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\*

**Name: \*** Bob Earl

**Email address: \*** [bob@oculus.info](mailto:bob@oculus.info)

**Date of meeting: \*** Wednesday 24 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Tapestry Project Vision

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I would like to make a submission to the meeting regarding Ministerial Planning Referral: TPM-2019-28, 59-101 Alfred Street, North Melbourne Report and Attachments 1 and 2.

My firm has led a major part in the designing of the ground plans and public realm of this scheme. I have been personally involved for just under 10 years and am a member of the Creative Council that has been custodians of the vision of this exciting and groundbreaking project.

I wish to be able to present my vision for the project and why I strongly believe this application should have the support of the council in its current form. It should take no more than 3mins.

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in** Yes

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support of your  
submission: \*

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\*

**Name: \*** David Wardlaw

**Email address: \*** [dw@orbproperty.com](mailto:dw@orbproperty.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Community Benefits within Macaulay Area

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I would like to ask the councillors why our community benefits offering is being completely discounted whilst other applicants in the Macaulay area are getting credit for many of the same things we are providing, although we are by far and a way providing more than any other application thus far permitted in the macaulay area.

Our community benefits include:

- 1050m2 park
- 4,000m2 of new pedestrian connections and a further pocket park
- a skate park -500ms
- a community theatre
- 3,000m2+ retail
- offer to cover the cost of park landscaping tree planting etc
- provision of low care residential units to disabled
- offer to gift office space to not-for-profit charity Mirabel charity

**Please indicate whether you would like to** Yes

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address the Future  
Melbourne  
Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \*

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\*

**Name: \*** Scott Rankin

**Email address: \*** [scott@bighart.org](mailto:scott@bighart.org)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Tapestry Project Social Outreach Program

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I'm the COE of Big hArt, Australia's leading Arts and Social change not for profit. I would like the opportunity to explain to the councillors a little more about the partnership we have established with David Wardlaw's development company. Specifically, I would like to provide some insight into the social outreach program my organisation is putting together and also explain a little about the proposed co-management of the skate park and theatre community assets. This will cover how we are going to connect with the various neighbourhood communities including the connecting with residents within the Department of Housing's nearby estates, as well as how we intend to engage with other disadvantaged subgroups including the youth and indigenous sectors.

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \*** Yes

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**Name: \***

Jamie Govenlock

**Email address: \***

[jgovenlock@urbis.com.au](mailto:jgovenlock@urbis.com.au)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

59-101 Alfred Street, North Melbourne

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Verbal submission

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

Yes

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**Name: \*** Tony Penna

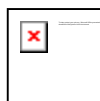
**Email address: \*** [president@southbankresidents.org.au](mailto:president@southbankresidents.org.au)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \*** Agenda Item 6.3 – Melbourne A Great Place to Age strategic plan

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit **by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.** Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[fmc\\_meeting\\_no. 78\\_agenda\\_item\\_6.3\\_melbourne\\_a\\_great\\_place\\_to\\_age\\_strategic\\_plan.pdf](#)

135.21 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \*** Yes



PO Box 1195 South Melbourne VIC 3205  
Phone: 03 9028 2774  
ABN 58 986 783 321 Cert. of Inc. A0036364B  
info@southbankresidents.com.au  
www.southbankresidents.com.au

## **Submission to Future Melbourne Committee**

City of Melbourne, Council Meeting Room, Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building  
23 June 2020, 5.30pm – Meeting No.78  
Agenda Item 6.3 – Melbourne A Great Place to Age strategic plan

The ‘Melbourne: A Great Place to Age’ strategy plan will be a useful document to guide future activities. It is sufficiently detailed and addresses, if not focuses on, issues such as the digital divide. However, the SRA feels that the importance of face to face contact should also be given due emphasis.

Of concern is the size of the budget allocation of \$80,000 for the stated number of 14,000 people aged 60 and over currently in the City of Melbourne. This is only \$5.71 per person. Also given that some of this amount will need to cover salaries of any program, the initial impact is not likely to be significant.

The Purpose, Principles, Outcomes and Actions, while appearing in various layouts in the document, are sufficiently precise to generate programs and to measure delivery against the expected outcomes. Although some specific mention of the role of community centres such as the Boyd Community Hub would firm up that prospect. Similarly the expansion of ‘building community in high-rise developments’ to ‘building community in *and between* high-rise developments’ would improve the efficacy of any programs and build cohesion in the broader community.

One thought is around the outcome “Safety: Older people live in safe and accessible homes and communities” on p20/21

The actions largely focus on the communities aspect but don’t really touch on the homes aspect other than “We will facilitate accessible housing for older people” through the Affordable Housing Strategy.

A topical issue these days is the extent of the obligation on OC’s to install accessible ramps, automated doors, grab rails etc for new or existing residents due to aging or disability. This is especially the case where residents are “Aging in Place” – a subject that the strategy should have, but hasn’t, considered. This subject is usually discussed for living in a detached dwelling but rarely discussed for apartment living.

Modifying this action item to be “We will facilitate accessible and affordable housing for older people through the Affordable Housing Strategy and by enabling residents to age in place” would strengthen this outcome/action a little.





The SRA commends the City of Melbourne's long involvement in the WHO's programs on Active Aging and we look forward to hearing of the City of Melbourne's contributions to these efforts and to seeing the benefits that can flow from such international cooperation. The publications on Age Friendly strategies by some of the participating cities as well as WHO itself seem to provide many examples of possible programs.

Tony Penna  
President  
Southbank Residents Association

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**Name: \***

Tatjana Brandson

**Email address: \***

[matolo5798@temhuv.com](mailto:matolo5798@temhuv.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Agenda Item 7.1 – Notice of motion, Cr Jackie Watts: Julian Assange

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Dear Future Melbourne Committee,

I write to express my support of Councillor Jackie Watts' motion on Julian Assange in full, while urging the committee to further request the federal Australian government to: call for the UK's immediate release and compensation of Assange; and protect Assange from extradition to the USA.

Regards,

Tatjana Brandson

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

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**From:** c t [<mailto:mineralsands@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 June 2020 7:02 AM  
**To:** Nicholas Reece  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 7.1 Notice of Motion :Cr Jackie Watts Julian Assangee

Dear Councillor Nicholas Reece

Hope you are well. I would like to speak at the meeting in regards to this matter.

Best regards  
Chris Thrum

Dear City of Melbourne Meeting Group

This is a written response in regards to Agenda Item 7.1 Notice of Motion: Cr Jackie Watts Assange. I support the recommendation from the management team that urges Prime Minister Scott Morrison and/ or Foreign Minister Marise Payne to write to ABC and express the serious concerns citizens have for the well-being of Julian Assange.

Many people share these concerns, and Cr Watts has tabled a detailed explanation of all the support that Mr Assange has. It is appropriate to have the Prime Minister be involved in this important matter.

There are serious concerns about the human rights of Mr Assange. Freedom of the Press as well should be defended and City of Melbourne are to be applauded for taking this stand.

Civil Liberties groups, Media Organisations, from all around the world have spoken and written in support of Mr Assange. Many people are outraged at how Mr Assange is being treated.

Amnesty International believes that the UK should not extradite Mr Assange to the USA.

Julian Assange was in Melbourne, starting Wikileaks from a residency in Carlton. He should have the full support of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillors and Management.

Best regards  
Chris Thrum

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**Name: \***

john shipton

**Email address: \***

[john.shipton@yandex.com](mailto:john.shipton@yandex.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Monday 22 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Item 7 Julian Assange

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

Yes

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**Name: \*** Camillo De Luca

**Email address: \*** [art.australia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:art.australia@yahoo.com.au)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.1 Notice of motion, Cr Jackie Watts: Julian Assange

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Camillo De Luca

Australians For Assange Group Melbourne

& Official Australia for Assange Campaign

Contact mobile 0425 798 923

Please contact me via this phone number to address the Future Melbourne Committee : 0478 307 824

email: [art.australia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:art.australia@yahoo.com.au)

Key points

- Mr Assange's human rights should be protected, he is entitled to fairness and justice and proper treatment regarding his poor health.
- The United Nations rapporteur on Torture outlines clear breaches in International human rights laws regarding Julian's treatment. He also states that Julian Assange is being subjected to psychological torture.
- Doctors For Assange group (of over 200 doctor signatories) have expressed urgency in the protection of Mr Assange's poor health condition.
- Julian is an Australian citizen and lived in Melbourne (Carlton) before he moved to England for work. This motion expresses concerns of violations of his human rights and deteriorating health to the Australian Federal Government.

**Please indicate** Yes

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whether you  
would like to  
address the Future  
Melbourne  
Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \*

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\*

**Name: \*** Gaetano Greco

**Email address: \*** [gaetanogreco@hotmail.com](mailto:gaetanogreco@hotmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Saturday 23 June 2029

**Agenda item title: \*** 7.1 Notice of motion: Cr Jackie Watts: Julian Assange

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

My name is Gaetano Greco and I'm a Councillor for the City of Darebin.

Firstly i would like to thank you for the opportunity to make a submission tonight

Also i would like to congratulate your Council for considering this important motion which has been moved by Cr Jackie Watt

As you may know, back in November last year Darebin Council unanimously passed a similar resolution to the one you are considering tonight.

