

The Impact of Methamphetamine on New Zealand and the Coordinated response

**Detective Inspector Stuart Mills: Coordinator
New Zealand National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB)**



New Zealand National Drug Intelligence Bureau



New Zealand Population Profile

- New Zealand's population 4.5m
- Prevalence of methamphetamine use estimated at 0.9% of the population (2013)
- Prevalence of methamphetamine use estimated 2.2% of the population (2008)



Profile of Methamphetamine Use in New Zealand – The Market

- Most methamphetamine smoked
- Consumers able to function
- Transnational organised criminal groups involved with domestic manufacturers, suppliers and distributors
- \$NZ30.5m worth of assets recovered
- Demand for treatment remains high



Profile of Methamphetamine Use in New Zealand - Purity

- Purity of methamphetamine high (> 70%)
- Testing by Customs and Police also suggests that purity remains high
- In the survey of Police detainees, 13% reported purity as “increasing”, 39 % reported purity as about the same, 25% as “fluctuating” and 23% as “decreasing”



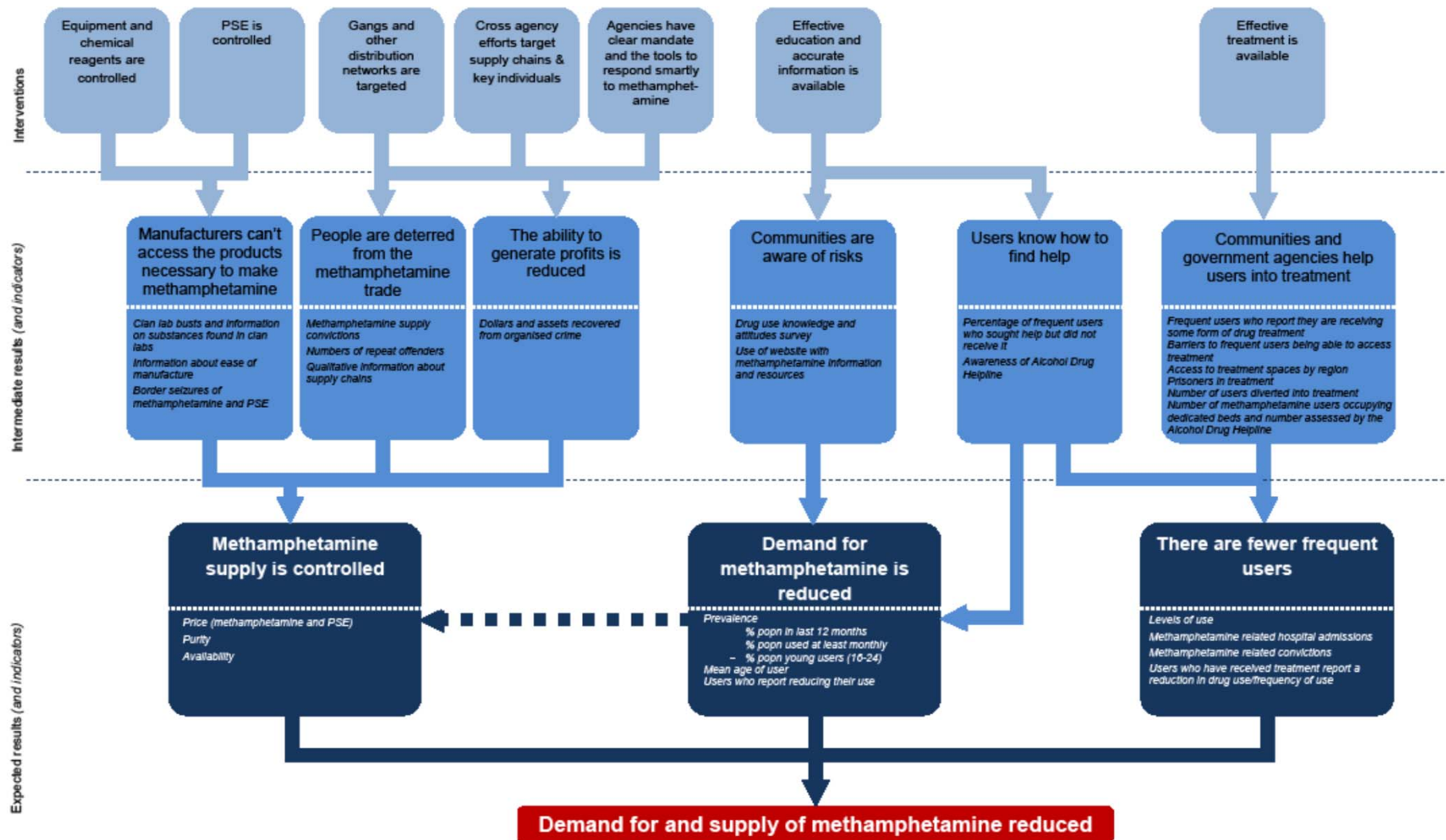
Pre Methamphetamine Action Plan Situation

- Lack of agency cohesiveness and coordination.
- Methamphetamine, precursors & clan lab detections not priorities.
- Police area and district focus.
- Lack of national focus.
- High profile incidents stemming from the use of 'P' (Methamphetamine).





