



Crime and Corruption Commission

QUEENSLAND

New and emerging psychoactive substances in Queensland

Presented to/at:

Australian Drugs Conference

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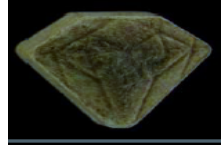
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Background

- Range of substances intended to mimic the effects of traditional illicit drugs
- Identified as rapidly evolving worldwide
- CMC first identified NPS as an emerging threat in 2009
- Further growth in range and availability of NPS identified in 2012

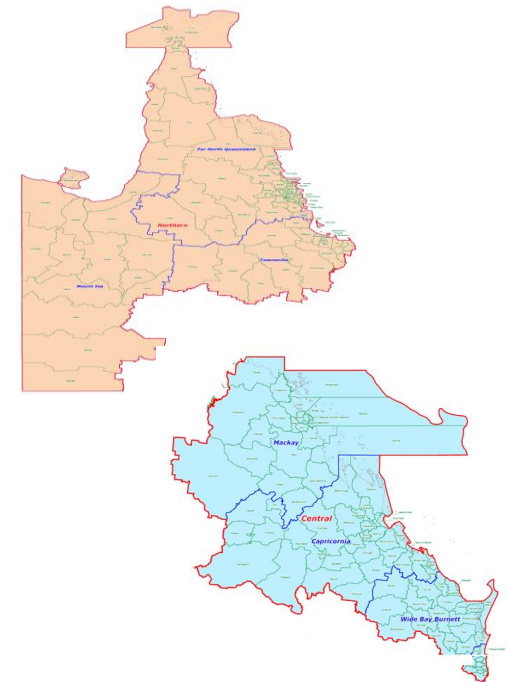


NPS market in Queensland

- Growth in range and availability
- Market remains small in comparison to traditional illicit drugs
- NPS consumed by a broad cross-section of the community
- Prevalent among recreational drug users and high-intensity users

Prevalence in remote communities

- High prevalence of NPS in central and northern regions:
 - Cairns, Gladstone, Mackay, Mount Isa
- Associated with:
 - limited availability of traditional illicit drugs
 - flooding of the market with NPS
 - high levels of disposable income



Young people and NPS

- Several NPS-associated deaths in Australia have been teenagers
- Younger users particularly susceptible to the harms associated with NPS
- Evidence that young people are being targeted by producers and suppliers

Deceptive marketing of NPS

- Deceptive and aggressive marketing techniques
- Marketing of NPS as legal, safe or a way to quit traditional drugs
- Marketed as traditional illicit drugs



Marketing towards young people

- Pills in the shape of cartoon characters
- Colourful and fun designs on blotter tabs
- Playful street names – *Barts, Homers, Smiles*
- “Research chemical” label attractive to young people



Organised crime involvement

- Organised crime involvement is increasing
- NPS market is replicating traditional illicit drug markets
- Organised crime involvement is likely to continue to increase over the next 2 – 3 years

Domestic production

- Examples of NPS being produced and distributed at a commercial level in Queensland
- Suppliers importing synthesised products and producing NPS domestically



Harms associated with NPS use

- A number of deaths have been associated with NPS use in Queensland
- Serious injuries sustained from NPS use
- Little is known about long term harms
- Lack of public understanding about harms

What is the CCC doing about NPS?

- NPS market has been identified as an emerging threat to Queensland
- The evolution of NPS market is an intelligence collection priority
- Actively targeting organised crime involvement in production, importation, trafficking and possession of NPS

