

# New and emerging psychoactive substances

## Webinar

**Presented by**  
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**Facilitated by**  
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Health and Substance Use, University of  
Sydney



## Before we get started...

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# Drugs 2.0

## Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)



**Dr Stephen Bright**

@stephenjbright



Curtin University



## Objectives

1. What are Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)?
2. How prevalent is NPS use in Australia?
  - Synthetic Cannabis
  - Unintentional Use
3. Strategies for working with people may be using NPS (possibly unwittingly)



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## What's In A Name?

novel psychoactive  
substances

*party pills*

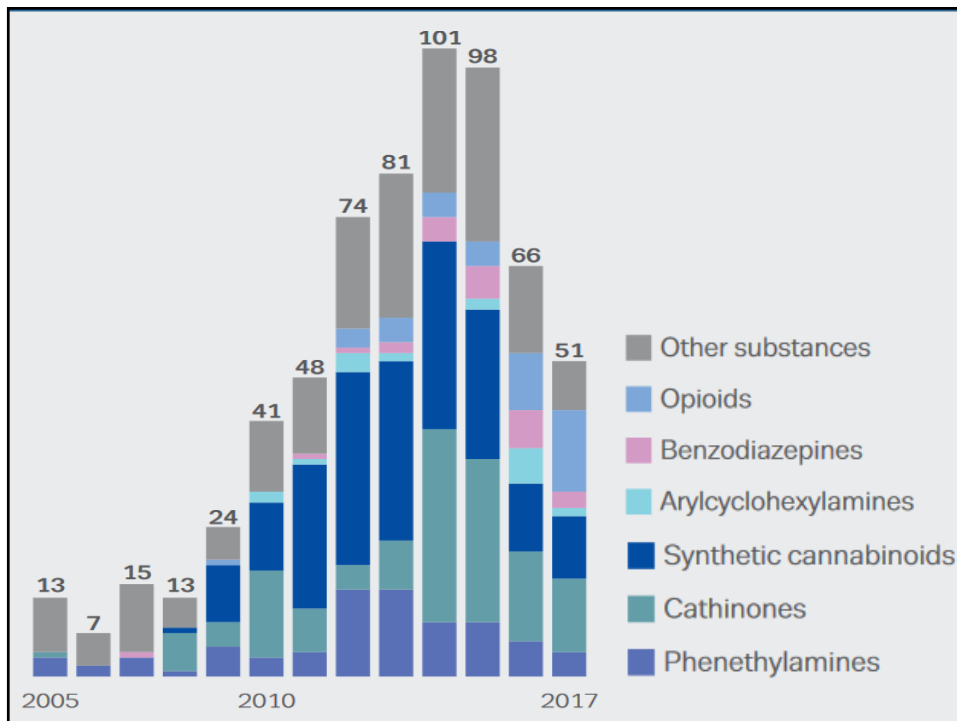
**synthetics**

herbal highs

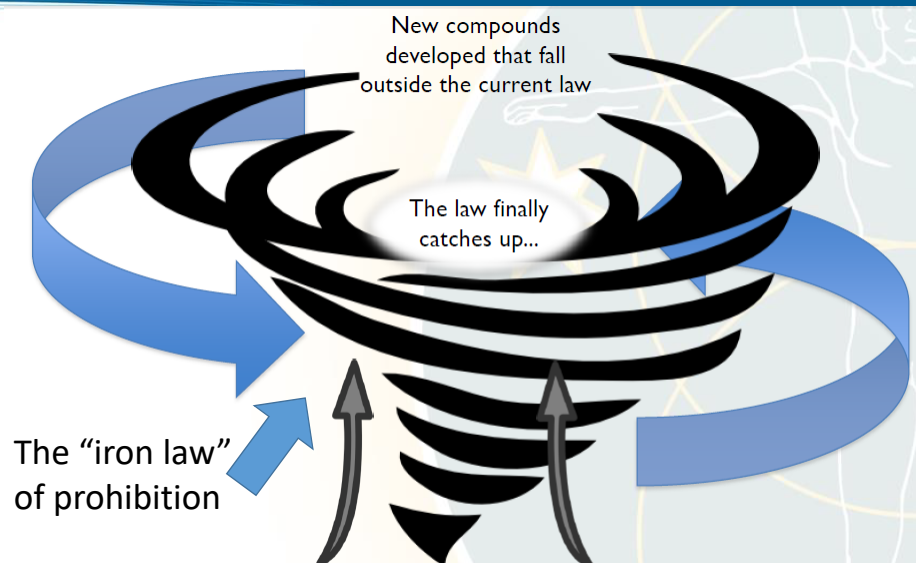
*legal highs*

*emerging  
psychoactive  
substances*

research chemicals



## The Vortex of Doom (Caldicott, 2016)

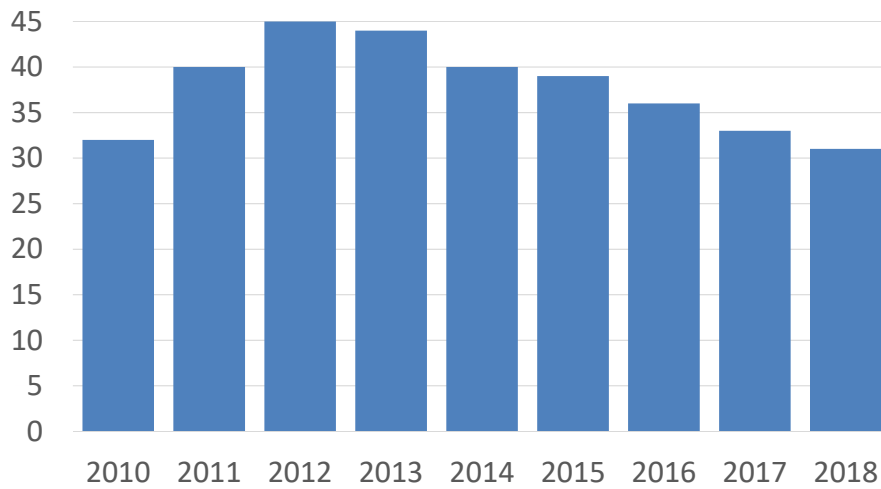


## NPS Use in Australia?

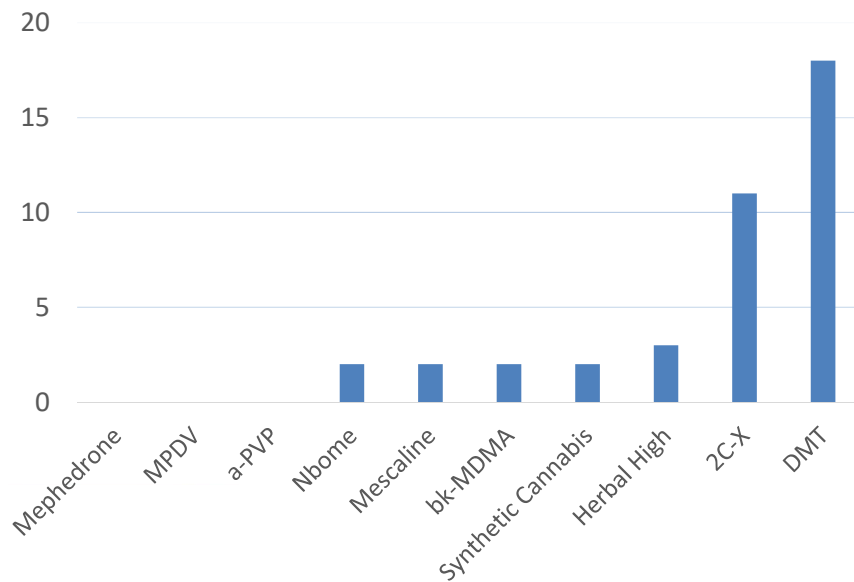


## Surveys: EDRS

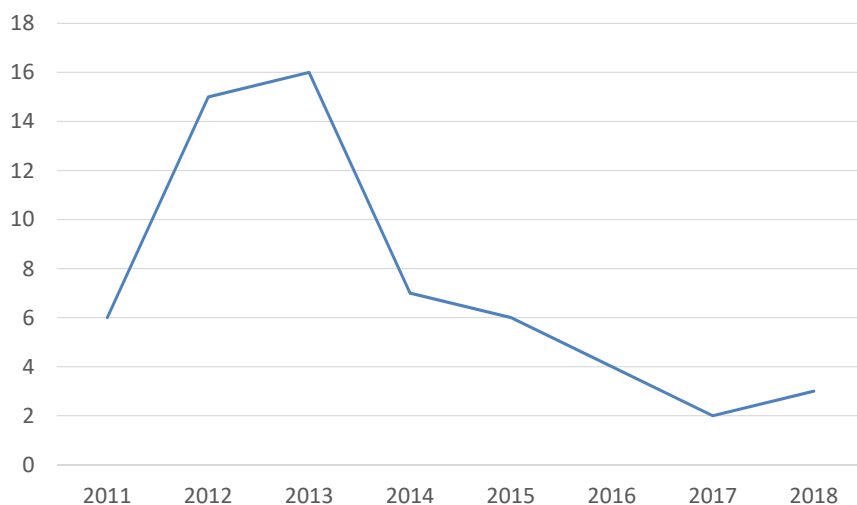
Number of participants reporting NPS use:



## Surveys: EDRS 2018



## Synthetic Cannabis (EDRS)



## Rogue Researchers

### DRUG TESTING AND ANALYSIS

RESEARCH ARTICLE | [Free Access](#)