Tackling Methamphetamine: an Action Plan - Expected Results



Crack Down on Precursors

- Make PSE-based cold and flu remedies prescription-only
- Intensified and targeted border enforcement
- Make it hard for criminals to source the raw materials for manufacture;



Break Drug Supply Chains

- Ensure Police and Customs have a strategic and targeted enforcement strategy
- Focus on the organised criminal groups who dominate methamphetamine trade



Support Communities

- Provide more resources for communities and information and education for families to help people resist drugs and assist users into recovery; and

alcohol**drug**helpline
0800 787 797 
He kai a te rangatira he korero



Provide Better Routes into Treatment

- Expand treatment capacity,
- Develop a dedicated gateway into treatment in the form of social detox beds
- Allow clinicians to assess how best to help dependent users.



addictions
treatment directory
www.addictionshelp.org.nz



Strengthen Governance of Drug Policy

- Make direction of drug policy a higher priority for Customs, Health, Justice and Police





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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE
INTELLENT POLIOMD, PROACTIVE SOLUTIONS
MATAHI, ROPEHANGA - HE URUPO MAHURI

METHAMPHETAMINE CONTROL STRATEGY

Owner Assistant Commissioner: M Burgess
Strategic Aim To reduce the harm of methamphetamine in our community

Objectives		Owner	Activity	Measures – Org Crime (Inc Meth) Sharepoint	Date
Safer Communities Together 1. To use coordinated operations to reduce offending related to methamphetamine importing, manufacturing, and dealing 2. To target the proceeds and assets of methamphetamine importers, manufacturers, and dealers 3. To work with international & NZ partners to disrupt methamphetamine related organised crime groups activities both off and on shore 4. To provide confidence and assurance to Government, public and partner agencies that NZ Police are directing their efforts against methamphetamine importing, manufacturing, and dealing	Prevention Priorities	NIC Targeting & Districts Community Policing	1. Explore mutual opportunities for Police, Customs and Immigration to enable early identification of non NZ resident methamphetamine importers, manufacturers and dealers & undertake removal actions where appropriate 2. Community Policing to review current arrangements of police referrals for methamphetamine addict treatment and educate police staff on options available,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely removal (or preventing their arrival into NZ) actions undertaken against non NZ residents involved in the methamphetamine trade with resulting actions reported to NT&CG Production of one page advisory note is complete & distributed to all staff 	
	Intelligence Priorities	Districts Districts	3. Maximise the use of CHIS & Crimestoppers Information 4. Each District to identify their top 10 methamphetamine offenders (Importers, manufacturers or dealers IMDs), enter their details into NOPM and develop offender profiles (NIC to develop international targets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of CHIS/Crimestoppers IRs produced, actioned & results reported on Org Crime (Inc Meth) sharepoint site Rolling top 10 methamphetamine offenders list is entered into NOPM with offender profiles, and considered and prioritised at each District T&C meeting 	
	Enforcement Priorities	Districts Districts & Financial Crime Group	5. Develop whole of police & multi-agency operations targeting and disrupting the District top 10 methamphetamine IMDs 6. Target the proceeds from methamphetamine sales and the assets of methamphetamine IMDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of coordinated operations that are agreed, recorded, undertaken and reported to NT&CG focusing on the identified District top 10 methamphetamine IMDs Number & value of seized and forfeited assets recorded and reported to NT&CG in conjunction with NOCCS 	
	Reassurance Priorities	Public Affairs Districts	7. Public Affairs, PNHQ to prepare, publish and coordinate a national Organised Crime (including Meth) strategy with key messages to educate, inform and reassure the community 8. All Districts to have a media plan as part of their operations - termination phase in coordination and alignment with the national media strategy & its key messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National media strategy published, including key messages and oversight provided by Public Affairs, with good news stories reported to NT&CG Numbers of positive media stories generated, related to police actions against offenders in the methamphetamine trade & promulgated on Org Crime (Inc Meth) sharepoint site 	
	Support Priorities	PPS NDIB	9. Police to brief Judiciary on current state of community harm resulting from the methamphetamine trade 10. To identify, develop and publish best practice in targeting & disrupting the NZ drug markets with particular emphasis on methamphetamine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methamphetamine briefing document prepared and delivered to Judiciary with particular reference to community harm NDIB to publish their findings, including staff training options 	

