

Australia creates task force to fight “ice”

The Australian government has established a national task force to tackle the rapidly growing problem of addiction to crystal methamphetamine, also known as “ice”, across the country

WHAT IS CRYSTAL METH?

■ **Illegal drug in same class as cocaine. Part of amphetamine group of drugs – potent stimulant speeds up function of brain and central nervous system**

■ **White crystalline “ice” is purest form of methamphetamine – about 80 percent pure – compared to 10-20 percent purity of powdered form, known as “speed”**

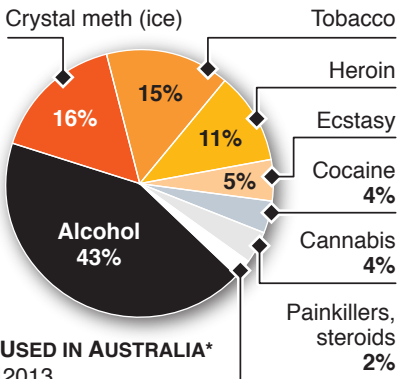
■ **Crystals can be swallowed or smoked, crushed into powder for snorting, or dissolved in liquid for injection or swallowing**

■ **Users experience rush of euphoria and energy lasting up to 24 hours. Side effects include loss of appetite, insomnia, high blood pressure and negative feelings from “comedown”**

■ **Potency makes drug highly addictive. Repeated use can lead to memory loss, aggression, psychotic behaviour and potential heart and brain damage**



DRUGS OF MOST CONCERN TO AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE, 2013*



MAIN FORMS OF METH / AMPHETAMINE USED IN AUSTRALIA*

Percent 2007 2010 2013

