

A blurred night photograph of a city street. In the background, a large red billboard for Coca-Cola is visible with the word 'Enjoy' above the logo. To the right, a rainbow flag is partially visible. The street is illuminated by streetlights, and there are some orange traffic cones or barriers in the middle ground. The overall scene is out of focus, creating a sense of motion or a busy urban environment.

Lessons from the urban jungle!

Dr Ingrid van Beek AM

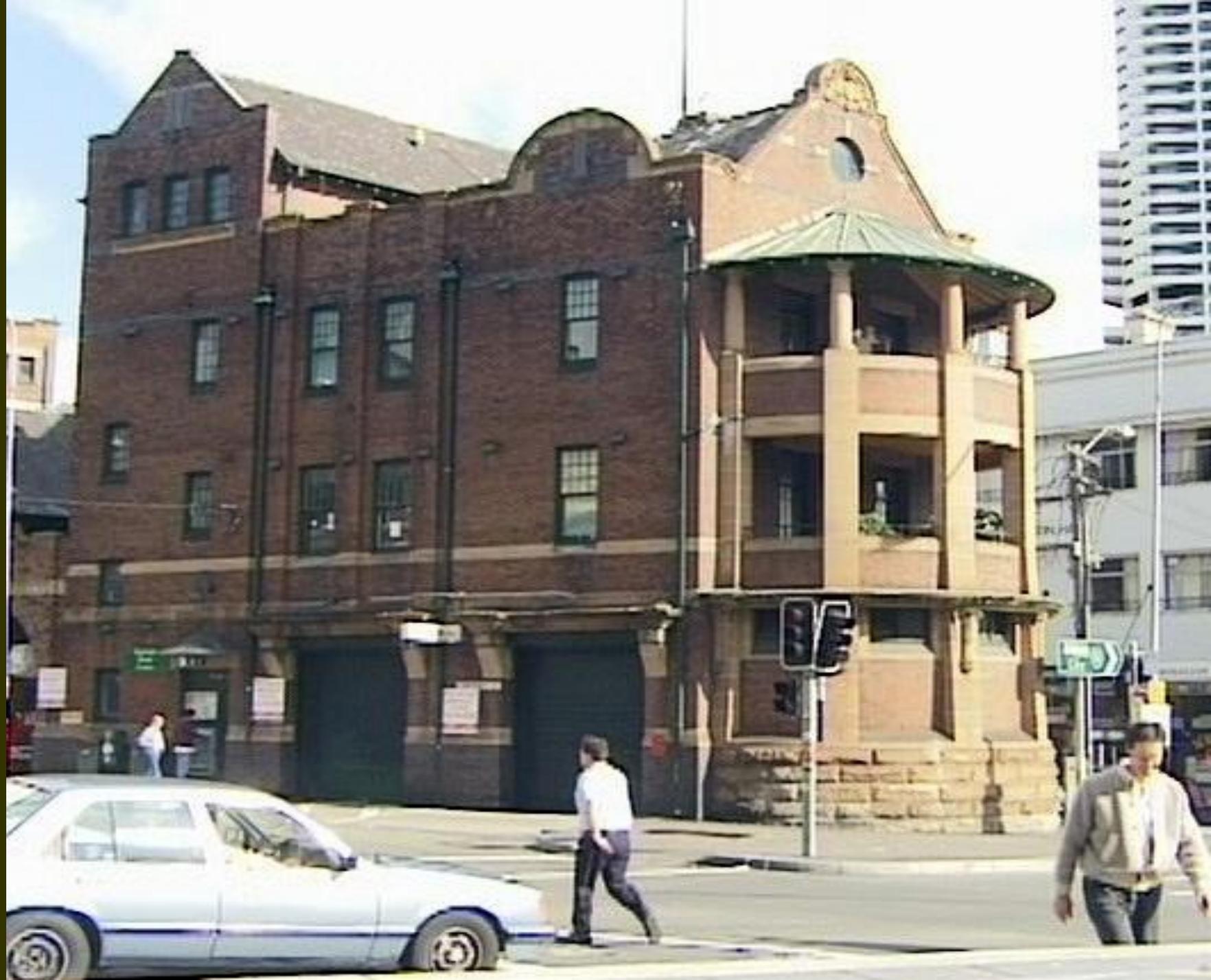
MBBS MBA FAFPHM FACHAM MD

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PUBLIC MEETING
SAY NO
TO
NEEDLE
EXCHANGE
IN
DARLINGHURST RD
AT

REGINALD MURPHY HALL
GREENKNOWE AVENUE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

AT 6.45PM







666.111
3+
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66



14 KELLET ST

24HR ACCESS
KEEP CLEAR
TOW AWAY
ZONE

Talk of the Town
PHILADELPHIA

BANK RESTAURANT

ACV 840

Kirketon
Road
Centre

K R C

FIRE BRIGADE
EMERGENCY
ACCESS
24 HOURS
KEEP CLEAR





Close down
This place
for good
your efforts.

