

## Questions for Dr Terry Goldsworthy

- **To what extent are traditional organised crime groups involved in the production, supply and use of methamphetamines, and particularly ‘ice’?**

The amphetamine-type stimulants market is a large illicit drug market in Australia, with high levels of organised crime involvement in the importation, manufacture and distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants throughout Australia.

Amphetamine-type stimulants are a group of psycho-stimulant substances, including amphetamine, methylamphetamine and phenethylamines. Amphetamine-type stimulants increase dopamine levels in the brain, producing intense euphoria.

The **three main types** of amphetamine-type stimulants are:

Common names	Medical or chemical name	Form	Route of administration
Speed, whiz, uppers, goey, louee, dexies, pep pills	Amphetamine (Sulphate) Dexamphetamine	Powder, tablet or capsule, paste, liquid	Snorted, swallowed, injected
Meth, speed, whiz, base (paste form)	Methamphetamine or Methylamphetamine	Powder, oil or paste	Snorted, swallowed, injected, smoked
Crystal meth, ice, d-meth, glass, crystal, batu, shabu	Methamphetamine hydrochloride	Crystalline powder or crystals	Smoked, swallowed, injected, snorted

### Extent

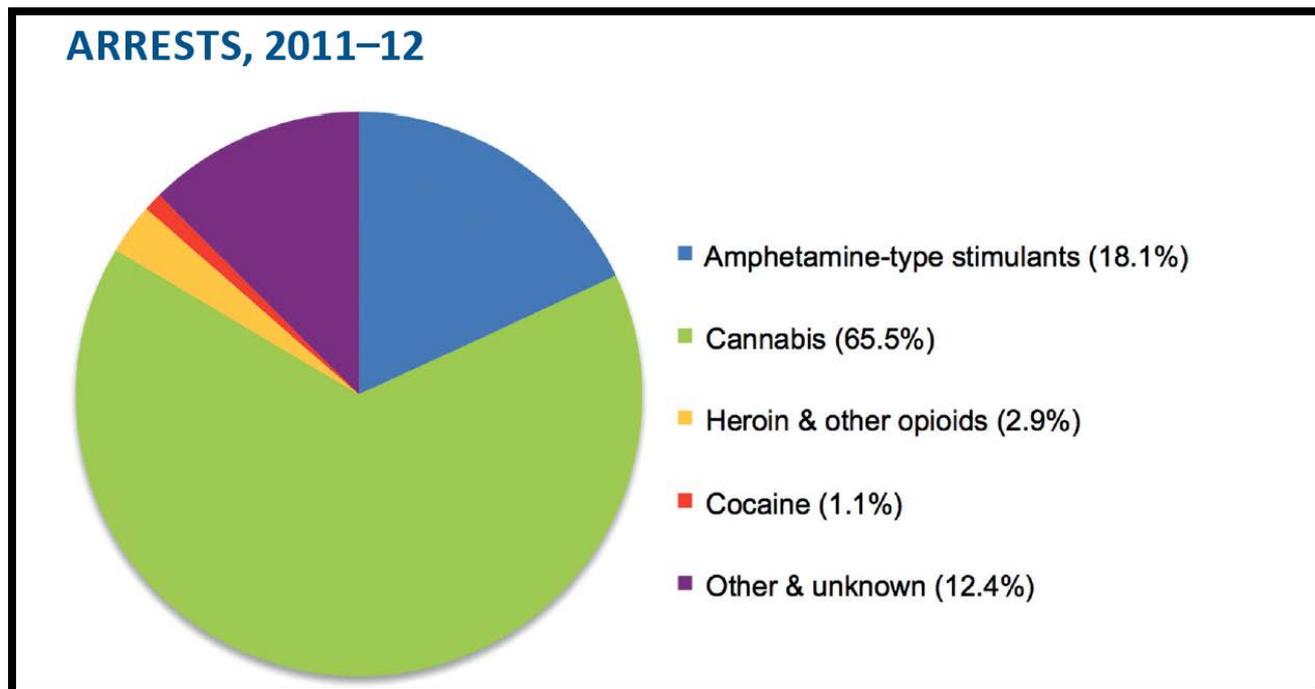
The Illicit Drug Data Report 2011–12 found:

