

WHAT DOES EXTRA-MEDICAL OPIOID USE COST AUSTRALIA?



Extra-medical opioid use includes the illegal use of heroin and the misuse of pharmaceutical opioids (use not as prescribed)



645,260 Australians USE extra-medical opioids

104,000 Australians are **DEPENDENT** on extra-medical opioids

2,203 Australian **DEATHS** are attributable to extra-medical opioid use

The tangible costs of extra-medical opioid use amount to \$5.63 BILLION



\$2.48 billion
Premature death



\$936 million
Drug-related crime



\$481 million
Road traffic accidents



\$1.08 billion
Healthcare costs



\$459 million
Workplace costs



\$194 million
Other (including prevention programs)



\$311 million
Pharmaceuticals for treatment of medical conditions related to opioid use



\$127 million
Specialist drug treatment including opioid substitution therapy



\$85 million
Other health costs



\$249 million
Inpatient hospital treatment



\$41 million
Ambulance and Emergency Department services



\$234 million
Primary healthcare treatment



\$31 million
Outpatients

The intangible cost of extra-medical opioid use is \$10.13 BILLION

due to the premature death of 2,203 people and over 70,000 years of life lost



THE TOTAL COST OF EXTRA-MEDICAL OPIOID USE IS \$15.76 BILLION

Data from 12-month period July 2015 to June 2016

Whetton, S., Tait, R.J., Chrzanowska, A., Donnelly, N., McEntee, A., Mukhtar, A., Zahra, E., Campbell, G., Degenhardt, L., Dey, T., Halim, S.A., Hall, W., Makate, M., Norman, R., Peacock, A., Roche, A. and Allsop, S. (2020). Quantifying the social costs of pharmaceutical opioid misuse and illicit opioid use to Australia in 2015/16. National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.