#### Synthesis and pharmacology of new psychoactive substance 5F-CUMYL-P7AICA, a scaffold-hopping analog of synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists 5F-CUMYL-PICA and 5F-CUMYL-PINACA

Samuel D. Banister , Axel Adams, Richard C. Kevin, Christa Macdonald, Michelle Glass, Rochelle Boyd, Mark Connor, Iain S. McGregor, Christopher M. Havel, Stephen J. Bright, Mirela Ventura Vilamala, Cristina Gil Lladanosa, Monica J. Barratt, Roy R. Gerona ... [See fewer authors](#)

First published: 27 August 2018 | <https://doi-org.ezproxy.ecu.edu.au/10.1002/dta.2491> | Cited by: 1

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#### Abstract

Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs) are a dynamic class of new psychoactive substances (NPS), with novel chemotypes emerging each year. Following the putative detection of 5F-CUMYL-P7AICA in Australia in 2016, the scaffold-hopping SCRAs 5F-CUMYL-PICA, 5F-CUMYL-PINACA, and 5F-CUMYL-P7AICA were synthesized and characterized by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), and liquid chromatography-quadrupole



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## Mix of 25C-NBOMe, 4-FA and MDMA sold as MDMA in Melbourne, Australia

by Tronica

Published on 03-02-2017 07:50

24 Comments

On the weekend 15-16 January 2017, there was a [spate of poisonings, hospitalisations and deaths](#) that have been associated a batch of capsules that were reportedly sold as MDMA or Ecstasy. Punters at [Revolver nightclub](#) and [other clubs on Melbourne's Chapel Street](#) were affected.

