

Community Response

Thanks to: The TGA, Nitrites Action Group, Adam Bourne

Simon Ruth
CEO
Thorne Harbour Health



Australian Government
Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



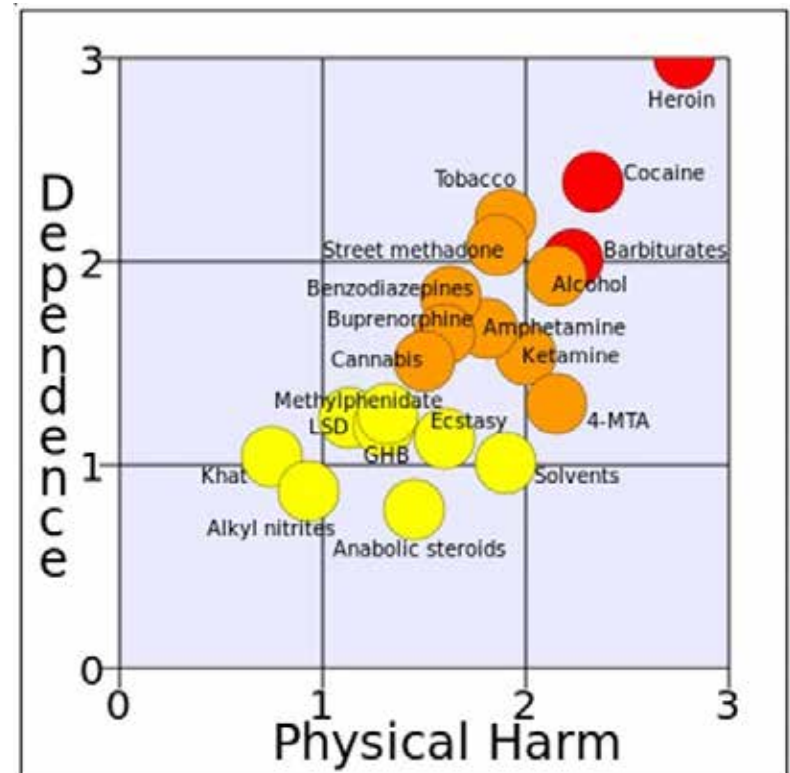
Australian Research Centre
in Sex Health and Society

**thorne
harbour**
health*

^{NSW}
poisons Information Centre
the children's hospital at Westmead

Facts and Figures

- It depends on what you are looking at
- Research is poor – too little, too subjective and incomplete
- Let's not forget “Poppers cause Kaposi's Sarcoma”
- Recognised therapeutic value with few preventable harms
- Well understood by majority of users
- Easy to reduce harms
- Role in HIV and HCV prevention
- “Development of a rational scale to assess the harm of drugs of potential misuse.”
David Nutt et al. 2007



Australian Government
Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



Australian Research Centre
in Sex Health and Society

thorne
harbour
health*

NEW
poisons
the children's hospital at Westmead
Information Centre

Harm Reduction

Ingestion, Burns, Vision, Drug Interactions, Oxygen Loss, Fainting, Dizziness

- Education
- Better Packaging
- Better Quality



HOWHARD

DOWN AN' DIRTY



Options - Scheduling

- Goal should be to guarantee quality and reduce harms – not restrict availability
- Prohibition and restrictions shift trade underground and create harm
- “Inquiry into the Inhalation of Volatile Substances”

Schedule		
9	Prohibited	Unacceptable, but possibly for Isopropyl Nitrite
8	Unavailable	Unacceptable
4	GP Prescribed	
3	Over the Counter pharmacy	NAG recommended
2	Pharmacy	THH recommended provided there is no break in market
Unscheduled	7Eleven	?? – state based restrictions



Who would you trust for advice on bottoming?

A pharmacist
or

someone at an adult only shop or sex-on- premises venue



Australian Government
Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



Australian Research Centre
in Sex Health and Society

**thorne
harbour**
health*

poisons Information Centre
the children's hospital at Westmead

Principles for Decision

- Don't turn gay men, our businesses or young people into criminals
- Don't create a break in supply
- Accept nitrites have a therapeutic value
- Address harms sensibly
- Don't force us into humiliating situations



Australian Government
Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



Australian Research Centre
in Sex Health and Society

**thorne
harbour**
health*

poisons Information Centre
the children's hospital at Westmead