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Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement
Examination of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission Annual Report
2018-19

QoN Number: EACIC-001

Subject: Annual expenditure on illicit drugs in Australia

Asked by: Mr Craig Kelly MP (Chair)

Question:

Of that \$12 billion in annual expenditure, do you think that about \$10 billion of it is spent on methamphetamines?

Answer:

Report 9 from the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission's (ACIC) National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program (NWDMP) provides estimates of annual consumption of the four listed major drugs (methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and heroin), as well as expenditure on these drugs for each year of the program. Tables 3 and 8 from NWDMP Report 9, extracted below, outline these figures for Years 1 to 3 of the program (2017-2019).

Using consumption data from the NWDMP and price data from its Illicit Drug Data Report, the ACIC estimates that the annual expenditure on methylamphetamine in Australia in 2019 was \$8.63 billion.

Table 3. Estimated annual methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and heroin consumption, as total weight consumed nationally, Year 1 to Year 3 of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.

Drug	Estimated consumption (kilograms per annum)			% Change
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1 to Year 3
Methylamphetamine	8,405	9,847	11,516	↑ 37.0
Cocaine	3,057	4,115	4,636	↑ 51.7
MDMA	1,251	1,162	2,226	↑ 77.9
Heroin	830 ^a	750	941	↑ 13.4

Table 8. Estimated street value of annual methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and heroin consumption for Year 1 to 3 of the National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program.

Drug	Estimated street value			% Change
	Year 1 (A\$)	Year 2 (A\$)	Year 3 (A\$)	Year 1 to Year 3
Methylamphetamine	7.24 billion	7.38 billion	8.63 billion	 19.2
Cocaine	1.06 billion	1.54 billion	2.08 billion	 96.2
MDMA	145.59 million	114.19 million	211.08 million	 45.0
Heroin	207.50 million	375.00 million	423.45 million	 104.1
Total	8.6 billion	9.4 billion	11.3 billion	 31.4