

Whakawātea te Huarahi

The political role of the GP in working with their patients and addiction

**AT THE HEART
OF THE MATTER,
NZ DRUG
FOUNDATION.**

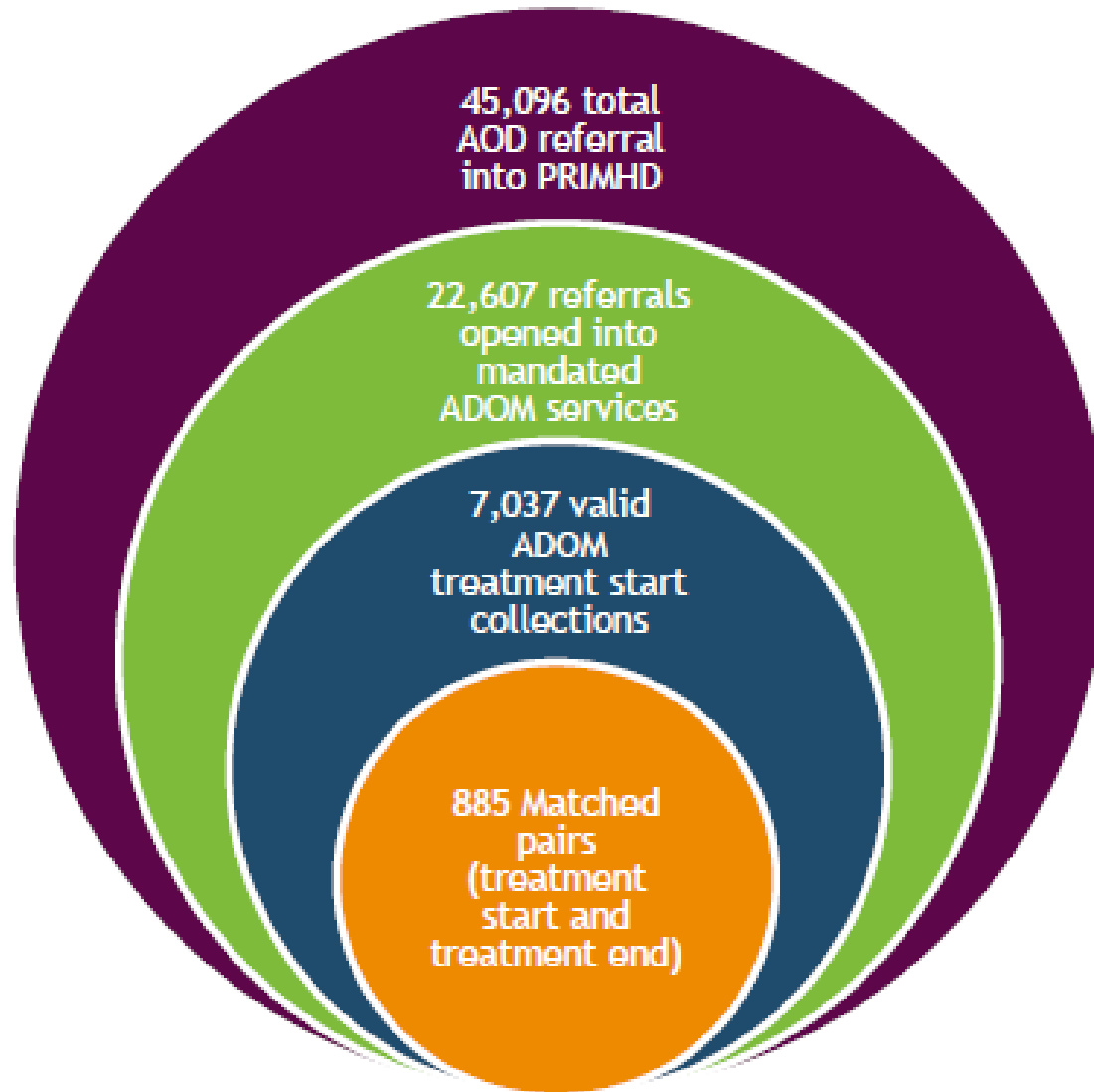
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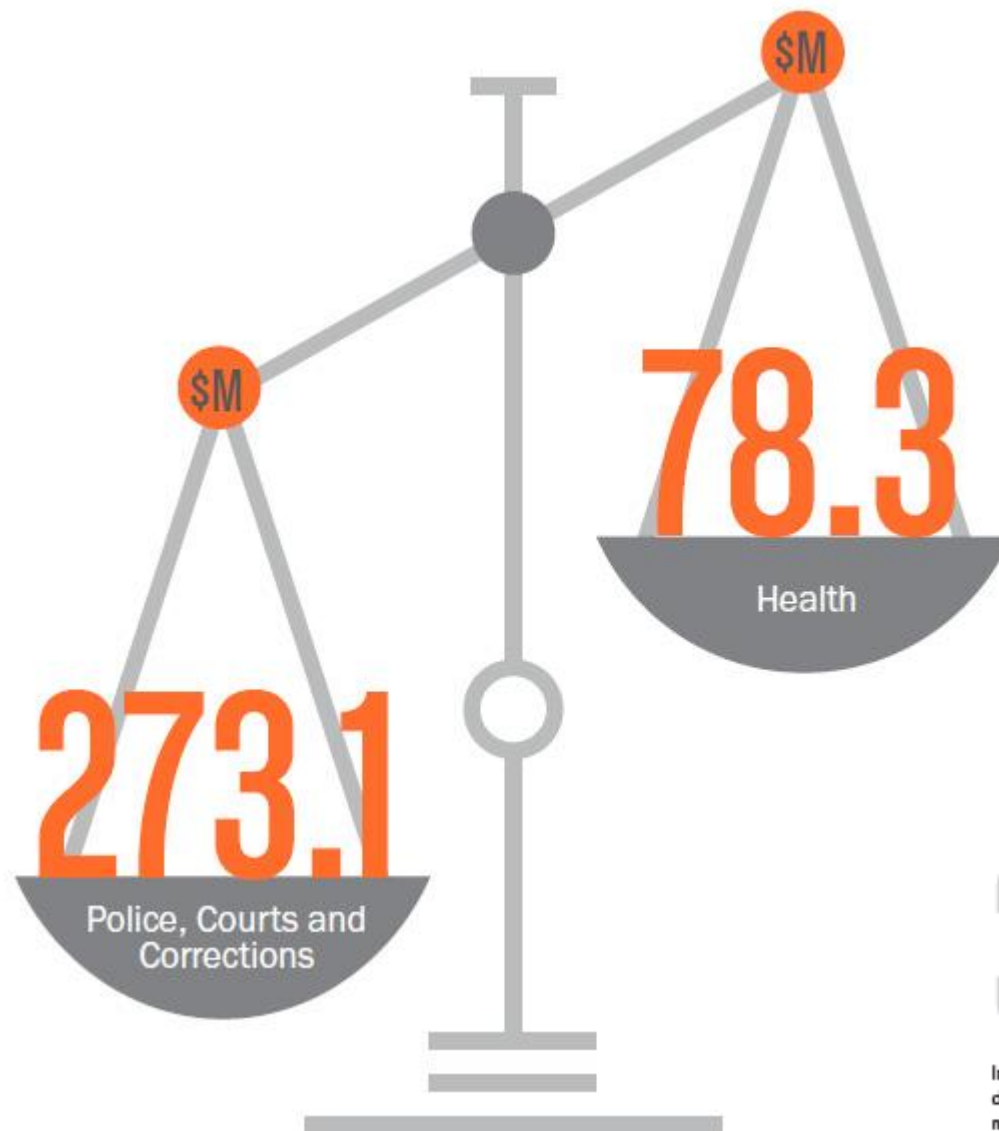
Gilbert Taurua
Principal Advisor

