

## NDLERF Research in Progress

Project Title	Lead Agency/ Investigators	Objectives
Drug and Alcohol intoxication and Subsequent Harm in night-time Entertainment Districts (DASHED)	A/Prof Peter Miller Dr Anthony Morgan A/Prof Raimondo Bruno Mr Nicolas Droste Ms Amy Peacock Ms Hayley Boxall Dr Kerri Coomber (Deakin University)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the prevalence of alcohol and substance-related harms in Canberra and Hobart entertainment precincts and major trends over time</li> <li>• Identify the main characteristics of alcohol and substance-related harms in Canberra and Hobart entertainment precincts and how these compare with other entertainment precincts elsewhere in Australia</li> <li>• Examine the nature of the relationship between patron alcohol consumption, intoxication, substance use and associated harms in Canberra and Hobart entertainment precincts</li> <li>• Determine the main drivers of alcohol and substance-related harm in Canberra and Hobart entertainment precincts and identify opportunities to implement responses to reduce the level of harm associated with alcohol</li> <li>• Estimate the costs associated with alcohol and substance-related harms in Canberra and Hobart entertainment precincts</li> <li>• Provide a valuable evidence base to help select and adapt appropriate responses to alcohol-related problems in Canberra and Hobart as well as providing a baseline against which to measure the impact of future responses</li> </ul>
The social supply of cannabis among young people in Australia	Lenton, Barratt, Scott, Bennett (Curtin University of Technology)	<p>The study's aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a detailed account of the ways in which young adults (aged 18-30 years) gain access to cannabis in a social supply market;</li> <li>• Explore the impact of supply routes on different aspects of young people's lives, including access to other drugs, contact with the police, schooling and relationships with families and friends;</li> <li>• Examine the relationships between demographic characteristics and access to cannabis;</li> <li>• Explain young people's notions of drug dealing and social supply and how they relate to buying patterns and behaviour;</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the extent and nature and impact of the involvement of the police with cases where young people have been found to be selling cannabis;</li> <li>• Outline young people's understanding of the cannabis supply legislation.</li> </ul>
Trafficking in multiple commodities: Exposing Australia's poly-drug and poly-crime networks	Hughes, Chalmers, Bright, McFadden (The University of New South Wales)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To explore how product diversification is managed in a high-level Australian multi-commodity drug trafficking network: including inter-sections between drugs (heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, precursors etc.) and between crimes (drugs, money laundering, illegal firearms etc.)</li> <li>2. To estimate the proportion of Australian traffickers connected with high level importation of more than one drug, and any changes in the extent and nature of Australian poly-drug importations over the past fifteen years</li> <li>3. To generate and compare profiles of Australian poly-drug traffickers and mono-drug traffickers, including their potential harmfulness to the Australian community</li> <li>4. To build research and law enforcement expertise to tackle Australian poly-drug commodity traffickers.</li> </ol>
Stimulant and licit drug use, law enforcement and harm reduction	Najman, Kemp (The University of QLD)	<p>The proposed study will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Determine the extent to which concurrent stimulant and alcohol use is associated with offending behaviour, being a victim of crime and contact with police (non-voluntary &amp; self-initiated)</li> <li>- Determine whether participation in open (versus closed) markets is associated with increased access and consumption of other illicit drugs, offending behaviour (incl. traffic offences, violence), being a victim of crime, and contact with police (non-voluntary &amp; self-initiated)</li> <li>- Identify consequences of police contact (non-voluntary &amp; self-initiated) in terms of drug-using harms, later offending behaviour, cooperation and crime reporting.</li> </ul>
DUMA: An expansion to the Pilbara	Gately, Migro, Doyle, Goggin (Edith Cowan University)	This project intends to establish the demographic characteristics and patterns of crime and substance use in the detained population in Port Hedland; to improve the understanding of the illicit drug markets in Port Hedland and how they operate, to inform drug market monitoring; and to identify the socio-economic and geographical differences in drug use and crime patterns between Port Hedland and metropolitan sites to inform police

		<p>and health resource allocation.</p> <p>The methodology follows that of the Drug Use Monitoring in Australia project, using face-to-face interviews with, and urinalysis of, police detainees at South Hedland Lockup within 48 hours of arrest.</p>
Managing intoxicated offenders	Brown, Goldsmid, Fuller, Patterson (Australian Institute of Criminology)	<p>This project will explore the range of policies and strategies that have been adopted by police to minimise the risks associated with dealing with offenders under the influence of drugs and alcohol, which will inform the development of a best practice framework for policing agencies. This will also involve examining the concordance between police knowledge of intoxication and actual intoxication. This study will involve brief interviews with police officers as part of the Drug Use Monitoring Australia (DUMA) program, the analysis of data from the National Deaths in Custody Program (NDICP) and consultation with police and other frontline service personnel to examine the ways in which they respond to intoxicated offenders.</p>
Vulnerable young people: policing and pathways to diversion and care	MacLean, Bryant, Best, Room, Berends, Bruun (Eastern Health - Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre)	<p>Young people aged 16-24 who are heavy users of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) are disproportionately involved in offending, with frequent recidivism among particular groups. Engaging these young people in appropriate diversion programs (often involving AOD treatment) is a challenge for police across Australia, particularly in inner-city areas. This mixed method study entails new analyses of existing datasets, and interviews with police, diversion staff and AOD using young people in Melbourne and Sydney to identify (1) characteristics of AOD using young offenders to inform the design of effective interventions (2) opportunities to improve young people's engagement in diversion and (3) to provide training and resources to support police and other professionals to develop more integrated diversion and treatment pathways.</p>
Cloud forensic framework and best practices	Choo, Slay (University of South Australia)	<p>Cloud computing has been identified as an emerging digital forensics challenge to drug (and other serious and organised crime) law enforcement investigations.</p> <p>The research aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contribute to a better understanding of the use of cloud computing by drug traffickers (and other serious and organised crime groups) and the associated challenges and implications for law enforcement and digital forensic communities; and</li> <li>2. Develop an evidence-based digital forensic framework, best</li> </ol>

		practices and tools for conducting drug (and other serious and organised crime) law enforcement investigations involving the use of cloud computing services.
The online environment: a precursor to illicit synthetic drug law enforcement	Phair, MacGibbon, Krone (University of Canberra)	<p>This project aims to improve law enforcement responses to the growing problem of illicit synthetic drugs by understanding and targeting the role of the Internet in such offending.</p> <p>It examines the ways in which the Internet is integrated into this criminal conduct and how the Internet is used adaptively. This will be used to design procedures and related training packages for law enforcement.</p> <p>The research methodology includes a literature review and the use of online intelligence gathering tools and techniques; expertise from specialist online technologists and security experts; behavioural patterns of legitimate and criminal Internet users; and current trends evidenced from Australian and international law enforcement agencies and respect of illicit drugs.</p>
<b>Recently Completed Research</b>		
Development of a drink driving program for regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (Fitts, Palk, Lennon), QLD University of Technology		
The impact of supply-side drug law enforcement on drug related harm (Weatherburn, Jones, Sarafidis, Wardlaw), NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research		
Drug price variations and their impact on a cohort of people who inject drugs: Understanding and describing Australian illicit drug markets (Dietze, Caulkins, Ritter), Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health Ltd		

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