

## **DRUGS LINK TO PARKINSONS DISEASE**

**A new study by Canada's largest mental health and addiction hospital has found a link between drug use and Parkinson's disease.**

**People who abuse methamphetamines and methamphetamine-like stimulants were more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than those who did not.**

**The study examined almost 300,000 hospital records from California covering 16 years.**

**Patients admitted for methamphetamine use disorders had a 76 per cent higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease.**

**Globally, methamphetamines are the second most commonly used illicit drug.**

**Methamphetamine damages dopamine producing areas of the brain.**

**There are few studies examining the long term association between methamphetamine use and the development of a major brain disorder.**

**(Source: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, release, 26 July 2011)**

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

***This study showing the link between illicit drug use and brain damage is the latest medical research that shows illicit drug use is dangerous.***

***Australia has a large methamphetamine using population and so we can expect an increase in Parkinson's and other brain damage disorders.***

***With cannabis being the commonly used drug in Australia the medical studies have now confirmed brain damage and schizophrenia.***

***Identified illicit drug users should be directed into court supervised drug rehabilitation that has as its specific objective of getting users off drugs quickly and permanently.***

**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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