



New Resolutions Arise from International Drug Conference

Friday 23rd October 2009

Minister for Police Michael Daley today announced that real time recording of pseudoephedrine product sales for all pharmacies was a step closer.

Mr Daley said the three day Australasian Chemical Diversion Congress had ended with a resolution to make it mandatory for pharmacies to record sales of products with pseudoephedrine.

"I understand that ACDC 2009, hosted by the NSW Police Force in Sydney, was an extremely productive conference," he said.

"Law enforcement officers, pharmaceutical companies and industry experts worked together on strategies to tackle the illegal manufacture and trade of synthetic drugs such as methylamphetamine (Ice) and MDMA (Ecstasy).

"Together they came up with a number of key resolutions aimed at putting a serious dent in the drug trade and the operations of organised criminal gangs.

"Aside from mandatory recording in pharmacies, these resolutions include improving the security of precursor chemicals which are being targeted by organised crime gangs for theft and having Police work with GPs to raise their awareness of criminal "doctor shopping" for pseudoephedrine.

"We'll also be monitoring legislation recently introduced in New Zealand which has made pseudoephedrine product prescription only.

"The ACDA 2009 Conference has shown that working together gives law enforcement officials the opportunity to have a serious impact on the drug trade and the organised criminal syndicates who are putting these drugs on our streets," Mr Daley said.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione thanked the NSW Police Force for their excellent work in hosting the successful and productive event.

"As police, we can't do this alone. So with the partnerships formed at the congress we can forge ahead and make things even harder for the criminals who produce these synthetic drugs," Mr Scipione said.

"We need to stay one step ahead of them. Because when we come up with new plans to stop organised crime gangs, they change their tactics. But I'm confident these new resolutions will make a difference to what synthetic drugs are available on the street.

"What we want to do is put pseudo runners out of business.

"It's important to also acknowledge the work done by NSW Police officers in cracking down on these dangerous drugs. To date this year, NSW Police Force officers have seized more than 40kg of amphetamines with an estimated street value of more than \$21.5 million in raids throughout NSW – more than for the whole of 2008.

“The NSWPF has dismantled 59 dangerous and toxic labs so far this year, again more than for the whole of 2008,” Mr Scipione said.