

regards

David Lydiate

OTC Out of the Closet

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Bill Lang

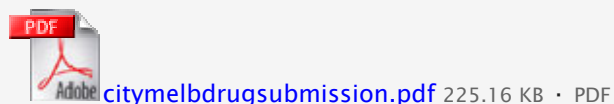
Email address: * bill@smallbusinessaustralia.org

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Submissions (Section 223) Committee

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: * Drug Injecting Room

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee or the Submissions (Section 223) Committee in support of your submission:

*(No opportunity is provided for submitters to be heard at Council meetings.) **

Small Business Australia submission to the City of Melbourne

Proposed 'safe injecting room' for Melbourne's CBD

Prepared by Bill Lang, Executive Director of Small Business Australia

Small Business Australia would like to raise with the City of Melbourne the concerns that local traders have expressed for the proposed 'safe injecting room' at the old Yooralla building in Flinders Street.

Should 'safe injecting room' be permitted to go ahead, the businesses of local traders will be irrevocably damaged as those visiting the CBD elect to avoid the area due the social issues that the facility will bring with it.

We have already seen such damage at the 'safe injecting room' operating in Richmond, with residents and local traders forced to contend with drug dealing, fights, abuse, prostitution, users urinating, vomiting and defecating in the street, unconscious bodies and in extreme cases those who have died in the streets from overdoses.

Given the incredible financial burden that CBD traders have faced throughout the COVID pandemic and the continued low rate of foot traffic within the CBD, to add another element that will drive customers and clientele away makes no sense.

The 'safe injecting room' will see local businesses close, cost jobs within the CBD, devalue properties and rents and to have that occur at the expense of those who are plying a legal trade, to protect those who are involved in breaking the law, is not a policy that should be accepted by Council.

The area of the proposed site is already one that has been identified by Council as requiring investment to support local traders through improving the amenities of the area to encourage greater foot traffic. The proposed 'safe injecting room' will have the opposite effect of that plan.

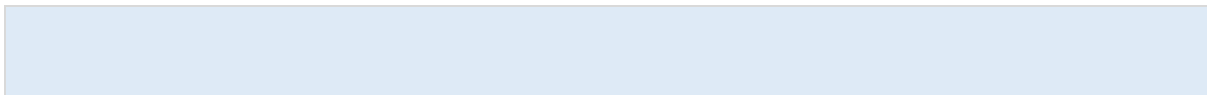
It will instead encourage those using illicit substances to head to the area, it will attract drug dealers and see an increase in the social issues that always comes with those who make the decision to use illegal drugs.

The CBD of Melbourne needs positive investment to encourage Melbournians and office workers to return, not the implementation of 'social experiment' programs that will drive people away from the CBD.

It is the view of Small Business Australia that investment in programs and support aimed at tackling the causes behind illicit drug use are a far more positive use of tax and rate payer's money, rather than the creation a 'safe' space for people to break the law.

If this 'injecting facility' is permitted to open, then this will be the City of Melbourne and the State government turning its back upon the small business traders of the CBD, which is why Small Business Australia is, on behalf of local traders, calling on Council to reject any motion that supports a 'safe injecting room' to be open

Should the erroneous decision be made to permit this facility to open, then we call upon the City of Melbourne and the State government of Victoria to fully compensate local traders, business and property owners for the losses they will suffer and the devaluation of their businesses.



Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Martin Mulvihill

Email address: * martinmulvihill@netscape.net

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Future Melbourne Committee meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: 6.10

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

Just to note in relation to the recommendation which refers to discussion and a resolution of the FMC on June 23rd 2020.

There was also a further resolution of the FMC on 21st July 2020 (7.6) moved by then Deputy Mayor Arron Wood and seconded by Lord Mayor Sally Capp following a meeting with Drill Hall residents on July 1st 2020. It referenced the Drill Hall site:

1.1. That the Victorian Government's 'preferred site' (i.e. 53 Victoria St, Melbourne) be removed from the site options currently being considered for the second Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) in Melbourne on the grounds that the 'preferred site' is both inappropriate and inadequate. The request is to outline that the site is:

1.1.1. Inappropriate due to its immediate proximity to vulnerable resident groups, its proximity to Queen Victoria Market, a site which attracts significant numbers of customers, traders and tourists.

