



Integrity Sampling

DRUG & ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We aim to update our valued partners and the workplace (generally) about issues that face our industry; drugs and alcohol in the workplace. We highlight the latest trends, what concerns are filtering through to the shop floor, and help to educate those who strive for a safer and harm free workplace.

Integrity Sampling P/L is Australia wide, with 130 staff and technicians. We are Australia's leading drug and alcohol testing company. We service the transport, warehousing, manufacturing, building, construction, logistics, aviation, marine, mining, forestry, automotive and allied industries, performing in excess of 50,000 tests annually.

APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

Medicinal cannabis use on the rise

Announcement paves way for quicker approval

A recent announcement that patient access to medicinal cannabis has been streamlined is good news for people who may benefit from the treatment, but what does it mean for business owners and managers who might be concerned that someone under the influence of cannabis is at work?

Recently, all states and territories signed a national agreement that sets up a single approval process for use of medicinal cannabis. Now, if a patient is provided a script by a medical professional for medicinal cannabis, the use will need to be approved only by the Therapeutic Goods and Administration (TGA), rather than needing approval from state and federal authorities. It will slash the period that people will need to wait to use medicinal cannabis, from as much as months to only a day or two.

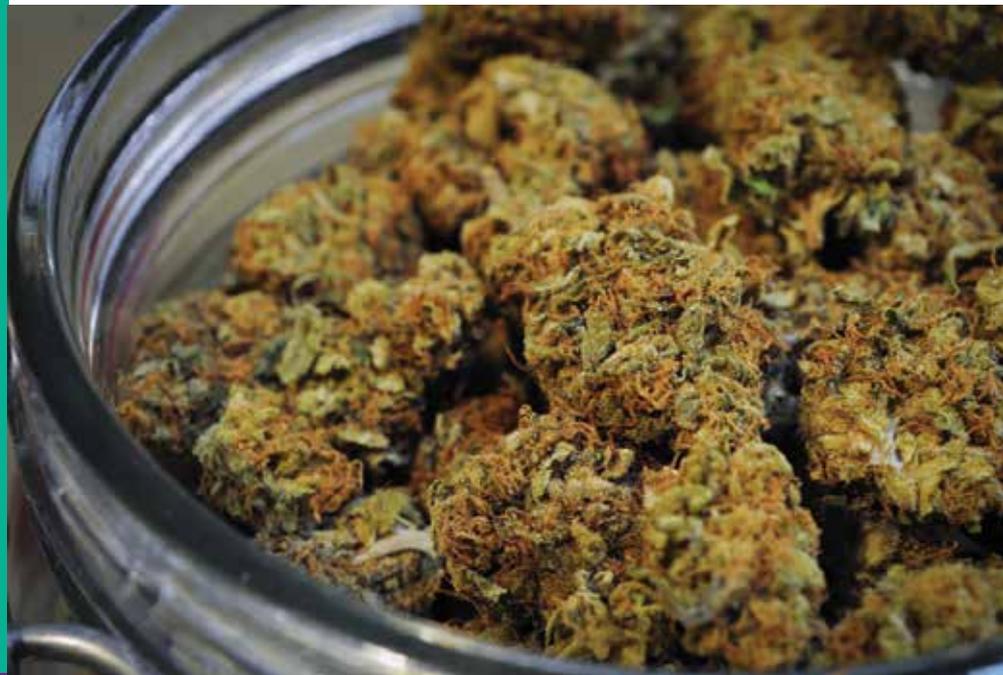
With the announcement and with use of medicinal cannabis on the rise, what does this mean for workplaces that conduct drug testing? Will they see more positives for cannabis?

The important thing to note is that medicinal cannabis use will still be tightly controlled. Only specialists will be able to prescribe medicinal cannabis before being approved by the TGA.

It will also only be available to people suffering certain debilitating or terminal conditions that have been identified as potentially responding to medicinal cannabis, as a treatment or pain relief. These are conditions such as epilepsy, brain tumors and cancers.

In the event of one of your employees being prescribed medicinal cannabis, it's highly likely they won't be able to work or will be on restricted duties, and you should therefore be well aware of their condition and their treatment.

That's why Integrity Sampling doesn't believe the recent announcement or the growing use of medicinal cannabis will have any major impact to workplaces.



Watch this space!

Integrity Sampling has some exciting news, but we're not quite ready to announce it yet. Let's just say that it will be good news for current clients who also have operations in New Zealand.

Watch this space and we'll provide full details in the coming months.



Hobart drug testing nabs 80%

While it only involved a small number of motorists, it was staggering to hear that 80% of drivers drug tested over several hours in Hobart in mid-April tested positive to drugs. Twenty-five drivers were tested with 20 providing positive tests, mostly to methamphetamines or cannabis.

The Hobart testing is a further example of the growing evidence that drugs are becoming more of an issue on our roads than alcohol. In another recent example in Launceston, Tasmania Police conducted 1000 random breath tests and 20 saliva drug tests. The testing resulted in seven drivers returning a positive drug test and one driver exceeding 0.05% blood alcohol level.

For workplaces, it would be naïve to think that people are taking risks with drugs and alcohol on our roads and not at work, which is why drug and alcohol testing in the workplace is a vital tool.

See <https://integritysamplingaust.com.au/2018/04/hobart-drug-testing-nabs-motorists> for full details.

Opioid positives could go down

Early this year the end of being able to buy codeine-based medicines over the counter was ceased. In the future, if you want codeine medications, such as Panadeine and Nurofen Plus, you'll need to visit a doctor for a prescription.

For drug testing providers like Integrity Sampling and workplaces, this can be seen as good news, as codeine, an opioid, has been responsible for positive drug tests. This has been particularly the case when people have used codeine above the recommended dosages. While the change won't stop this entirely, it is expected to reduce the number.

It's also good news because workplaces don't want people who have taken codeine over the recommend dosage at work. The effects are potentially similar to someone who has taken heroin and include drowsiness, tiredness, confusion, difficulty concentrating, blurred vision, dizziness, nausea, erratic behaviour and sweating.

See <https://integritysamplingaust.com.au/2018/02/codeine-drug-testing-link> for more.

Drugs and alcohol a global issue

Here at Integrity Sampling, we understand our job carries a lot of responsibility, so it's good for us to look at what others around the world who are involved with drug testing go through, particularly when there's a story with a lighter side:

- The crew on the HMS Scott, a UK Royal Navy ship, has been called HMS Snorty after random drug testing identified five crew members with drugs in their system. After the random drug testing highlighted the issue the entire ship was forced to undergo testing.
- A drug-driver crashing his car outside a police station may sound funny, particularly once you know nobody was hurt, but the details are definitely nothing to laugh about. Before crashing, the driver nearly hit a police officer and a police car. Perhaps worse still, the driver's two young daughters were in the car and weren't wearing seat belts.
- The Vancouver Police Department in Canada are looking for volunteers to get drunk... And they'll even feed you pizza. The volunteers are required as part of training of new recruits. They'll be used as sobriety test dummies, to undertake a simple eye examination, a walk and turn test and a one-leg stand test... Before having a pizza lunch!



Read more at <https://integritysamplingaust.com.au/2018/03/drug-testing-worldwide-issue>.

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