- **both the number and weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detections at the Australian border increased and are the highest reported in the last decade**
- while the weight of MDMA detected at the Australian border remains low, the number of detections increased by 761 per cent and is the highest reported in the last decade
- The number of national ATS seizures increased by 35.5 per cent, from 11212 in 2010–11 to 15191 in 2011–12 and is the highest reported in the last decade.
- the weight of national ATS seizures increased by 55.9 per cent
- the number of national ATS arrests increased to 16828 and is the highest reported in the last decade. (perhaps note rise of steroids)

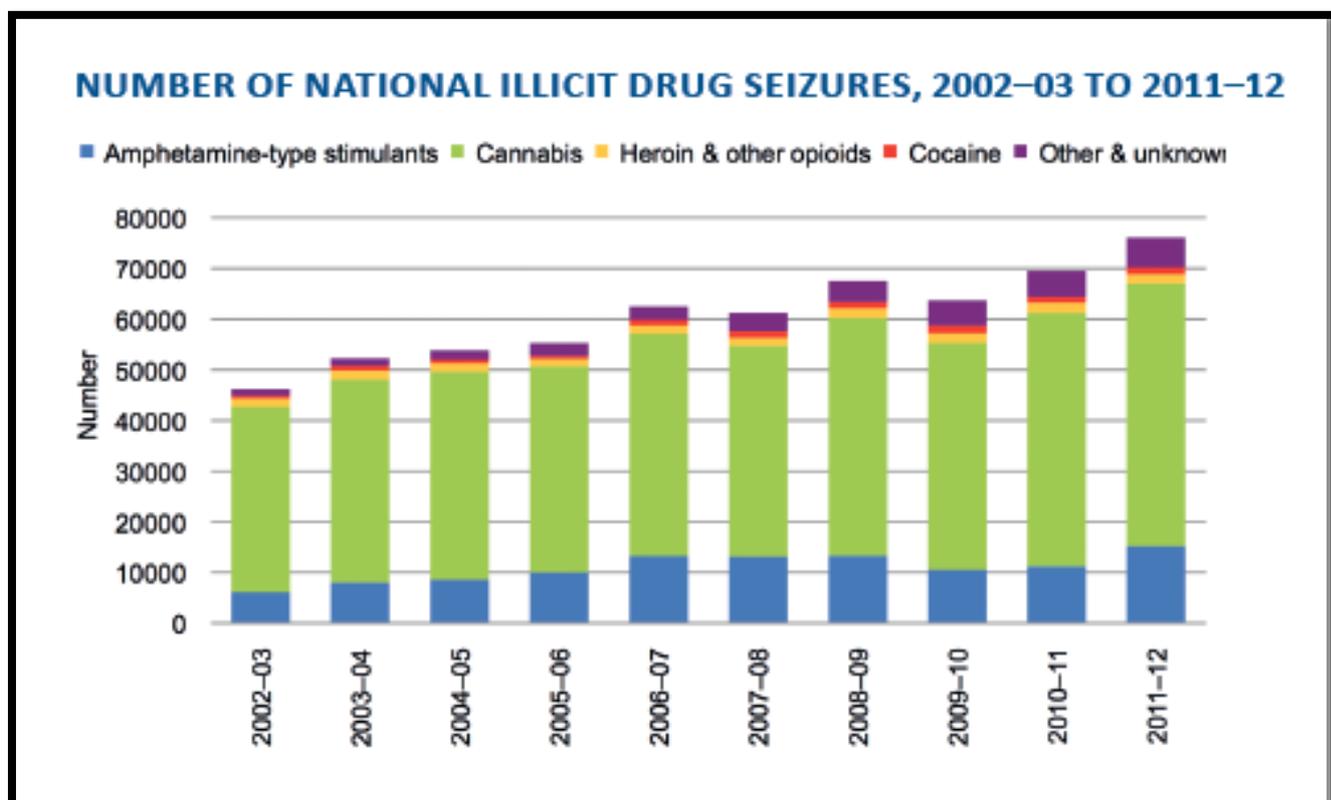
### Domestic Market Indicators

Of the recorded 809 clandestine laboratories detected in 2011–12, the majority were identified as producing ATS (excluding MDMA). The number of MDMA laboratories detected decreased considerably, from 16 in 2010–11 to 2 in 2011–12.