1.1.2. Inadequate in relation to the provision of associated medical services not limited to but including rapid detox and rehab beds and the ability of the site to physically accommodate a MSIR similar to that in North Richmond.

It specifically rejected the Drill Hall site and I think this should be made clear by being included in the present management recommendation.

Martin Mulvihill

Drill Hall Residents Association

It is not clear that this is contained in the recommendations of the management report.

Please indicate **No**
whether you
would like to
address the Future
Melbourne
Committee or the
Submissions
(Section 223)
Committee in
support of your
submission:

*(No opportunity is provided for submitters to be heard at Council meetings.) **

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * R Morden

Email address: * comsubmission@gmx.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: public submission

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

In order for injecting rooms to function users must buy drugs – the legislation thus creates quasi legal trade. A bonanza for dealers. A bane for police and society. If you go down this path you are not just sanctioning 'safe' injecting, you are sanctioning a drug market, and all the layers of crime which underpin it.

Since it opened in Richmond, I've been repeatedly and aggressively offered drugs. Even a free 'taste'? Dealers operate with impunity, continually boosting organised crime. I fear for young people who may be especially vulnerable, impulsive, experimental, or easily manipulated by these touts.

Sadly, the room seems to be growing not curing the problem; enabling addiction, with no effective lever for recovery. Put the effort and funding instead into prevention, support and rehab.

Safe streets encourage business, shopping and socialisation. Intensive drug activity is not compatible with that aim. In Richmond, the personal safety and amenity of residents, as well as their shopping strip, have been decimated by the presence of the injecting room.

The need to move the room away from Richmond, where it is harming the community is urgent. However, caution should be exercised when considering replicating a model that when viewed holistically, contains significant downsides.

Privacy acknowledgement: I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

*

Name: * Dora Tsipouras

Email address: * dora.online68@gmail.com

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: * Council meeting

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: Notice of Motion, Cr Campbell: Medically Supervised Injecting Room

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.

As a local Richmond resident I am making a submission to address concerns of the second injecting room proposed for Flinders Street in the City of Melbourne. I give you my personal experience having lived through the devastating impact of the Nth Richmond injecting room has had on myself and my family. My family who for over 45 years lived in the public housing near the room have been subjected to unprecedented drug related problems since the opening of the Nth Richmond injecting room that where never experience before. Increased drug dealers/trafficking, public injecting, anti social behaviour, people passed out on the streets, footpaths, drug crime have become a daily occurrence. My elderly (77 year old) mother was abused by a drug user on her way to her doctors at the North Richmond Community Health centre adjacent to the injecting room. Something that had never occurred in the past 45 years. It has become dangerous and it's very intimidating just trying to get to her appointments because of the large number of drug dealers/users congregating around the area. She was a prisoner

in her own home because of the daily injecting at her front door preventing her from leaving until the drug users finished shooting up or the police arrived to move them on. The increased and constant drug culture over the last 3 years has traumatized my mother so much so she was diagnosed with the first signs of PTSD. Reluctantly after 45 years, I made the decision to move my mother away from the area as the problems continued with no end in sight. I had to make the decision to take her away from the only community she ever knew and was happy living there because I feared her health would deteriorate and it was unsafe. This in itself caused my mother stress and anxiety to leave the only place she knew. Sadly a number of people/families have had to make the same decision to leave the area. This in itself is wrong that we must be the ones to leave because of an injecting room that has caused harm to our community. Myself personally, I have found it's become extremely dangerous not only to walk down the Lennox Street where the injecting room is but to drive as well. On numerous occasions people high on drugs wander onto the road in front of cars making it extremely dangerous. The erratic behaviour is unpredictable and it's only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. Lastly the once vibrant Victoria Street has been destroyed and is no longer a place to go to because of the amount of drug dealing/shooting up, crime and antisocial behaviour. I am sharing all this because for the last 3 years my community has experienced horrendous drug problems as a result of the location of the injecting room. They should not be in a high density area such as Flinders Street, should not be in a commercial area instead both the City of Melbourne injecting room and the North Richmond need to be at a hospital or in an industrial area. Otherwise what has happened to Richmond will also happen to the city of Melbourne.

