

Mr Phillip Lane  
Principal Planner  
Northern Beaches Council  
MANLY NSW 1655

Our ref H19/132108

Dear Phillip

**Re: Northern Beaches Council Development Application for The Drop music festival**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Development Application for The Drop music festival, which is scheduled to be held at Keirle Park, Manly on Saturday 14 March 2020. I am responding on behalf of Dr Kerry Chant.

Local councils play an important role in delivering safer and enjoyable music festivals. NSW Health is also committed to keeping people safer at music festivals and is working closely with music festival event organisers to ensure their plans are consistent with the NSW Health [Guidelines for Music Festival Event Organisers: Music Festival Harm Reduction](#). I encourage you to share these *Guidelines* with organisers of music festivals in your Council area.

As outlined in the *Guidelines*, some music festivals have the potential for serious drug-related illness. What we know from the 2018-19 festival season in NSW is that a number of event characteristics were associated with serious drug-related illness. These include an event size of 8000 patrons or more, target audience of 18-29 years and the event offering high energy or electronic dance music. Other considerations that increase risk include event duration (8 hours or more), high temperatures and the nearest tertiary health facility being more than one hour away by road.

NSW Health collects data about the event medical history including the number of suspected drug-related ambulance transports, intensive care unit admissions and deaths. This information is used by NSW Health to inform our advice to festival organisers and their private onsite medical providers. This information is also provided to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (ILGA) who decide if a music festival is considered high risk and is required to submit a safety management plan for approval before the event can place (under the [Music Festivals Act 2019](#)).

**The likely characteristics associated with The Drop (Manly) are summarised below, based on the information provided in the plans:**

Target demographic	All age event
Music type	Mixed genres - Indie, rock, folk, pop, electronic dance music
Event size	9000 (proposed 12,000 capacity)
Event duration	1:00-10:30pm
Indoor/outdoor	Outdoors
Anticipated weather conditions	In March 2019, the mean maximum temperature was 26.8°C and the mean minimum temperature was 19.1°C.
Location	Keirle Park, Manly
Approximate distance to nearest hospital	Northern Beaches Hospital 7.2km, 12 min Royal North Shore Hospital 12.8km, 24 min

**Health incidents associated with The Drop (Manly) festival**

The Drop (Manly) was last held on 23 March 2019 at Keirle Park, Manly. At this event, three patrons were transported to hospital. At least two of these were likely drug-related presentations including one critical care patient who was admitted to an intensive care unit.

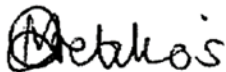
Based on this information, detailed feedback on the event plans is provided in the attached harm reduction checklist. The feedback outlines where additional actions are recommended to improve the harm reduction response and medical services for this event to align with the *Guidelines*, with a particular focus on serious drug-related presentations. I would like to draw your attention to the following recommendations for the medical services for this event:

- There is no plan to have a doctor at this event. As per the *Guidelines*, it is recommended that the onsite medical staffing levels be increased to include at least one onsite doctor at the level of resuscitation doctor and additional nursing staff and paramedics.
- Given there will be patrons under the age of 18 years attending this event, the event medical plan should provide a clear description of the capability for safe care and management of these patrons, including the plans for management, support and care of under-age patrons who present with drug or alcohol intoxication.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the Development Application for The Drop (Manly). Please note that this feedback will also be provided directly to the organiser and that we will continue to engage with them in the lead-up to the event.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require any further information, at [michelle.cretikos@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michelle.cretikos@health.nsw.gov.au), or on 9391 9022.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michelle Cretikos  
**Director, Clinical Quality and Safety**  
**Centre for Population Health**  
**NSW Ministry of Health**

*Encl.*

## NSW Health - Harm reduction checklist for music festivals

*This checklist can be found in the [Guidelines for Music Festival Event Organisers: Music Festival Harm Reduction](#)*

Festival name	The Drop – Manly
Organiser contact details	Jeremy Stones, Event Manager ( <a href="mailto:jeremy@thedropfestival.com">jeremy@thedropfestival.com</a> ; 0401 422 696)
Event date/s and times/ duration	Saturday 14 March 1300 to 2230 (9.5 hours)
Location	Keirle Park, Manly
Private medical provider	Paramedical Services
Harm reduction service	DanceWize NSW

Guideline reference section	Harm reduction measure	Feedback to Festival:
<b>1.3 Festival characteristics associated with drug-related health harms</b>	Festival characteristics	Appropriate information provided.
<b>1.7 Local consultation and planning with Health organisations</b>	Engagement with Health organisations	Appropriate contact has been made.
<b>2.1 Site assessment and crowd management</b>	<p>Emergency vehicle access</p> <p>Locations of harm reduction elements and services</p> <p>Sanitation</p>	<p>Please provide a site map clearly identifying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shaded areas</li> <li>chill out areas (noting that, as per the <i>Guidelines for music festival event organisers</i>, chill out areas differ from the 'care zones' provided by DanceWize NSW).</li> </ul> <p>Please clarify the number of sanitation facilities. For an event with capacity for 12,000 patrons, the <i>Guidelines</i> recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94 WCs</li> <li>51 urinals</li> <li>54 hand wash facilities</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Guidelines</i> also recommend that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There be separate toilets for males and females.</li> <li>Separate toilets with hand wash facilities should be available for food handlers</li> <li>There must be adequate hand washing facilities with soap in close proximity to the toilets</li> <li>Toilets must be monitored, kept clean and provided with toilet paper and adequate sanitary disposal facilities</li> <li>Further details should be provided regarding response protocol detailing what actions should be undertaken in the event that a temporary toilet facility becomes full of effluent.</li> </ul>

