



THE LIBERALS' PLAN TO FIGHT METH

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The Liberal-led Government is committed to fighting the scourge of methylamphetamine (meth) in Western Australia.

We are fighting meth on three fronts; with education campaigns to stop people from ever using this dangerous drug; with support and treatment services to help people who are affected by meth recover; and by boosting police resources and employing more prosecutors and judges to arrest, convict and jail meth dealers and traffickers in WA.

A Liberal Government will show no tolerance by introducing Australia's harshest penalties for meth dealers and traffickers with mandatory minimum jail terms to make sure when they are caught, they are locked up for a long time.

We will also ensure there are more treatment options available for addicts and bring in legislation to allow for involuntary rehabilitation for families desperate for help to get their loved ones off this insidious drug and reclaim their lives.

Fast Facts

- Since August 2015, more than 700kg of meth has been seized in WA, equating to a street value of about \$700 million. This included the two biggest single hauls in WA history – 315kg in September 2016 and 183kg in May 2016.
- Over this same period, WA Police have issued more than 560 search warrants and charged almost 500 offenders.
- There was a 40.8% increase in amphetamine-type stimulant arrests from 2014 to 2015.
- Research has indicated that meth users are much more likely to commit robbery, burglary, to arm themselves with weapons, to commit property offences and to be involved in domestic violence than non-users.
- Statistics taken at the Perth Watch House also indicate that the percentage of offenders who had 'recently used meth', has tripled from 15% in 2009, to 53% in the third quarter of 2015.
- Methamphetamine use in Western Australia is considerably higher than the national average, being 3.8% compared with 2.1%.
- This is exacerbated by the increase in potency, with 78.2% of methamphetamine users reporting using the stronger and more potent crystal 'ice' form of methamphetamine in 2013, compared with 44% in 2010.
- Since the Meth Helpline was launched in September 2016, more than 2,500 calls about meth have been handled.
- Since 2008 funding for mental health and alcohol and other drug services has increased by an unprecedented 83.9% from \$470.8 million to \$865.8million.



The WA Meth Strategy

The Liberal-led Government has already introduced a range of measures to tackle supply and treat users.

In May 2016, the Liberal-led Government released the WA Meth Strategy which adopts a multi-faceted approach to target supply and reduce demand through targeted intervention and support.

Under the WA Meth Strategy, an additional \$15 million was committed to expanding WA's prevention and support services including:

- 60 new drug treatments beds – 52 dedicated rehabilitation and eight low-medical withdrawal beds – across the State. This is in addition to the 350 residential rehabilitation beds already in existence.

- An additional 13 full time staff at Community Alcohol and Drug Services across the State.
- A pilot specialist meth clinic to provide rapid assessment, early intervention and treatment.
- More drug support nurses at hospital emergency departments over the next two years.
- Increased funding for the School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) program.
- A Meth hotline and a community education campaign.

The Meth Enforcement Action Plan was developed by WA Police and rolled out in July 2015. It includes:

- Methamphetamine Transport Teams deployed at key transport hubs to conduct searches of cars, trucks, trains and aircraft entering WA.
- The Joint Organised Crime Taskforce, a partnership between the Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Customs and Border Protection, the Australian Crime Commission, AUSTRAC and the WA Police Organised Crime Division.
- Dedicated Methamphetamine Teams established within the Organised Crime Squad.
- The WA Police Proceeds of Crime Squad.
- A methamphetamine desk has been established within WA Police to provide intelligence and investigative support to Meth Teams.
- More road-side drug tests. In the 2015-16 financial year, almost 30,000 road-side drug tests were conducted, compared to about 9,000 tests in 2012.



In January 2017, the Government changed the Misuse of Drugs Amendment (Search Powers) Bill 2016 to provide WA Police with powers to search vehicles in designated drug transit areas and search packages in distribution and courier facilities.

Our Commitment

A Liberal Government will further tackle the meth scourge with a comprehensive \$190 million package to track down, arrest and jail meth dealers and traffickers, treat and rehabilitate drug addicts, provide help and support to users and their families and educate our kids to keep them away from drugs.

Our Commitment on Meth Dealers

A Liberal Government will introduce Australia's harshest penalties for adult meth dealers and traffickers with minimum mandatory jail terms.