## National drug arrests



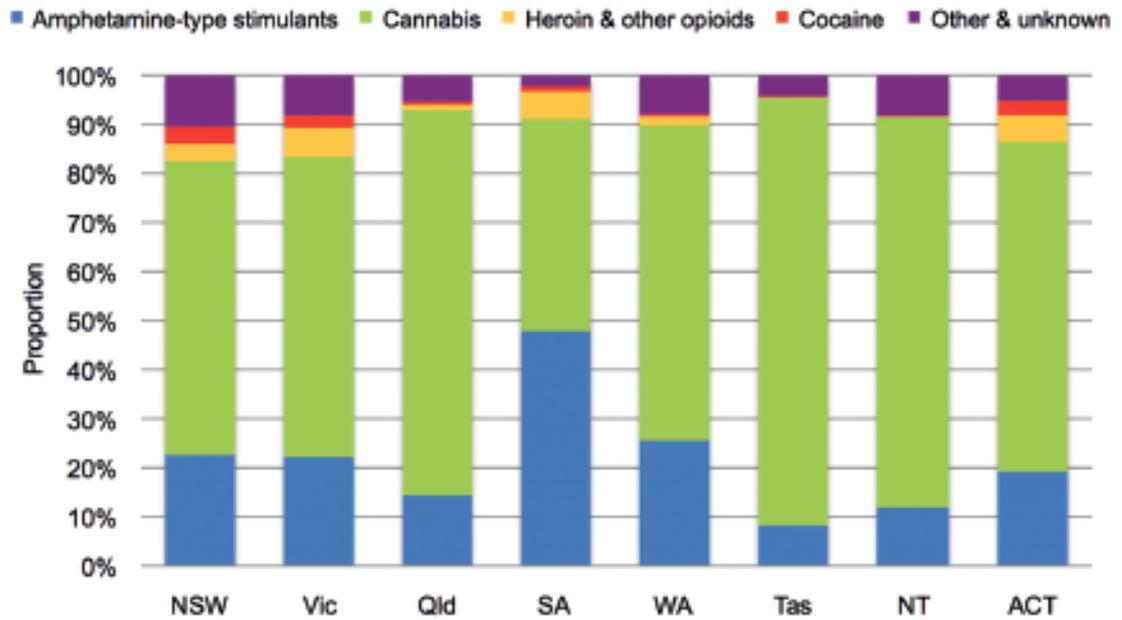
## AMPHETAMINE SEIZURES



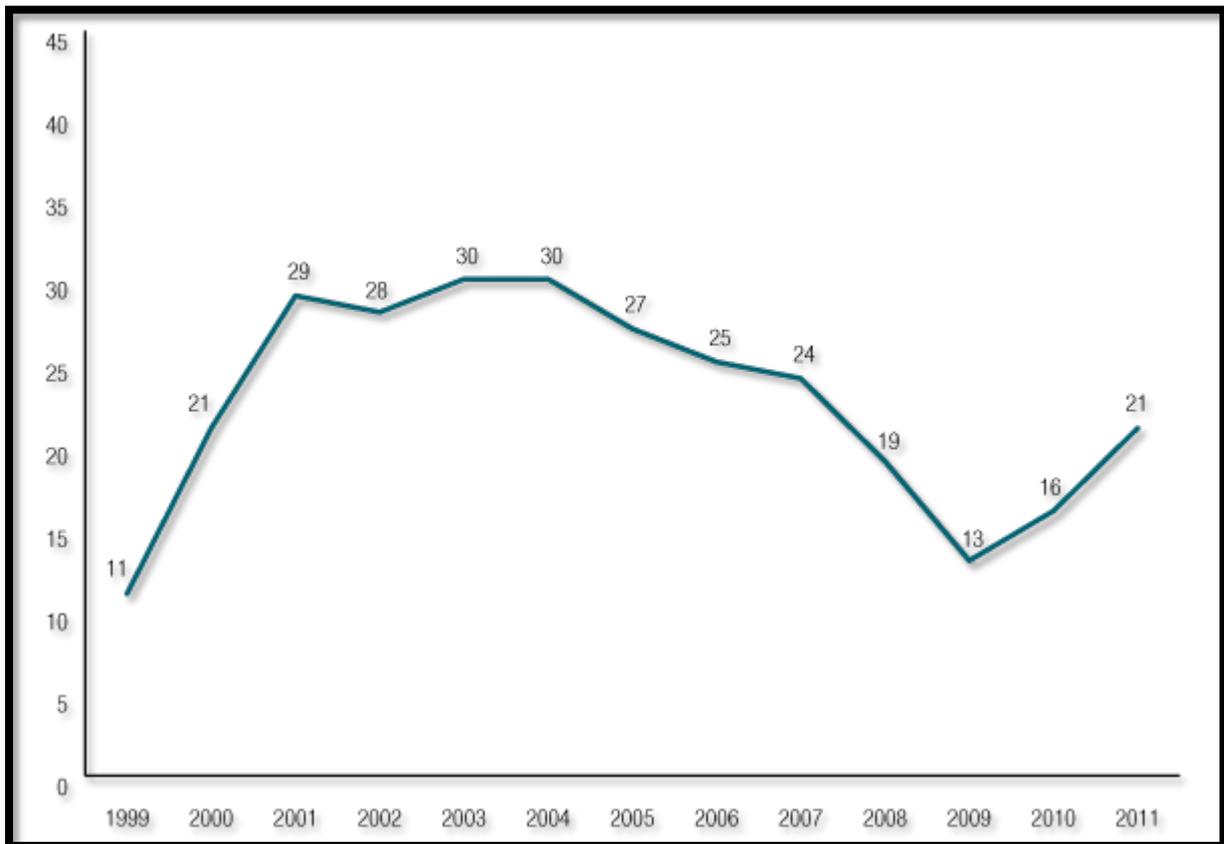
Over the last decade, ATS seizure numbers have remained second only to cannabis, accounting for 20 per cent of national illicit drug seizures in 2011–12.

