

MEDIA RELEASE

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'Ice' users not getting much needed support

Jesuit Social Services has recommended reforms to improve Victoria's response to ice users and prevent them from becoming isolated from our community.

Speaking on the release of Jesuit Social Services' [submission](#) to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Methamphetamine Use, CEO Julie Edwards said, "Methamphetamine use has been a cause of concern for us over many years. More recently, we have been particularly concerned with the ready availability and purity of methamphetamine which are both factors that can lead to the extent of problems we're seeing among ice users.

"Ice use has a devastating impact on the judgement, mental health, health, and relationships of many of the people we work with. It is isolating and corrodes productive participation in the life of the community.

"Ice users are often in a lonely place and get cut off from the support they need to help them get back on their feet. More must be done to provide them with help in accessing treatment and support."

Initiatives identified in the Jesuit Social Services submission include funding for community support services, specialised treatment services, and additional support for police, ambulance and other frontline workers. Ms Edwards said, "We need to provide meaningful and ongoing support to better meet the needs of people who use ice. We also must continue to build the capability of services to respond to the complex issues and behaviours of this group of people through training and specialist crisis support.

"The Victorian Government has identified this issue and the current Parliamentary Inquiry provides an opportunity for Victoria to rethink how we respond to ice use. This is very important given the implications of major reforms to both mental health and drug and alcohol services that are currently underway."

To read Jesuit Social Services submission, please click [here](#).

Jesuit Social Services is a not-for-profit organisation which works to build a just society by advocating for social change and promoting the health and wellbeing of disadvantaged young people, families and communities.

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