We did this for a number of reasons as noted in the first 8 points of the motion before you.

Julian Assange was a Darebin resident as he lived in Thornbury in his early twenties. So as a Council that upholds the values of fair treatment and human rights we unanimously decided that we should support Mr Assange's plight for justice and proper treatment by the UK and the US.

Mr Assange, the founder of Wikileaks is an award winning Australian journalist who was not afraid to reveal the war crimes and speak truth to power. The UN, the European parliament, Amnesty International and numerous other international bodies have come out in support of Mr Assange and have all been particularly critical of his mistreatment and particularly the neglect shown to his failing health in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Most importantly the Australian government has been unwilling to advocate on his behalf like it has done so for other journalist that have been held in jail overseas which is an abrogation of their responsibility.

A point that was made by Julian's father, John Shipton last night on the ABC's QandA program.

Australia could and should do more especially given he is being held in solitary confinement at a maximum security jail in the UK which is an advanced democracy. like Australia.

Finally as Melbournians i sincerely hope we can send a message through your Council to the Federal Governemt to request that Mr Assange is treated fairly and that his human rights are respected.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and i hope you will all support this important motion.

**Please indicate**      Yes  
**whether you**  
**would like to**  
**address the Future**  
**Melbourne**  
**Committee via**  
**phone or Zoom in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***



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\*

**Name: \*** Mary-Lou Howie

**Email address: \*** [howie.marylou@gmail.com](mailto:howie.marylou@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor: Safe Injecting Rooms

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Friends of Queen Victoria Market's response to the Medically Supervised Injecting Room at Cohealth on Victoria St:

FOQVM understands that QVM traders have been adversely affected by many factors, namely the renewal process, including protracted building works on the Munro site, as well as COVID-19, the associated economic downturn, inadequate Vic Market management and particularly the loss of the tourist trade.

We recognise that traders are fearful and need more information regarding the proposal to locate Melbourne's second Safe Injecting Room in Victoria St in close proximity to the market .

FOQVM urges the Market Board, the Lord Mayor and the State government, to listen to the traders concerns and support them through a genuine consultation process.

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne** No

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**Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \***

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**Name: \***

Nick McGowan

**Email address: \***

[nicholasmcgowan@yahoo.com](mailto:nicholasmcgowan@yahoo.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Monday 22 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor: Safe Injecting Rooms

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[quick\\_guide.pdf](#) 172.44 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

Yes

QUICK GUIDE: Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) Review Panel Report, June 2020 (*check against Report*)

Note: Appendix C, D, E, F, G, H (pages 129-134) are omitted from the Report, despite references in the Report.

PARAMETER	PER DAY	DATA/FIGURE	PAGE
Review period		30 June 2018 (opened) – 31 December 2019 (first 18 months)	vii
Injecting booths		20 (was 11 when MSIR first opened in a transitional facility)	vii
Registered users (in first 18 months)		3,936 (no quarter has seen fewer than 452 new users register) 2,908 (first 12 months) 1,028 (next 6 months)	xi, and p.33 <a href="http://nrch.com">nrch.com</a>
Refused entry		30 people refused entry (30 June 2018 to 31 December 2019)	p.35 and p.36
Users (on average)		41 years old. Three-quarters male. 92 per cent have been injecting for more than five years. 61 per cent injecting for at least 20 years. 13 per cent identified as Aboriginal. 23 per cent released from prison or juvenile detention in the preceding three months. 34 per cent homeless or in insecure accommodation. Average user injects 14 times a week. 56 per cent have had overdoses previously. Most common age of initiation to injecting drug use was 16 years old.	p.37 and x
Visits (first 18 months)	236	119,223 (by comparison - Sydney's 3,810 users made 56,861 visits)	ix p.31
Visits including injections in the temporary site/permanent site		16,795 - last quarter in the temporary facility (Q4 2018-19) 26,022 – first quarter in the new (permanent) facility (Q1 2019-20)	p.33, Fig.11 p.33, Fig.11
Injecting (first 18 months) (first 12 months)	231 183	116,802 (96.6 per cent heroin, 2.5 per cent methamphetamine) 61,823 (visits including a supervised injection)	x and p.18 <a href="http://nrch.com">nrch.com</a>
Coronial data on difference in number of people who have died from heroin overdose before and after the trial		- <i>“However, as at the end of September 2019, coronial data show no observable difference in the number of people who have died from heroin overdoses before and after the establishment of the MSIR, either in the City of Yarra or across Victoria.”</i> - <i>“The numbers of deaths recorded since the MSIR opened were largely similar to those recorded before the MSIR opened (Figure 19).”</i>	xviii  p.46
Deaths inside MSIR		0* (first 18 months) *It is unclear whether this figure includes the 30 extremely serious overdoses requiring ambulance attendances at MSIR, or the life/death/harm outcomes of these 30 attendances)	xi
Deaths outside MSIR: within 1km		15 deaths (15 months prior to MSIR opening) 16 deaths (15 months after the MSIR opened)	p.45, fig. 17
Deaths avoided		<i>“Of the 2,657 overdoses, the MSIR responded to 271 extremely serious overdoses with naloxone, which, based on existing modelling, avoided between 21 and 27 deaths.”</i>	x, xi, xviii
Overdoses inside (first 18 months)	5.4 5.2 3.6	3,200 (first 21 months) 30 June 2018-31 March 2020 2,657 (first 18 months) 1,232 (first 12 months)	health.vic.gov x <a href="http://nrch.com">nrch.com</a>
Overdoses responded by MSIR		2,615 (first 18 months)	xviii, p.38
Overdoses (extremely serious)		271 (first 18 months inside the MSIR requiring naloxone (of the 2,657))	x, xviii, p.38
Harm from overdose inside MSIR during the first 12 months		<i>“A detailed analysis of the first 12 months’ instances of overdose within the injecting room showed that the overdoses ranged from less severe (reduced respiratory rate and reduced conscious state), which require oxygen and physical manoeuvres to keep the airway open, to severe overdoses with profound unconsciousness (21.1 per cent), with no breathing at all over five minutes (13.5 per cent), that are life threatening and could result in death and required either assisted ventilation with a bag valve mask (13.8 per cent) and/or naloxone (14.2 per cent). An experienced doctor who worked as a volunteer in the facility commented that some of the overdoses were ‘at least as acute an emergency as those we receive in an [emergency department]’.”</i>	p.39  Therefore 21.1% of 1,232 overdoses (first 12 months) = 259 users profoundly unconsciousness: with 35 users <u>no</u> breathing at all for over 5 minutes, etc.
Inappropriately disposed needles and syringes in the local area surrounding the MSIR	91	<b>45,982 syringes (first 18 months) to December 2019: 2554 pcm</b> (Approx. 900 syringes in the month prior to MSIR opening, in excess of 4,000 syringes in December 2019. 14,066 syringes (10 months prior to trial: 1,406 per month 17,877 syringes (10 months after opening: 1,787 per month 14,742 syringes (first 8 months of trial) 28,105 syringes (next 8 months of trial until end review period)	p.81, fig.36 and xx  p.82, fig.37 p.82, fig.37 p.81. fig.36 p.81, fig.36
External conduct review of MSIR		(Aspex Consulting 2019, p.3: <i>“... the recent allegations of inappropriate behaviour by NRCH employees have highlighted gaps and shortcomings in governance, leadership, culture and workforce management that will need to be addressed.”</i> )	p.28

