

# MSIC drug testing, a consumer led initiative

Author: Kevin Street, MSIC Consumer Action Group

## MSIC Consumer Action Group (CAG)

### 10-member client group

- Educate Peers on harm reduction activities
- Advise MSIC Management on service operations; research etc
- Submissions to government on drug law reform, drug testing, drug consumption facilities etc



CAG members

## Drug checking / testing

### People who use drugs are trying to do so safely

- Drug checking is an important way to reduce harms
- It supports consumers to make informed choices
- CAG monitors NSW drug alerts
- CAG works closely with MSIC & researchers on drug checking pilots at the service

### Nitazenes found in counterfeit oxycodone tablets in NSW

Counterfeit (fake) oxycodone tablets have been found to contain N-desethyl isotonitazene. This is the first detection of this substance in a drug sample in NSW.

NSW Health Drug Alert

## MSIC drug checking

### MSIC involved in a range of research projects

- Sharps bin testing 2019-2024, mass spectrometry (UTS)
- Drug checking (pre-use) 2024, infrared device (Loop Aust.)
- Residue testing (post-use) 2025, mass spectrometry (MSIC/NSW Health)
- Drug checking (pre-use) 2025, near infrared device (UTS/ Loop Aust.)

### Paper Spray Mass Spectrometry



### Drug checking is highly politicised

### This adversely affects people who inject drugs

CAG welcomes the NSW govt commencement of a 12mth trial

### Micro NIR



NSW govt drug checking trial

But more needs to be done



Residue preparation

## The future of drug checking

### Consumer involvement in service design and delivery is essential

- NSW festival drug checking needs to be made permanent
- Drug checking needs to be expanded to fixed site services (like ACT/VIC)
- Services must meet the needs of people who inject drugs
- Options for service delivery include existing harm reduction services (MSIC, NSPs)

Contact: Kevin Street  
kevinstreetcag@gmail.com

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