Jan 11	Feb 11	Mar 11	Apr 11	May 11	Jun 11	Jul 11	Aug 11	Sep 11	Oct 11	Nov 11	Dec 11
Development/Consultation			Intelligence		Operational						

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Page 1 of 1



New Legislative Tools

- Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009
- Sentencing Amendment Act 2009
- The Gangs and Organised Crime Bill
- The Anti-money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Bill
- The Search and Surveillance Bill



Ministry of Health as the Lead Agency

- Reclassifying pseudoephedrine (a precursor) from an over the counter medicine
- Result - pseudoephedrine was reclassified in 2011 which made PSE based cold and flu remedies prescription only



Health as Lead Agency - Demand for Methamphetamine is Reduced

- Effective education and information is available
- Result - MethHelp launched in 2010 - web based resource
- Between April and September 2013 visits rose by 8,470
- Alcohol and Drug Helpline (call centre approach)
- Meth related calls in 2009 = 1,256
- Meth related calls in 2013 = 4,180



Health as Lead Agency - Effective Treatment is Available

- Increase the capacity of AOD treatment services to provide more spaces for meth users
- Develop a dedicated meth treatment pathway
- Result - 60 new residential beds and 20 social detox beds were established nationwide over three years
- Greater focus by DHB's on community treatment
- Increased the capacity of the AOD helpline resources
- AOD clinicians were introduced into courts



Health as Lead Agency – Additional Workforce

- Develop additional treatment workforce to better respond to methamphetamine Issues
- Provide guidance to providers for residential and social detox
- Increase internships and scholarships
- Results - Interventions and treatment for problematic users (ATS) published
- Internships and scholarships promoted and placed



2014 – Current Situation

- Methamphetamine situation is stable
- Price, availability and purity remain at consistent levels
- Demand for treatment is increasing
- Significant seizures of meth and precursors continue to be made
- Organised Crime targeting New Zealand



Challenges

- Dealing with an illicit market
- Maintain a fresh approach
- Maintaining momentum
- Coordination through DPMC



Outcomes

- Whole of Government Coordinated approach
- Focused effort on drugs and organised crime
- Regular reporting and accountability



New Drugs, New Approaches to Drug Control – the New Zealand Experience

Detective Inspector Stuart Mills
New Zealand National Drug
Intelligence Bureau



Key Issues - Overview

- Legal Highs in NZ
- The Psychoactive Substances Act 2013
- Response



Legal Highs

- Previously unscheduled and unregulated in New Zealand
- Mainly synthetic cannabinoids
- Sold from convenience stores, petrol stations, grocery stores.
- Hundreds of different products, no quality control



Harm

- Little known about the long term effects of these products
- Addiction, violence, community anger
- Youths attracted to the 'legal' label
- Media reports of everything from suicides to a 12 year old having a heart attack



Regulation

- 37 cannabinoids banned under emergency legislation over 2 years - did not work
- Manufacturers would switch to an unlisted cannabinoid as soon as one was banned
- Could have new products on shelves the next day
- A new approach was needed



“The legislation proposes to ban all new psychoactive substances not currently regulated, but create a pathway to the market for substances that can be shown to pose no more than a low risk of harm.”



*Associate Minister of
Health Peter Dunne,*

March 2013



“Manufacturers and importers who wish to sell a new psychoactive product will first have to provide clinical data showing that their product does not pose undue risk to the people who use it, or to society.”

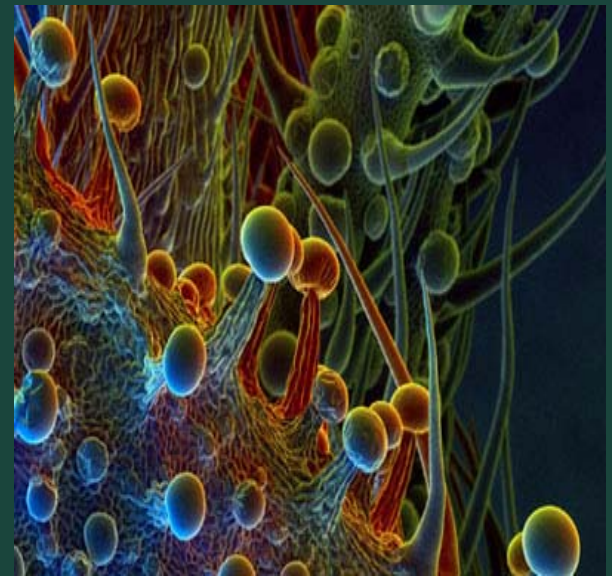


*Associate Minister of Health
Peter Dunne,
March 2013*



Psychoactive substances defined

A substance, mixture, preparation, article, device or thing that is capable of inducing a psychoactive effect (by any means) in an individual who uses the psychoactive substances...



