

INHSU 2021

Supervised consumption sites: Reflecting on the past to inform the future

Speaker:

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Medical Director

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)

Quick note on terminology!

- Drug consumption room / Supervised consumption site
- Supervised injection site or facility
- Medically supervised injecting centre or facility or service

DCR

SCS

SIS

SIF

SIC

MSIC

MSIR

Essential bits

- Welcoming, non judgemental spaces
- Drug use allowed (generally only self administration)
- Drug pre obtained
- Harm reduction approach

Variable bits

- Routes of administration
- Staff
- What services onsite / model of care



Evidence

- Reduced death and injury from overdose
- Reduce BBV transmission
- Reduce public drug use and discarded equipment
- Increase access to treatment and care
- Importantly: no increase in community drug taking, no increase in relapse rates, and cost effective

What we've achieved so far



17,757
people registered



1,208,806
injections supervised



Zero
deaths in 20 years



10,611
overdoses
successfully managed
without a single death



We have made
19,028
referrals in to health
and welfare services.



The number of discarded
needles and syringes in
Kings Cross almost halved
when Uniting MSIC opened,
and ambulance callouts to
overdose dropped by 80%.

Reflections....

- Location, location, location
- Politics
- What type of model?
- Peer involvement
- Stigma
- Law change
- Advocacy
- How do we actually create change?



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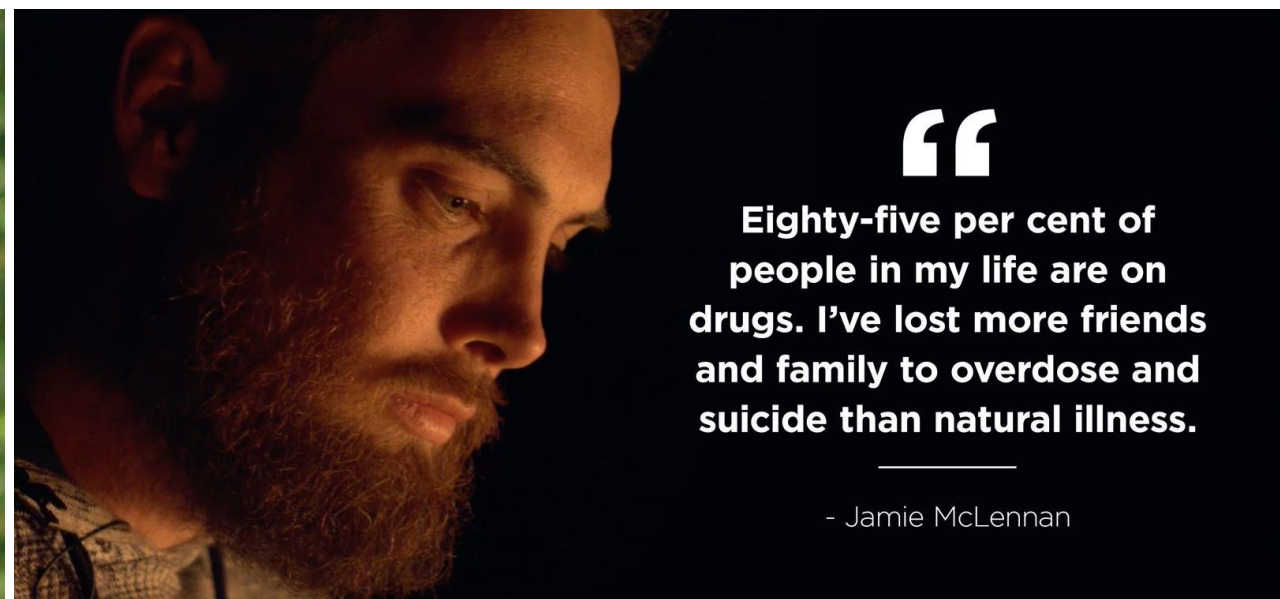
People who use drugs are
just like everyone else.
We're just humans.

