

16 January 2019



Professor Dan Howard SC  
Commissioner  
Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug Ice  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001  
E: tracey.howe@cso.nsw.gov.au

**Subject: Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice' – limited consultation under the terms of reference.**

Dear Professor Howard,

The Mental Health Coordinating Council (MHCC) thanks the Special Commission of Inquiry for inviting us to participate in the matters under review.

We have a few preliminary comments for your consideration:

Firstly we recommend that the Expert Advisory Panel also include:-

- At least two members with lived experience represented by appropriate consumer/carer peak organisations
- At least one member with expertise on mental health, co-existing conditions and substance use
- At least one member with expertise in trauma and substance misuse
- At least one member with expertise on cultural diversity; youth specific concerns re use of ICE and other substance misuse

We also propose the language of substance use/misuse as preferable to drug addiction.

The ToR refers mainly to responses to ICE use. We suggest that prevention should be emphasised as part of the educational component – i.e. investigating new evidence-based, targeted communication activities to prevent the uptake of ice as well as encourage individuals and families to seek early support, information and interventions.

We thank you for your interest in our perspectives on this important issue for the mental health and alcohol and drug sectors and express our willingness to be consulted at any time in the future.

MHCC together with the Network of Alcohol and other Drugs Agencies (NADA) facilitates the Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Research Network ([CMHDARN](#)) a partnership project between MHCC, NADA and the Mental Health Commission of NSW. CMHDARN was established in 2010 to broaden involvement of the community mental health and alcohol and other drugs sectors in practice-based research and to promote the value of research and the use of research evidence in practice. Its overall aim is to improve the quality of service delivery and correspondingly, the outcomes for consumers of community-managed services, and promote increased understanding and awareness of co-existing mental health and alcohol and other drugs issues.

The network has a large number of members many of whom are research academics and service professionals with an interest in the development of a culture of research by providing opportunities for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of resources, support and collaboration between community organisations, research bodies and universities. We are happy to communicate the activities of the Special Commission of Inquiry through our various channels (website, FYIs, newsletters etc) as you may deem useful as part of your consultation process.

For any further information about this letter please contact: Corinne Henderson, Principal Advisor/ Policy & Legislative Reform at [corinne@mhcc.org.au](mailto:corinne@mhcc.org.au) or (02) 9555 8388 #101

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carmel Tebbutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmel" and the last name "Tebbutt" clearly distinguishable.

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