Privacy acknowledgement: *	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
Name: *	Anke Sieder
Email address: *	anke.sieder@hilton.com
Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: *	Council meeting
Date of meeting: *	Tuesday 25 May 2021
Agenda item title: *	Meeting 6 – Council motion to reject Flinders St Injecting Room Site
Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u> We encourage you to make your submission as early as possible.	<p>Dear Melbourne City Council,</p> <p>as a Business within Flinders Quarter, I like to support Council's decision to reject the Injecting room site on Flinders Street. The situation within FQ is already difficult with high amount of homelessness and drug use. I am concerned the Injection room would contribute and increase concern for safety.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Anke Sieder – Operations Manager, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Flinders Street</p>

From: Peter Keating

Subject: CBD 's Second Injecting Room

Dear Councillor,

While I know little about your political allegiances or your stand on issues more generally I absolutely applaud your objecting to the State's proposal to establish a second injecting room in the city.

It is self evident to me that an area of the city which already struggles to be welcoming, despite being a gateway for visitors, is a very poor site to invite illicit drug users & vendors to congregate. Flinders Street and cross streets are the important city bound thoroughfares for pedestrians from Southgate / Southbank. Placing the injecting room in their paths would be inappropriate in the extreme!

Thank you for your strong objection to the State Government's incomprehensible proposal.

Sincerely,

Peter Keating

Subject: Fwd: Safe Injecting Room.

When I was driving this morning I heard on the news that she have out forward a motion about initiating legal action against the Government re the site selection of another safe injecting facility.

Firstly I congratulate you for this as this is precisely what is required as the Government aren't listening to the broader community and simply ignoring common sense.

I have enclosed a letter I recently sent Richard Wynne about the Richmond site, as a resident in close proximity I am very well qualified to comment on the disaster that has happened at North Richmond, the City of Melbourne would be insane if they allowed another MSIR to be positioned where the government is suggesting.

Please feel free to use any of my commentary to Richard Wynne with your fellow councillors as they need to be made very aware of what will happen if the government keeps going down this path.

Kind Regards
Colin Watson

Hi Richard,

I wrote to you last year about my concerns about the current site selection of the Safe Injecting Facility in Richmond and I still have the same if not more concerns after the recent public publicity the facility is attracting.

I along with many other residents and ratepayers in your electorate were very disappointed that you didn't attend the latest meeting which again demonstrates that you are not listening to the voters in your electorate. A number of times the government has indicated that there is support from the school parents for the facility, if you had attended you would have seen that while once this may have been true, it is no longer the case.

This sort of attitude on such a highly controversial subject is unacceptable as you were voted in to look after everyone's issues no matter how contentious or unpalatable they are.

My personal view is that unless you change this attitude of not listening to your electorate about this issue the community at large could seriously consider running an independent candidate at the next election to run against you. On advise I have have obtained independently from the Electoral Commission if a candidate did run and obtained 5 per cent of the vote which seems achievable and preferenced those votes to the Greens you would be out of office.

A far more palatable option for me would be that you consider the following reasons why you should be leading your party to admit they have made a mistake with the current site selection of the facility and commit to relocate it ASAP.

As a property owner and ratepayer in Richmond I have an affiliation for the area dating back 30 plus years. In my business life I conducted many business lunches in Victoria Street during that period, and from a personal point my family and friends from out of the area have been going to the Minh Tan 2 on Sundays for yum cha over the same period.

I'm not sure if you have walked down Victoria Street recently but it's looking like a ghost town, closed restaurants and shops and an increased presence of drug dealers and users whose occupation of the street has not been dissuaded by the police or the Governments Covid-19 lockdown.