Resident
Residents Action
Group.

Some do's and don'ts!

- Garner political support
- Provide relevant evidence
- Mobilise other 'expert' voices
- Communicate information effectively
- Show you care; speak from the heart

“How many people have been encouraged to inject drugs because of the advice being offered by Ingrid van Beek and her team of so-called professionals? I am willing to bet that some of those working at the [medically supervised injecting] centre will be trawling the streets for addicts to get their numbers up because, after all, it is their livelihood. Indeed, when I pointed out the escape clause to my wife [the new provision that a review will be triggered should the medically supervised injecting centre’s utilisation drop below 75% of current attendance levels] she immediately suggested that staff would pull people in off the street and get them to inject inside the injecting room so that they could maintain their jobs”

– MP for Castle Hill; Hansard, NSW Parliament, June 2007.

- Respect the community's intelligence
- Develop a relationship with media
- Get media training!

Call for action as centre Ice adds



By state political writer SHARPI MARXSON and ANDREW CHESTERTON
VIOLENCE Ice addicts are using the Kings Cross injecting room to shoot up as police battle a crime wave fueled by the drug.
The *Sunday Telegraph* can reveal that ice addicts make up eight per cent of users at the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, which has been forced to restrict staff to deal with them.
Premier Morris Iemma said yesterday he was concerned as the growing trend, which would be examined in a review of the injecting room scheduled for next October.
But the Federal Government and State Opposition Leader Peter Dutton said the revelations should lead to the immediate closure of the centre.
"The injecting room's handling of ice users is not the responsibility of the State Government's ice clinics on Thursday."
Injecting centre medical director David van Beek said eight per cent of the 230 addicts using the centre each day were injecting ice — more than twice the number 18 months ago.
"To change people's behaviour in such a dramatic way and can be quite scary," he said.
"People become incredibly strong and quite aggressive, and that's what makes the impact of this drug greater."
Beek had undergone additional training to manage abusive behaviour among ice addicts and to identify the early signs of psychosis.
"I still have to be aware of now I'm making that work and especially trained staff are especially trained in that," he said.
Beek said he had seen a sharp increase of emerging psychosis, but they were generally allowed to enter the centre.
"The injecting centre approach reached several addicts outside the injecting centre who admitted to using ice inside."
One man said staff did not check the type of drug he injected, so they don't tell them what they don't care; they just write you down on a piece of paper," he said.
"You just say, 'I'm doing your own stuff and go back, soon quickly. Just keep it quiet.'"

attracts a new wave of aggressive drug users Ice adds flood injecting room



ICE: THE COLD FACTS
What does it look like? Large, colorless to white crystals or a coarse crystalline powder.
How is it sold? Usually in "rocks" (0.1 gram). It's so strong only a tiny bit is used at a time.
How much is lost? About 550 points up to 980 a point in Sydney's east.
How is it used? Injected or smoked in a glass pipe. One can be mixed with one or two other drugs.
It is highly addictive or "too" before which has led to deaths and therefore need for strict laws. Overseas and for some countries that range in cost to continue to use this means.
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Girls use drug for slimming

By state political writer SHARPI MARXSON
SCHOOLGIRLS are taking the drug "ice" to quickly alter weight, prompting concerns that students using the drug will be unable to manage their studies.
Drug Commissioner Deborah Shepherdson said there had been an increase in the number of 15 to 17-year-olds using "ice".
"Anaphylactic anaphylaxis is the most common health complication and is most commonly seen in young people who are injected primarily as an appetite suppressant and stimulant," she said.
Anaphylactic or "too" before which has led to deaths and therefore need for strict laws. Overseas and for some countries that range in cost to continue to use this means.

Another addict said: "It's just, it's a proper social joint in there with security guards and you can go what you want. It's amnesty once you cross the door sign and you're longer because we're with them."
Mr Iemma said to visit a serious problem "I am extremely angry about the increased use of the injecting room by ice addicts and the damage it's doing to the community."
"The Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) is a safe injecting room that has been doing an excellent job in saving lives and

Injecting centre a failure

assault and mauling patients a glare point. "It's more prevalent than heroin, and it's more addictive. People are creating new problems for police and they're longer because we're with them."
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Kings Cross is dying as slow and ugly death



Not a good place to do legitimate business... an injecting room staffer tends to an addict collapsed in Kings Cross. It's a honypot but all it attracts is the city's desperate and dodgy, reports LARISSA

THERE'S years after former Sydney Lord Mayor Lucy Turnbull announced her vision to transform Kings Cross from a red-light district into a smart city. It's a vision that has been largely abandoned and the streets are still littered with the wreckage of a failed experiment.
The Kings Cross injecting room, a place where addicts can safely inject drugs, is a stark contrast to the "smart city" vision. It's a place where the streets are littered with the wreckage of a failed experiment.
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Peter Debnam objects to the Kings Cross injecting room's need to inject the arm in a good cause. He's said to the Red Cross to encourage others to do the same.

