

Re National Pharmacotherapy Drug Misuse Strategy submission

Just a few ideas provided as an individual.

My two biggest recommendations, with credit due to Tasmania, are:

- A) The Tasmanian system for real-time online monitoring of S8 opiate medication plus Alprazolam is to be commended. A national system covering addictive substances would be highly desirable.
- B) The reclassification of the benzodiazepine Alprazolam as requiring a permit after 2 months use.

The huge problem of prescription drug misuse has been running rampant for ages.

In the longer-term, the above measures should lead to the saving of many millions of dollars across many government sectors.

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Also:

Encouragement is essential for provision of pharmacotherapy treatment for opioid dependence, namely Methadone and Buprenorphine.

There are now national training modules available for new pharmacotherapy prescribers.

In particular, there should be provision for mentoring by other doctors for those who complete new prescriber training.

Victoria is one state where the lack of specialist addiction medicine positions and training posts in the public sector is glaringly obvious.

An increase would be desirable to support the community-based GP's.