While some of this may be attributed to Covid -19 much is clearly as a result of the injecting room's opening just over two years ago.

Up until then this precinct had been a vibrant destination point in Richmond and known as little Vietnam, people from all over greater Melbourne would attend seven days a week to embrace the area for all it offered.

Real estate prices in reasonable proximity to the facility have dropped significantly and who in their right mind would want to come and start a new small business in all the vacant shops. The poor landlords with vacant shops have little hope of finding tenants and the community members who want to sell their houses and move out are faced with the same problems.

It is a socio- economic disaster that is being totally overlooked in the current debate, all this

under your watch, you must be very proud of how you have let this occur with your tin ear approach.

Then we hear that three new local reference groups are to work with Ken Lay to look at improving safety, neighbourhood amenity, economic revitalisation, health and well-being to the area. I also believe that the government wants to spend some \$9M on this project of which \$3M will be spent improving the amenity around the facility.

What a complete waste of hard earned tax payers money, you could spend \$20M on amenities and it wouldn't change the fact that people don't want to come hear anymore due to the side effects of the facility.

The only way to fix the issue is to relocate the facility and take the 4350 clients referred to in the report commissioned by DHHS so they don't have a physical presence in the area.

The decision to continue the facility after the trial period for another three years is flawed as it doesn't reference the socio- economic damage the facility has caused in the immediate area. Surely this is of equal importance as the saving of 21 lives.

The other reason the report is flawed as it is scant on details of the functionality of the facility in line with it's core values. The report basically relies on the fact that during the trial period it saved 21 lives from drug induced overdoses.

However the facilities main aim and core values is to help those suffering from drug addiction to recover and rebuild their lives, something that is not mentioned in the report.

To effectively determine the success of the centre we need to know what has happened to those 21 people, have they all entered into a voluntary drug rehabilitation programme and are all off drugs or are they still using the facility on a regular basis waiting to be saved again.

The same should be asked of the 4350 clients referred to, if hardly any clients haven't attempted to take advantage of what the government is offering by admitting themselves to a rehab programme, and and a result have recovered and rebuilt their lives there is a strong argument that facilities like this are an abject failure.

My previous request for this information was ignored by you which is disappointing and unless I receive it within 14 days I will make an FOI application for the information

The other issue that you need to address is the lack of police intervention of dealers and users in the immediate area .

When I shop I walk from Regent Street to the Hive Shopping Centre which I have been doing since 2001, in the last few years if I was an undercover policeman I would make 4-6 arrests ever time I walked this route. I literally see deals done in this 30 minute window.

I live very close to Hungry Jacks on Punt Road and every day in the carpark bikies arrive and distribute drugs to dealers, there is always a lack of police presence in this area which gives the impression they have been told to turn a blind eye. These dealers then head close to the injecting centre for their sales, it is ridiculous .

What's as equally concerning is there has been an increased police presence in the area over the past few months but it has done little to dissuade these dealers operating in broad daylight.

Whilst I agree we need to experiment with safe injecting facilities as figures shown in the 2019 Australia's Annual Overdose Report done by Pennington Institute show the following,

: unintentional drug-induced deaths comprise three quarters of all drug-induced deaths and this proportion remained constant between 2000-2017 (ranging from 79-79 per cent)

: both are continuing to trend significantly upwards and are increasing more rapidly than the population is growing.

: from 2001-2017 the population in Australia increased 27 per cent (19386-24774) . In comparison, the number of drug induced deaths has increased by 64.7 per cent, over the same period.

These figures confirm what a problem we have as a society and let's not overlook that the figures only focus on deaths, in addition there are more than 3M Australian's using illicit drugs and about 1M who misuse pharmaceutical drugs every year.

More alarming is that more than 40 percent of Australian's over the age of 14 used an illicit drug in their lifetime, and illicit drugs are used by more than a quarter of the people in Australia in their 20's each year.

Unless we accept that we require radical change the effects of illegal drug dealing and consumption will continue to damage our society. I am talking physical and mental problems, personal relationship issues, family violence, work and financial issues and of course the ever increasing crime related activities to fund the habit.

