21st October 2013

Dear Sandy,

Thank you for inviting me to submit to the Inquiry into Supply and Use of Methamphetamines, particularly ‘ice’. I am grateful for this opportunity to assist in this inquiry, and hope I can provide you with useful information in regards to your terms of reference.

I would like to address the 5th term of reference: ‘examine the short and long term consequences of methamphetamine use’. As my research examines the biological basis of methamphetamine, my knowledge of the other terms of reference is limited; however, I will provide references to useful articles where possible. I have provided a reference list at the end of this document which I hope will assist in addressing some of the terms of reference.

5. Examine the short and long term consequences of methamphetamine use

There is a wealth of literature describing the short and long term consequences of methamphetamine use. The short term effects of methamphetamine use include increased alertness, confidence, concentration and euphoria (Cruickshank et al. 2009; Derlet and Heischober, 1990; Mendelson et al., 1995; Soderpalm et al., 2003), as well as elevated blood pressure and heart rate (Mendelson et al., 1995; Mendelson et al., 2006) and decreased appetite (Martin et al., 1971). Acute methamphetamine use has also been associated with aggression and psychosis (Bunting et al., 2007; Degenhardt et al., 2007; Gray et al., 2007). Cruickshank et al. (2009) provide a comprehensive review of the acute effects of methamphetamine use (see pp. 1087 -. 1092).

The long term effects of methamphetamine use include increased risk of a number of physical and mental health complications. These include cardiovascular complaints [e.g. heart rate variability, increased blood pressure, increased risk of stroke (Gray et al., 2007; Bunting et al., 2007); for reviews see (Kaye et al., 2007; Yu et al., 2003)]; cognitive decline (Kim et al., 2010) and psychological conditions [e.g. increased anxiety, depression and paranoia (Marshall et al., 2010; McKetin et al., 2010; Zorick et al., 2010)].
I would also like to suggest some relevant articles for the following terms of reference:

4. Examine the links between methamphetamine use and crime, in particular crimes against the person
Darke et al. (2010). Importantly, this is an Australian study; a number of studies investigating violent crime associated with methamphetamine use have been conducted in America.

6. Examine the relationship of methamphetamine use to other forms of illicit and licit substances
Herbeck et al. (2013) examines the relationship between poly drug use and marijuana use in methamphetamine users.

I hope this information and these references are helpful in the production of your inquiry. If you have any questions I am more than happy to discuss further with you.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

Rose Chesworth.
Reference List