<b>2.3 Water provision</b>	Free drinking water available at all bars	Appropriate information provided.
	Free drinking water outlets Available separate from bars	<p>We request the event organiser:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline the number of free water stations separate from bars, and the total number of water outlets available</li> <li>• Describe the water supply including whether water is chilled</li> <li>• Outline whether free water outlets are located in shaded areas</li> <li>• Describe signage to direct patrons to free water</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Guidelines</i> state that festivals should provide a minimum of one water outlet per 500 people, with a water outlet being an access point to drinkable water. A significant proportion of water outlets should be separate from and independent of bars and other alcohol service areas.</p> <p>All water for drinking purposes at the event must be potable. If water stations are connected to Sydney Water, this must be done by a licensed plumber.</p>
<b>2.6 Heat, shade, cooling measures and sun safety</b>	Plan for extreme weather conditions	Please outline the contingency plan in the event of extreme heat.
	Shade	Please provide details about natural shade and shade structures in the venue. Adequate shade should be provided particularly for areas where patrons may queue for extended periods of time, such as the event entrance, bars and toilets.
	Cooling measures	Please outline whether there will be any cooling measures implemented in the event of extreme heat.
<b>2.7 Chill out spaces</b>	Access to shaded, quieter and/or cooler areas	Please provide details about the number and location of chill out areas (noting that, as per the <i>Guidelines</i> , chill out areas differ from the 'care zones' provided by DanceWize).
<b>3.1 Harm reduction messaging to patrons</b>	Opportunities for messaging	<p>Please provide details on how harm reduction messaging will be distributed.</p> <p>NSW Health has developed a new harm reduction campaign called Stay OK. A campaign assets toolkit is available at: <a href="https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/stay-ok/Pages/default.aspx">https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/stay-ok/Pages/default.aspx</a>. Assets are available with and without NSW Government branding. The Stay OK messages will complement your planned harm reduction messages.</p>
<b>3.2 Harm reduction Messaging content</b>	Harm reduction messaging	<p>Please provide details on the content of harm reduction messaging.</p> <p>NSW Health has developed a new harm reduction campaign called Stay OK. A campaign assets toolkit is available at: <a href="https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/stay-ok/Pages/default.aspx">https://yourroom.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/stay-ok/Pages/default.aspx</a>. Assets are available with and without NSW Government branding. The Stay OK messages will complement your planned harm reduction messages.</p>
<b>4.2 Peer-based drug and alcohol harm reduction services</b>	Peer-based services provided	Appropriate information provided.

	Supervised care	Appropriate information provided.
<b>4.3 Engaging a peer-based drug and alcohol harm reduction service</b>	Harm reduction service engaged	Appropriate information provided.
<b>4.4 Peer-based drug and alcohol harm reduction service planning</b>	Staffing level meets planner requirements	Appropriate information provided.
<b>4.5 Peer-based drug and alcohol service training requirements</b>	Training	Appropriate information provided.
<b>5.1 Onsite medical service location, access, signage and security</b>	Onsite medical service location	<p>Please provide emergency vehicle access and egress map.</p> <p>Please describe process for transport of patients from all areas of the event to the onsite medical centre.</p> <p>Please describe process for management of unwell patrons outside the boundaries of the event.</p>
<b>5.2 Expected presentations</b>	Risk assessment	<p>Please refer to the event history in the medical plan. At The Drop Manly in 2019, there were three transports to hospital, at least two of these were likely drug-related presentations including one critical care patient who was admitted to an intensive care unit.</p> <p>The event history should inform the expected type and likelihood of medical presentations. We note that the medical plan identifies the likelihood of serious drug-related presentations as “likely”.</p> <p>The onsite medical capability should be aligned to manage the anticipated level of general and serious medical presentations, with a particular focus on serious drug-related presentations.</p>
<b>5.3 Event medical plans</b>	Medical area layout	Appropriate information provided.
	Nearest hospitals	Appropriate information provided.
	Hours of operation of onsite medical service	Please ensure the hours of operation of the onsite medical service are for up to one hour post-event close, as serious illness is often identified at this time.
	NSW Ambulance	NSW Ambulance resources – to be confirmed.
	Events that include patrons who are under 18 years old	Given that this event includes patrons who are under the age of 18 years, the event medical plan should provide a clear description of

