

ACTION ON ICE

The Queensland Government's plan to address use and harms caused by crystal methamphetamine

Like the rest of Australia, crystal methamphetamine (ice) is having a significant impact across many communities in Queensland.

Its effects on individuals, families, communities and frontline service providers is often disproportionate when compared to those caused by other drugs.

Individuals can often take several years between experiencing problems with their use of ice and seeking help. Problematic ice use or dependence can lead to complex and serious health, legal, social, personal and financial consequences.

Withdrawal from ice can be lengthy and severe, with symptoms sometimes lasting weeks or months after last use, and relapse occurs in about 80–90 per cent of people.

This requires the service system to provide extended and flexible withdrawal and treatment services and support options following treatment completion through the provision of aftercare and relapse prevention interventions.

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↑ 31%



increase in Queensland arrests related to amphetamine-type stimulants (including methamphetamine) offences from 2014–15 to 2015–2016.

Between 2009–10 and 2015–16 the annual rate of methamphetamine-related Queensland hospital admissions **increased from 3.9 to 79.9 per 100,000 persons.**



An investment of **\$105 million over five years** has been committed to reduce the supply, demand and harms from ice use.



**Queensland
Government**

OUR APPROACH

Reducing supply



Actions to reduce the supply of ice are focused on:

- enforcement of criminal drug laws
- targeting criminal networks and organised criminal syndicates
- undertaking strategic intelligence and research.

Specific actions include:

- Enforce criminal drug laws in Queensland and undertake activities targeting criminal networks involved in the production and supply of illicit drugs, including ice.
- Work with other jurisdictions through the Australian Federal Police-led National Anti-Gangs Squad to tackle the significant involvement of outlaw motorcycle gangs, in the production and distribution of ice.
- Prioritise organised crime investigations into high threat criminal networks that are trafficking ice into or within Queensland to disrupt and dismantle those networks and/or supply routes into Queensland.
- Continue to work with communities to encourage them to report organised criminal activity related to the supply, trafficking and production of illicit drugs.
- Continue to monitor the sale of precursor chemicals and equipment that can be potentially diverted to make ice in clandestine laboratories and participate in the development of a national end user declaration scheme.

Reducing demand



Actions to reduce the demand for ice are focused on:

- preventing the use of ice and supporting communities
- early intervention and treatment for people using ice.

Specific actions include:

- Deliver a new **\$14.3 million 42-bed residential drug rehabilitation and treatment facility in Rockhampton** which will improve access to specialist alcohol and other drug services for people living in central Queensland.
- Deliver culturally-appropriate **workshops to targeted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities** to assist effective, community-led responses to ice and other substances of concern.
- **\$3.2 million** to deliver an **information awareness campaign** to direct Queenslanders to accurate, factual and trusted information about ice and how and where to seek further help and treatment.
- Promote the availability of existing and effective information, resources, programs and services for communities, school principals, teachers and students, families and friends.
- Expand substance use programs and services for prisoners and offenders in the correctional system in line with recommendations from the Queensland Parole System Review.

Reducing harms



Actions to reduce the harms from ice are focused on:

- supporting Queensland families
- minimising the impact on individuals
- protecting and supporting frontline workers.

Specific actions include:

- **\$6.3 million to establish a trial youth residential care service** in Brisbane for high risk young people aged under 17 years in out-of-home care.
- Expand access to **specialist support programs** and services through Family Drug Support for Queensland families and significant others affected by ice and other drug use, particularly in regional areas.
- Commence the Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court from the Brisbane Magistrates Court to provide specialist and intensive multi-agency treatment and support for offenders with severe alcohol and other drug issues associated with their offending.
- **\$4.1 million** for the expansion of **roadside drug testing** up to 75,000 tests within the next four years.
- Deliver training and resources to support the capability of frontline services, with a focus on GPs, general health and hospital staff to respond to people affected by ice, and support their own safety and wellbeing.

Action on ice foundation initiatives

A total of **\$105 million** over five years to reduce the supply, demand and harms from ice use on individuals, families and communities in Queensland.

\$14.3 million over three years for a 42-bed residential drug rehabilitation and treatment facility in Rockhampton.

\$6.3 million over three years for a trial youth residential care service in Brisbane for high risk young people.

\$18 million over four years for an immediate needs package to increase awareness, support families and better equip our frontline service providers.

Supported with additional investment in alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment services

\$43 million over five years under *Connecting Care to Recovery 2016–2021* to enhance specialist AOD services.

\$24 million over four years for targeted services responses in prevention, community engagement and specialist AOD treatment.

HELP AND SUPPORT

Families and individuals will now have greater access to support and treatment through a comprehensive suite of services available across Queensland.

Key support services to assist people affected by substance misuse and related problems, their families, carers and significant others include, but are not limited to:

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS)

A free, 24/7 anonymous and confidential telephone information, counselling and referral service for anyone concerned about their own or someone else's alcohol or other drug use, including help to find appropriate treatment services.

1800 177 833

Counselling online

A free, 24/7 counselling service for people using alcohol and other drugs, their family members and friends.

counsellingonline.org.au

Family Drug Support

Help and support for families affected by alcohol and other drug use.

1300 368 186 and fds.org.au