

THE ROLE OF AUSTRALIAN POLICE IN PREVENTING AND MINIMISING ILLICIT DRUG USE

The Australian Police has the lead role for the Australian Government relating to the detection and prosecution of persons who attempt to import or export drugs into Australia. Illegal drugs generally fall into three main categories: depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens.

Australia's National Drug Strategy involves a balance between demand reduction, supply reduction and harm reduction, and includes a renewed emphasis on prevention.

There are a number of ways in which police contribute to reducing illicit drug-related harm. These can include: nonattendance or the use of discretion in attending non-fatal overdoses; not policing near harm reduction services such as needle and syringe supply programs and methadone programs; supporting harm reduction services; informing drug users about dangerous batches of drugs; evidence-based community drug education; and, managing drug-affected people.

There are a number of ways in which police can contribute to reducing the demand for illicit drugs. These include encouraging the entry of drug users into treatment and utilizing drug diversion schemes.

Police can also become involved in community-based activities that reduce drug demand and harms. Some examples include: community-building programs such as crime-prevention committees, Drug Action Teams and local sport and recreation programs; youth development programs; and, by effectively managing youth in public places.

School-based drug education provides another opportunity for police to contribute to demand reduction and harm reduction, but it is important that these activities be consistent with the evidence on effective strategies in this area.

It is important that illicit drug supply reduction strategies are focused towards harm minimization and fully evaluated.

The researchers identified a number of influences on police in so far as their ability to prevent illicit drug use and minimize its harms are concerned. They include: the trends and models that guide policing practice; the policing workforce itself (including the attitudes of police towards, and communication with, the health sector, drug users, and harm reduction in general); and the systems used by police (including planning methods and strategic approaches, performance indicators, evaluation methods, education and training, the use of discretion, and the police infrastructure for local problem-solving); and, community and political influences.

In Australia, drug diversion is defined as the broad array of police and court programs used to refer detected drug offenders either away from the criminal justice system and/or into drug education/ treatment.

Список використаних джерел

1. Drug awareness [Електронний ресурс] – Режим доступу: <https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/drug-crime/drug-awareness>)

2. Drugs [Електронний ресурс] – Режим доступу: <https://www.crimestopperswa.com.au/keeping-safe/drugs/>