Total ambulance attendances after the MSIR opened, compared to before	- “ <i>Ambulance Victoria data show a trend towards a reduction in ambulance attendances after the MSIR opened that just failed to reach statistical significance (<math>p &lt; 0.10</math>).</i> ”	xx and p.67
Difference in ambulance attendances where naloxone was administered between MSIR attendees, and those who do not	“ <i>Results from the Burnet Institute’s SuperMIX study linked with VACIS data found no evidence at this stage of a difference between the average number of ambulance attendances with naloxone administration between those who visited the MSIR and those who did not.</i> ”	p.72
Ambulance attendances for heroin overdoses (measured as where the person was provided and responded to naloxone)	<i>Victoria: 1,241 attendances (2017-2018: year before the trial) 1,423 attendances (2018-2019) City of Yarra: 245 attendances (2017-2018) 249 attendances (2018-2019)</i>	p.63 p.63 p.63 p.63
Ambulance attendances within 1 km of MSIR where naloxone was administered by paramedics: 18 months before after trial	18 months <u>prior</u> to trial commencing: 382 (288 during MSIR operating hours/94 outside operating hours) First 18 months operation of the trial: 288 (184 during MSIR operating hours/104 outside operating hours)	xi, p.68-70, Fig 26, 27, 28
Ambulance attendances in MSIR	30 (first 18 months)	xi
Emergency-department presentations (first 18 months)	- “ <i>There have been no observable changes in emergency department presentations that can be attributed to the MSIR</i> ”. - “ <i>There has been a small increase in the number of drug-related emergency department presentations during the trial</i> ”	xi and xx  xi
Heroin overdose ED presentations during MSIR opening hours of St Vincent’s Hospital	“ <i>While Figure 32 suggests that the number of cases increased around the time the MSIR opened, this increase was not statistically significant.</i> ”	p.74
GP visits by MSIR users	“ <i>Based on linked data from the Medicare Benefits Schedule, there was no difference between the average number of GP visits for conditions unrelated to drug use between the group of participants who reported visiting the MSIR and those who did not, either before or after the MSIR opened</i> ”	p.60 Ref: (Burnet Institute 2019, p. 20)
Mental health engagement by MSIR users	“ <i>In a cross-sectional analysis of all interviews undertaken after the MSIR opened, there was no significant difference in the frequency of self-reported visits to a mental health professional for those who visited the MSIR compared with those who did not.</i> ”	p.60 Ref: (Burnet Institute 2019, p. 35)
Services provided or referred	“ <i>..10,540 additional services beyond supervision of injecting during the trial period, as well as providing specialist clinics.</i> ”	xix
Health services (first 12 months)	“ <i>As at 1 July 2019 there was not yet evidence of a difference in health service use between MSIR clients and other people who inject drugs.</i> ”	xix
Substitution therapy	“ <i>MSIR clients are significantly less likely to be on opioid substitution therapy at registration than other people who inject drugs.</i> ”	xix
Reduction in the spread of blood-borne diseases among MSIR trial clients	“ <i>Most people were already reporting not sharing needles and syringes (an important measure to reduce the spread of blood-borne viruses), with no significant difference in needle sharing rates between MSIR service users and other people who inject drugs</i> ”.	p.100
Victoria Police officers (41) responded to a November 2019 survey by the Panel	77.5 per cent of officers reported observing “significantly more” people who appeared to be buying or selling drugs 67.5 per cent observed people who appeared under the influence of drugs 57.5 per cent observed antisocial and/or disorderly behaviour	p.92, table 12 and xii p.92, p.93 p.93
City of Yarra: drug use and possession offences	Approximately 120 offences in Q1 2019-2020, the highest level since at least 2014-2015 when 50 offences were recorded.	p.89, Fig.40
City of Yarra: possession offences <i>Victorian Crime Statistics Agency</i>	Rate of drug possession offences - Q1 2019-2020 increase from 150.2% per 100,000 population to 228.7%: ( <i>Vic.comparison:97.7% to 108.8%</i> )	p.89/90, Fig. 41
Residents reporting seeing discarded needles and syringes	16 per cent (in the year before the trial) 17 per cent (during the trial)	xii and xx xii and xx
Residents and businesses who see injections	3 per month (residents) no change over trial period 5 per month (businesses) increase from 4	xx
Resident/business report median no. of discarded needles/syringes	4 per month (residents) no change over trial period 10 per month (business respondents) increase from 6	xii and xx xx
Review Panel community survey: support by local residents	61 per cent (immediately before the trial) 44 per cent (12 months after operation of the MSIR)	xii xii
Support by local businesses (for the Richmond MSIR)	48 per cent (immediately before the trial) 41 per cent (12 months after the operation of the MSIR)	xii xii
Residents reportedly considering moving house or their employment because of drug-related activity in Richmond	32 per cent (of residents considering moving house) 37.1 per cent (of residents considering moving after 12 months) 27.6 per cent (considering changing employment) 32.5 per cent (considering changing employment after 12 months)	p.85  p.85

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I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Ivan Stratov

**Email address: \***

[ivanstratov66@gmail.com](mailto:ivanstratov66@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Agenda Item 7.2 – Medically Supervised Injecting Room

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[msir\\_submission\\_melbourne\\_city\\_council.pdf](#) 51.70 KB · PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \*

Yes

Drug addiction destroys individuals, families and communities. Many years ago, a family acquaintance buried her only son after finding him dead in their family home from a heroin overdose. Professionally, I have cared for patients battling drug addiction. It is a tragedy all too familiar to so many of us.

In recent times, some jurisdictions have established drug injection rooms, under the mantra “drug injection rooms save lives”. A facility was established in Sydney in 2001 and the report card after 9 years showed no reduction in deaths compared with the rest of NSW. Nonetheless, in June 2018, the Victorian Government opened a medically supervised injecting room (MSIR) with the laudable objectives of: (1) Saving lives, (2) Delivering better care to injecting drug users, (3) Reducing the burden on ambulance and hospital emergency services, (4) Reducing public injecting and discarded drug paraphernalia, (5) Improving the amenity of affected communities and (6) Reducing the spread of blood borne diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C. A government report, released June 5<sup>th</sup>, detailed abject failure regarding all of these objectives.

Firstly, the MSIR did not save lives. The number of local heroin-related deaths rose from 24, in the 15 months prior to the MSIR opening, to 25 deaths in the 15 months afterwards (fig. 15). Heroin-related deaths within just 1 km of the MSIR rose over 20% from the long-term average (fig. 17).

Secondly, despite 119,223 visits, the MSIR did not provide clients with improved health care. This applied to alcohol and drug services, GP visits for other health issues and mental health interventions (p 48, 59, 60). For example, MSIR clients were 30% less likely to be on heroin substitution therapy than drug users who do not use the facility (p 59).

Thirdly, ambulance attendances for extremely serious overdoses in the 12 months before and after the MSIR opened increased from 245 to 249 (p 63), whilst heroin overdose presentations to St Vincent’s Hospital increased dramatically. In the first 6 quarters (18 months) after the MSIR opened, the local public hospital recorded 6 of its worst 7 quarters for heroin overdose presentations, dating back to 2012 (fig. 32), underscoring that the MSIR has increased (not reduced) the burden on emergency services.

Fourthly, inappropriately disposed syringes rose over 80% (from 1407 to 2554 per month; fig. 36 & 37) and there was no reduction in discarded needles (p 76).

Fifthly, the report states: “that amenity was not improved” (p85). The deleterious effect of the MSIR on the local area is reflected in the decision to spend \$9 million on improving amenity – twice the cost of the actual trial. More residents (37.1%) and local workers (32.5%) are now contemplating moving since the MSIR opened (p xxi) and significantly fewer locals feel safe due to concerns over violence, crime, drug dealing, public injecting and discarded syringes (p xxi), whilst police report “significantly more” antisocial behavior, drug activity and drug affected people (p85). Local acceptance of the MSIR has dropped by 28% for residents and 15% for business owners (p 86).

Finally, no difference was found in testing or treatment of blood-borne diseases (p 102).

In summary, the report fails to identify any progress relative to the 6 objectives of the MSIR and in many instances the situation worsened. It is important that policy makers heed the result of this report and consider investing the \$20 million allocated to MSIRs into underfunded drug prevention and rehabilitation services.

---

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Tatjana Brandson

**Email address: \***

[matolo5798@temhuv.com](mailto:matolo5798@temhuv.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Agenda Item 7.1: Notice of Motion, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood: State Government's preferred second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

**Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:**



[brandson\\_submission\\_msir\\_location\\_motion\\_june20.pdf](#) 132.15

KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Future Melbourne Committee,

**RE: Future Committee Meeting Agenda Item 7.2 – State Government’s Preferred Second Location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room**

I am writing regarding the Safe Injecting Room motion put forward by Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood and Councillor Beverley Pinder.

I strongly support Medically Supervised Injecting Rooms (MSIRs) for their service in *harm minimisation* and support the establishment of the second MSIR in question, though believe further consideration of an alternative site is warranted.

The location of MSIRs must be principally informed by community need while considering broader community impacts. The preferred location of the MSIR in question, adjacent to the Queen Victoria Market, does not appear to adequately account for the potential negative impacts to existing local businesses. In the economic crisis of Covid-19, patron-retention and the attraction of new customers by small-businesses is crucial to the latter’s survival and to supporting broader economic recovery. The Queen Victoria Market, home to some 600 traders and two thousand works, frequented by locals and tourists alike, may be at risk of losing patronage in the presence of a MSIR due to community concerns.

For this reason, in considering the broader community impacts of the establishment of a MSIR near the Queen Victoria Market, I believe that locating an alternative site for the needed MSIR is warranted. At the same time, initiatives that raise community awareness on MSIRs’ public health function, their valuable role in minimising the harms associated with illicit drug taking and in providing a site wherefrom referrals to rehabilitative and/or other support services can take place, is highly recommended. Advancement of community awareness may go some way in protecting against the indirect negative impact (community concern, loss of business) that MSIRs can pose.

Regards,

Tatjana Brandson

---

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Simon James

**Email address: \***

[dhra.city@gmail.com](mailto:dhra.city@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Safe Injecting Room

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I am on a disability pension and live in the affordable housing units above Cohealth which is the site of the proposed drug injecting room.

I think community matters. I am worried about the effects of this idea on me and my neighbours and on our community garden which is right next to Cohealth.

Our area is a safe one, next to the market, where lots of families go shopping and tourists stay at local hotels. It is a busy good place for everyone.

I do not think this is the place to put an injecting centre.

Simon

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

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**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Georgina Renaux

**Email address: \***

[dhra.city@gmail.com](mailto:dhra.city@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Safe injecting rooms

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

To whomsoever it may concern.

I am one of the residents from the Drill Hall.

I would like to bring to your attention that we have a number of residents who move around in wheelchairs and who are in a very vulnerable situation and if the Safe Injecting Room comes up here it will restrict movements in this area.

Please consider the most vulnerable people in our society who deserve the utmost priority in this situation.

