







## Dr Ingrid van Beek

Dr Ingrid van Beek (AM) is a public health & addiction medicine physician who has been working at the sharp end of harm reduction for more than 30 years.

Ingrid was the founding Medical Director of the Australia's first and still only Medically Supervised Injecting Centre from 2000 until 2008

Ingrid was the longstanding Director of the Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) until early 2017. Located in Sydney's Kings Cross, KRC is among the world's most integrated targeted primary health care services for 'at risk' young people, sex workers and people who inject drugs.

She was awarded a Doctor in Medicine (MD) in 2010 in recognition of her body of published scholarly work in the international field of Harm Reduction, and is a Conjoint Professor at UNSW Sydney's Kirby Institute. Ingrid's contribution to improving the health of socially marginalised populations was recognised in 2010 when she was awarded Membership of the Order of Australia.





## **Mr Aleksandar Gavrilovic**

Alex practiced as a community pharmacist for over 20 years. In 2005, Alex joined the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit as a Senior Pharmaceutical Officer in the Inspections and Investigations Team. He has held the role of Principal Pharmaceutical Officer (Monitoring and Compliance Section) and acted in the Chief Pharmacist and Deputy Chief Pharmacist roles.

Alex has investigated hundreds of cases for the Ministry of Health involving illegal or inappropriate supply, administration, prescribing and dispensing of medicines by health professionals, many progressing to prosecution at professional tribunals or local court.

Alex is currently the Manager of the Clinical Policy Unit in the Ministry of Health's Alcohol and Other Drugs Branch, Centre for Population Health. .





#### **WNEWS**

Australia on brink of prescription painkiller epidemic, doctors say

Posted 13 May 2018, 9:50am

#### **WINEWS**

Queensland needs real-time prescription monitoring 'urgently', coroner says, amid opioid deaths

y Michelle Rafferty, Lexy Hamilton-Smith and Lily Nothling

w.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-21/coronerr-prescription-system-after-alarmings/9783130

National Summit in Canberra to Address **Improving Access to Opioid Treatment** May National Summit in Canberra to Address Improving Access to Opioid



The opioid epidemic: Australia's silent killer X III

http://www.health.com/pain/opioid-facts

Mamamla = Fame. REVAL "Motherish Applicasts the glow Ladystartup Shappling

After taking the drugs, Rustie held her pregnant belly crying to her baby: 'I'm sorry.'



DEBRIEF

w.mamamia.com.au/prescription-drug-abuse-australi 2018/

The Conrier News MAY 14 2018 - 5:00PM

Prevent scripted misuse

Local News

https://www.thecourier.com.au/ pry/5399504/prevent

Seeking the perfect prescription Some good news from the fight against opioids But some had news too □ Print edition | United States :

https://www.economis







Opioid traces found in mussels off the coast of Seattle



By Harriet Alexander, NEW YORK

30 MAY 2018 • 8:32PM

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/05/30/opioid-traces-found-mussels-coast-se





'I am afraid that our profession is largely to blame for the fact that so many people have become the victims of drug habits.

I admonished a brother medical man the other day for yielding to a patient's demand for an opiate, and his reply accurately sums up the attitude of too many doctors:

"What can I do? People call in a medical man to get relief from their pain. If I can alleviate their suffering, I'm a kind and good doctor. If I merely urge them to bear their pain, they send for my competitor. I have my living and my reputation to consider." ' THE SUNDAY TIMES, JULY 9, 1905.

## DEADLY DRUG HABIT INCREASING.

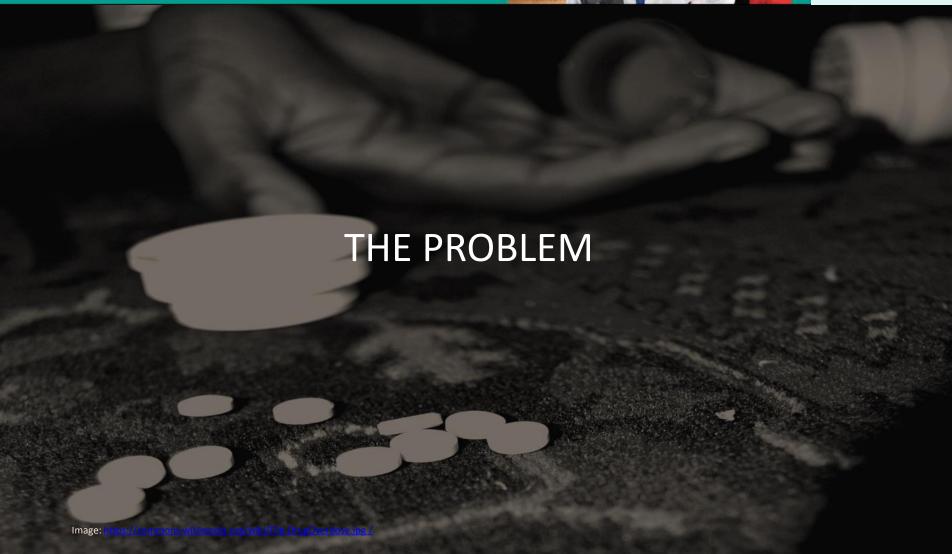
HOW A BLESSING BECOMES A CURSE.