The contents of these caps appeared damp, more like a brown sugar consistency than crystals or powder.

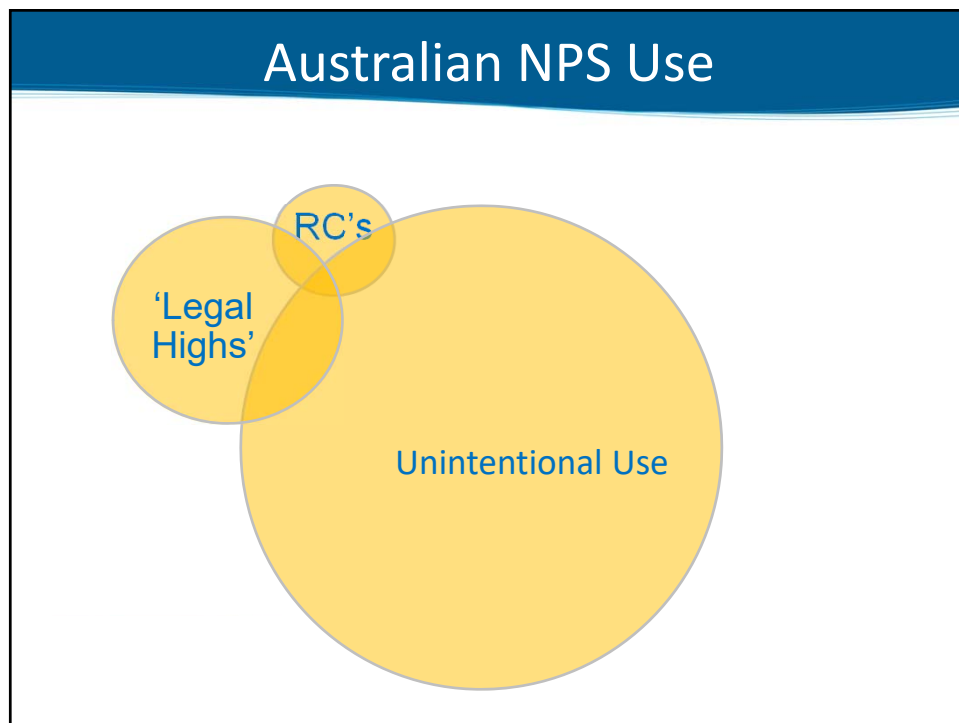


## Wastewater Analysis + Forensic Toxicology

NPS family	Compound	Jun-12	Aug-12	Oct-12	Dec-12	Feb-13	Apr-13	Jun-13	Aug-13	Oct-13	Dec-13	Feb-14	Apr-14	Jun-14
Cannabinoids	AB-CHMINACA													
	NM-2201													
	Alpha-PVP													
	Ethylone													
Cathinones	MDPV													
	Mephedrone													
	Methcathinone													
	Methylone													
	N-ethylpentylone													
	Pentylone													
Fentanyl derivatives	Acetyl Fentanyl													
	Furanylfentanyl													
	Ocfentanil													
	P-Fluorobutrylfentanyl													
Phenethylamine	25B-NBOMe													
	25H-NBOMe													
	25I-NBOMe													
	5-APB													
Piperazine	5-EAPB													
	BZP													
	TFMPP													

Bade, R., Stockham, P., Painter, B., Celma, A., Bijlsma, L., Hernandez, F., ... & Gerber, C. (2018). Investigating the appearance of new psychoactive substances in South Australia using wastewater and forensic data. *Drug testing and analysis*. [Early Online]

NPS family	Compound	Feb-15	Apr-15	Jun-15	Aug-15	Oct-15	Dec-15	Feb-16	Apr-16	Jun-16	Aug-16	Oct-16	Dec-16
Cannabinoids	AB-CHMINACA												
	NM-2201												
Cathinones	Alpha PVP												
	Ethylone												
	MDPV												
	Mephedrone												
	Methcathinone												
	Methylone												
	N-ethylpentylone												
	Pentylone <sup>a</sup>												
	Acetyl Fentanyl												
	Furanylfentanyl												
Fentanyl derivatives	Ocfentanil												
	P-Fluorobutrylfentanyl												
	25B-NBOMe												
	25H-NBOMe*												
Phenethylamine	25I-NBOMe												
	5-APB												
	5-EAPB												
Piperazine	BZP												
	TFMPP												
Other	MDA												
	U-47700												
	Methylhexanamine												

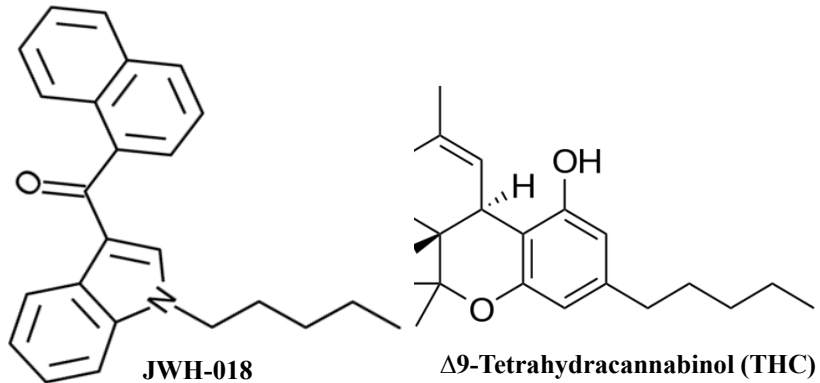




## Synthetic Cannabinoid Agonists

2005: Spice emerged in UK

2009: Chemical in Spice identified



## Kronic

2011: Kronic emerged as a new drug in Australia

Produced in New Zealand



## First Legislative Action

WA government banned 7 synthetic cannabinoid agonists in June 2011:

- JWH-018
- JWH-073
- JWH-122
- JWH-200
- JWH-250
- CP 47,497
- The C8 Homologue of CP 47,497



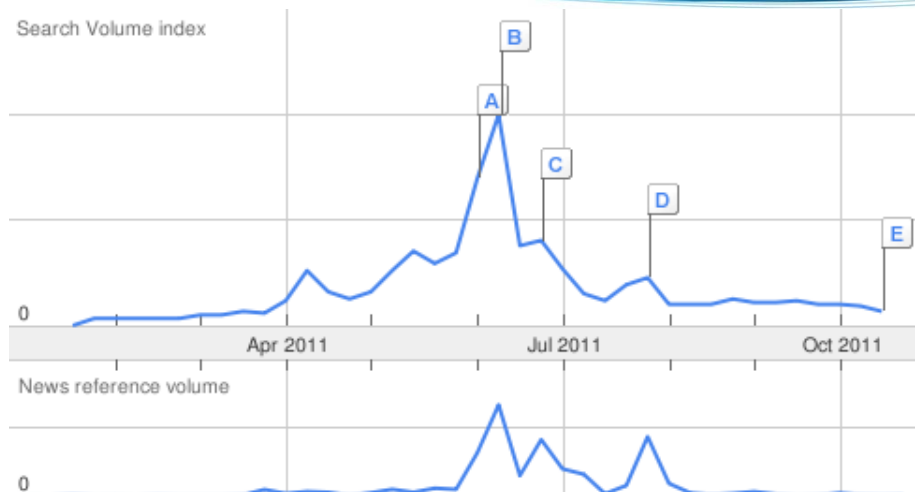
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## Google Trends: “Kronic” Searches



Bright, S. J., Bishop, B., Kane, R., Marsh, A., Barratt, M. J. (2013). Kronic hysteria: Exploring the intersection between Australian synthetic cannabis legislation, the media, and drug-related harm. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 24, 231-237.



# Smoke 'em up Party

## ABC News

### Perth police close down kronic parties

Posted June 17, 2011 12:25:00

**Police have defended their decision to stop two Perth venues from hosting parties for users of the synthetic cannabis kronic overnight.**

Kronic users were planning to gather at the The Bakery in Northbridge before the State Government's ban on kronic came into effect at midnight.

However, police shut down the venue just hours before the event was due to start.

A second event was then organised at a hotel in Inglewood but this was also cancelled after police intervention.

Assistant Police Commissioner Michelle Fyfe has told the ABC's morning program that police have a responsibility to ensure public safety.

"So it [the party] was about encouraging people to come along and binge smoke and drink," she said.

**LEGAL WEED**

**Kronic**  
High? How are you.

Home Products/Accessories Reviews High Times Safety/Legal Wholesale/Stockists

Overnight delivery for NZ

Total Cost \$0 CHECK OUT

View Your Shopping Cart

Register Login

NZ Made

Discreet delivery

**100% Aussie Legal Kronic Now Available!**

**BLACK LABEL** – our new, 100% legal blend. You've been calling for it, and we've delivered – in response to demand, we've developed a new custom blend of Kronic for the Australian market. Containing no banned substances, the latest in our line of premium, home-grown smoking blends will deliver you a smooth, haze-filled blaze. The height of innovation, Black Label combines a fruity tropical flavour with a smooth long-lasting duration.

Its delicious flavour and aromatic quality makes it the perfect smoke for those looking to have some haze-filled fun and the long lasting impact is made to satisfy. With all our products, we recommend starting slow – just a few tokes, and letting the effect come to you – with Black Label, we assure you it will.

With a long lasting duration and that Kronic feel you know and love, Black Label is the perfect way to smoke up, take up and take life a little less seriously.

**Retail price:**  
1gram – \$29.95  
3gram – \$69.95

**Top Sellers**

SKUNK Oz (28 gram)  
Price: NZ\$19995  
ADD TO CART

PURPLE HAZE (3 gram)  
Price: NZ\$2995  
ADD TO CART

TROPICAL EXPLOSION Quarter Oz (17 gram)  
Price: NZ\$9995  
ADD TO CART

**The Mile High Club**

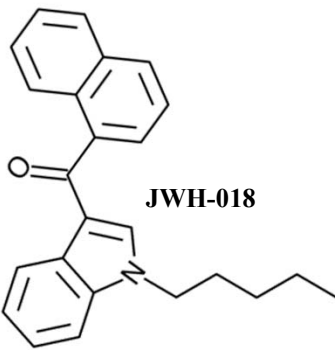
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Join Today

Free Monthly

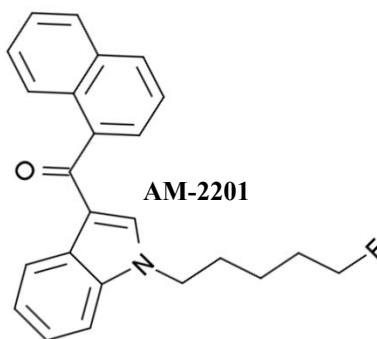
Earn Cash

**Ounces \$250 (Save \$149.95) 100 Grams \$600 (Save \$400)**


## New Chemicals




**JWH-018**




**AM-2201**



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**ECU**  
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY



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## Further Legislative Actions

