

MAV State Council Meeting – 18 May 2018

To submit a motion for consideration by State Council on Friday, 18 May 2018, please complete this form and email to the **State Council** email address S2@mav.asn.au, **no later than 20 April**. Please note, motions received by **12 April** (early motions) will be distributed to all MAV representatives on **13 April**. Submitters may amend their own motions up to 5pm on **27 April**.

Motion
PHARMACOTHERAPY

Submitted by: City of Monash

MOTION:

That the MAV support an advocacy campaign calling for better access and affordability of pharmacotherapy across Victoria, including increasing prescribing physicians and participating pharmacies. The campaign will also seek to decrease stigma towards drug dependence treatment and support improved outcomes for community members seeking therapy to overcome pharmaceutical opioid/mixed drug use dependence.

MAV Strategic Work Plan (SWP):

Indicate whether or not the subject matter of your motion is included in the MAV SWP 2017-19.

Is the subject matter of this motion included in the SWP?	No
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If yes, identify the following:	
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Objective No.	
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Priority No.	
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Item No.	
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RATIONALE:

Pharmacotherapy (opioid replacement therapy) is well established in Australia and many parts of the world as an effective treatment for opioid dependence. Many long-term heroin users and those experiencing problematic use of pharmaceutical drugs are not successfully treated with detoxification and abstinence-based programs alone. A supervised, structured pharmacotherapy program coordinated by general practice and community pharmacies has been demonstrated to have long term benefits for both the individual and community by:

- Reducing illness and death from pharmaceutical opioid and illicit drug use
- Reducing injecting
- Reducing illness and death from illicit drug use
- Decreasing criminal activity
- Reducing chaotic drug taking
- Making it possible for heroin users to lead productive lives
- Decreasing high risk factors such as needle sharing

Recently pharmaceutical opioid use has become more prominent option for those seeking treatment for opioid dependence, given the increasing prevalence of problematic use of codeine-containing analgesics (particularly those containing codeine combined with ibuprofen or paracetamol, in high daily doses) and prescription opioids, such as morphine and oxycodone.

Monash ranks 11 out of 34 metropolitan Melbourne municipalities for the highest number of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population, with an annual rate of 5.5 deaths per year. At a Victorian wide level, Monash Council notes that pharmaceutical drugs were consistently the most prevalent contributors to Victorian overdose deaths between 2009 - 2016, often due to a toxic mix with multiple drugs including illegal drugs and alcohol.

Note: Motions must be submitted by **one council but may be supported by other councils. The council submitting the motion will need to supply written confirmation from any council(s) listed as supporting the motion. All relevant background information in support of the motion should be included in the space provided for the rationale and not in attachments. **The motion and rationale should be no longer than one page.***