

MEDIA RELEASE

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DALEY AND SECORD RE-COMMIT LABOR TO HOLDING ANOTHER HISTORIC DRUG SUMMIT

A Daley Labor Government will hold a drug summit in 2019 – patterned on the historic one held in 1999.

The historic 1999 summit gave rise to increased funding for drug treatment and the establishment of the medically supervised injecting room in Kings Cross.

NSW Labor leader Michael Daley and Shadow Health Minister Walt Secord today re-committed to holding a drug summit, if they are elected to government in the forthcoming State election.

The 1999 summit was a bold policy gathering which brought together experts and people of goodwill including police, health professionals, former patients, family members, the judiciary, academics and other decision-makers.

Illicit drug use in NSW has changed significantly in the last 20 years; at the time, NSW was awash with heroin. Today we see ice ravaging regional centres and suburban Sydney.

Furthermore, NSW Labor will also combat head-on the scourge of ice in NSW, with its plan to open six detoxification and rehabilitation clinics for ice addicts. It will fund six facilities attached to public hospitals with a total of 150 beds – four will be located in regional NSW – at a cost of \$100 million. The clinics will treat up to 1,300 ice addicts a year and will be staffed by specially trained nurses, health professionals and security guards. This is about getting those addicted to ice into the treatment they need.

NSW Shadow Health Minister Walt Secord said:

"In 1999, dozens of experts came together - in the spirit of goodwill - to look at new approaches.

"It has been almost 20 years since the original historic drug summit and the drug landscape is dramatically different today with the appearance of ice in rural and regional areas."

"NSW Labor will bring together drug experts, family members, health workers, researchers, police, judges and politicians to hold another drug summit."

"The 1999 drug summit gave rise to the unique medically supervised injecting room in Kings Cross - the only one in Australia at the time."

"There needs to be a broader approach to tackling the scourge of drugs.

"I believe that drugs are a health issue and we must have approaches beyond policing."