Psychoactive Substances Act

Key points

- Prohibit the importation, manufacture and supply of all psychoactive substances
- Allow the sale of those products containing substances that meet safety and manufacturing requirements
- Sold only from licensed party pill shops, not convenience stores
- Strict advertising control
- Strictly R18+, but youth offences will be infringement offences, not criminal



Restrictions on Point of Sale



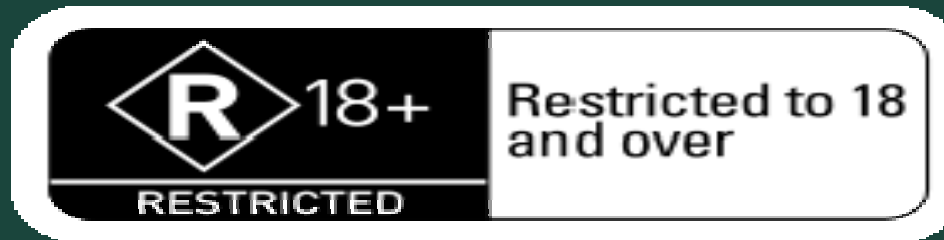
Psychoactive Substances Act: The Products

- Testing and application costs for each product likely to be high
- Batch testing/quality controls/standard dosages
- Safety messages, helpline details
- Approved packaging only, ingredients listed
- Standardised manufacturing practice similar to pharmaceuticals



Psychoactive Substances Act: The Harm

- Will make the situation safer in longer term
- Less products available from fewer sources
- Users & authorities will both know what is in the products
- The approved products should only be low risk
- Warning labels and R18



Psychoactive Substances Act: The Transition process (current)

- No new products allowed until the testing regime is in place
- BUT existing products can be sold from licensed premises in mean time
- This requires 'interim licenses' until the testing regime is in place
- PSRA may recall products if they pose more than low risk of harm (have done so January 2014)



Impact on Law Enforcement

- 😊 Situation much clearer than before
- 😊 Manufacture and supply undertaken by small group
- 😊 Several offences created - easier to prosecute than with old emergency legislation
- 😞 Unapproved substances may transfer to the illicit market



Current Situation

The Act passed into law July 18 2013

Police welcome passing of Psychoactive Substances Act

5 Things We Can Learn From New Zealand's Innovative Law to Regulate New Drugs

CBS/AP / August 2, 2013, 12:00 PM

New Zealand's designer drug law draws global interest



Current Situation- The Industry

- 160 retailers granted licenses compared to 3,000-4,000
- 42 products licensed compared to 200
- 10-20 licenses granted for manufacturers, importers, wholesalers etc.
- Labelling requirements in place
- Code of manufacturing practice published
- Regulations being written



Current Situation- Enforcement

- 'Education' phase over
- Enforcement being led by Police
- Mainly controlled purchase operations
- Some joint action with District Health Boards
- Constrained by lack of regulations
- Illicit trading in psychoactive substances



Prosecutions/License refusals

- 37 charges under the Act so far
- Several licenses refused or suspended due to breaching Act
- Six products recalled – bad reactions
- 10 cases have received convictions in the courts
- This includes convenience stores that continued selling (high profits)



Emergency Department View

- 39% of Dr's surveyed had seen changes since the act introduced
- Lack of awareness of assistance available
- Acute intoxication main diagnosis
- Complications of chronic use
- Anxiety, Agitation and psychosis



But... not perfect

Region yet to see full legal-highs act benefits

by Sam Hurley

2:00 PM Thursday Jan 9, 2014

6 comments

☆ f 18 t 2 in 0 g+ 0



Cop attacked at Hamilton East drug shop

MATT BOWEN AND NARELLE HENSON

Opinion split over legal highs

KELSEY FLETCHER



Current Situation- The Downsides

- Regulations has taken longer than expected
- Testing regime not in place
- Community is frustrated
- Fewer retailers has meant disorder is concentrated
- Licensees have not undergone proper vetting yet



Conclusion

- Legislation enacted 18 July 2013
- Regulations will not be in force until at least May 2014
- A developing process, but a way forward that is different from banning substances under traditional legislation
- Likely to be further action taken by the authority



Challenges

- Lack of an action plan
 - Poor communication
 - Delay in implementing the regulations
 - Interim and Transitional process
 - Community backlash
 - Implementation difficulties
 - PSRA – lack of infrastructure
-



Positive Outcomes

- Ability to learn from the process
- A new and radical approach to a problem has been implemented
- Critics - commentary



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