Whilst the facility may assist drug users in our society that fall in any of the above categories surely there has to be a better location to relocate it.

: one that isn't directly next door or on close proximity to a school.

: is not located within 100 metres of a popular shopping district.

: will have less of an impact on an area with so much affordable housing, and home to so many young and single families.

Richard, please admit the government made a mistake and make immediate plans to relocate the Safe Injecting Facility from it's current site.

Kind Regards
Colin Watson

Subject: Experience working in Degraives Street

I am writing this email to share my experience while working in Degraives street with you, in hopes that it will support your motion against the opening of a MSIR in the City of Melbourne.

I work at a gelateria located in the middle of Degraives street. While I go around to different branches, this store is the one I'm mainly at, spending at least 3 days out of my 5-days work week here. Majority of our business is at night, 8pm and later, which is why the owner has decided to stay open until 10.30pm despite other cafes closing at 5.30pm on Sundays. Most of the time, there is also only one person working in the store. Therefore, oftentimes I am the only person working along the whole of the street. I have experienced more than one encounter with drug-affected people while being alone in the shop.

One night, a man came up to me and asked me for a free gelato. When I politely declined, he proceeded to kick our outdoor stools and umbrellas. Another time, a man passed by the store and started spewing vulgarities at myself and the customers in store, mentioning our races. Just last night, another man sat on one of our stools during closing time. I asked if he would mind if I bring the furniture in. Thankfully he got up without much confrontation, but then went on to punch the wall of the cafe next door. Taking out the trash at the end of the night has become a drag, since the alleyway where our bin is at is where many drug-affected people loiter. These stories are barely scratching the surface and are my personal experience. They do not include what my colleagues and other staff of other establishments have experienced, which seeing as to how much longer they've been around, I know would be more confronting.

I've been told many times that they are harmless, but my experiences tell me otherwise, and I'm glad that with this motion that you are putting forward, someone else thinks so too. I stand with all other staff members, whom the majority of are female and have rejected shift allocations in Degraives Street, who do not feel comfortable working there as it is, let alone with the building of an MSIR in the vicinity.

I thank you once again for standing up for staff's well-being in the area and I hope that my account has helped in supporting your motion.

Best Regards,

Alviana

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Wayne Gatt

Email address: *

wlg@tpav.org.au

Please indicate which meeting you would like to make a submission to by selecting the appropriate button: *

Council meeting

Date of meeting: *

Tuesday 25 May 2021

Agenda item title: *

7.2 Notice of Motion, Cr Campbell: Medically Supervised Injecting Room

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[city_of_melbourne_submission__second_msir.pdf](#) 193.59 KB ·

PDF



The Police Association Victoria

UPHOLDING OUR RIGHTS SINCE 1917

24th May 2021

The Police Association Victoria submission to The City of Melbourne over proposal for second Medically Supervised Injecting Room in Melbourne CBD

The Police Association Victoria is strongly opposed to the proposed second MSIR location in the Melbourne CBD, particularly as the ingrained issues identified at the current location in Richmond have not yet been addressed.

Based on consultation with our city-based members, TPAV believes the foreseeable and predictable impact of an MSIR in the City of Melbourne will be higher rates of crime and reduction of amenity in the area, impacting traders, residents, tourists, workers, families and our members.

More broadly, TPAV does not support duplication of the Richmond centre until it has demonstrated that it can operate successfully and with community acceptance.

Problems in policing a second MSIR based in the CBD

Our city-based members believe a second MSIR must be located somewhere largely unpopulated. From a policing perspective, it was agreed amongst surveyed members that the discretion afforded the MSIR in Richmond (that has effectively become to some extent a no drug policing zone) would be practically impossible in a high-density capital city that attracts 997,000 visitors a day.

Members representing Yarra (Richmond) confirmed that the area they are able to fully police is several hundred metres away from the MSIR, which is a very significant distance in the CBD and therefore highly problematic for policing operations in general. Members agreed that such an exclusion/discretion zone is entirely impractical for policing purposes in the CBD given the significance of the area.

