



Submission to the Medically Supervised Injecting Room Review Panel: September 2018

MEETING THE AIMS OF THE MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTING ROOM TRIAL

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) welcomes the opportunity to provide its feedback to the Medically Supervised Injecting Room Review Panel (the Panel) undertaking analysis of the medically supervised injecting room trial (the Trial). ACEM appreciates the opportunity to provide the Panel with its views on whether the Trial is meeting the intended aims.

ACEM is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for the training and ongoing education of emergency physicians, and for the advancement of professional standards in emergency medicine, in Australia and New Zealand. As the peak professional organisation for emergency medicine, ACEM has a vital interest in ensuring the highest standards of emergency medical care are maintained.

ACEM is supportive of health system reforms that better support patient wellbeing, and reforms that improve the capacity of emergency departments to care for patients. ACEM broadly supports the policy intent of the Trial as ACEM considers that the services provided through the Medically Supervised Injecting Room address an important community need, and will result in a safe environment providing essential care.

ACEM considers it important to consider the data of the trial in order to assess or comment on whether the intended aims are being met. Anecdotal feedback from clinicians working in nearby emergency departments, The Alfred and St Vincent's hospitals, outlines no measurable impact on patient presentations following the commencement of the Trial. ACEM considers it important to be included in the Panel's findings and is willing to work with the Panel to analyse relevant data/reports and provide its informed view.

ACEM takes this opportunity to outline to the Panel the need for an expansion of the trial, or the services provided, to other locations in Victoria. ACEM considers that Brimbank and Geelong are two sites that would benefit greatly given the demonstrated community impacts of a lack of such services. ACEM also offers its assistance to the Panel in any work it undertakes in this space. If you require any clarification or further information, please do not hesitate to contact the ACEM Policy Manager Helena Maher on (03) 9320 0444 or helena.maher@acem.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

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