EXCLUSIVE
By LARISSA CUMMINGS
Peter Debnam, the NSW Health Minister, has said he would like to see the Kings Cross injecting room closed. He said the room is a "harm minimisation" program, but he wants to see it replaced by a safe environment in which addicted people could satisfy their cravings in the compassionate embrace of a "harm minimisation" policy.
But during the past year, the medically supervised injecting centre has seen a sharp increase in the number of addicts using the room to inject the dangerous party drug known colloquially as "ice".
As *The Sunday Telegraph* reveals exclusively today, 120 people use the centre to pump a potentially lethal shot of ice into their veins every week. That number accounts for eight per cent of all injections at the MSIC — or more than twice the previous year.

Shut it down now

PICTURES in today's edition of *The Daily Telegraph* reveal the so-called "safe injecting room" in Kings Cross for exactly what it is: a continuing public disgrace.

Allowing drug addicts to inject illegal and illegally obtained drugs, using our money to pay for a place for them to indulge in their vice habit is bad enough and it's no secret that a substantial proportion of the community is deeply troubled, even offended, by the concept.

But images today of a garbage bin overflowing with used syringes in a laneway not far from the injecting room will add further to the level of disquiet. For it is obvious that safe practices are not being followed by addicts, that needles are being tossed away with careless and irresponsible disregard for the safety of other citizens.

Such are the ways of injecting drug addicts, who demonstrate over and over again by their sordid practices that they are concerned only for their own wasteful self-gratification. It's been said before, but it needs to be said again and again until it is done — this place should be shut down. Now.

Rehab numbers fall

Rehab numbers fall



Rehab numbers fall

Deadly neglect

EXCLUSIVE
By LARISSA CUMMINGS
The Kings Cross injecting room is a public health disaster. It's a place where the streets are littered with the wreckage of a failed experiment.
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We walk among syringes every day

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Furious Kings Cross locals say this was no stunt

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SMH - 040906 .

Diabetic cat brings needle case unstuck

IN July *The Daily Telegraph* heralded the apocalypse when it published photographs of a pile of "potentially deadly blood-tainted needles" dumped in a rubbish bin near the supervised injecting clinic in Kings Cross.

Cue calls for the centre to be shut, righteous anger from shock jocks and promises from the NSW Opposition Leader, Peter Debnam, that he would close the clinic if elected.

Then came the (less widely reported) riposte from the injecting centre: the syringes photographed by the *Telegraph* were not the brand they used, and there was no way they came from the clinic.

The *Telegraph* denied any wrongdoing, but the mystery of the needles, and how they came to be there, remained unsolved - until now. The syringes belonged not to a drug-ravaged junkie but to a diabetic cat named Trotsky, according to an exposé in the *Sydney City Hub*.

"While the issue raged in the media, Trotsky, an insulin-dependent cat, lined up for his next shot," reads the exclusive by Pam Walker.

Walker writes that Trotsky's master was moving house the day



into his flat. When he emerged, the needles were gone and he did not see them again until he picked up the *Telegraph*.

He did not know how they came to be scattered on top of a bin of a nearby restaurant.

"The vet has been supplying me with a big bunch [of needles] every visit. We go every two weeks to check Trotsky's blood sugar levels," he said.

We'd like to quote Mr Debnam in reminding Trotsky that: "The suggestion there's a safe way to take drugs is simply wrong ... funding

- Join every local community committee
- Establish your own community committee!
- Focus on local impacts
- Prioritise local residents' issues
- Include other sectors

- Consider community forums but beware of the pitfalls of falling in public
- Never dismiss adversarial views; be respectful and keep turning the other cheek
- Try to find the common ground but do not agree to something that will set up your program for failure
- **DO NOT APOLOGISE** for what you do

- Know your opposition
- Use your time judiciously
- Offer to pilot initiatives, but have an exit strategy (preferably after 12 months)
- Develop a Plan of Management to assess, monitor and review any impacts
- Be approachable and available at all times

- Be proactive in responding to complaints
- Communicate issues with the client base but be aware of the risks
- Be willing to be flexible and modify operations if needed
- Continue community dialogue in the good times as well as the mad and the bad times...
- And finally, be proud of what you do.

Thank YOU for listening!



Special thanks to:

- The dedicated staff of KRC and the MSIC and the socially marginalised populations for whom these services were established
- The SESLHD executive, the NSW Ministry of Health and the Government, which have supported these services over many years despite this area of work being potentially controversial...
- And finally, the Kings Cross community for recognising our legitimacy as a local stakeholder