The city combines high density accommodation and is student and tourist centric. Patterns of movement typical of these groups see increased transit during times when natural surveillance is lowered, exposing them to crimes against the person and vulnerable to drug related crime.

Resourcing issues an MSIR in the CBD would create

A second MSIR in the CBD would significantly impact police resourcing in one of the most challenging Police Service Areas.

Consulted members explained that should the second MSIR be established in the CBD, resources are likely to be diverted from targeted operations and specialist groups to respond to resulting increases

in crime and investigate it. They further indicated that units will become impacted by connected mental health transfers (351s).

Considering the impact of the Richmond MSIR on resourcing with respect to members in Yarra dealing with 351s, welfare, and increased crime in the direct vicinity amongst other issues, the impact of the proposed MSIR on police resources in the City of Melbourne is of significant concern given the already onerous demand placed on police working in the area. Police are already redeployed in large numbers to city-based operations such as demonstrations and major events that consume large numbers of members. As policing these events is not negotiable, it is likely that targeted operations mitigating against the MSIR will likely wane, causing opportunities for crime to flourish and a reduction in amenity and public safety.

Any assurance by Victoria Police that it will have the capacity to meet predicted increases in crime with a highly visible policing approach, should be met with caution. Attempts by our local members to respond adequately to calls for assistance are regularly frustrated by other routine policing demands such as hospital guarding, event management, mental health and family violence.

The reality of policing on the ground around the North Richmond MSIR

Victoria Police members on the ground hold invaluable insight into the impact of the MSIR trial in North Richmond.

Members foresee a significant increase in crime, should a second MSIR be established in the CBD. 79% of members from Yarra surveyed by TPAV in April 2019 reported an increase in crime in the precinct surrounding the MSIR since its introduction, which was later supported by data from the Crime Statistics Agency. Specifically, members reported that crimes against the person, property crime, drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour all increased in Yarra.

We note that in the first year within the immediate vicinity of the Richmond MSIR (streets bordering the MSIR) crimes against the person increased by 16%; Robbery increased by 53%, Stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour increased by 64%, and other crimes against the person increased by 62%. In relation to property offences Burglary/Break and enter increased by 4%; and theft increased by 10%, deception increased by 61%.

The most recent CSA data, released last month, shows that the overall number of recorded offences increased by 35% (1,249 offences in 2019 compared to 1,691 offences in 2020) in the vicinity of the MSIR. Specifically: assault and related offences increased by 28%; property and deception offences overall increased by 13%; drug offences overall increased by 40%; and public order and security offences overall increased by 34%.

Members noted that the decision to include ice as a permitted drug able to be injected at the MSIR has led to increased violent activity at Yarra, referring to several incidents including stabbings that have taken place in relation to the Richmond MSIR. Members acknowledged that there tends to be a significant difference in the behaviour of persons affected by heroin and ice, with more violent tendencies generally reflected in the latter. Considering the surge of ice affected people likely to populate the CBD as a result of the establishment of the second MSIR, members fear a surge in violent incidents in the area.

Concerns were also raised that the location of the MSIR in the CBD could promote drug trafficking. There is a view that users of the MSIR will not carry all of their drugs from home but will attempt to purchase them on the spot in the CBD instead.

Conclusion

TPAV believes that the persistent problems that have plagued the North Richmond MSIR, in relation to surges in key crime areas and loss of amenity for local residents and traders, will be exacerbated if a similar model is adopted in a much more densely populated area, such as the Melbourne CBD.

We hope that the Government, and by extension the City of Melbourne will not do the same thing over and expect a different result.

The City of Melbourne exists to represent its constituents. Given there has been limited or no consultation with those constituents who will be most impacted by this proposed facility, The Police Association Victoria hopes the Council takes seriously its responsibility to do so on their behalf.

TPAV stands with its members and the community on this issue; the traders, travellers, residents, workers and families, whose right to safety and amenity in the CBD will be severely impacted and should not be forsaken for a rushed and ill-considered proposal to extend a problematic program into the heart of Melbourne.