### Federal:

- 2011: 7 individual chemicals
- 2012: Broad groups + “Synthetic Cannabinomimetics”
- 2013: Consumer law (banned brands)

### State:

- 2013: QLQ (everything)
- 2013: NSW (Anything with a Psychoactive Effect)
- 2013: SA (Similar Pharmacological effect)



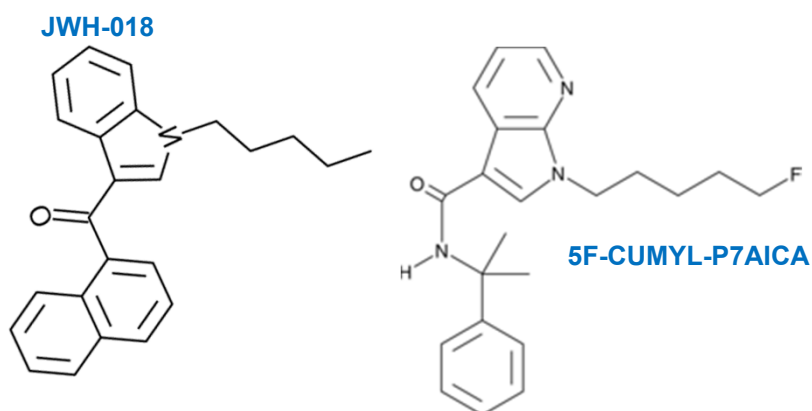
New  
Local  
“Kronic”







## Synthetic Cannabis (circa Nov 2016)



Banister, S., Adams, A., Kevin, R., Macdonald, C., Glass, M., Boyd, R., Connor, M., McGregor, I., Havel, C., Bright, S., Ventura, M., Gil, C., Barratt, M., & Gerona, R. (2019). Synthesis and pharmacology of synthetic cannabinoid 5F-CUMYL-P7AICA, a scaffold hopping analogue of 5F-CUMYL-PICA and 5F-CUMYL-PINACA. *Drug Testing and Analysis*. 11, 279-291

## Further Legislative Actions

### Federal:

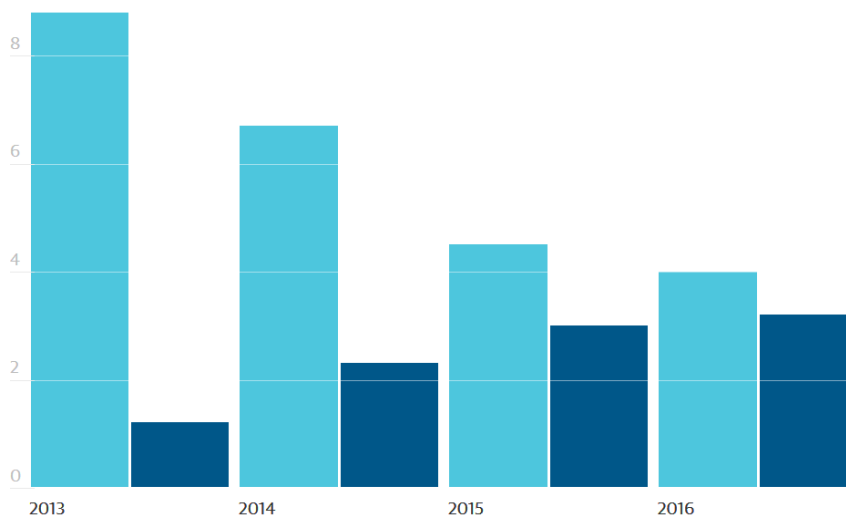
- 2011: 7 individual chemicals
- 2012: Broad groups + “Synthetic Cannabinomimetics”
- 2013: Consumer law (banned brands)
- 2015: Anything with a Psychoactive Effect

### State:

- 2013: QLQ (everything)
- 2013: NSW (Anything with a Psychoactive Effect)
- 2013: SA (Similar Pharmacological effect)
- 2016: WA (Anything with a Psychoactive Effect)
- 2017: VIC (Anything with a Psychoactive Effect)

## Harms (Australian 2016 GDS data)

■ % purchased 'legal highs' in last 12 months  
■ % sought emergency medical treatment in last 12 months due to 'legal highs'



## Synthetic Cannabis - Epidemiology

93% of Australian's would prefer to smoke natural cannabis to synthetic cannabis

Of those who preferred it to natural Cannabis, why did they prefer it?

- More intense effect & shorter duration (58%)
- Easier to get than cannabis (19%)
- Avoid Urine Screens (15%)

(Winstock & Barratt, 2015)

What about those who were smoking that didn't prefer it to natural cannabis?



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## Synthetic Cannabis - Epidemiology

### Drug testing (specific populations)

Military personnel (for review, see Loeffler et al., 2012)

Mental health patients (Every-Palmer, 2010)

-Perceived to be safer than cannabis

Parolees (Hopkins & Gilchrist, 2013; Perrone et al., 2012)