WHAT DOCTORS SAY.

"You have been writing of the use of optum by the Chinese," said a leading medical man to a "Sunday Times" representative. "But have you taken note of the great and increasing use of morphine and similar drugs by Europeans?

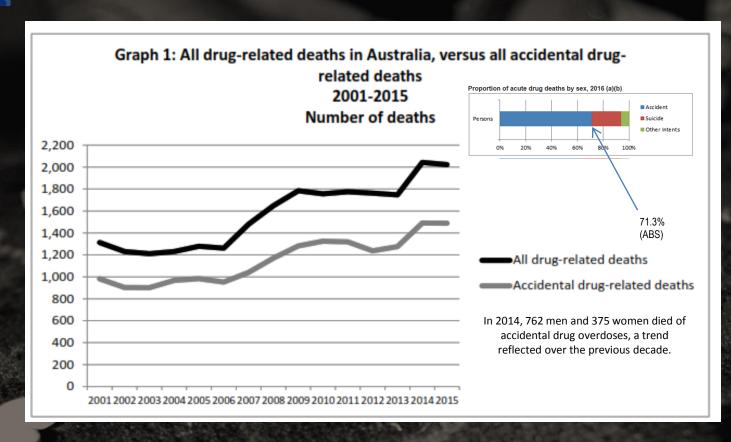






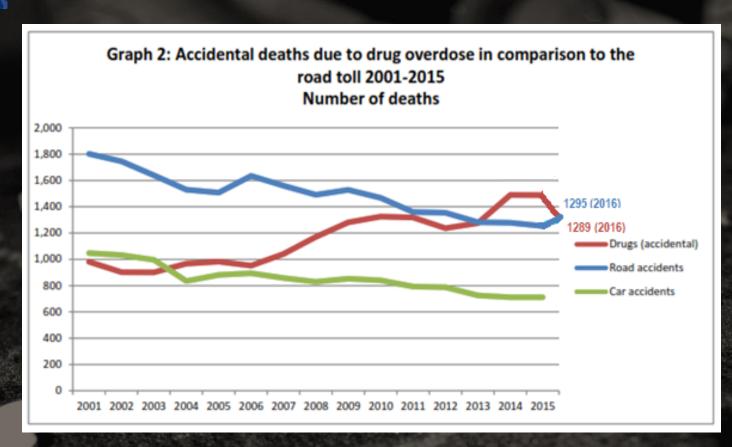






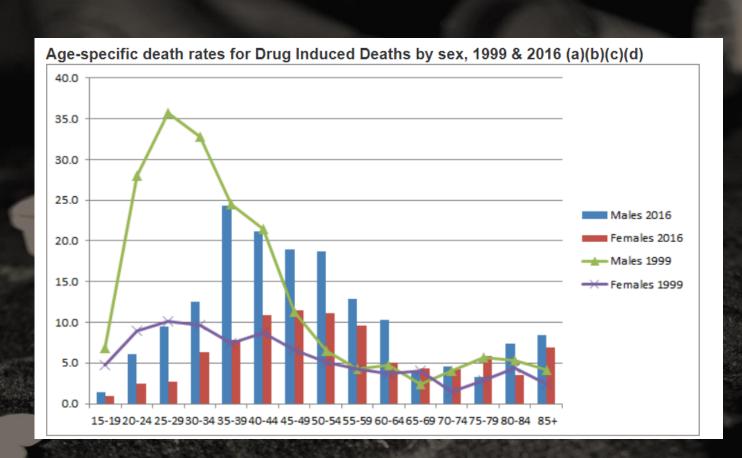
















#### 1999

A person who died from a drug induced death was most likely to be younger (early 30s) with morphine, heroin or benzodiazepines detected on toxicology at death.



