

# UMSU Harm Reduction Working Group

## Terms of Reference

### 1. Background/Context

The University of Melbourne Student Union (UMSU) is committed to the principles of Harm Reduction to ensure the safety of all students at the University of Melbourne.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, a motion was brought to Students' Council to discuss harm reduction and the potential to give out Drug Testing Kits to students at the University of Melbourne. The motion read:

*“The Students’ Council resolves to implement this drug harm reduction program in the lead-up to the summer festival season, and endorses the distribution of packs of relevant information and reagent test kits at the Union House information desk. Students Council understands the limitations surrounding this testing, and affirms that all distribution will be accompanied by a verbal discussion.*

*The students’ council acknowledges the limitations of reagent kits as a test method for drug purity and adulteration, and will therefore work toward making more accurate and effective tests available.*

*The students’ council therefore calls upon the University of Melbourne to explore providing access to gas chromatography facilities for this purpose.”*

This working group is the initial step in creating policy around this crucial issue. Policies developed in this working group will be devised to ensure clarity and openness to all students.

### 2. Roles and functions of the UMSU Harm Reduction Working Group

The UMSU Harm Reduction Working Group will:

- Create a Harm Reduction Proposal of procedure to send to the University in response to their initial concerns with the program
- Provide discussion and strategies into creating policy on Harm Reduction
- Identify problems within UMSU’s and the University’s framework that contradicts Harm Reduction principles and change them accordingly
- Assist in the promotion and education of Harm Reduction to students
- Monitor and identify emerging risks and create strategies to prevent issues arising related to drugs and alcohol on campus

### **3. Role of individual group members**

The role of the individual members of UMSU Ethical Sponsorship Working Group includes:

- Adhering to UMSU's code of conduct
- To attend regular meetings as required
- Actively participating in the group's work
- Representing the interests of all students
- Being an advocate for the program's outcomes

## **4. General**

### **4.1. Membership**

Membership is open to all students of the University of Melbourne, as well as any parties interested in the formation of policy on Harm Reduction in a student setting.

Members from the following groups, or individuals are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings:

- Students for Sensible Drug Policy Representatives
- UMSU Communications Division Representatives
- UMSU President
- UMSU General Secretary
- UMSU Welfare Department Representatives
- UMSU Legal Division Representatives

### **4.2. Chair/Convenor**

The UMSU General Secretary will chair the group, unless otherwise specified by the rest of the working group. The chair will adhere to the UMSU code of conduct and the rest of these Terms of Reference. The Chair's role is to go through the agenda effectively.

### **4.3. Minutes and meeting papers**

The minutes of each UMSU Harm Reduction Working Group meeting will be prepared by the UMSU General Secretary. Full copies of the minutes, including attachments, will be provided to all UMSU Harm Reduction members via email and/or on the UMSU website.

### **4.4. Frequency of meetings**

The frequency of meetings is decided by the Working Group, a schedule should be developed in the first meeting.