NDARC into the 21st century
Michael Farrell, Director
OUR MISSION

To conduct and disseminate high quality research and related activities that increase the effectiveness of responses to alcohol and other drug related harm

*NDARC Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017*
Publications on substance abuse in the Web of Science
Understand
Engage
Prevent
Treat
Collaborate
Technology
Epidemiology: understanding the nature and extent of AOD use and harm

- International collaborations
  - Global Burden of Disease Project
  - Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use

- Sentinel surveys & early warning systems
  - Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)
  - Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS)

- Cross-sectional analysis and secondary studies
  - National Illicit Drug Indicators Project (NIDIP)
  - Cannabis Cohort Research Consortium (CCRC)

- National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing
COLLABORATE
Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use

- 0.0 – <7.5%
- 7.5 – <15%
- 15 – <30%
- 30% or greater
- Reports of IDU but no HIV prevalence estimate
- Reports of IDU but not of HIV among IDU
- IDU not reported
Longitudinal studies: Large cohorts generate studies beyond the original research questions

- **Social development/emotional attachment (Triple B)**
- **Genetic determinants of SUD (POINT)**
- **Molecular science – brain function (Triple B)**
- **Maternal mental health (Triple B)**
- **Epidemiology e.g. natural course of alcohol dependence symptoms (PSA cohort)**

**Current longitudinal studies:**
- Triple B (2,000 families)
- POINT (1,500)
- Parental supply of alcohol (PSA) study (1,800)
UNDERSTANDING impact of environment and genetics on long terms trajectories
Triple B study will follow 2,000 families over four years
Interventions: prevention and treatment

**Intervention studies:**
- Alcohol Action in Rural Communities (AARC)
- CLIMATE Schools and CAP (2,500 school children)
- Web-based interventions

**Vulnerable groups**
- Interventions for vulnerable groups: Aboriginal communities; homeless youth; prison populations; mothers on OST
- Schools based prevention: “universal” and tailored to at-risk personalities
- Web-based interventions in for complex populations such comorbid depression and opioid dependency

**Clinical trials e.g.**
- Sativex for management of cannabis withdrawal; Suboxone film

**AARC:** rigorous evaluation of community based interventions
- Capacity building
Schools based PREVENTion

I just want to die.
Early intervention and PREVENTion
Alcohol Action in Rural Communities (AARC)
Strategic Research Network

- Continued and close collaboration with National Research centres and maximise use of joint resources to achieve good impact of research on policy and practice
Fitting it all together: technology transfer

- Engage government – responsivity
- Engage community – responsivity
- Connect research, clinical policy communities
- Promote national and international research collaboration
Research challenges

- Increase the balance of current research from descriptive to measured interventions

- Be responsive and adaptive to new problems

- To ensure strategic and focussed approach to key priorities enabling and fostering creativity
Centre of Research Excellence - New Centre on Mental Health and Substance use.

More Clinical Trials (CRC application pending).

Harnessing the power of the internet (treatment) and understanding how best to link this to other AOD treatment.