An individual dying from a drug induced death in Australia was most likely to be a middle aged male, living outside of a capital city who is misusing prescription drugs such as benzodiazepines or oxycodone in a polypharmacy (the use of multiple drugs) setting.













21 May 2018



**CORONERS COURT OF QUEENSLAND** 

**FINDINGS OF INQUEST** 

CITATION:

Inquest into the death of William John HOUSE, Vanessa Joan WHITE, Jodie Anne SMITH; and Daniel Keith MILNE



STATE CORONER

LRRCSC - INQUIRY INTO DRUG LAW REFORM RECEIVED 17 MAR 2017 SUBMISSION NO. 178

17 March 2017

Inquest into six opioid deaths (NSW Coroner)

[commenced 6 May 2018]





**Australian Government** 

Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration

Consultation: Prescription strong (Schedule 8) opioid use and misuse in Australia – options for a regulatory response

23 May 201

Vic: https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/lncsc/Drugs\_/submissions/178\_2017.03.17 Coroners Court VIC submission.pd NSW: http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-07/opiold-overdose-deaths-at-record-levels-in-australia/9734838

QLD: http://www.courts.gld.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf\_file/0010/566920/cif-house-white-smith-milne-20180521

TGA: https://www.tpa.gov.cu/consultation/consultation/consultation\_prescription\_strongeschedule\_8-opioid-use-and-misuse-australia-options-regulatory-responses

