

## **DRAFT RESPONSE TO INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF ILLICIT DRUG USE ON FAMILIES**

The Chair requested further information in relation to the composition of the Drug Harm Index with particular reference to life expectancy and the incidence of psychosis. The Drug Harm Index is based upon the findings of Collins and Lapsley (2002) which utilises primarily 1998-99 data. Estimates in the Collins and Lapsley study tend to be made at the aggregate level rather than as an accumulation of costs relating to separate incidents which necessarily reduces the opportunity to provide further details from their report.

The formal report of the development of the Drug Harm Index (Australian Journal of Public Administration, December 2006) provided to the Committee has details of the break-up of Collins and Lapsley estimates on the basis of more recent studies. For example, Table A2 reports 3,991 hospital admissions from drug psychoses. This is nearly 25% of all drug-related hospital admissions.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare recently released a report on 'The Burden Of Disease and Injury in Australia 2003' which provides more recent data of the impact of illicit drug use on the health of Australians. The following impacts were reported for 2003:

- Years of life lost (YLL) estimates the years of life lost from premature death. Drug abuse (excluding alcohol) accounted for 7,710 years of life lost. Table attached.
- Years lost due to disability (YLD) estimates the years of healthy life lost from disease or injury but not death. Drug abuse (excluding alcohol) accounted for 18,956 years of disability. Table attached.

Unfortunately, neither Collins & Lapsley nor more recent studies provide information specifically on life expectancy. The literature notes the difficulty of distinguishing the impact of drug abuse from other concomitant health factors in determining life expectancy estimates.

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Annex Table 6 (continued): Years lived with disability (YLD) by age, sex and cause, Australia, 2003

Cause	Persons	Males							Females				
		Males	Females	0-14	15-24	25-64	65-74	75+	0-14	15-24	25-64	65-74	75+
3. Haemophilia	59	59	—	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Other endocrine and metabolic disorders	10,296	5,293	5,003	1,132	366	1,933	773	1,089	585	286	1,693	660	1,779
<b>J. Mental disorders</b>	<b>327,391</b>	<b>148,072</b>	<b>179,319</b>	<b>28,628</b>	<b>47,242</b>	<b>68,849</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>21,457</b>	<b>47,112</b>	<b>108,693</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>671</b>
1. Substance use disorders	38,817	28,898	9,919	—	13,566	14,865	354	113	46	3,699	6,135	36	2
a. Alcohol dependence and harmful use <sup>(a)</sup>	19,861	15,775	4,085	—	4,782	10,550	336	107	—	386	3,672	26	2
b. Heroin or polydrug dependence and harmful use	10,287	7,498	2,789	—	4,763	2,715	14	6	46	1,701	1,033	9	—
c. Benzodiazepine dependence and harmful use	2,627	1,100	1,527	—	205	891	3	—	—	362	1,163	2	—
d. Cannabis dependence and harmful use	5,203	4,073	1,130	—	3,520	552	1	—	—	983	147	—	—
e. Other drug dependence and harmful use	839	452	388	—	296	156	—	—	—	268	120	—	—
2. Schizophrenia	27,250	14,673	12,577	186	9,795	4,670	15	7	181	3,754	8,614	19	10
3. Anxiety and depression	191,452	65,208	126,244	9,554	17,868	36,087	1,430	269	15,507	29,945	80,482	295	14
4. Bipolar disorder	7,679	3,894	3,785	—	2,672	1,220	2	—	—	2,450	1,328	4	2
5. Personality disorders <sup>(b)</sup>	32,587	16,248	16,339	—	3,130	11,955	816	347	—	2,622	12,044	1,032	642
6. Eating disorders	5,921	367	5,555	103	211	52	—	—	828	4,636	90	—	—
a. Anorexia nervosa	2,835	367	2,468	103	211	52	—	—	407	2,061	—	—	—
b. Bulimia nervosa	3,087	—	3,087	—	—	—	—	—	421	2,575	90	—	—
c. Other eating disorders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Childhood conditions	23,684	18,784	4,900	18,784	—	—	—	—	4,894	6	—	—	—
a. Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder	9,928	7,082	2,846	7,082	—	—	—	—	2,840	6	—	—	—
b. Autism spectrum disorders	13,756	11,702	2,054	11,702	—	—	—	—	2,054	—	—	—	—
8. Other mental disorders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(continued)