



NIIS CAN 30 October 2009

Issue 8

Welcome

www.inhalantsinfo.org.au

Welcome to Issue 8 of the NIIS CAN.

I am always on the look out for new resources to add to the collection. We currently have 768 items relating to inhalants in the collection that we can make available to anyone who requests them. These items range from published books and articles to little pamphlets or fact sheets that a community might put together to share with their members. If you have produced some literature or media file about inhalants and would like to add it to the collection, give me a call. Don't forget, you are more than welcome to contribute to the newsletter. You can do this by sending an email to info@inhalantsinfo.org.au.

Regards

Ruth Mahon - NIIS Coordinator

Breathless

Jason Bray, youth worker and presenter/producer is making a follow up to his documentary, *Breathless*. Here is your chance to participate in this new project and be part of a new story...one of hope. Jason is looking for stories from all over the country with the main focus being on healing and rehabilitation. Please read this message from Jason and contact him to join in on this new project.

Dear Friends

It is good to hear so many stories of people finding use from our DVD *Breathless*. It is good to know that we can provide a resource that is useful and enriching for people's lives.

Presently we are in the process of creating a presentation to Australian investors and broadcasters to create a follow up documentary to *Breathless*. The purpose of this documentary to not just explore aspects of the world of Volatile Substance Abuse but concentrate on the stories and programs that are successfully rehabilitating and healing lives and communities. We want to explore what successful measures are being taken to bring sniffers and chromers back to wholeness. Part of this can explore some of the work being done in Central Australia around the contents of the petrol and also an exploration of the governments intervention program (not saying this is working but it is worth exploring).

We are seeking assistance in looking for great stories that could add value to our presentation. If you think you could assist please don't hesitate to email us or contact me on 0407-574-883.

We look forward to create a resource that will continue to serve the needs of those who need it most.

Jason Bray

Red Earth Films/ Director and Producer of *Breathless*.

contactus@redearthfilms.com.au

BACKGROUND

You might remember back in Issue 2 we promoted and gave away some copies of the DVD *Breathless*. For those of you who haven't seen it, *Breathless* is a 26 minute documentary that takes the viewer on a journey into the world of those addicted to inhalants, specifically paint. Jason Bray, youth worker and presenter/producer worked in association



with Red Earth Film Productions, filming the documentary in South East Queensland.

The film premiered on the 20th February 2006 and follows the moving stories of the Harrison family, Rivers, and Peta as they deal with issues of homelessness, abuse, addiction and the impact of chroming on their lives. *Breathless* was invited and accepted into the 2008 International Harm Reduction Film Festival. You can read more about *Breathless* from the Red Earth Website

<http://www.redearthfilms.com.au/breathless/>

If you are part of a community dealing with inhalant misuse, then share your story with us. The information you share might just help another community.

NIDA International Virtual Collaboratory

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is the US government centre for research on drug abuse and addiction. NIDA hosts the NIDA International Virtual Collaboratory (NIVC) which is an online networking tool designed to connect addiction researchers around the world. One section of the NIVC deals with inhalant misuse and recently the NIVC has made a number of documents and transcripts from lectures available to the general public.

You can find these resources at <http://nivc.perpich.com/groups/public/resources> - then click on the Volatile Solvent Abuse Seminar Series link.

A - Z of inhalant chemicals



The chemicals found in products classed as inhalants can have a range of effects on different parts of the body. In this series we will look at the most common of these chemicals, what they are found in, and their physiological effects.

Naphtha

A generic term referring to a number of different flammable, liquid mixtures of hydrocarbons—product of petroleum distillation.

Type: Volatile solvent

Appearance: Colourless liquid. Depending on type may have a kerosene like smell

Products found in/ uses: Shellite, shoe polish. Used as a solvent in paints and vanishes, and as a fuel for portable camp stoves and lanterns

Flammability: Highly flammable

Effects of exposure: CNS depressant. Irritant of the mucous membranes of the nose and throat. High concentrations of the vapour can cause dizziness, headache and nausea. Irritating to skin.

Nitrous oxide

Other names: Happy or laughing gas

Molecular formula: N₂O

Type: Gas

Appearance: Colourless, liquefied gas. Slightly sweet odour.

