

Melbourne Conversations

Drug use happens! Stories about drugs and alcohol

Alcohol and drug use, legal and illicit, is a fact of life. Join our panel as they shed some light on the stories of drug usage and lifestyle, health and harm. Have your say through our audience "hot seat" and contribute to this important national conversation during Youth Week.

Date: Tuesday 17 April 2012

Time: 6pm to 7.30pm

Venue: BMW Edge Federation Square, Melbourne

Panellists

Peter Wearne Director Services, Youth Support and Advocacy Service and Vice President, Trust for Young Australians, Melbourne has over 30 years' experience in dealing with problems affecting young people, particularly those who are marginalised. In 1981, Peter founded and managed St Kilda Youth Services and he has been with YSAS since its inception in 1997. Peter has a particular interest in working with police to improve their response to young people who have alcohol, drug and criminal issues.

Professor Andrew Lawrence - Head of the Addiction Neuroscience and Research Fellow within the Behavioural Neuroscience division at Florey Neuroscience Institute, Melbourne. Professor Lawrence is a Professorial Research Fellow within the Behavioural Neuroscience division at FNI, and head of the Addiction Neuroscience laboratory. His primary research interest is in the development of robust animal models of drug-seeking, drug-taking and drug-induced neural adaptation. In addition, his group uses these models to define new potential therapeutic targets for drug and alcohol abuse disorders. He has published over 150 original articles and reviews.

Lisa Pryor is a journalist, writer and medical student. She is the author of two non-fiction books, *The Pin Striped Prison: How overachievers get trapped in corporate jobs they hate* and most recently *A Small Book About Drugs*. She was previously the opinion page editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*, where she also wrote a weekly opinion column. She returned to the University of Sydney in 2011 to study medicine

Moderated by Dr Leslie Cannold is an author, commentator, and activist. She has a BA from Wesleyan University in the USA, a Masters Degree in Medical Ethics from Monash University and a PHD from the University of Melbourne. Leslie is an award-winning columnist, oft-noted as one of Australia's leading public thinkers. She has been listed alongside Professor Peter Singer, Professor Gustav Nossal and Inga Clendinnen as one of Australia's top 20 public intellectuals and recently made the Power Index's Top Ten List of most influential brains.

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