



Disrupting & Deconstructing approaches to drug policy, research and practice

APSAD Conference 2025

International Convention Centre Sydney, Gadigal

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THUNDERBIRD
PARTNERSHIP FOUNDATION



TE RAU ORA



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TE RAU ORA
Strengthening Māori Health and Well-Being





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- **Who we are and why we need many voices across the World**
- **Context or why we need a International Indigenous Drug Policy Alliance**
- **Were to from here**





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- **2018 HOSW Conf Sydney, ADAC along with Thunderbird Partnership Foundation & Te Rau Ora launch IIDPA**
- **6-700 Million people + worldwide identify as Indigenous or approx. 6-7%**
- **Approx. 300 million people worldwide use drugs regularly**



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- **Approx. 600,000 Drug related deaths worldwide and rising**
- **8,000+ Canadians are now dying annually (25 per day) from Drug Overdose (81% due to Fentanyl) Vancouver is 4X higher than other cities across Canada**
- **In the US 110,000 increasing 14% annually Overdose deaths & rising**



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- **In Aotearoa (NZ) have had a 54% increase**
- **In Australia more people die from Drug overdose than are killed in Road accidents (a death every 4 hours)**
- **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders are 4-5X more likely to die of Overdose than non-Indigenous Australians**
- **But in International Fora such as CND we are silent or rely on govts to raise issues**



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- **International Drug Policy & Treaties are set & agreed to at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNODC)**
- **We have to ask (nicely) of our govts to sponsor Resolutions on our behalf as we do not have speaking rights**
- **What we are trying to do is ensure that Indigenous VOICES are heard and represented at these Forums.**



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- **For example there is a UN Fund that will fund Indigenous voices at multitudes of UN forums bit not UNODC CND.**
- **The UN International Indigenous Fund has 8 contributors inc Aust, NZ, Canada, Columbia etc**
- **Recently the UN Human Rights Council celebrated 40 years that the fund has been in existence.**



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- WE need the Australian Government and others to sponsor a Resolution at the General Assembly to include the UNODC CND at part of the "Fund" in 2026
- The time to act is NOW will you join with the IIDPA so that our voice is heard.



International Indigenous Drug Policy Alliance

THANKYOU

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