In Victoria, 5.9 per cent of all illicit drug seizures were related to heroin and other

### NUMBER OF ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURES, AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL SEIZURES, BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2011–12



opioids, the highest proportion reported by any state or territory in 2011–12.



The annual results, aggregated across all sites, show that methamphetamine use by police detainees rates of use have increased to 16 percent in 2010 and then to 21 percent in 2011, based on data from the first three quarters

## AMPHETAMINES USAGE TRENDS

According to the 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey, the proportion of the Australian population aged 14 years or older reporting recent meth/amphetamines use continued to decrease, from 2.3 per cent in 2007 to 2.1 per cent in 2010.<sup>16</sup>

According to the National Drug Strategy Household Survey, in 2010:

- 7.0% of Australians aged over 14 years had used amphetamines at some stage in their life.
  - Compare the above to cocaine 7.3%, cannabis 35%, MDMA 10%, heroin 1.4%
  - 2.1% had used them in the previous 12 months.
  - The average age at which Australians first tried amphetamines was 20.9 years.
- See more at: <http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/topics/quick-statistics#amphetamines>

- **To what extent are outlaw motor cycle gangs involved in the production and supply methamphetamines, and particularly 'ice' in Australia?**

This is difficult to say, the ACC cannot quantify what level of involvement the OMCG's have. Mention RN re acting director. They are just part of the larger overall picture be it a recognisable one.

Refer to my papers re trafficking etc

- **How has the involvement of organised crime, particularly outlaw motor cycle gangs, in the production, supply and use of methamphetamines, and particularly 'ice' changed over the last decade?**

Like any criminal organisation OMCGs will move into new markets when the opportunity presents itself.

- **To what extent are methamphetamines and particularly 'ice' trafficked to Victoria from overseas? What supply routes, methods as well as techniques for concealing such drugs to evade border detections are used?**

## UNODC

In Australia, only the more highly concentrated forms of ATS, such as ice, are imported, with around 90 percent of amphetamines produced locally (UNODC

2008b).

Australia and New Zealand have also reported the increasing role of West African organized criminal groups in trafficking of ATS and ATS precursors to Australia and New Zealand. UNODC.

#### ACC Report

In 2011–12, the prominent embarkation points for ATS (excluding MDMA), by number, were India, Hong Kong and China, accounting for over 24 per cent of detections. Due to a single large detection of 129.7 kilograms in the sea cargo stream, Mexico was the prominent point of embarkation by weight, followed by Hong Kong and Canada.