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Waitemata DHB



Programme for the Integration of Mental Health Data (PRIMHD)





3.5x

In 2014/15, to address a \$1.8 billion drug problem, we spent at least 3.5X more on drug-related law enforcement than on health interventions.

Source: New Zealand Drug Harm Index 2016

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\$1.8B

DRUGS COST US \$1.8 BILLION PER YEAR IN HEALTH, SOCIAL & ECONOMIC HARMS

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415,000

**PEOPLE EACH YEAR IGNORE OUR LAWS PROHIBITING
CANNABIS USE**

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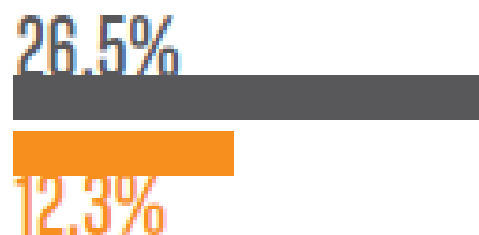
44

**COUNTRIES NOW HAVE SOME TYPE OF
DECRIMINALISATION OR LEGALISATION OF
CANNABIS**

3,140

**IN 2015, 3,140 PEOPLE WERE COVICTED FOR POSSESSION
AND/OR USE OF AN ILLICIT DRUG OR DRUG UNTENSILS**

Lifetime prevalence of any substance use disorder

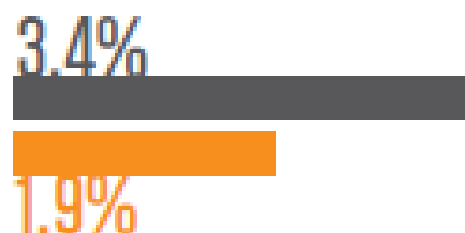


- Māori
- Total Population

Māori also experience more harm from drugs – they are more than twice as likely to suffer a substance use disorder in their lifetime than the general population

Source: MA Oakley Browne, JE Wells, KH Scott (eds). 2006. Te Rau Hinengaro: The New Zealand Mental Health Survey. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

Percentage experiencing legal problems from cannabis use in past 12 months (2012)

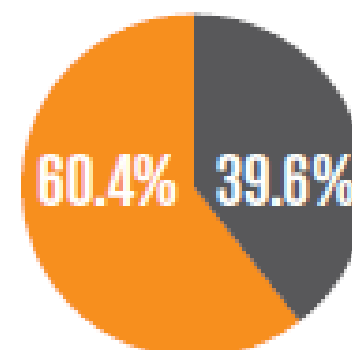


- Māori
- Others

Among cannabis users, nearly twice as many Māori as non-Māori report legal problems from their use

Source: Cannabis Use 2012/13: New Zealand Health Survey, page 12

Ethnicity of those in prison with drug offences as their main offence 2010–2014



- Māori
- European/Other

Māori make up about 40% of those in prison for drug offences

Source: Statistics NZ online tables, annual sentenced prisoner throughput for latest calendar years

64%

**OF US NOW THINK THE LAW ON CANNABIS PROHIBITION
SHOULD BE CHANGED**



CONTROLLING AND REGULATING DRUGS

A REVIEW OF THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1975



Reprint
as at 22 December 2016



Misuse of Drugs Act 1975

Public Act	1975 No 116
Date of assent	10 October 1975
Commencement	see section 1(2)



Currently approved medical cannabis products:

Sativex

Marinol

Cesamet

Syndros

Bedrocan

Tilray products

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Whakawātea te Huarahi

A model drug law
to 2020 and beyond



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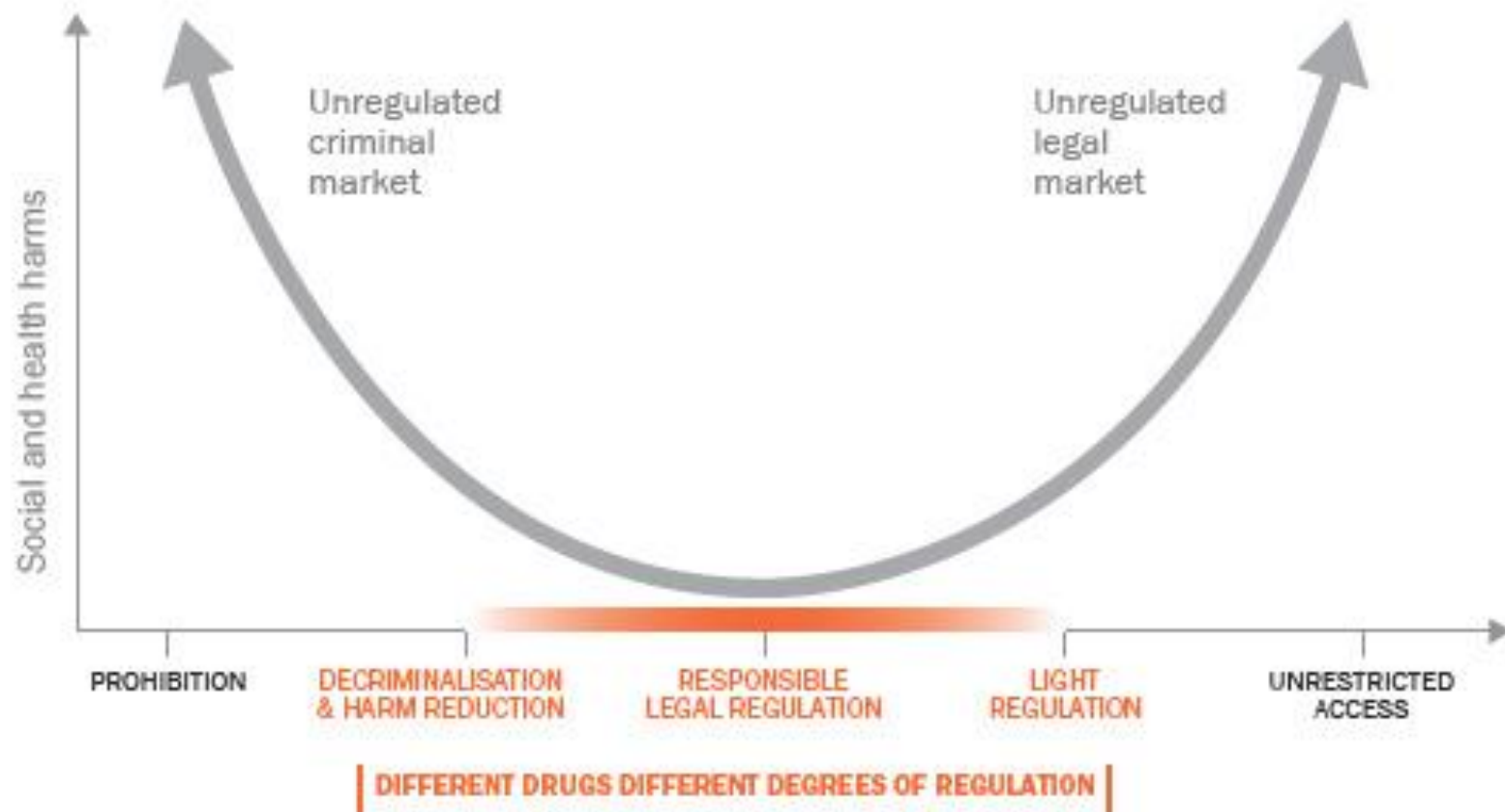
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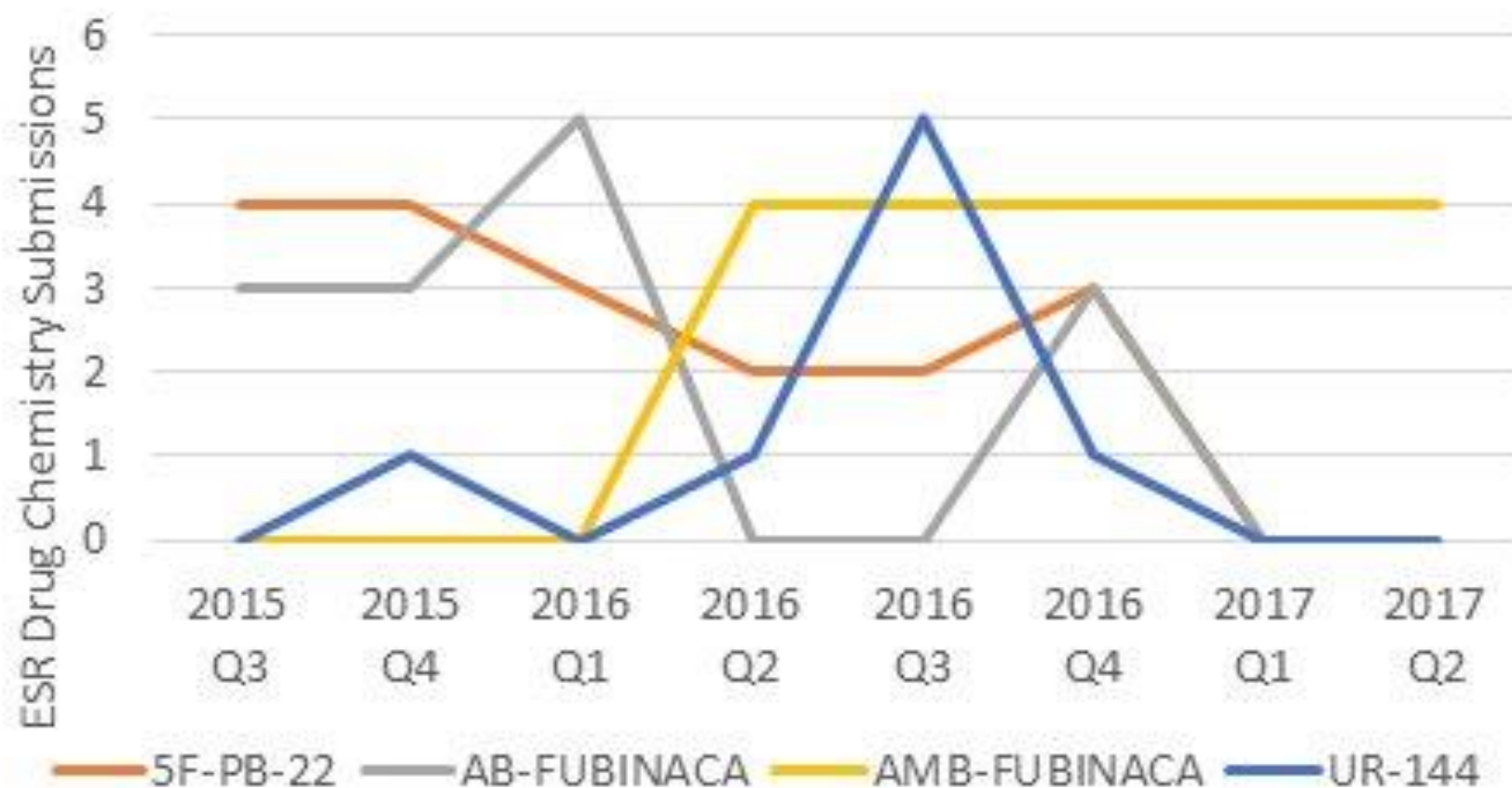
5 GOALS FOR A NEW DRUG LAW

