

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
ABN: 38 004 255 654

12/11/15

Gippsland builders take a stand on ice

A group of Gippsland builders will join forces with Victoria Police in Warragul today to highlight safety concerns associated with construction workers affected by the drug ice (crystal methamphetamine).

A recent roadside campaign in regional Victoria targeting young people in utes had 52 people tested, with 21 testing positive for ice.

Master Builders Gippsland Section builders have raised concerns that tradespeople are putting themselves, and their co-workers, at risk by coming onto construction sites fatigued as a consequence of ice consumption.

Gippsland Section Chairman, Trevor Bowler, said that like other illicit drugs, ice is being used particularly by younger workers with disposable income.

“Ice has devastating effects on communities and individuals stemming from violent and erratic behaviour, but this is only part of the problem,” Mr Bowler said.

“We believe there are a significant number of users who are employed as building and construction workers and our message to them is clear, we want all workers coming onto our sites to be fit for work.

“Employers are taking a zero tolerance approach to drug use. It is so important that workers around heavy machinery or those working at heights are in control of their senses.

“Builders are urged to take this message to their employees and contractors through on site toolbox meetings to make it clear that no one should enter a site while under the influence of ice.”

Master Builders Industrial Relations Department can assist builders to compile a drug and alcohol policy. Contact us on (03) 9411 4555 for more information.

Media event

Where: BFN Developments construction site, Mason Street, Warragul.

When: 12 noon on Wednesday, 12 November.

Builders and Victoria Police representatives will be available on a construction site for photos and further comment.

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