Products found in/ uses: General anesthetic, propellant in food aerosols (cream whippits)

Flammability: Not flammable on its own but supports combustion when in the presence of oxygen.

Effects of exposure: CNS depressant. Inhalation of pure N₂O can result in hypoxia (lack of oxygen in the body) affecting heart and brain. Dizziness, headaches, hallucinations, hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias. Long term use may result in vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. Possible frostbite as gas is released.

Propane

Other names: Dimethylmethane

Molecular formula: C₃H₈

Type: Gas

Appearance: Colourless and odourless gas.

Products found in / uses: Aerosol propellant, cooking fuel (pure) or as a component of LPG, and refrigerant.

Flammability: Highly flammable

Effects of exposure: Oxygen deprivation leading to drowsiness or unconsciousness, headache, frostbite of the skin or throat when in direct contact. Some CNS depression causing euphoria.

Source:

Hazardous Substances Data Bank (2009) *Naphtha*, United States National Library of Medicine, viewed 19 October 2009, <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>

Hazardous Substances Data Bank (2009) *Nitrous Oxide*, United States National Library of Medicine, viewed 19 October 2009, <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>

Hazardous Substances Data Bank (2009) *Propane*, United States National Library of Medicine, viewed 19 October 2009, <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov>

Pohanish, R. P ed. (2002) *Sittig's handbook of toxic and hazardous chemicals and carcinogens*, 4th ed., New York: Noyes Publications.

Our Service

There are three components of the NIS, all of which are provided **FREE** of charge to everyone .

Our **Website** - Your first contact point if you are looking for information about inhalants. The site is divided into different sections to make finding information easy and is updated regularly. <http://www.inhalantsinfo.org.au>

Our **Database** - A list of all the inhalant resources we hold. We aim to collect all types of resources including books, journal articles, pamphlets, multimedia, posters & conference papers. This database currently holds 742 resources.

Our **Library Service** - We can supply you with information or resources through our Ask-A-Librarian service or keep you up to date with our current awareness newsletters. Feel free to make contact by emailing info@inhalantsinfo.org.au

National Inhalants Information Service

Inhalants Database

The NIIS can supply you with copies of journal articles as well as loaning items including books, CDs, and DVDs. There is no charge for this service. For a full listing of all resources please visit www.inhalantsinfo.org.au/database. Please email your requests to info@inhalantsinfo.org.au

Items recently added to the database.

Jackson, Colleen E.

Hunger and the perception of the scent of petrol : a potential neurobiological basis for increased risk of petrol inhalation abuse.

Volume: 17 (5) October 2009

Source: Addiction Research and Theory

Pages: 518-524

Date: 2009

Khairkar, Praveen

Cow dung ingestion and inhalation dependence : a case report.

Volume: 7 (3) July 2009

Source: International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction

Pages: 488-491

Date: 2009

VF 2009-510

Field-Smith, M.E.

Trends in death associated with abuse of volatile substances 1971-2007. [Report 22].

Volume: 22 July 2009

Pages: 53 p.

Publisher: St George's, University of London, Division of Community Health Sciences

Date: 2009

VF 2006-796

Skellington-Orr, Kate

Review of evidence relating to volatile substance abuse in Scotland.

Pages: 55 p.

Date: 2006

Web address: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/resource/doc/147377/0038818.pdf>

VF 1997-323

Jagger, Elizabeth

Ambiguities in decision making : social work's response to 'glue-sniffing' in Scotland.

Volume: 27 (3) 1997

Source: British Journal of Social Work

Pages: 361-376

Date: 1997

VF 1997-324

Jagger, Elizabeth

The production of official discourse on 'glue-sniffing'

Volume: 26 (4) 1997

Source: Journal of Social Policy

Pages: 445-465

Date: 1997

VF 1986-62

Pritchard, Colin

Incidence of drug and solvent abuse in 'normal' fourth and fifth year comprehensive school children : some socio-behavioural characteristics.

Volume: 16 1986

Source: British Journal of Social Work

Pages: 341-351

Date: 1986

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The NIIS is an initiative of the
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<http://ndsis.adca.org.au>