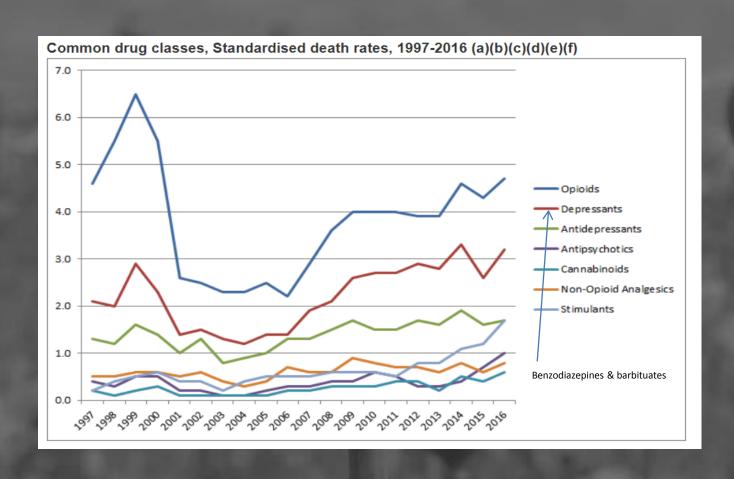






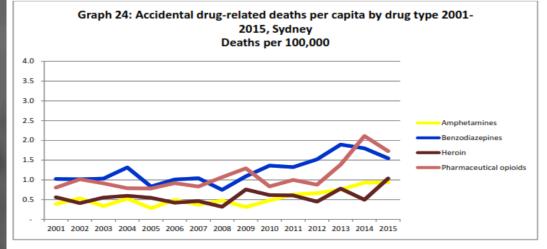


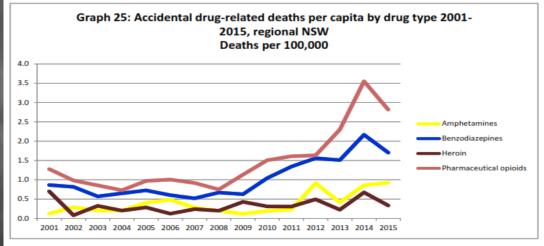






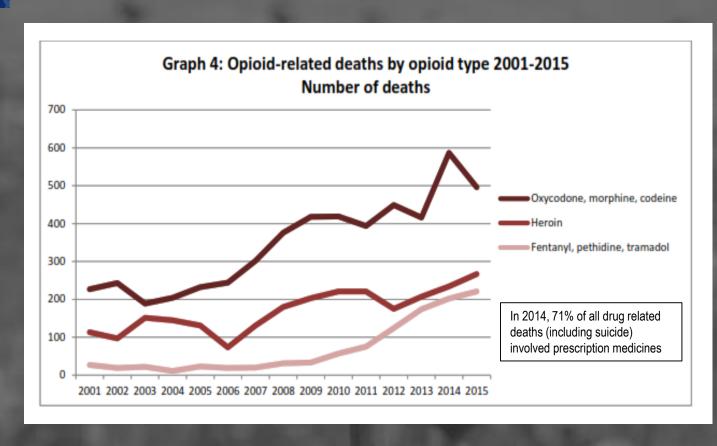






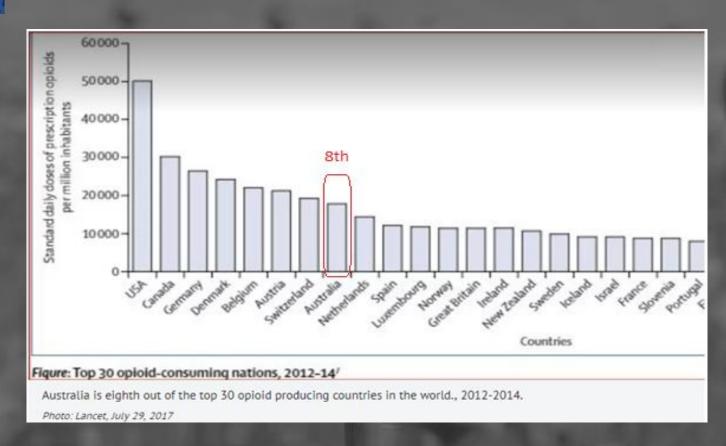






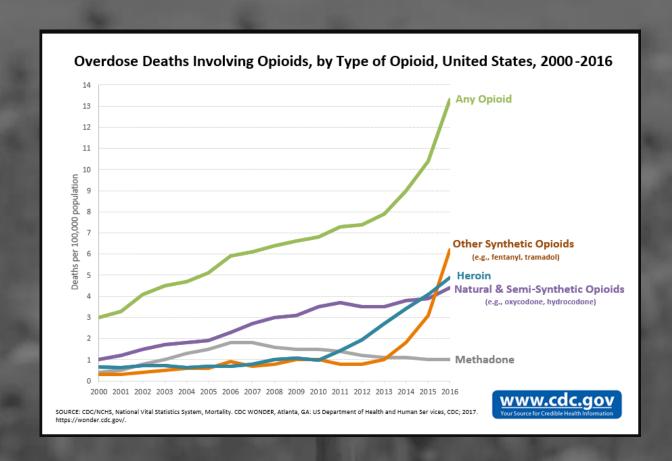














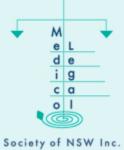


## THE PATIENT

John, 44yo from north coast of NSW

"A perpetually unwell man"





#### Autopsy:

Autopsy revealed multiple old and recent track marks on the patient's elbows and upper left forearm. Granulomas containing birefringent and other foreign material were found in the lungs, consistent with chronic IV drug use. Partially digested OxyContin tablets were found in the stomach.

Toxicalogical analysis revealed the presence of morphine, oxycodone, and fentanyl, with low levels of norfentanyl (suggesting little time for metabolism between administration and death),

Other drugs present were diazepam and a variety of prescription drugs not considered to be drugs of dependence (anti-ulcerants; antidepressants). Methamphetamine was detected at low levels.



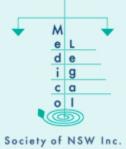




#### **Evaluation of the Sydney MSIC has found that as of 2015:**

- More than 965,000 injections have been supervised
- Management of more than 5,925 overdoses without a single fatality.
- Over 15,300 people have registered to use the centre since opening.
- 70% of the people visiting MSIC had never accessed any local health services prior to visiting the centre.
- More than 12.000 referrals have been made to external health and social welfare services.
- The number of ambulance call outs to Kings Cross has reduced by 80% since MSIC opened.
- There has been no increase in crime in the Kings Cross area.
- The Kings Cross MSIC has been independently evaluated multiple times. All results show the centre is successful and cost effective.
- The number of publicly discarded needles and syringes halved in Kings Cross after the opening of MSI





## Medically supervised injecting room

In 2018, the Victorian Government will open a medically supervised injecting room at North Richmond Community Health.

The centre will open as a trial, under supervision from the Victorian Government.