Thank you

Georgina

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

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**From:** Tika-Moon Ramone <tikamoon.ramone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 June 2020 11:52 AM  
**To:** CoM Meetings  
**Subject:** DHC GA artist opinion, proposed MSIR

Hi there,

I am the artist for the Drill hall community garden. Aswell as local resident in the area.

I would like to use the opportunity of the upcoming future melbourne committee meeting to voice my opinion on the proposal of a medically supervised injecting room on the drill hall building site.

I disagree that the Drill hall is a suitable location.

Since the renovation of the garden and my art being introduced to the area, it has changed from a place that was once uninviting. To what is instead a welcoming and family orientated place.

I work there daily and am visited regularly by the friendly tourists and locals that pass by. All with whom are extremely satisfied with the peaceful and harmonious effect my art has brought to the area. And the change that it has obviously made.

In addition to this, I myself have lived locally for 7 years and have witnessed the transformation of the space. An area that was once only inhabited by the drug affected and marginalised members of society. Is now not excluding either forms of society, but rather a place which offers sanctuary for a diverse variety of visitors.

If the MSIR were to be put there I have no doubt that my fears would be accurate, that it would no longer be a place I feel safe to either work or visit. And I am among many who feel this way.

In addition to all this, it should be added. Although I agree that an MSIR is an important thing to have and that a suitable location should be found. It is something that risks triggering many of the homeless or locals who are on a clean road to rehabilitation and sobriety, to potentially fall back to old habits due to the exposure to such a place and the related individuals who would inevitably be associated.

An MSIR in the central location of the Melbourne city Drill hall is not a good idea.

I hope that you will take this into consideration.

--

**Moon Ramone**

Visual Artist

| **email:** [tikamoon.ramone@gmail.com](mailto:tikamoon.ramone@gmail.com)

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**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Cristina Piccinno

**Email address: \***

[pepita9@iprimus.com.au](mailto:pepita9@iprimus.com.au)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

My thoughts on the proposed MSIR

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.

Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[crp\\_my\\_thoughts\\_on\\_proposed\\_msir.docx](#) 16.53 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \*

Yes

22 June 2020

I am speaking on behalf of our brother Fabio, who is a 57 years old male with a dual disability (schizophrenia and autism) and one of the residents at Drill Hall.

Fabio is a long-term smoker, in frail health, with serious pulmonary and cardiac issues, who lives on his own, supported by a team of carers, seven days a week.

My brother has been staying at Drill Hall for 9 years (since October 2011) and really likes his residential area, which is lively and very multicultural, close to the Victoria Market, the convenience shops, the RMH (where he sees most of his specialists) and public transport. Most importantly Fabio knows his area well, has made a few friends and feels reasonably safe. His rent is quite affordable and his support workers also like the area a lot.

It was a long and hard struggle for Fabio and for me and Laura, as his sisters and primary carers / advocates, to be able to find a suitable place for him and we believe that the proposed MSIR is going to have a very negative effect on his quality of life, peace and tranquillity and be greatly detrimental to both his mental and physical well-being.

Fabio is very trusting and sociable and not very worldly. He told me that the idea of living next door to a safe injecting room, where people will be going in and out to use drugs, makes him feel anxious and scared. He is very fond of the community garden around his flat and thinks it is going to be ruined and littered with dirty needles. Fabio is also worried about some of the drug users becoming aggressive and trying to hassle him for money or even following him around because this has happened to him many times before, when he was living in several crisis accommodations.

At any rate I think it will be disastrous for his morale and that of all the other vulnerable residents renting at Drill Hall. For this reason and the ones above-mentioned, I strongly oppose the proposed plan to build a second safe injecting room at Co-Health as this initiative could seriously jeopardise the safety, health standards and range of amenities enjoyed by the residents at Drill Hall (all suffering from a variety of mental health issues and traumas) while their loved ones will ultimately have no peace of mind at all.

Furthermore the stall holders doing business at the nearby Victoria Market and all the people walking and shopping in the area will also be badly affected by the proposed MSIR and the relaxed atmosphere and character, so characteristic of this iconic precinct of North Melbourne will be irrevocably lost. All in all this plan has been poorly devised and it is morally unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Cristina R. Piccinno

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**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Jennifer Jackson

**Email address: \*** [jenjackson@live.com.au](mailto:jenjackson@live.com.au)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Agenda item 7.2: Medically Supervised Injecting Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I'm a resident who lives close to the MSIR in North Richmond. I respect that many of my neighbours are distressed by the presence of the MSIR, but would like to say that my own experience of living close to the MSIR has been positive. I've seen a reduction in the number of needles in our part of the street and on our property (especially in our carport), and have not noticed an increase in anti-social behaviour. The only public urination I've seen recently was a drunk man coming out of the pub.

I also believe that the impact on us as residents is only part of the story. While I can't speak for drug users, my observation is that the MSIR has provided a space where their community can feel protected and valued rather than ostracised. This is no small thing, given the research that exists to show that a feeling of belonging and connection to a community can be powerful in overcoming addiction.

I note that Council is open to considering a range of strategies for tackling drug use, and hope that it will proceed with the debate in a way that respects drug users as part of the City of Melbourne community, as they are part of our community here in Richmond. I also hope that users' views about the MSIR are considered as a priority. I remain hopeful that at both sites, the MSIR can be managed in a way that strengthens users' connection with their communities, creating positive pathways through and beyond addiction, rather than further shutting them out.

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Please indicate  No  
whether you  
would like to  
address the Future  
Melbourne  
Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \*

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**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Michael Walsh

**Email address: \*** [michaeltwalsh@me.com](mailto:michaeltwalsh@me.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Safe Injection Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I am a local resident of 18 years in North Richmond as well as a Victoria Market shopper for my entire life and want to indicate my support for a second Safe Injection Room/Facility in Melbourne.

The core intent of the Safe Injection Room is to reduce harm for drug users, particularly reducing drug injection in our local streets . By reducing this activity and the consequential risks of unsupervised use of drugs, our streets appear to be safer and the regular deaths and serious harm associated with injection have been diminished significantly . As the months go by, the systems that support the centre and the neighbourhood have matured including policing and I now have reduced witness of people struggling due to the the impact of the narcotics and how that impacts users as they move through our area.

The location of injection room court controversy and some press love to build these controversies into stories due to this inherent conflict. The reporting increases fear and sense of risk whereas my lived experience points to a significant reduction of both.

A second safe injection room creates a normalisation of the service and provides hope that more people with addiction can live safely and be provided with pathways to improve their lives which consequently improves all our our lives.

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**Please indicate**      No  
whether you  
would like to  
address the Future  
Melbourne  
Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \*

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**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Karen Hovenga

**Email address: \*** [khovenga@gmail.com](mailto:khovenga@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \*** Notice of Motion, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood: State Government's preferred second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I live close to the North Richmond MSIR and I am a regular visitor to the Queen Victoria Market. I would like to provide my perspective on the amenity concerns associated with the motion.

Since the opening of the room the number of drug users injecting immediately outside my house has reduced significantly. Where I would see 2-3 users per day, I'm now more likely to see 2-3 users per week and I'm no longer as concerned that I might need to call an ambulance for a user overdosing on my property. The MSIR has had a positive effect on my local amenity.

My local area has always had a large number of community members who have conducted their business in the street – yelling, fighting etc. This can be confronting, but has not changed significantly since the opening of the room and has never posed a real danger to me or my family. People in the City of Melbourne also experience this as part of the homelessness issues. The establishment of a second MSIR is unlikely to have any significant impact on this phenomenon, and may improve the situation over the long term by addressing homelessness issues in the drug injecting population.

When I look at the suggested location of the Melbourne MSIR at 53 Victoria St, my experience tells me that public drug

users are unlikely to want to interact with the tourists, workers and visitors to the Queen Victoria Market, they prefer quieter spaces, not far from where they buy the drugs, where people are less likely to notice them – in laneways, between parked cars etc. The amenity concerns for the Queen Victoria Market are unrealistic – it's too far and too busy.

A second MSIR will have a significant impact on saving lives and providing users with the interventions suggested in 1.1.3. I suggest you reject this motion.

**Please indicate**      No  
**whether you**  
**would like to**  
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**Melbourne**  
**Committee via**  
**phone or Zoom in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

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**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Martin Mulvihill

**Email address: \*** [dhcga.melbourne@gmail.com](mailto:dhcga.melbourne@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Drug Injection Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I live in the affordable housing units above the site for the proposed MSIR.

I believe the proposal would adversely affect local residents and particularly many of the affordable housing residents, who are people with a disability and limited mobility. Their lives are spent, sometimes exclusively, in the immediate and directly affected area.

The local residents' community garden, directly adjacent to the proposed MSIR site, was funded and built by the City of Melbourne, specifically for the accessibility needs of these residents, as well as the broader amenity needs of the local

community e.g. it has a well used children's playground.

Many residents do not believe the community garden would survive the introduction of an MSIR . The area would simply become an outdoor waiting room for the MSIR and crowd out its more beneficial use as a community breathing space for local residents and passing visitors on their way to the nearby Victoria Market.

MSIRs may well save lives and saving life is a paramount principle. Nevertheless, important as this principle is, it should not crowd out other important principles and rights ensuring a safe, caring, healthy environment for vulnerable individuals and for local communities and the public generally.