Family Court

### Unable to access natural Cannabis



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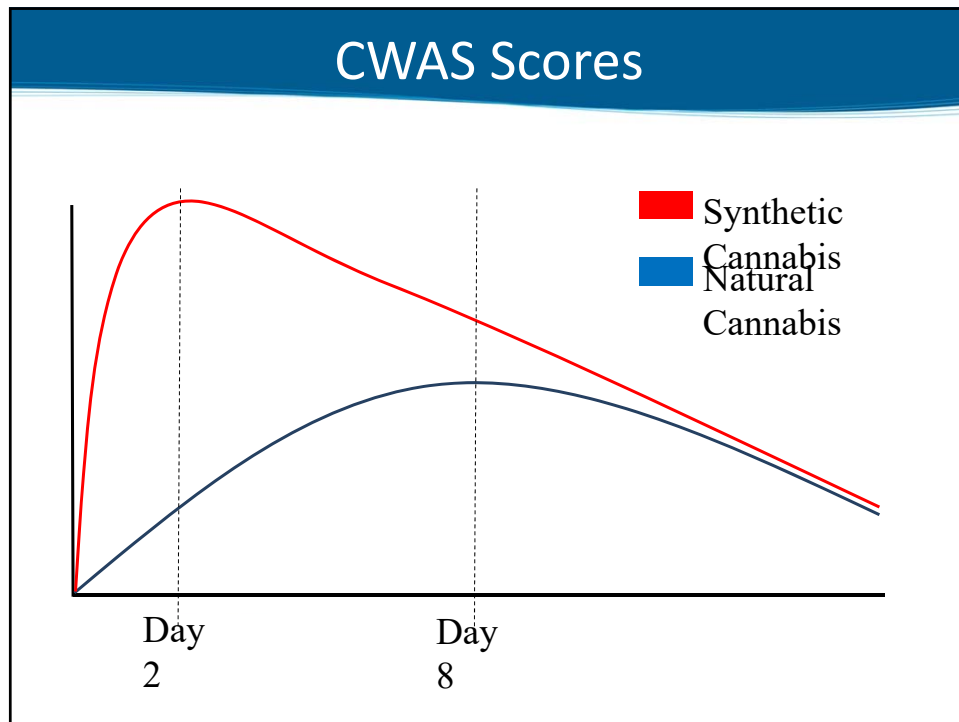
## Synthetic Cannabis Withdrawal

More complex than natural cannabis



## Synthetic Cannabis Withdrawal

- More complex than natural cannabis
- More acute and severe than natural cannabis
  - CWAS scores peak at 2 days (cf 7 – 10 days)  
(Macfarlane & Chrisite, 2015)



### Synthetic Cannabis Withdrawal

- More complex than natural cannabis
- More acute and severe than natural cannabis
  - CWAS scores peak at 2 days (cf 7 – 10 days)
  - Cases of psychosis and seizures

(e.g., Nacca et al., 2013)

- Consider the possibility of in-patient withdrawal
  - Inpatient Rx was deemed necessary for 53% of people seeking community treatment in NZ

(Macfarlane & Chrisite, 2015)

## Intoxication/Withdrawal Symptoms

Cognitive	Confusion, disorganised thought, memory problems, difficulty thinking clearly
Behavioural	Agitation, restlessness, <u>aggression</u>
Mood Affect	Anxiety, <u>irritability</u> , inappropriate laughter
Sensory Perceptual	Paranoia, perception distortions, delusions, hallucinations, <u>psychosis</u>
Physical	Tachycardia, hypertension, <u>nausea</u> , <u>vomiting</u> , tremors, numbness, tingling, light-headedness, <u>seizures</u>

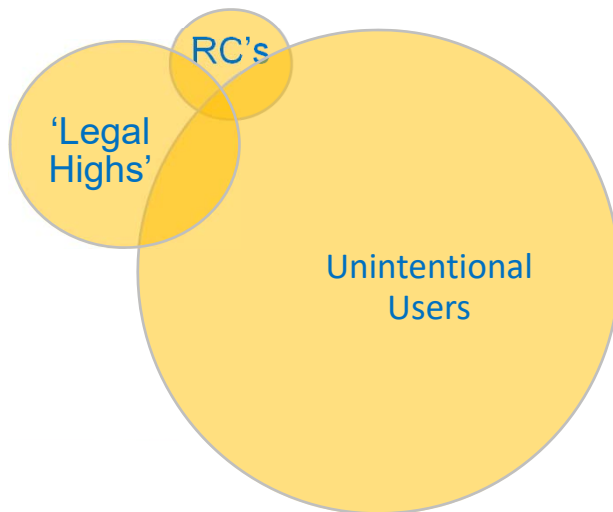
## Treatment Guidelines

Treatment recommendations similar to cannabis:

1. in acute setting, treat Sx (e.g., benzodiazepines for anxiety)
2. most Sx will resolve spontaneously
3. some with previously diagnosed psychotic disorders may not resolve as quickly
4. no specific treatments developed for chronic use/withdrawal, treat symptomatically

(Castellanos & Thornton, 2012)

## Australian NPS Users



## Possible Unintentional Consumption

### Ketamine

Methoxetamine  
3-Meo-PCP

### Heroin

Acetyl-fentanyl (10x)  
MT-41 (hearing loss)  
4FIB-fentanyl (4FIBF)  
U47700  
**W-18 (?10,000)**

**\*\*Carfentanil\*\***

### MDMA

BK-MDMA  
Mephedrone  
2C-B, 2C-I

### **MDPV**

**PMA**

### LSD

2C-E  
**DOM, DOB, DOI**  
**NBOMe series**

## Other scary stuff...

### Alprazolam - 500mg

500mg of pure imported alprazolam. Includes express post. Inform yourself on proper safety and dosing before handling this product. This product is usually dissolved into a propylene glycol solution. You should avoid eyeballing your dose in the powder form as you may easily consume too much and end up sick or over-sleeping. Submit your ENTIRE ADDRESS IN CAPITAL LETTERS in the following f...

