

PLENARY SESSION I
Emerging trends in recreational drug use

Methamphetamine and club health in Australia: its impact and the response

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Over the last few years Australia has seen the emergence of new forms of methamphetamine available on the illicit drug market. Traditionally methamphetamine available in Australia was the 'salt' form of amphetamine or methamphetamine, which was sold in a powder form as 'speed'. However, in the past few years, new more pure forms of the drug have emerged – notably so-called 'base' methamphetamine and crystal methamphetamine or 'ice'. Increasingly, there are reports of these drugs being used on the club/dance scene, most particularly the smoking of base and crystal.

This presentation will provide some basic information about methamphetamine use and the Australian experience from the club health perspective. It will examine the impact of recent increased methamphetamine availability, particularly in regards to its impact upon psychological health. Finally, we will take a look at some of the interventions which have been recently developed in Australia for the club/dance scene.