

## **EX PRISONERS DRUG DEATHS**

**A study of ex prisoners released from prison shows that many die from drug overdoses within one month or one year of release.**

**The study has been published in the Medical Journal of Australia and is based on 2007/8 Australian Bureau of Statistics data and two studies from NSW and WA.**

**The study is the first ever national estimate of mortality for ex prisoners.**

**Many struggle with drug problems after release.**

**It estimates that 450 ex prisoners had died within one year of release of which 30 per cent had died within four weeks of release.**

**(Source: Burnet Institute release 17 July 2011.)**

### ***DRUG ADVISORY COUNCIL COMMENTS***

***The incarceration of prisoners is an ideal time to provide drug rehabilitation to an abstinent state.***

***Identified illicit drug users should be directed into court supervised drug rehabilitation.***

***When prisoners are convicted and jailed then courts can direct rehabilitation during custody which can continue after release if not completed.***

***This approach will drastically reduce after release overdose deaths and will also deal with re-offending because of drug addiction.***

***Court ordered prison drug rehabilitation is value for money as it prevents continued drug use and is used by other countries to reduce drug use and prevent new crime.***

**THE DRUG ADVISORY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS-  
More detoxification & rehabilitation that gets illicit drug user's drug free.  
Court ordered and supervised detoxification & rehabilitation.  
Less illicit drug users, drug pushers and drug related crimes.**

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