

# Anti-Drug Injecting Room Policy (Medically Supervised Injecting Centres Policy)

**Version:** 1.0

**Date updated:** 19 January 2018

**Responsible Department:** Connected Communities

## Purpose

To outline Council's position in relation to Medically Supervised Drug Injecting Centres (MSICs) within the City of Casey.

## 1. Definitions

<b>Council</b>	means Casey City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>
<b>Councillors</b>	means the individuals holding the office of a member of Casey City Council
<b>Council officer</b>	means the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer.
<b>Medically Supervised Injecting Centre</b>	means places where people can use drugs under the supervision of medical staff and health professionals. (MSICs are also known as supervised injecting facilities, drug consumption rooms, injecting rooms, or safe injecting facilities) Alcohol and Drug Foundation 2017

## 2. Scope

This applies to all activities related to the planning and administration of MSICs within the City of Casey.

## 3. Context

The Victorian State Government has recently introduced the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Medically Supervised Injecting Centre) Bill 2017* to the Victorian Legislative Assembly. The purpose of the Bill is to tackle the growing number of methamphetamine and heroin related deaths in Victoria.

*Council policy documents change from time to time and it is recommended that you consult the electronic reference copy at [www.casey.vic.gov.au/policiesstrategies](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/policiesstrategies) to ensure that you have the current version. Alternatively you may contact Customer Service on 9705 5200.*

The Bill has been introduced as a mechanism for the introduction of a (pilot) medically supervised injecting centre in North Richmond, Melbourne and is set to begin operating in June 2018.

Council may, in the future, receive planning applications for the establishment of a centre in the City of Casey.

Any planning application to Council for a MSIC would be considered as a medical centre under the current planning scheme definition. There are no controls in the Casey Planning Scheme that would give the Responsible Authority the ability to refuse this kind of medical centre if it met all planning requirements.

#### **4. Policy**

Council opposes MSICs on the basis that they encourage and condone illicit drug use including heroin and methamphetamine, encourage drug trafficking and are inconsistent with the National Anti-Drug Strategy.

Council opposes any proposed legislative changes which would enable the introduction of such places in the City of Casey and Victoria.

This policy integrates, where relevant, with other Council policies and strategies which pertain to the establishment of MSICs in the City of Casey.

#### **5. Administrative Updates**

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

#### **6. Review**

The next review of this document is scheduled for completion by 30 December 2021.