A good society is a good balance of good principles and good values. It takes more than a footnote to the Independent Review and a couple of weeks looking for the easiest building option, to establish such a good balance.

The harm reduction value of MSIRs has been well recognised, but so also has the importance of placing them where they are needed and where they will not impact negatively on existing social and public amenities.

They have been placed therefore, in areas like Kings Cross and North Richmond, where despite the best efforts of relevant government agencies, they had already become free trade areas for drug use and trafficking with the consequent degradation and destruction of local amenities. This had happened to the point, where many local residents welcomed MSIRs in their area so as to at least mitigate

the effects of such a tragic situation. The results, in terms of resurrecting and preserving general and public social amenity, have not been promising as the Independent Review acknowledges.

This is simply not the case in this area of the local Victoria Market precinct. This is not, as Australian researchers describe a 'highly open drug scene' fitting the preconditions for an MSIR. It is, quite the contrary, an area of growing community engagement, whose residents are actively developing local and public amenities and addressing the needs of the more vulnerable in its midst.

The State Government should get back to the drawing board and it should acknowledge, that in the matter of whatever principles it uses to justify its decisions, the rights of all citizens must be properly addressed and recognised.

**Please indicate**      No  
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**Melbourne**  
**Committee via**  
**phone or Zoom in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

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**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Mary Tomsic

**Email address: \*** [marytomsic@gmail.com](mailto:marytomsic@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor: Safe Injecting Rooms

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I live in Richmond and am making a submission in strong support of the second MSIR. I wanted to share my positive experiences living in Richmond near the MSIR as some evidence that a MSIR is positive for the community and nothing to be fearful of. When I lived in West Melbourne years ago I regularly shopped at the Vic Market. While I don't shop there much anymore – I don't see any concern with the proposed location because these facilities are needed and do not present any dangers.

I live nearby the MSIR in Richmond. It is a 350m walk from my home to the facility. I have 11 year old twins who attend Richmond West Primary School which is next door to the MSIR. My children walk to school and home, often alone, rather than together and have done so for the last couple of years. They know about the centre, they see people walking in and out, and they know about legal and illegal drug use. We talk about these issues. They also know there is nothing for them to be fearful of. Since the MSIR has opened I have been dismayed at the way the school has been drawn in to the emotive campaign – which has acted to promote fear and division in the community, rather than focus on providing services for people who need them. This is the only downside of the location of the MSIR.

Treating all people with respect, providing opportunities for support and connection is something we should invest in



and I am pleased that this is what is happening in my local community, and can only see this as beneficial in the City of Melbourne. Knowing that, for example, in its first year (2018–2019) over 1,200 overdoses were treated in the MSIR in Richmond and that there was almost 62,000 visits to the facility (<https://nrch.com.au/year-one-of-operations-at-north-richmonds-msir/>) makes the neighbourhood a better place.

MSIR is a bold government policy being implemented and it has proven to be successful in Richmond, and in other locations. This actively addresses a longstanding issue of illegal drug use in the area and works towards supporting people. This is precisely what we as a community should do. This is happening in Richmond and I have not experienced anything negative because of the operation of the facility itself.

I saw Minister Foley’s tweet on International Overdose Awareness Day (31 August 2019) last year with the poem by a young person who shared their feelings about the MSIR. The poet described the facility as ‘a great place us outcast drug users can go’, where staff are ‘Friendly without judgement’ and ‘they truly make an effort to connect’. Whenever I go past the facility I think of this poem. The more places like this across our city the better. They provide the basic necessities for healthier and stronger communities which is good for everyone.

Mary Tomsic

**Please indicate**      No  
**whether you**  
**would like to**  
**address the Future**  
**Melbourne**  
**Committee via**  
**phone or Zoom in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

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**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Judy Ryan

**Email address: \*** [judy.rvsds@gmail.com](mailto:judy.rvsds@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Monday 22 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Apart from meeting the key objective to save lives, I have witnessed a huge improvement in the local amenity since the MSIR opened in North Richmond.

As a local resident, I believe the MSIR has been responsible for reducing the number of people injecting and overdosing in private lane ways and carports, and in public places such as Victoria Street and the car parks.

There are fewer syringes, less drug-using paraphernalia and human waste evident in streets and lane ways.

Fire trucks (first responders), MICA units, ambulances and police vehicles are not blocking our streets, lane ways, foot paths and carports.

The constant impact of sirens from emergency vehicles – and the associated anxiety – has reduced significantly.

We have come a long way but I agree, there is more to be done in terms of increasing rehabilitation, mental health and homelessness services for members of our drug-using community. I urge the Future Melbourne Committee to consider the benefits of the proposed MSIR in Victoria Street before refusing the location.

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne** No

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**Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \***

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**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Vince Giuliano

**Email address: \***

[vince@pdg.com.au](mailto:vince@pdg.com.au)

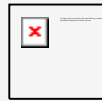
**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood State Government's Preferred Second Location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

**Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:**



[200622\\_fmc\\_submission\\_re\\_agenda\\_7.2\\_vince\\_giuliano.pdf](#)

565.22 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

## Future Melbourne Committee – Tuesday 23 June 2020

Submission Relating to Agenda Item 7.2:

*Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood*

*State Government's Preferred Second Location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room*

---

I am writing in support of Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood's motion to oppose the location of the Medically Supervised Injecting Room on Victoria Street.

As a business owner who has made significant investments into this area, I have strong concerns that the presence of this facility will diminish the efforts and the vision that we, together with the council, community, major investors and businesses have poured into this historic precinct.

Adjacent to the Queen Victoria Market, the site is within a high-profile precinct that represents our city both domestically and internationally, hosting 10 million visitors annually.

This densely populated area will be negatively impacted in a number of social and economic ways:

- To place this facility beneath social housing is a counter-productive move that endangers residents who are trying to make positive steps in their lives.
- The QVM precinct renewal is developing child care and community facilities – becoming a drawcard for families and children.
- University students and their families will likely be deterred to choose the area for their student accommodation and studies.
- Investment in local business and development will see a decline – in a time when we need to encourage local business.
- The surrounding residential buildings will see vacancies increase and investment decrease.
- The perception of Melbourne city both domestically and internationally will be severely marred in the eyes of visitors and tourists.

The existing facility in Richmond has shown that drug activity and crime has increased with drug trafficking arrests increased by 152% over 12 months. People are reportedly seen to openly use drug in cars and on the local streets.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare have attributed higher crime rates to the use of drugs, such as physical or verbal violence and offensive conduct.

One of our residential buildings on Therry Street, Zen Apartments, was recently and inadvertently part of a timely test case. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the neighbouring Ibis Hotel housed many of our city's rough sleepers.

On numerous occasions, our residents and building staff experienced and reported security threats such as drug dealing, verbal abuse and even a stabbing incident. These drastic changes to our residents' way of life escalated within a matter of weeks.

We cannot afford to see this occur within such an important precinct of our city. I therefore support Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood's motion that the location is rejected. And I ask that you allow this important precinct to continue to evolve into a thriving centre for community, retail and tourism.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Vince Giuliano  
Founder and Managing Director  
PDG Corporation

---

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Nellie Melincianu

**Email address: \***

[nellie.melincianu123@gmail.com](mailto:nellie.melincianu123@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Drug Injection Room

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

I am a resident of the affordable housing unit block at 30 Therry street which is right above the proposed drug injection clinic.

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I feel very vulnerable and frightened by the idea of a drug injection clinic.

I will be afraid to go into our community garden and will feel confined and locked up in my home.

I think there will be more crime and the noise and alarm of trouble and just problems.

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

---

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

David MacKenzie

**Email address: \***

[djmack309727@gmail.com](mailto:djmack309727@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[mackenzie\\_sir\\_letter\\_to\\_mcc.pdf](#) 65.50 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No



**Date:** 21 June 2020  
Melbourne City Council  
Melbourne 3000

**To:** Council and MCC Staff leadership,

**RE:** A safe-injecting room near Queen Victoria Market?

As an academic specialising in research and development around youth issues and social disadvantaged, I am writing to express support for the policy of safe injecting rooms as a harm minimisation measure that saves lives and engages with young people (or indeed Australians of any age), who have addiction and substance abuse issues, by offering a restorative pathway to a life in which such issues have been resolved or at the very least managed to minimise harm. We know that individuals experiencing alcohol and drug addiction have commonly experienced trauma and abuse in their upbringing. However, most addicts also have people who still love them and want a better future for them. The safe-injecting room 'harm minimisation' strategy ought not to be a passive response but a supportive program that actively seeks to encourage users to consider changing their lives and which provides all the supports they need when they express a want to make that change. This is not the only measure relevant to dealing with drug and alcohol issues, but it is an important strategy.

There is abundant evidence that safe injecting rooms are a worthwhile 'harm minimisation' approach, although the concept, when implemented, is often surrounded by a degree of controversy about location. There is of course the 'not-in-my-backyard' or NIMBY phenomenon where some residents of a neighbourhood object to youth refuges or any kind of social service program facility in their immediate locality – "put it in some other neighbourhood" – they effectively what they mean just not mine. On the other hand, there are legitimate and reasonable concerns about safe-injecting rooms located close to schools, or a childcare centre or thoroughfares likely to be frequented by children.