# REAL TIME PRESCRIPTION MONITORING





#### Interstate Coronial Recommendations

- 445. To date, there have been in excess of 21 coronial inquests conducted interstate, which have considered issues associated with the misuse of Schedule 8 medications, and the shortfalls of monitoring measures currently available. Resoundingly, Coroner's have called for the introduction of a real-time prescription monitoring system.
  - 412. In relation to the regulatory monitoring presently available in Queensland, Dr Gronow notes that it is retrospective, and appears to only identify a patient who may meet a certain criteria once an enquiry is received. It does not appear that there is any ability for the current system to be proactive, which allows patients to obtain excessive scripts from multiple general practitioners. In the cases considered, unless initiated by a general practitioner by way of an inquiry with DDU, feedback from the regulator was not timely if provided at all.

QLD Coroner: <a href="http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/">http://www.courts.qld.gov.au/</a>, data/assets/pdf. lile/0010/566920/cif-house-white-smith-milne-20180521.pd

112. It is also apparent that more could be done through the regulatory system. I was being told about real time prescribing databases over 15 years ago in other prescription overdose cases. I understand that no other State or Territory (other than Tasmania) has to date made significant improvements to their systems.





#### Tasmania – DORA (2012)

Drugs and Poisons Information System (DAPIS)
DAPIS Online Remote Access (DORA)

National model = ERRCD (Based on DORA)
Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs

S8 Only
Voluntary uptake
(95% of pharmacies report data in real time)
7 x 24 hr

Please be advised that as a registered health practitioner you are bound by your professional code of conduct, the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 and the Tasmanian Personal Information Protection Act 2004 when accessing patient information via the DORA website.

Welcome to the DORA website.

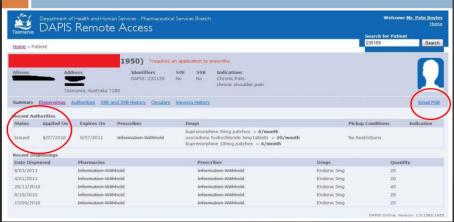
The DORA website contains sensitive patient information and should only be accessed by health practitioners registered to use DORA and able to demonstrate a current clinical relationship with the patient. Please note that access to DORA patient files is logged and audited and any health practitioner found to be accessing and/or using information inappropriately may be referred to their relevant Board for appropriate action.

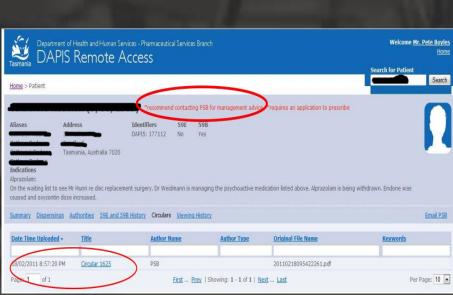
☐ I accept the terms of use	
Email or Username	
Password	
	Log In Register















VIC – Safescript (2018)

ERRCD based S4D and S8 Initially voluntary, planned mandatory

**WA – ERRCD (Late 2018 ?)** 







VIC – Safescript (2018)

ERRCD based S4D and S8 Initially voluntary, planned mandatory

**WA – ERRCD (Late 2018 ?)** 





NSW - ???

(10 May 2018) NSW Chief Pharmacist, Dr Judith Mackson, told Deputy State Coroner Harriet Grahame that, despite government commitments to rolling out the service, the potentially lifesaving system was still far from being realised.

"A timetable for implementation has not been developed, and the costs to NSW to implement real-time prescription monitoring have not been determined".

SafeScript (VIC): https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/safescript
ERRCD (WA): https://ww2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/safescript
ERRCD (WA): https://ww2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/safescript
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NSW: https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/no-timeline-to-roll-out-service-to-end-doctor-shopping

https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/no-timeline-to-roll-out-service-to-end-doctor-shopping-count-told-20180510 p4zel6.html