		<p>the capability for safe care and management of these patrons, including the plans for management, support and care of under-age patrons who present with drug or alcohol intoxication.</p> <p>The likelihood of paediatric presentations should be considered in the medical plan as children may require specialised age-appropriate equipment, treatment and management. Onsite medical staff should have appropriate paediatric skills and experience.</p> <p>Please confirm that all private onsite medical, nursing, paramedic, first aid and support staff have a current Working With Children Check, given that this is an all ages event.</p>
	Medications and equipment	<p>Please confirm that there is sufficient equipment and medications for critical care, including a ventilator with ETCO2 monitoring capability.</p> <p>Please confirm that all supplies and related equipment necessary for active cooling measures will be available for serious presentations.</p> <p>Please provide details of surge capacity including staffing and essential supplies.</p>
	Resuscitation procedures	<p>Please provide a resuscitation protocol, describing the team roles and procedure in the event of a need for a rapid sequence intubation, and confirm that relevant supplies, medications and equipment will be available. This should include sufficient doses of appropriate medications for rapid sequence intubation. We note that suxamethonium is not the ideal choice of induction muscle relaxant in a hypermetabolic febrile patient likely to be hyperkalemic. In this situation rocuronium is preferred for induction and ongoing paralysis, and there should be sufficient doses of rocuronium available for the anticipated number of serious medical presentations.</p> <p>Please note that a multidisciplinary simulation session should occur as part of the onsite health service briefing for the members of the resuscitation team, to allow familiarisation with the resuscitation area and the location of essential equipment and medications; and a review of communication processes for facilitating escalation in care and transfer to hospital.</p>
<b>5.4 Onsite medical staff</b>	Capability of the onsite medical team	<p>Given the event history and the likely number of patrons, it is recommended that the onsite medical staffing levels be increased. This should include at least one onsite doctor at the level of resuscitation doctor, in line with the <i>Guidelines for Music Festival Event Organisers: Music Festival Harm Reduction</i>, and additional nursing staff and paramedics. There is currently one registered nurse rostered who will take on a triage role. Each staff member should have only one role, therefore additional nursing staff should be included to assist with providing medical care.</p> <p>Please confirm that qualifications, skills and experience of onsite</p>

		<p>medical staff are consistent with professional role descriptions in Section 5.4 of the <i>Guidelines for Music Festival Event Organisers: Music Festival Harm Reduction</i>.</p> <p>Under the Guidelines, where a nurse is undertaking a triage role they must have significant triage experience as well as more than two years' full-time equivalent employment in an emergency department.</p> <p>A full clinical team including the onsite doctor should plan to be onsite until up to one hour post-event close, as serious illness is often identified during this time.</p> <p>Please provide final roster with details of names, roles, qualifications, AHPRA registration, skills and experience of onsite medical team staff at least 21 days prior to event.</p>
<b>5.5 Onsite medical operations</b>	Briefings	Please describe the process for medical pre-event, onsite and post event briefing sessions.
	Triage process	<p>Triage process provided.</p> <p>Please refer to Appendix C of the Guidelines for clinical parameters to trigger immediate senior clinician review in the music festival context.</p>
	Standard protocols to manage common presentations in the festival setting	<p>The medical plan should refer to standard protocols to manage common presentations in the festival setting.</p> <p>NSW Health has published the following pre-hospital guidelines for onsite medical providers, which are available on the NSW Health website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Illicit substance-induced decreased level of consciousness</i></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Illicit substance-induced dehydration</i></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Illicit substance-induced aggression and behavioural disturbance</i></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Illicit substance-induced hyperthermia</i></a></li> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Pre-Hospital Assessment Form</i></a></li> </ul>
	Transfer	<p>Please identify site for aeromedical retrieval in the site plan.</p> <p>Please describe process for requesting NSW Ambulance Aeromedical Retrieval Team for serious medical presentations, including transport for patients who require sedation and muscle relaxation to facilitate intubation and cooling.</p> <p>The preferred process is that a medical retrieval team will transport patients with serious medical presentations, if available in a timely manner.</p> <p>The NSW Ambulance Aeromedical Retrieval Team will be coordinated by the NSW Ambulance Forward Commander if</p>

		<p>required.</p> <p>The NSW Ambulance Forward Commander should be notified as soon as possible if a patient may require critical care management including onsite intubation, to allow sufficient notice to arrange the required resources for safe transport to hospital.</p> <p>If a medical retrieval team will not be available in a timely manner, the Ambulance Forward Commander will discuss patient transport arrangements with the State On Call Retrieval Consultant.</p> <p>Please note that in the event that a doctor from the onsite medical team is required to escort a patient requiring mechanical ongoing sedation or ventilation during transport to hospital by NSW Ambulance, the private medical provider must ensure that the patient and necessary equipment are transported safely. This includes ensuring that any equipment is appropriately secured in the vehicle so that it meets all necessary safety standards.</p>
<b>5.10 Movement or evacuation of patients</b>	Major incidents	Please provide details of the preparations for and capacity to respond to potential mass casualty incidents in the Health Management Plan for the event.