Detections of amphetamine were predominantly in tablet, powder and capsule form. Methylamphetamine detections were predominantly in powder and crystal form. Of the 1077 ATS (excluding MDMA) detections in 2011–12, only 3.7 per cent were over 1 kilogram. These were predominantly in the form of amphetamine powder and methylamphetamine crystals.

#### **SIGNIFICANT BORDER DETECTIONS**

Significant border detections of ATS (excluding MDMA) in 2011–12 included:

- 129.7 kilograms of liquid methylamphetamine detected on 14 October 2011, suspended in liquid, via sea cargo from Mexico to Melbourne
- 27 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 29 October 2011, via air cargo from Canada to Sydney
- 26 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 20 March 2012, declared as plastic toys, glass beads and stone, via air cargo from Hong Kong to Melbourne
- 25 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 13 December 2011, declared as used household goods and furniture, via sea cargo from Hong Kong to Sydney
- 15 kilograms of crystal methylamphetamine detected on 18 January 2012, declared as heavy machinery part, via air cargo from South Africa to Sydney.

These five detections had a combined weight of 222.7 kilograms, which accounted for 64 per cent of the total weight of ATS (excluding MDMA) detected at the Australian border in 2011–12.

#### ACC REPORT

The domestic manufacturing of amphetamines in the Australian market has been partially supplemented by the importation of crystal methamphetamine (ice). Crystal methamphetamine is sourced from primary regional production areas such as Canada, Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia and southern China.

#### LOCAL PRODUCTION

In 2011–12, Victoria reported the greatest percentage increase in clandestine laboratory detections and the second highest number of detections for that jurisdiction in the last decade. 57% INCREASE

**TABLE 26: Number of clandestine laboratory detections, by state and territory, 2002–03 to 2011–12**

Year	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
2002–03	47	19	171	34	36	2	3	2	314
2003–04	61	20	189	48	33	1	6	0	358
2004–05	45	31	209	25	44	3	21	3	381
2005–06	55	47	161	50	58	5	12	2	390
2006–07	49	72	132	51	37	9	1	5	356
2007–08	51	76	121	69	30	2	1	6	356
2008–09	67	84	148	65	78	0	7	0	449
2009–10	82	113	297	71	118	1	12	0	694
2010–11	87	63	293	75	171	11	2	1	703
2011–12	90	99	379	58	160	15	7	1	809

- **What is the relationship between the use of methamphetamines, particularly ‘ice’ and violent crime, and what explanations exist for this relationship?**

WA study 1999-2009 published 2012 - Of particular note, amphetamine users were no more likely to commit violent offences than amphetamine non-users, even when considering the frequency of amphetamine use. This supports and extends the findings of Smith and Rodwell (2009), who also found no association between amphetamine use and violent crime. This provides further evidence against a relationship between amphetamine use and violence.

Amphetamine users and crime in Western Australia, 1999–2009 available at AIC.

Severe methamphetamine usage has been found to significantly increase the risk of a person committing a violent crime, over and above the other systemic risks associated with drug-using lifestyles (Torok et al.2008). In ACC Illicit Drug report.

2013 - Data were collected from extensive interviews of 350 methamphetamine users who received substance use treatment in a large California county. A majority (56%) perceived that their methamphetamine use resulted in violent behavior; 59% reported specific violent criminal behaviors. For more than half of those reporting violent criminal behavior, this behavior pattern began before methamphetamine initiation. **Thus, for a subsample of methamphetamine users, violence may be related to factors other than methamphetamine use. Users’ perceptions that their methamphetamine use resulted in violence appears strongest for those with the most severe methamphetamine-related problems, particularly paranoia.**

## Methamphetamine Use and Violent Behavior: User Perceptions and Predictors

Mary-Lynn Brecht and Diane M. Herbeck

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2012 Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS), which canvassed 924 injecting drug users about their drug use in the six months prior to interview.

- While the numbers of injecting drug users who had used any form of methamphetamine remained stable between 2011-2012, the proportion of **those who had used crystal methamphetamine ('ice') increased from 45 per cent in 2011 to 54 per cent in 2012.**
- The proportion of those using ice increased most markedly in New South Wales (from 53 to 68 per cent of those surveyed), Western Australia (from 46 to 64 per cent) and Tasmania (from 26 to 43 per cent). The proportion of injecting drug users using ice went down in Queensland (from 50 to 44 per cent of those surveyed) and the Northern Territory (28 to 26 per cent).