Sold by **Dimercurio** - 85 sold since Aug 26, 2015

Vendor Level 7

Trust Level 5

Features		Features	
Product class	Physical package	Origin country	Australia
Quantity left	Unlimited	Ships to	Australia
Ends in	Never	Payment	Escrow

Express Post - 2 days - AUD +0.00 / item

Purchase price: AUD 250.07

Qty: 1

Buy Now

Queue

0.3149 BTC



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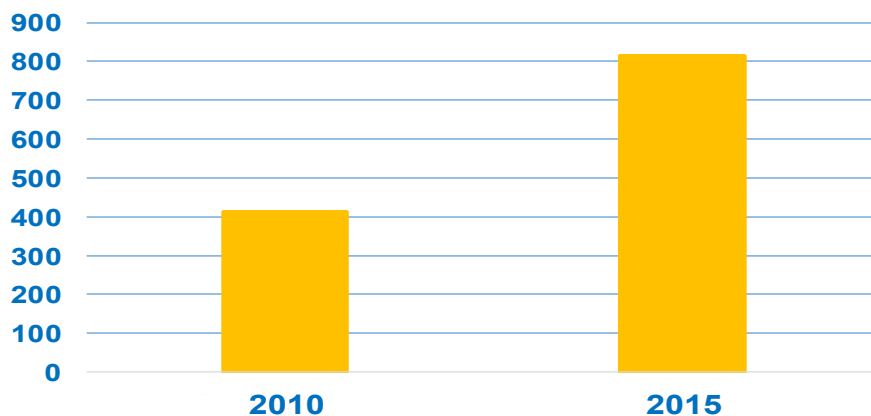


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## Unintentional Use

Ecstasy-related presentations at NSW hospitals practically doubled in the past six years



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## Clinical signs and Sx

### Acute settings

**Presentation:** Ataxia, Tachycardia, Arrhythmia, Hypertension, Hyperthermia, Rhabdomyolysis, Kidney Failure, Nausea, Anxiety, Agitation, Confusion, and Paranoia.

### **Assessment**

- Lab results?
- Clinical presentation & careful questioning

**Treatment:** Symptomatic

- Benzo (not beta-blockers), Antipsychotics, Cooling, IV Saline

## Assessment

The primary drug of choice that the person is presenting for may not be the most likely to cause them harm

- conversation around other drugs the person is using

The person's primary drug of choice may contain new and novel drugs that could cause harm

- conversation about new and emerging "adulterants" they may be unintentionally ingesting

Psychoeducation

Just Say No to  
Drugs



Psychoeducation

Just Say  
Know to  
Drugs



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# Psychoeducation - PEPE

## Permission

- *Implied when person asks for advice or you receive consent to provide information*
- *'What do you know about ecstasy? Would you like to know some more?'*

## Elicit

- *'What would you most like to know about?'*
- *'How much do you know about...?'*

## Provide

- *'Did you know that there are new dangerous chemicals being sold as ecstasy in Australia?'*

## Elicit

- *'What do you think of this information?'*





# Psychoactive Chemicals

Psychoactive Chemicals are chemicals which have mind- or emotion-altering properties. These chemicals range from the common to the extremely uncommon and include chemicals with a long history of use as well as those with little to no track record.




NAME	OTHER NAMES	EFFECTS
<a href="#">ABSINTHE</a>	Green Fairy	-
<a href="#">ACETYLFENTANYL</a>	-	Pain Killer
<a href="#">ADRENOCHROME</a>	Pink adrenaline	-
<a href="#">AET</a>	-	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">ALCOHOL</a>	Beer, Wine, Liquor	Depressant
<a href="#">alpha-PVP</a>	Flakka, Gravel	Euphoric Stimulant
<a href="#">AMITRIPTYLINE</a>	Elavil	Anti-depressant; Sedative
<a href="#">AMPHETAMINE</a>	Speed	Stimulant
<a href="#">AMT</a>	IT-290	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">AYAHUASCA</a>	Yage	Psychedelic Brew
<a href="#">BARBITURATES</a>	-	Depressant
<a href="#">BK-MBDB</a>	-	Euphoric Empathogen
<a href="#">BROMO-DRAGONFLY</a>	3C-Bromo-Dragonfly	Psychedelic Phenethylamine
<a href="#">BUFOTENIN</a>	Toad Venom, 5-Hydroxy-DMT	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">BZ</a>	-	Anti-cholinergic Psychedelic
<a href="#">BZP</a>	Piperazine, A2	Stimulant
<a href="#">CAFFEINE</a>	Coffee, Tea	Stimulant

<a href="#">DET</a>	-	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">DIPT</a>	-	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">DMT</a>	Dimitri	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">DOB</a>	Bob, Dr. Bob	Psychedelic Phenethylamine
<a href="#">DOC</a>	-	Psychedelic Phenethylamine
<a href="#">DOI</a>	-	Psychedelic Phenethylamine
<a href="#">DOM</a>	STP	Psychedelic Phenethylamine
<a href="#">DPT</a>	-	Psychedelic Tryptamine
<a href="#">DXM</a>	Robo, Tussin	Dissociative, Cough Suppressant
<a href="#">EPHEDRINE</a>	Mini Thins	Stimulant
<a href="#">ETHER</a>	-	Anaesthetic Gas
<a href="#">ETHYL CATHINONE</a>	ethyl cat	Stimulant
<a href="#">ETHYLENE</a>	-	Anaesthetic Gas
<a href="#">ETHYLPHENIDATE</a>	-	Stimulant
<a href="#">GHB</a>	G	Depressant
<a href="#">GHV</a>	-	Depressant
<a href="#">HARMALA</a>	Haoma, Harmine, Harmaline	MAOI
<a href="#">HEROIN</a>	Horse	Opiate
<a href="#">HYPOCRETIN</a>	Orexins	Hormone
<a href="#">IAP</a>	-	Psychedelic Amphetamine
<a href="#">IBOGAINE</a>	-	Psychedelic
<a href="#">INHALANTS</a>	-	-
<a href="#">KETAMINE</a>	K, Special K	Dissociative, Anaesthetic
<a href="#">LSA</a>	LAA, LA -111, Lysergamide, Ergine	Psychedelic
<a href="#">LSD</a>	Acid, L	Psychedelic
<a href="#">LSZ</a>	-	Psychedelic
<a href="#">MAOIs</a>	-	-
<a href="#">MBDB</a>	Eden, Methyl-J	Psychedelic Amphetamine
<a href="#">mCPP</a>	CPP, 3-CPP	Stimulant