Which brings me to the State Government's proposal to site a safe-injecting room at the Queen Victoria Market. The Review led by Margaret Hamilton correctly found that there was evidence that lives had been saved and that the health of a large number of users had been improved or protected.

So to the issue of another safe-injecting room. Firstly, a safe-injecting room needs to be accessible otherwise it won't be used. A Melbourne CBD location has merit because people can readily get into the city by public transport. However, as far as possible, the facility should not be in a high traffic public thoroughfare. Homeless services such as Frontyard or The Salvation Army's 614 Café face the same issue. Is anyone thinking a safe-injecting room should be placed in one of Melbourne's famous laneways or close to an high-traffic shopping complex? Who thought it would be a good idea to place the safe-injecting room close the Queen Victoria Market?

I understand that many Councillors share my view about the positivity of the safe-injecting room 'harm minimisation' approach, while also sharing my concerns about the proposed location. There are quite a few other CBD locations that are adequately accessible but less visible and less likely to attract both reasonable and not-so-reasonable community opposition. Please feel free to use my expressed view in your advocacy to the State Government for a more appropriate location.

Faithfully,

Associate Professor David Mackenzie  
Justice & Society, University of South Australia  
Director of Upstream Australia, Melbourne

M:  
E: [dmackenzie@upstreamaustralia.org.au](mailto:dmackenzie@upstreamaustralia.org.au)

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**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

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**Name: \***

Jariya Sununta

**Email address: \***

[jariya@feather.org](mailto:jariya@feather.org)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[jariya.pdf](#) 120.54 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

Dear Councilmen and Councilwomen - concerning agenda number 7.2,

I go to the markets every week and do not think there should be drugs or drug users near the markets. I think you should build the room somewhere else away from all the people. I support building the room but I would like to see it built away from the Victoria Markets.

I do not like to be afraid of going to the markets and I think I will be afraid if the rooms are built. Please build them somewhere else in the city. The markets are my favourite place in Melbourne and I don't want them ruined.

Jariya Sonunta

21/06/2020

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**Name: \***

Thomas eales

**Email address: \***

[tom@eales.io](mailto:tom@eales.io)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[thomas.pdf](#) 144.17 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

21/06/20

To whom it concerns,

Regarding motion 7.2, I have become aware of plans to build substance injecting rooms in the vicinity of Victoria Markets. As a frequent visitor to the markets, I feel that this is not an appropriate location and urge that it be reconsidered.

I wholly support safe injecting rooms, however they should be located in areas not frequented by families. The commutes of the users should not take them directly through a busy market to get to and from their injecting room.

I support a solution that mirrors aspects of the Degraes St recycling facility. This facility is located down an alleyway, inside a garage. This discrete location is central yet unassuming.

Please evaluate the current proposal and weigh the benefits to the small population of substance abusers with the downsides bestowed upon the much larger population of market goers.

With best intentions,

✓ Thomas Eales ✓

Southbank VIC 3006

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\*

**Name: \*** Sam Weaner

**Email address: \*** [samuelweaner@gmail.com](mailto:samuelweaner@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Monday 22 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor: Safe Injecting Rooms

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Dear Future Melbourne Committee,

As a Melbourne resident, living in , I was proud to see the Future Melbourne 2026 Plan, with the 9 goals that will make the city a safe, livable and prosperous place.

Based on these goals, I submit that a Safe Injecting Room in the Victoria Market Precinct will hinder this vision. I highlight a few of these priorities as proof that a Safe Injecting Room will devastate the community.

Priority 1.1 – Maintain its urban biosphere: Over the last few years, we were excited to have the Council of Melbourne's support with the Drill Hall Community Garden Association. We have been able to grow produce at the triangle of Therry and Victoria streets. The growing of vegetables and flowers have brought smiles and joy to those that pass by, as the sunflowers provide a symbol of growth for our community. A Safe Injecting Room next to this garden will make it a difficult place to find the same joy, if we are in fear of being confronted by addicts on the streets that were not there before. It will destroy the sense of community that we have established.

Priority 2.8 – A family-friendly city: As a father, it is devastating to see the anti-social behaviour that drug addiction

causes. I have a duty to keep my son safe and I count on the government to support our protection. A Safe Injecting Room invites anti-social behaviour to my doorstep, which is unconscionable to the families of small children that live around Victoria Street.

Priority 4.1 – A safe and flexible city: The priority states that Melbourne will be stimulating and safe at all hours of the day. Inviting illicit drug use to the city attracts the wrong type of business, the wrong type of mindset and makes it difficult to feel safe to walk the streets.

I urge the Committee to consider the tourists that visit and the families and students that live in the Victoria Market Precinct before allowing a Safe Injection Room at this location. My neighbours and family should feel safe when they walk the local streets, the area should be an welcoming place for visitors and tourists and the sense of community that we have created should be allowed to continue to flourish.

A Safe Injecting Room would destroy these aspects of Melbourne that the community has worked hard to establish.

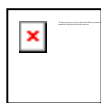
Regards,

Sam Weaner

[Redacted]

Melbourne VIC 3000

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[drill\\_hall\\_sunflower.jpg](#) 646.25 KB · JPG

Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \*

No







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**Name: \*** Mohamed Yahuja Muthalif

**Email address: \*** [yahuja.m@gmail.com](mailto:yahuja.m@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor: Safe Injecting Rooms

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Though the proposal of Victorian government to open second medically supervised injecting room at a site on Victoria street is to help the vulnerable people, I feel the site, which is situated within historic Drill Hall and adjacent to iconic Victoria Market, is simply not the right place.

The purpose of the safe injecting rooms should be to save lives. It shouldn't lure new people into drug addiction. Choosing a place right next to a popular tourist location and a place frequented by families, teens and children will act as one as it is a flex banner by the government. Residents who lives nearby and the parents who visit the market or some families travelling in a car (as it would be in one of Melbourne's busiest Victoria street) will have tough time explaining to their children and vulnerable teens. You have a government run medically supervised safe injecting room in an iconic place and how one can explain to their vulnerable children that it is wrong to use drugs but if one wants to use it they can use this site where you have a medically supervised team of doctors/nurses who will actively monitor the toxicity of the drug being injected. We will be sending wrong signals for the vulnerable children out there. Also, there are few people who have successfully rehabilitated from drug addiction residing in the residential area at drill hall and it will be a disaster and injustice to them. I personally feel it is a disservice to military personnel's who used the drill hall.

Moreover, the one who needs it so badly may have to wait longer in the queue as it will pull the wrong crowd (one timers and visitors will try the place) and it will be a total disaster. The newly developed Children Friendly No Smoking Drill Hall Community Garden would become a resting place/waiting place for those who badly needs it and for the people in queue. There are real chances for them to use the garden for injecting drugs. That could very well spread to platforms near Victoria markets. Even there are chances they avoid this injecting room due to longer wait times and the location's non discrete nature. If this situation ever happen, this Medically Supervised Injecting Room would not serve the purpose.

The injecting rooms should be in a place which is discrete, away from residential areas, but safe to those who use the injecting rooms and for the staffs supervising them. This government proposed place is not that where children, teens, and other vulnerable people live around and usually spend some time in the drill hall community garden, Vic Market and surrounding area. There was so much effort put by the city of Melbourne to build that wonderful family friendly garden and I fear it is nullified by this announcement. I strongly believe there would be a better place that is discrete and safe in CBD or in the outskirt of city that would serve the purpose.

I was relieved with the recent developments in the community garden, cleaning up of places and recent infrastructure developments near Victoria market that made the area and its surrounding places very safe in the recent days. But with this announcement the efforts put by city of Melbourne and the people residing in the area would be undone.

I am submitting that I support the motion by Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood that rejects the proposed Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR) site on Victoria Street, adjacent to the Queen Victoria Market.

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**Name: \*** Loraine Little

**Email address: \*** [littleloraine@gmail.com](mailto:littleloraine@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Item 7.2: State Government's preferred second location for a MSIR

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

As a long term (25+ years) resident of Richmond and Abbotsford, I write to you in support of the opening of a second MSIR, located within the CBD. Mine is a direct, lived, before and after account.

Prior to 'our' MSIR opening, drug use, detritus and damaged souls were a daily experience in the front bin area of my apartment block, at the back of the block and in the laneway metres away. Not one morning or evening could I walk past there without checking, worrying I would come across another overdose victim, or worse still.

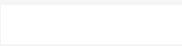
Within a week or two of the trial centre opening, the contrast in my immediate area could not have been stronger. Whilst it was still my reflex to look into the bin area, there was no longer the need. It took some months for this reflex reaction to diminish. The number of needles and other drug related paraphernalia and rubbish also reduced markedly and most definitely the number of sirens decreased also.

No, the MSIR hasn't been a magic wand and 'disappeared' the drug trade, users and the associated despair; it never could be expected to, for much of what we see is the end result of 30+ years of neglect and trauma. But it has and is succeeding in its core objectives: saving lives, increased referrals and working with the community to better understand the complexities.

As to the exact location, as was the case in Sydney and n Melbourne, evidence / statistics should be the major determiner. Important to note, similar MSIR's around the world and indeed Sydney's, apparently envy the 'wrap around' service and support that is offered by the centre being attached to allied services.