<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/blog/ice-use-among-injecting-drug-users>

### Low to moderate doses

- feelings of euphoria, excitement and a sense of wellbeing
- increased confidence and motivation
- a sense of power and superiority over others
- increased talkativeness
- repetition of simple acts
- nervousness, anxiety, agitation and panic
- increased libido
- paranoia
- hallucinations
- irritability, hostility and aggression
- headaches
- dizziness
- feeling more awake and alert, reduced need for sleep and difficulty sleeping
- abrupt shifts in thought and speech that can make people difficult to understand
- enlarged (dilated) pupils
- dry mouth
- increased breathing rate
- shortness of breath (from smoking it)
- increased heart rate and blood pressure
- irregular heart beat, palpitations
- chest pain
- reduced appetite
- stomach cramps
- stomach irritation (if swallowed)
- feeling more energetic
- increased sweating
- increased body temperature
- faster reaction times
- feelings of increased strength
- itching, picking and scratching.

### Higher doses

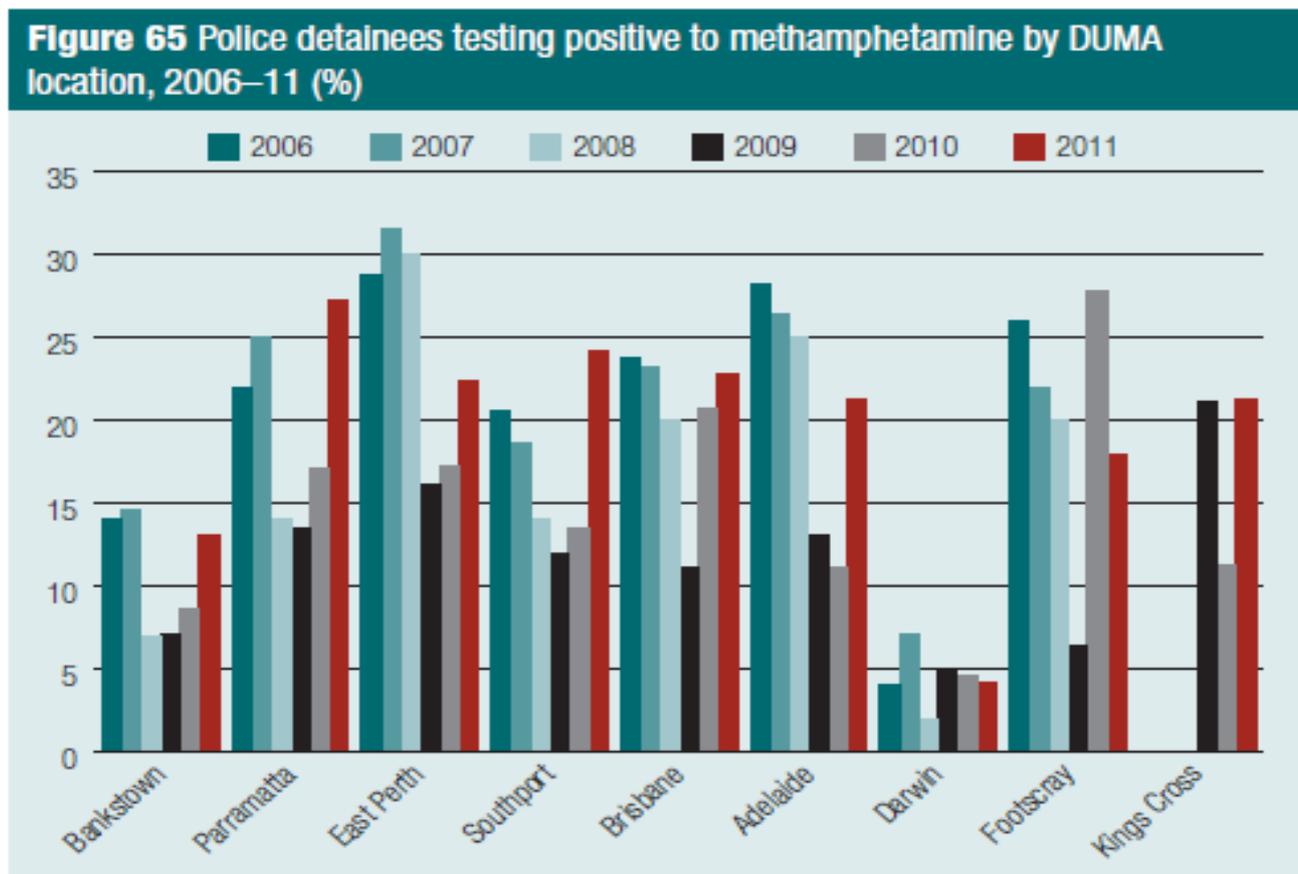
A high dose of amphetamines can cause a person to overdose. This means that a person has taken more amphetamines than their body can cope with. Not knowing the strength or purity of amphetamines increases the risk of overdose. Injecting runs a greater risk of overdose due to large amounts of the drug entering the blood stream and quickly travelling to the brain.