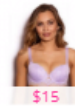
## Where not to get information...

The Daily Telegraph

Search 



\$34.99



\$15



\$15



NEWS

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WOR

# Health warning issued over new Monkey Dust drug

Authorities have issued a health warning over a new recreational drug appearing on the market called Monkey Dust. The drug, which is often sold as ecstasy at festivals, is a cheap version of bath salts and has hallucinogenic effects on its users. The Australian Federal Police say there were 4.5 kilograms of the drug seized last year, which would be enough for half a million doses to be sold on the streets.



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## Media moral panic over 'Monkey Dust' (again)

Posted on January 15, 2019 by



### MOST RECENT ARTICLES

Two tales of a Perth festival

Harm reduction does not promote drug use

Media moral panic over 'Monkey Dust' (again)

Attack of the 50-foot ice queens

Fear mongering nitrous oxide is no laughing matter

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# Harm Reduction for NPS

When trying a new tab, pill, or powder:

Never be the first person in your group to use

Always start off small:

- Your first dose should only be a ¼ dose
- Wait for at least 90-120 minutes before re-dosing

Only use one drug at a time

Never use alone – always use with someone who can provide support if needed

Use in a safe and familiar place

Don't drive, swim, play with knives or engage in other risky activities while under the influence of a drug



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# Reagent Testing

## THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour. Journalistic flair.

Q. Search analysis, research, academics.

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### While law makers squabble over pill testing, people should test their drugs at home

January 9, 2019 9:12am AEST Updated January 10, 2019 10:17am AEST

Reagent test kits are not as effective as specialist testing. But it's better than nothing. [From www.thconversation.com](#)

Email  
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LinkedIn  
Print

As the festival season ramps up this summer, so has the ecstasy death toll. There have now been five suspected drug-related deaths that might have been preventable if people knew what was in the drugs they were taking.

This has led to a flurry of calls for governments to introduce pill testing by specialists at festivals. What many people might not know is they can already legally purchase reagent test kits to test their drugs at home (although possession of the drugs is still illegal). So, do at-home test kits work?

Author



Stephen Bright  
Senior Lecturer of Addiction, Edith Cowan University

Disclosure statement

Stephen Bright does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or

# Reagent Testing

## What is it?

- Presumptive test
- Can not provide quantitative information
- Not 100% accurate but better than nothing
- Negative results are more useful than positive results



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PRISM is an independent non-profit research association

## NBOMe



## Pill Testing/Drug Checking

# Ecstasy pill tests 'will save lives', says Perth researcher

Josh Zimmerman | PerthNow  
November 5, 2017 12:00AM

SECRET, unauthorised pill testing by a Perth researcher at a music festival last summer found 99 per cent of users chose to bin their drugs when told they contained unknown substances.

In an indication of the life-saving potential of pill testing, subsequent laboratory analysis of some of the discarded drugs detected the presence of the deadly NBOMe adulterant, a powerful psychedelic hallucinogen linked to three deaths and 20 hospitalisations at nightclubs on Melbourne's Chapel Street.

**NEWS**  
LOCATION: Perth, WA [Change](#)

SUNDAY  
29°C  
MIN 19°  
Currently 24°  
Feels like 24°  
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### Pill testing trial for Groovin the Moo given go-ahead after spate of festival deaths

By [Elise Scott](#) and [Jordan Hayne](#)  
Updated 19 Feb 2019, 6:13am



  
More Health News

At 14, Lolita's wish was for ... a uterus. A transplant from her sister made her dream come true

'Clumsy or inept or too small': How women are hurt by technology built for men

How a DIY alternative to pap smears could help end cervical cancer

**TOP STORIES**

- Meet the men who got paid while Nant Whisky investors lost millions
- After years of budget blows, relief is in sight for WA households
- A tale of two rooms: How racial segregation was exposed at an Australian hotel
- 'There's no lung left': Man told he's going to die by doctor on robot video
- A sister lost to suicide, pregnant

## Resources - Twitter

@stephenjbright  
@Erowid  
@ACTINOSproject  
@GlobalDrugSurvy  
@EMCDDA  
@monicabarratt  
@AODMediaWatch  
@....



## Thank You



Bright, S. (2013). *New and Emerging Drugs: What do clinicians, allied health & youth workers need to know?* Melbourne, Australia: Australian Drug Foundation

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## Further info



For video recording and handouts of this webinar, visit <https://sydney.edu.au/research/centres/matilda-centre.html> and click on 'Workforce Training'



To complete CPD assessment (available until 3 October 2019): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLG6XMP>



### **Next Webinar**

**Tuesday 28 May 2019, 7.30pm**  
*Motivational interviewing*

**Register:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0ldUyrowSqq-KgA9mwU4-Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0ldUyrowSqq-KgA9mwU4-Q)