Yours sincerely

Loraine Little

  
Abbotsford, 3067

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**Name: \*** Gwen Rathjens

**Email address: \*** [toadmall@bigpond.com](mailto:toadmall@bigpond.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** State Government's preferred second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I oppose locating an MSIR at the proposed facility in Victoria Street. The proximity to the Victoria Market has attracted many comments and I agree that the location is unsuitable for that reason. However, I am particularly concerned because the site is near homes and that is totally unacceptable. I know people who live in the "affordable housing" building above the proposed site. The impact on their lives would be overwhelming.

It is not what happens inside the MSIR that is of concern but what happens outside in the immediate neighbourhood – the behaviours of dealers and stressed addicts, the concentration of crime, violence and mental health issues out of control. How will the residents of that building navigate access to their own entrance doorway, to the market, or to the tram stop?

Furthermore, the people in that building have worked hard to create a community garden which is right next door to the proposed facility. I have enjoyed meeting my friend there in what is a tiny pleasant oasis in the heart of a busy city. I have seen that this garden has been significant in cementing a community among the residents upstairs and with residents in neighbouring apartment blocks. The garden would have to be abandoned if the proposed facility proceeds.

I question whether an additional supervised injecting room is required or if there are other strategies of prevention and support that should be considered before any site is proposed.

Whatever is to be established to address the problems of drug addiction, be it a rehab centre, MSIR or something else in the city or nearby inner suburbs, it is wrong to choose a site close to residential homes. While actual incidents of violence, agitation, noise, aggression, and health emergencies might not occur all the time the sense of threat and fear grips residents all the time, – a constant sense of threat and worry.

I urge the Melbourne City Council to work with the State Government to reject this proposal and any similarly fraught proposals to come

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**support of your**  
**submission: \***

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\*

**Name: \*** joyce Zhou

**Email address: \*** [joyce19930128@hotmail.com](mailto:joyce19930128@hotmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.2

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

To the Melbourne City councillors,

I am writing in regarding 7.2. I was very shocked to hear about the decision to make Injecting room in queen Victoria market, I don't think it is acceptable to build injecting rooms so close to food stalls and tourists. People come from all over the world to experience our world-class markets and they do not want to bump into people who angry and upset it might harm them.

If we must have these rooms, then why can't they be in a hospital or somewhere we don't see them? Why do they have to be near a tourist attraction? If they have to be close to the city, then use another building.

Please change the location of the rooms.

From Joyce Zhou

**Please indicate** No

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whether you  
would like to  
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Melbourne  
Committee via  
phone or Zoom in  
support of your  
submission: \*

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Sione Crawford

**Email address: \***

[sionecrawford@gmail.com](mailto:sionecrawford@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2 Notice of Motion: Deputy Lord Mayor: Safe Injecting Rooms

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[future\\_melbourne\\_committee\\_submission\\_230620\\_s\\_crawford.docx](#)

24.86 KB · DOCX

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No

Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

23.6.20

### Statement

I am the Executive Officer of a peer-based health promotion service and representative group based in Peel St called Harm Reduction Victoria. We provide a range of health promotion and harm reduction services.

As a person with experience of injecting drug use and heroin overdose both personally and amongst too many friends and acquaintances to count, I submit that reducing immediate harms including overdose should always be a high priority for our society and the City of Melbourne, and while a comprehensive strategy related to all alcohol and other drug use in the city may be useful, this does not necessitate the outright or immediate rejection of the proposed Supervised Injecting Facility. Melbourne is a diverse and vibrant city, with a range of residents, visitors and people who work here. Those who are most in need of a supervised injecting facility are often those who are very vulnerable and face overwhelming challenges on a daily basis in our city. The very aim of harm reduction services like injecting rooms are to keep people as safe as possible when they are unable to access other healthcare and treatment.

For this reason I strongly suggest that rather than delaying the opening of an injecting facility in order to undertake a Taskforce or comprehensive review of alcohol and other drug strategies in the City of Melbourne we should instead see this as an opportunity to keep highly marginalised Melburnians as safe as possible, whether a review and lengthy process is undertaken or not. I suggest it is not required but even if it is undertaken harm reduction need not be slowed.

### Location

On page 113 of the June 2020 Review of the Medically Supervised Injecting Room, the Panel noted that the Melbourne LGA was identified as having the highest number of ambulance attendances involving the provision of naloxone in the state from July 2018 to December 2019. On page 112 the Panel presented Coroners Court of Victoria data which showed that in Melbourne 25 occurrences of heroin related deaths out of 51 in total occurred in non-residential locations between Jan 2015 and Sept 2019. This equates to 49% of all heroin related deaths in that time in Melbourne occurring in non-residential locations. This is second only to the City of Yarra over the same period. The Panel state clearly that a second facility is warranted (Recommendation 3) and that Melbourne LGA was the place which appears to most require it, based on this data as well as the panel's experience.

### Consultation

The Review Panel also make it very clear that appropriate consultation should be undertaken to ensure the service is developed effectively. I support this and respectfully suggest that included in consultations from the start are the consumers who are most likely to rely upon and utilize the service.

It is clear that consultation is required to determine the best location & model of care for the second injecting room, but I strongly support this process being efficient and also being a process that is based first and foremost on health concerns, not perceived economic or amenity concerns.

### Taskforces and Reports

Regarding the approach to alcohol and other drugs there have been various Taskforces and Alcohol & Other Drug Service system reviews over the years including:

- the National Ice Taskforce, which recommended more treatment and harm reduction services - <https://www.pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/taskforces-past-domestic-policy-initiatives/national-ice-taskforce> (2015);
- New Horizons: The review of alcohol and other drug treatment services in Australia (2014) [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/new-horizons-review-of-alcohol-and-other-drug-treatment-services\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/new-horizons-review-of-alcohol-and-other-drug-treatment-services_0.pdf);
- the Victorian Adult Community Based Alcohol & Other Drug Service Provision Review (2016) <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/alcohol-and-drugs/aod-treatment-services/community-based-aod-treatment/adult-community-based-aod-service-review>;
- and currently the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (2020) <https://rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/>

There is no shortage of information and data about the issue and what we need to do about it. One of those things is more services closer to where people live, providing what people want and need. Supervised injecting facilities that reduce overdose and other harms are one of those services. Harm Reduction is a specialized approach to keeping people as safe as possible while undertaking activities that can cause harm. It is one part of a range of alcohol & other drug services and over time we are improving the way these services meet our needs as a community and the way they fit together. Given all the reviews outlined above it is time for providers and consumers on the ground to work together to provide localized solutions to local issues such as this, not time to commission another report.

An injecting facility aimed at keeping safe some of the most marginalised members of our society should neither be delayed nor unnecessarily compromised by another taskforce. I do support a process for developing the best model of care and for establishing the best site for the facility as long as the needs of the people whose lives this facility is aimed at saving are not compromised by that process being overly politicized, stigmatizing and drawn out.

### Conclusion

The City of Melbourne Future Melbourne Committee appear committed to a human-rights and person-centred development process. It is true that all developments require a balancing of interests and concerns. I hope that as the committee considers this agenda item they see fit to rebalance it towards a swift but thorough implementation of the Panel's recommendation and err on the side of caring for some of the most vulnerable and marginalised in our diverse community by consulting with and then opening for them a service we can all agree will save lives.

Sione Crawford  
 CEO, Harm Reduction Victoria  
 128 Peel St  
 VIC 3051

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**Name: \*** Josie Gibson

**Email address: \*** [josie@thecatalystnetwork.co](mailto:josie@thecatalystnetwork.co)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** 7.2 State Government's preferred second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Dear Committee Members,

I live in North Richmond, close to the Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR). My husband and I moved to this area more than ten years ago and can attest that drugs were an open, significant and problematic part of the neighbourhood well before then. We have personally encountered four overdose fatalities and numerous deals and attempted break-ins over the years.

We are strong supporters of the North Richmond MSIR and what it has achieved. The facility has saved lives, and significantly reduced the number of people injecting on our street and the enormous amount of drug paraphernalia litter. When the North Richmond initiative was announced, we attended several community consultations and took the opportunity to inspect the room as it was being built. The consultation process was extensive, inclusive, and highly professional. We also used the outreach facility several times after the room was operating, and found staff responsive and professional.

We knew there would be a 'honeypot' affect for a time, given the lack of an overarching strategy, because this initiative has surfaced the true extent of the drug problem in our city and across the state. We believe it is a medical issue,

however, and agreed with the experts that it was critical to locate the facility where people were already taking drugs. This is a model used successfully internationally – it's not an untested concept. People who use the room have the opportunity to access other health services and create a different path in life for themselves.

We applaud the State Government for moving ahead with a second MSIR, and urge the City of Melbourne to accept the proposed location near Queen Victoria Market. Drugs affect people from ALL socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, so trying to remove this issue from the public eye achieves nothing.

Behind every drug-taker and overdose is a person in pain and a grieving family trying to do their best.

**Please indicate**      No  
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**Name: \***

lamiaa kassem

**Email address: \***

[lamiaaalmnsorri2002@gmail.com](mailto:lamiaaalmnsorri2002@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Rejecting the proposed drug clinic

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

I'm lamiaa kassem living on Therry st  
As we are apart of this community, We do not want this happens  
My regards

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

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**Name: \***

Rosemary Hill

**Email address: \***

[dhcga.melbourne@gmail.com](mailto:dhcga.melbourne@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

Safe Drug Injection site

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I don't oppose an injection site for drug users but do oppose any idea of allowing dealers access to the area. They are the real problem and we should have zero tolerance.