The effects of a high dose of amphetamines can intensify some of the effects listed in the diagram. People may also experience:

- blurred vision
- tremors
- irregular breathing
- loss of coordination
- collapse
- rapid pounding heart
- violent or aggressive behaviour
- hallucinations
- seizures
- stroke
- coma.

High doses and frequent heavy use can also create an “amphetamine psychosis”, characterised by paranoid delusions, hallucinations and bizarre, aggressive or violent behaviour. These symptoms usually disappear a few days after the person stops using amphetamines.

- See more at: <http://www.druginfo.adf.org.au/drug-facts/amphetamines#sthash.b9p774XH.dpuf>



Note: The scale for this chart is different from that of other charts as the percentages involved are relatively small

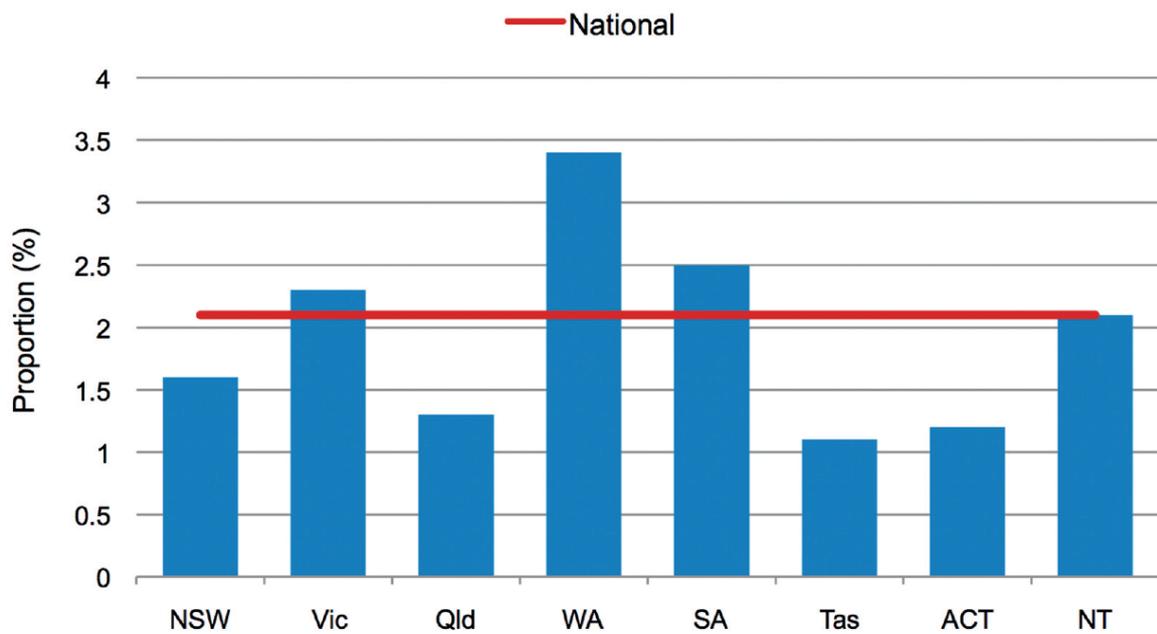
All sites recorded an increase in the proportion of detainees testing positive to methamphetamine between 2010 and 2011 except Darwin and Footscray. **In Footscray, the proportion testing positive decreased by 10 percentage points** from 28 percent recorded in 2010 to 18 percent in 2011