- Dave

From the documentary Half A Million Steps
Watch it at www.fairtreatment.org

FAIR TREATMENT

Uniting



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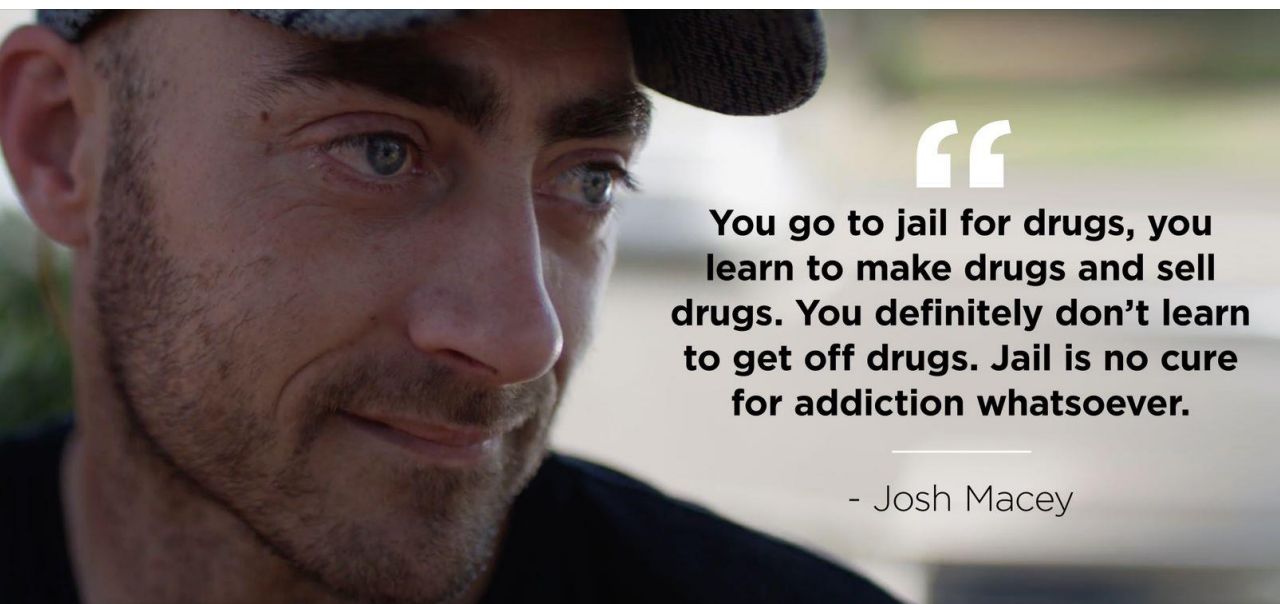
Eighty-five per cent of
people in my life are on
drugs. I've lost more friends
and family to overdose and
suicide than natural illness.

- Jamie McLennan

From the documentary Half A Million Steps
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FAIR TREATMENT

Uniting



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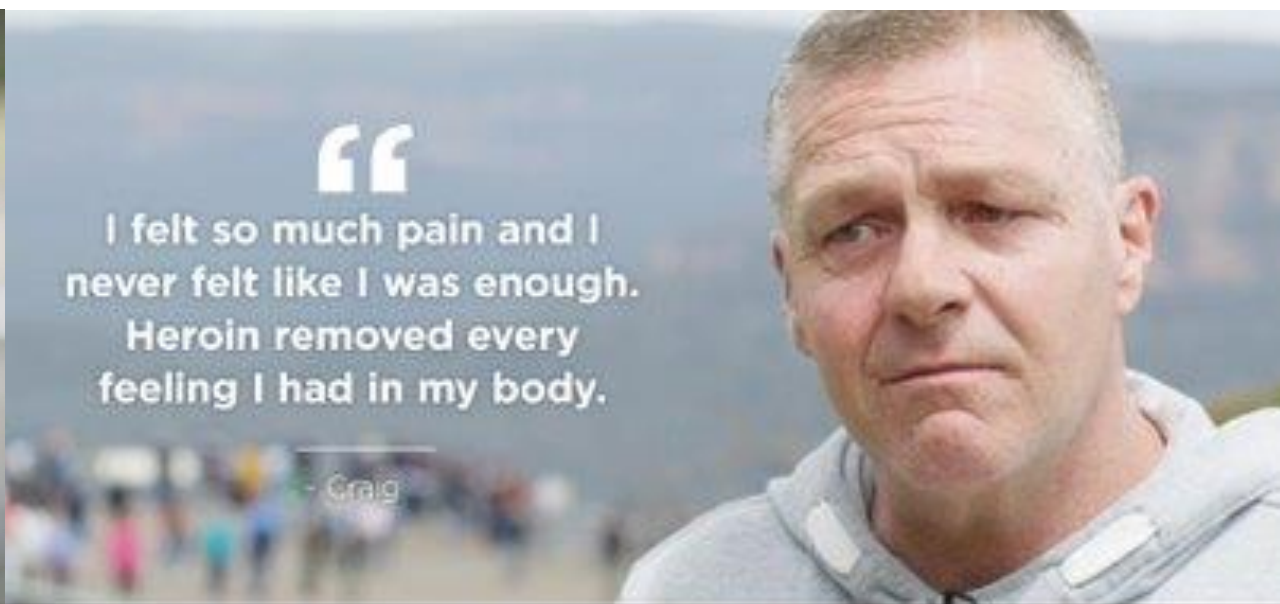
You go to jail for drugs, you
learn to make drugs and sell
drugs. You definitely don't learn
to get off drugs. Jail is no cure
for addiction whatsoever.

- Josh Macey

From the documentary Half A Million Steps
Watch it at www.fairtreatment.org

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“

I felt so much pain and I
never felt like I was enough.
Heroin removed every
feeling I had in my body.

- Craig

From the documentary Half A Million Steps
Watch it at www.fairtreatment.org

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So where to from here?



Comments or question?

Please get in touch:

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