I'm also worried we'll lose our garden.

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

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\*

**Name: \*** Nicole Van Veen

**Email address: \*** [nicki.vanveen@yahoo.com](mailto:nicki.vanveen@yahoo.com)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \*** Agenda Item 7.2 Notice of Motion, Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood: State Government's preferred second location for a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

As an Abbotsford resident who supports the Richmond Medically Supervised Injecting Room (MSIR), I thank you for the Committee's consideration of a second MSIR site.

Location is undoubtedly the most polarising aspect of this debate. While we often hear publicly from residents who do not support the Richmond MSIR, that is not the uniform view of all area residents.

I've lived in Abbotsford and Richmond for the past decade. Since the MSIR opened, I feel safer to walk around my neighbourhood and through my laneways. I see less drug paraphernalia on the streets. I haven't called triple 000 because I've encountered someone experiencing an overdose in more than a year. But most importantly, I see clearly now the humanity of the drug users in my community, who are not here to harm me.

My personal reflections on the Richmond MISR trial are that:

- We need more injecting facilities, not fewer
- Injecting facilities do not create drug users, but rather highlight more visibly the challenges that some of the most vulnerable members of our community experience
- While I applaud the Victorian Government for commencing the MSIR trial, implementation could have been greatly



improved by working in partnership with local communities and local governments to maintain amenity and safety, and ensuring all neighbouring community members have a genuine mechanism for raising their views and needs.

I commend your motion for highlighting the need for wrap around support including rehabilitation, detox, and outreach support services for drug users as part of a holistic response.

I strongly urge you not to let fear override this discourse. Because ultimately this comes down to saving lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. And shouldn't that be a priority?

**Please indicate**      **No**  
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**would like to**  
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**Melbourne**  
**Committee via**  
**phone or Zoom in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

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\*

**Name: \*** Jenny Pyke

**Email address: \*** [jennypyke@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jennypyke@yahoo.com.au)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title:** Safe Injecting Room

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

I would like to thank and support Councillor Wood for putting the Safe Injecting Room on the agenda for tonight and I believe that there is a process that the State Government must go through. I am also heartened to hear that the Council does have alternatives to the site mentioned.

While the Safe Injecting Room provides a safe space for users of intravenous drugs the implications for the surrounding businesses will be detrimental.

Traders have experienced the problems of drug affected people in the past. The shops on Victoria Street were regularly having their tills raided and handbags stolen from closed cupboards.

One trader confronted a woman crawling out from behind her counter with the trader's handbag. The druggie was confronted, and as the handbag was being grabbed back the druggie went for the trader's throat with her fingernails trashing the shop as she ran straight into traffic on Victoria Street. These are the stories that were common in the not to distant past. Every trader has a least one story of theft and abuse.

The close proximity to the Queen Victoria Market where we have

–a high number of families visiting the market and we are actively trying to encourage more families this will prove to be a barrier to families wanting to visit the market.

- the parents of children attending the Child Day Care Centre opening up in the Munro building would be confronted by those attending the nearby facility on Victoria Street
- as the Queen Victoria market has been the top tourist attraction in Melbourne for decades. I as a trader believe the Safe Injecting Room is not compatible with the image we are trying to portray for QVM.

There is much need for places such as the one in Richmond to save the lives of those on drugs and on the streets, places such as this perform a number of health and social functions, and we applaud the work being done there.

We urge the State Government to seriously consider alternate sites, for the wellbeing of the market tourism and the traders.

Kind regards

Jenny Pyke

23.06.2020

**Please indicate**      Yes  
**whether you**  
**would like to**  
**address the Future**  
**Melbourne**  
**Committee via**  
**phone or Zoom in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

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**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Jenna Dwyer

**Email address: \***

[jennatdwyer@gmail.com](mailto:jennatdwyer@gmail.com)

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \***

7.2

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[mcc\\_letter.docx](#) 134.49 KB · DOCX

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \***

No

## Re: Safe Injecting room next to Queen Victoria Market.

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
Melbourne City Council  
Melbourne 3000

To: Council and MCC Staff Leadership

I am writing to the MCC as a business woman in Melbourne, who has had direct experience in dealing with the affects of drug affected persons outside my business premises. I would like to contribute to the decision regarding setting up a safe injecting room near a busy business precinct such as the Queen Victoria Market.

Any rational thinking person can see that the idea to set up more safe injecting rooms is a positive move. Offering support to those who need somewhere to go where they can perform their inevitable injection, but in a safer environment, is going to minimize surrounding dangers, hazards, and ultimately contribute to a potential pathway to rehabilitation. The psychology behind offering drug addicted people a place to come and safely inject, also take's away the rebellious factor of the actions itself. For many, this alone can help heal root causes for the drug taking behavior in the first place.

I am not against the setting up of safe injecting rooms. However, the position is critical to the overall success of this idea for both the drug users, and the public. We do not want to see the "safe room" set up somewhere that is destined to fail and shut down, because critical factors were not considered.

The Queen Victoria Market is Melbourne's busiest and iconic market, attracting locals and tourists alike. It is a place welcome to all ages, races and demographics. Families with small children with developing young minds are my first concern with having drug users coming and going through the market area. The exposure to drug users to a family environment is absolutely and undoubtedly going to drive parents away from returning to such a place. Imagine a drug user in his or her state of desperation for substance, on his way to the injecting room muttering, displaying the common signs shaking, swearing or even physically aggressive, passing by young impressionable minds. Not only is this the sad side of our society we don't want them seeing at such an age, but it begins to normalize such behavior. Parent's choosing not to return will have a massive impact on the business/social attraction Queen Victoria Market.

Secondly, many professional working adults who head to the market, will see the drug affected populous making its way in and around the area, and understandably will choose not to be associated with it. I have seen this proven for myself. I previously owned a busy burger shop in Essendon, which is near a train station. Drug users were often seen begging outside the 7/11 next door to my shop, and I have seen people turn away and cross the road to avoid them. This directly affected my foot traffic and ultimately my sales.

Please reconsider the chosen location. Perhaps somewhere that has a direct line of path from public transport to the safe injecting room that passes by the least amount of trading businesses, and vast spanning demographics that the Queen Victoria Market is so lucky to attract.

Sincerely,

Jenna Dwyer  
Director of Penny&Taylor Australia  
Previous owner of Bird&Burger Essendon

[jennatdwyer@gmail.com](mailto:jennatdwyer@gmail.com)

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**Privacy acknowledgement: \*** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \*** Clare Leaney

**Email address: \*** [clare@igff.org.au](mailto:clare@igff.org.au)

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 23 June 2020

**Agenda item title: \*** Agenda item 7.3– Children and places of worship

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



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207.22 KB · DOCX

**Please indicate whether you would like to address the Future Melbourne Committee via phone or Zoom in support of your submission: \*** Yes

**Future Melbourne Committee submission**

23 June 2020

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you to in my capacity as CEO of the In Good Faith Foundation (IGFF) on behalf of our clients and board to express our support for Agenda Item 7.3 *Ensuring Safety of Children at Places of Worship*.

Further to our submission to the Future Melbourne Committee on 19 May 2020 regarding Agenda item 6.3, IGFF would like to once again highlight the paramount need to protect the safety of all children and to ensure that if an unlawful action is committed that mandatory reporting processes are in place, and rigorously policed.

It is clear that the Melbourne City Council will have an integral role to play in ensuring that all places of worship within the municipality are aware of the changes in the laws to mandatory reporting since the *Children Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* passed through the Victorian Parliament and took effect in February this year.

This role will include, but is not limited to:

- Raising awareness among local organisations of their obligations to comply with child safety laws;
- Educating the community to strengthen awareness of the rights of children and young people and what they should expect from the organisations with which they engage;
- Highlighting and proactively supporting places of worship within the community who are operating in accordance with *Children Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*;
- Investigating all avenues available to assist the Victorian Government in the policing and compliance of the *Children Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* within the municipality of Melbourne; and
- Examining all options available to the Melbourne City Council to take appropriate action against Places of Worship within the municipality, who fail to operate in accordance with Victorian Law.

In addition, IGFF believe this Agenda item should be supported for the following reasons:

- 1) To ensure that all practices pertaining to the safety of children and adherence to justice are transparent.
- 2) It is consistent with City of Melbourne's Goal as A City for People and one which seeks to create a safe, healthy and welcoming city for people of all ages including children



- 3) It contributes to raising awareness among local organisations of their obligations to comply with child safety laws and to educating the community to strengthen awareness of the rights of children and young people regarding what to expect from the organisations with which they engage
- 4) Places of Worship must demonstrate their ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety of children within their organisations and that they are following established best practice as defined in *Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry* and the *Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse*.
- 5) That the Melbourne City Council has a responsibility to ensure that organisations that fall within its municipality are operating with integrity.

I commend the motion, which is the subject of this Agenda Point, and it has the full support of the In Good Faith Foundation.

Sincerely,

Clare Leaney  
CEO  
In Good Faith Foundation

*In Good Faith Foundation is national charity and support service providing advocacy services to individuals, families and communities impacted by institutional abuse for over twenty years*