Recent data from the Australian Institute of Criminology's Drug Use Monitoring in Australia (DUMA) program **shows an increase in the use of methamphetamine among police detainees.**

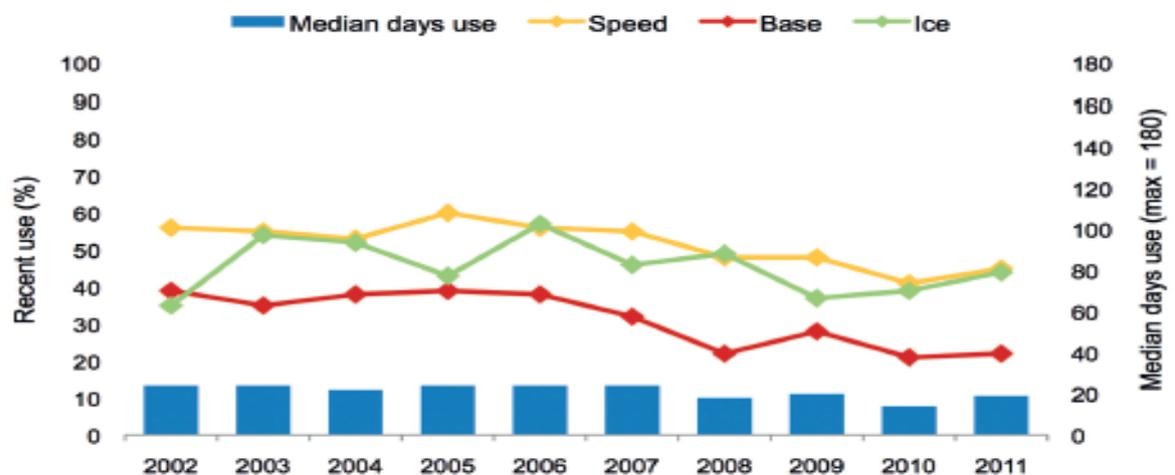
Voluntary urinalysis undertaken by detainees shows that in the first three-quarters of 2011, 21 percent of police detainees tested positive to methamphetamine—up from 16 percent in 2010 and 13 percent in 2009.

In the same 2010 survey, the proportion of the population reporting amphetamines use in the 12 months preceding interview across Australian states and territories ranged from 1.1 per cent in Tasmania to 3.4 per cent in Western Australia. Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia all reported a higher proportion of amphetamines use than the national average (see Figure 7) (AIHW 2011).

**FIGURE 7: National and state and territory proportion of amphetamines use in the preceding 12 months, people aged 14 years or older, 2010 (Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)**



**FIGURE 9: Proportion of a regular injecting drug user population reporting recent use of speed, base and crystal/ice compared to median days use of any form of methylamphetamine, 2002 to 2011 (Source: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre)**



4 The term 'recent use' in the regular injecting drug user and regular ecstasy user studies refers to reported use in the 6 months preceding interview.

- **What initiatives are most effective in reducing criminal activity by organised crime groups in the production and supply of illicit drugs?**

POP,

- **Are laws that proscribe the membership of criminal organisations such as outlaw motor cycle gangs effective in reducing criminal activity committed by such organisations? What problems have they created for police and the community by such laws?**

No, go to my articles

New laws don't create any new investigative powers, traditional techniques are still being used

Depends on crime management techniques both from a strategic and tactical point of view.

Resources allocated, can they be sustained.

- **What role should the community play in responding to illicit drug production and supply by organised crime groups? Have community-focused initiatives been effective in reducing criminal activity?**

Most intelligence comes from the community so the ability of the community to inform on criminal activity should be enhanced through established channels i.e. crime stoppers and innovative ways that may harness the ability of new technologies, i.e. report a bikie app, crimestoppers app.

- **How effective are asset confiscation laws in deterring organised criminal activity associated with the production and supply of illicit drugs? How could they be improved?**

- **What difficulties exist for law enforcement in investigating and sharing intelligence in connection with transnational offences relating to the trafficking of illicit drugs, and how might these be addressed?**

Kelty review recently highlighted the reluctance of QPS to share information, you need to ensure information is not siloed but instead is shared, otherwise cross jurisdictional and linkage blindness can occur.

Recent ACC ATO taskforces are a good idea