

# **BACKGROUND**

**January 2008**

## **Backgrounder - Frontline Diagnostics**

### **History**

Frontline Diagnostics was established in NSW in 1999 to provide Australian industry with a complete solution for the detection, management and control of alcohol and other drugs in the workplace.

The company was founded by Managing Director Michael White who, prior to setting up Frontline Diagnostics, had worked with a business partner in pharmaceutical promotions for 15 years. Michael was unaware that his colleague was a heroin addict until he overdosed and passed away after 12 years of using the drug.

It was then that Michael decided to work towards creating a drug-safe Australia. Using his background in pharmaceuticals, he started Frontline Diagnostics to provide a testing and screening service as well as assistance in policy development for companies to lessen the impact of drug and alcohol use in the workplace.

Frontline Diagnostics employs 32 people as well as contractors around Australia and the South Pacific and it has, to this date, assisted hundreds of Australian companies develop a drug-safe work environment for their employees.

### **Services & products**

Frontline Diagnostics offers a comprehensive range of products and services designed to ensure management, staff and unions feel comfortable with the development and implementation of a Drug-Safe Workplace program.

It is committed to best-practice standards and is constantly researching new technologies and protocols that can help its clients provide a Drug-Safe Workplace for all their employees, contractors and visitors.

Frontline Diagnostics services include: complete screening and testing with results analysis and comprehensive reporting; policy development support for regulating alcohol and other drugs at the workplace; education workshops and training; purpose-built mobile clinics plus referral to accredited employee assistance providers.

The company understands the possible issues related to cultural change when a Drug-Safe Workplace program is introduced and offers various education and awareness programs including: alcohol & other drug awareness workshop, new employees and contractors drug awareness program, fit for work assessment (for supervisors & managers) as well as OH&S committee consultation.

Frontline Diagnostics is a member of the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) Association of Australian and can provide a reference list of suitable qualified counsellors to staff who may choose to seek help or advice on personal issues following the completion of the education workshops.

## **The Foundation**

Frontline Diagnostics is currently establishing the Drug-Safe Australia Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to educating and promoting drug-safe community, workplace, sports and schools.

## **The facts**

- 70 per cent of drug users are employed.
- Eight out 10 victims of serious drug-related accidents are non users.
- A reputation for drug use will kill a business just as fast as it kills an individual.
- Train drivers, airline pilots, ferry crews, bus drivers are all regularly tested as required under the State Transport Act. Taxi drivers are not.
- Airline pilots are regularly screened for alcohol and other drugs yet the engineers who service the engines, brakes, refuel the aircraft have never been subjected to drug screening.
- Automobile mechanics who check brakes and other safety equipment on cars are never screened for drugs, yet most fall into the highest risk category of male 18 - 34 years old.
- The long-term, seriously affected victims of one drug user can be more than 60 people, including family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and others.
- 26 per cent of all institutionalised psychiatric patients are chronic users of marijuana.
- Australia has the highest per capita usage of speed, ecstasy and ICE in the world.

For more information about Frontline Diagnostics visit [www.frontlinediagnostics.com.au](http://www.frontlinediagnostics.com.au).

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**For further information please call Kim Larochelle or Nicola Rutzou on (02) 9413 4244.**