- Tier 1 (up to 10g) introduce a mandatory minimum of 1 year's jail;
- Tier 2 (>10g up to 50g) introduce a mandatory minimum of 5 years' jail;
- Tier 3 (>50g up to 200g) introduce a mandatory minimum of 10 years' jail;
- Tier 4 (>200g) introduce a mandatory minimum of 15 years' jail.

The street price of 1 gram of meth is around \$700 and a "hit", of around 0.1g, is around \$70.

A Liberal Government will increase the maximum sentence for meth dealing and trafficking to life imprisonment and an unlimited fine. The current maximum penalty is 25 years and a \$100,000 fine.

A Liberal Government will expand the powers of the Police and the Director of Public Prosecutions to dismantle the operations of high level meth dealers and traffickers. New laws will see anyone convicted of being a drug dealer, who was in possession of 28g or more of meth being automatically deemed a

“Drug Trafficker” so the State can begin the process of confiscating property and seizing assets.

Note: This legislation will have a 5-year sunset clause to allow the government of the day to continue with these tough measures or change it to include different drugs that may be causing the same harm as meth.

Our Commitment to Involuntary Rehabilitation

A Liberal Government will introduce legislation to provide for involuntary rehabilitation for meth and other drug and alcohol users. This will be backed by funding of \$39 million over four years to establish an appropriate facility and support services.

A Liberal Government will commit \$20 million over four years for a Meth and Other Drug Rehabilitation Infrastructure and Support fund, to increase residential rehabilitation beds across the State including:

- 5 beds in the Midwest;
- 10 beds in the Goldfields;
- 20 beds in the South West;
- 10 beds in the Great Southern;
- 10 beds in North West; and
- 30 metropolitan beds.

Our Commitment to Get Kids Away from Meth

A Liberal Government will introduce legislation to create Meth Intervention Orders for minor first time offenders to help them get off drugs and avoid reoffending. If the individual successfully completes the order they will not receive a conviction. These orders will be based on our successful Cannabis Intervention Requirement Scheme which 78% of people successfully completed.



A Liberal Government will introduce the ability for the Courts to issue a Community Corrections Orders for minor second time offenders so they will be required to complete intensive rehabilitation as part of their order.

A Liberal Government will continue to fund the Meth Helpline over the next four years at a cost of \$900,000.

A Liberal Government will provide an additional \$8 million over four years for drug education in schools and for the wider community to raise the awareness of the harms of meth and other drugs.

Our Commitment to Providing Care and Treatment

A Liberal Government continue to provide specialist drug and alcohol nurses at hospital emergency departments over four years at an additional cost of \$2 million.

A Liberal Government will continue to fund the new ‘Next Step Program’ specialist meth clinic in East Perth which provides rapid assessment, early intervention and treatment at a cost of

\$1 million over four years. Consideration will be given the expansion of clinics to other locations.

A Liberal Government will provide an additional \$2 million over four years to enable meth addicts to receive access to home-based withdrawal services which includes necessary clinical support.

A Liberal Government will introduce a trial Mentoring and Peer Support Fund, investing \$1 million over four years for non-clinical support for addicts, families and significant others of addicts at times of crisis.

Our Commitment to Resourcing the Police

A Liberal Government will provide \$23 million over four years to continue funding the WA Police Meth Teams to combat the meth trade across the State.

Our Commitment to Resourcing the Courts

A Liberal Government will provide an additional \$30 million for more prosecutors, judges and magistrates.

Our Commitment to Prisoners

A Liberal Government will provide \$24 million over four years for additional drug treatment programs in prison to ensure that every addict will receive treatment before being released.

This funding will be provided to NGOs to deliver programs in prison and follow-up support services after release. It will be subject to a tender process and contracts will incorporate incentive payments for providers if prisoners remain drug free for two years after parole.

A Liberal Government will build two new wings at Casuarina Prison at a cost of \$35 million.

A Liberal Government will provide \$2 million over four years to roll out an intensive drug use reduction strategy in prisons. The strategy was successfully trialled at Bunbury Regional Prison and saw positive drug tests fall from 10.5% to 0.6%. The funding will be used to resource the strategy, such as the cost of drug testing.