## REAL TIME PRESCRIPTION MONITORING

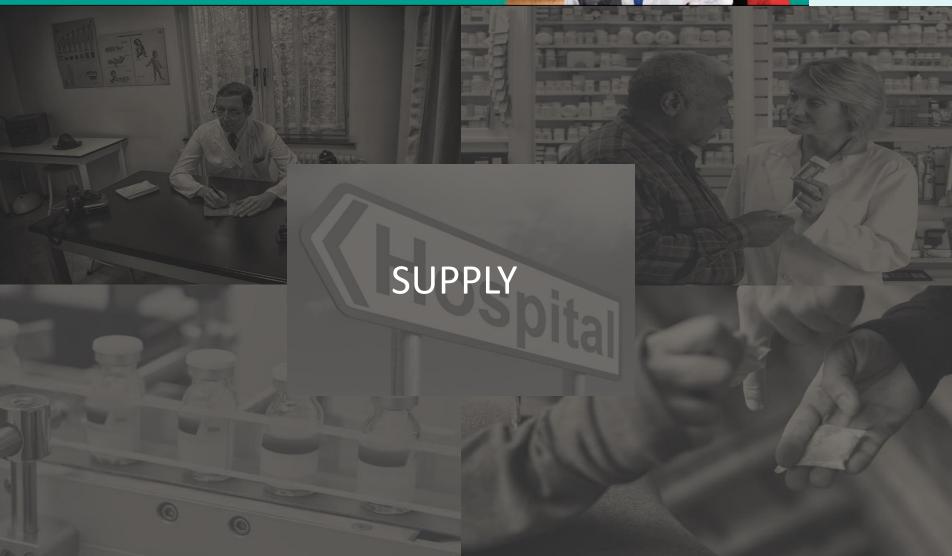
Information is not enough

What about the patients?

Whose job is it anyway?













National Drug & Alcohol Research Centre



Home > Projects > Improving GP prescribing of pharmaceutical opioids

Improving GP prescribing of pharmaceutical opioids

'We're the ones creating problems for GPs': Hospital acts on addictive drug



EXCLUSIVE NATIONAL NSW INVESTIGATION

When chemists go bad: wave of drug store dealers caught pill pushing

There were 12,100 tablets of clonazepam, 30 syringes of testosterone, 500 tablets of diazepam, 280 tablets of morphine and a cocktail of other restricted drugs.

Origins of an Epidemic: Purdue Pharma Knew Its Opioids Were Widely Abused







Are doctor-shoppers really at the heart of our opioid crisis?

"I sort of look at it now and think why did this doctor prescribe nearly 2,000 tablets to my son in four weeks".







The headquarters of Purdue Pharma in Stamford, Conn. Federal prosecutors said the company knew of "significant" abuse of

OxyContin soon after it came on the market, but hid that information. George Etheredge for The New York Times

https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/29/health/purdue-opioids-oxycontin.htm











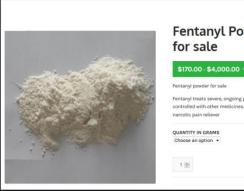
#### THE LANCET **Psychiatry**

The effect of a potentially tamper-resistant oxycodone formulation on opioid use and harm: main findings of the National Opioid Medications Abuse Deterrence (NOMAD) study

Briony Larance, PhD 🗹 🖂, Timothy Dobbins, PhD, Amy Peacock, PhD, Robert Ali, MBBS, Raimondo Bruno, PhD, Nicholas Lintzeris, PhD, Michael Farrell, FRCP, Louisa Degenhardt, PhD

2.9 million Australians were prescribed opioids in 2014, compared with 93,000 people who injected drugs. As a population-wide strategy to reduce harm of overuse or over prescription of opioids, tamper resistant preparations

"reduced tampering among people who inject drugs, but did not affect population-level opioid use or harm"



## Fentanyl Powder

Fentanyl treats severe, ongoing pain that cannot b





Fentanyl:













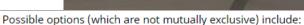
Consultation: Prescription strong (Schedule 8) opioid use and misuse in Australia – options for a regulatory response

23 May 2018

This consultation closed on 2 March 2018.

#### Invitation to comment

The TGA sought comments from interested parties on options for a regulatory response to the potential misuse of prescribed Schedule 8 (S8) opioids in Australia.



- Option 1: Consider the pack sizes for strong (S8) opioids
- Option 2: Consider a review of the indications for strong (S8) opioids
- Option 3: Consider whether the highest dose products should remain on the market, or be restricted to specialist/ authority prescribing
- Option 4: Strengthening of the Risk Management Plans for opioid products
- Option 5: Review of label warnings and revision to Consumer Medicines Information
- Option 6: Consider incentives for expedited TGA review of improved products for pain relief and opioid antidotes
- Option 7: Potential changes to use of appendices in the Poisons Standard to provide additional
  regulatory controls for strong S8 opioids (this could potentially include controls of prescribing for
  particular populations or classes of medical practitioners, additional safety directions or label warning
  statements, specific dispensing labels).
- Option 8: Increase health professional awareness of alternatives to opioids (both S4 and S8 opioids) in the management of chronic pain.