- Minimise the harm caused by drug use
- Respect human rights
- Safer communities with less drug-related harm
- Equity for Māori
- Policy is cost-effective and evidenced based

DRUG POLICY SPECTRUM



ESR Drug Chemistry Synthetic Cannabinoid Submissions







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METHAMPHETAMINE INTERVENTION SERVICE (MIS)

The Alcohol Drug Helpline has a specialist team who deal with the concerns of individuals affected by methamphetamine. It is a free service to anyone in New Zealand wanting to talk about a meth-related question, issue or problem.

- Along with providing telephone-based referrals, the MIS can also provide:
- advice on how to reduce the harm caused by drug use
 - information on treatment options
 - self-help material specifically designed for people who use meth
 - call back service – where you can be called back at a time that suits you
 - brief interventions – help with cutting down and/or staying off
 - assistance with finding and getting treatment
 - comprehensive assessment – in order to access residential treatment
 - case management
 - regular reviews of plans and goals
 - cultural support – via Māori and Pacific staff members

When you call the Alcohol Drug Helpline and identify as someone seeking help with meth, they will ask you if you would like to talk to a specialist methamphetamine worker.

The worker may be available straight away – if not, they will call back at an agreed time.

Alcohol Drug Helpline 0800 767 767
The Alcohol Drug Helpline operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at:

- <http://nzdrug.org/drug-law-2020>
- gilbert.taurua@drugfoundation.org.nz

