

# MEDIA ADVISORY

## The Hon. Michael Kirby to open Kirby Institute research symposium on drug use among gay and bisexual men

*Sydney, Australia – 11 April 2017:* The Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney invites you to attend our [Following Lives Undergoing Change \(Flux\) symposium](#). The one-day symposium will be opened by the Hon. Michael Kirby and will explore the details, predictors, consequence and issues associated with gay and bisexual men's beliefs and behaviours surrounding drug use.

Globally, rates of drug use are significantly higher in gay and bisexual men than the rest of the population. Drug use can be associated with sexual risk behaviour and HIV infection among gay men.

Flux is a world-first cohort study examining the incidence, risk factors and subsequent harms associated with drug use among gay and bisexual men. The study will uncover important evidence to inform harm reduction and service development in ways that speak to gay men's actual experiences in order to help them avoid the potential harms that can be associated with drug use.

The Flux symposium brings together experts in the fields of drug, sexual health and infectious diseases research. It will showcase the unique nature of this research project as a world-first longitudinal study of gay and bisexual men's drug use.

It will be particularly relevant for people working in drug research and policy, and those who work with gay and bisexual men or in the gay community.

**Date:** Wednesday 3 May 2017

**Time:** 10.00am – 3.30pm

**Where:** Kirby Institute, Berg Family Foundation Seminar Room, Level 6, Wallace Wurth Building, UNSW Sydney

**For media enquiries, including to a request a media pass contact:**

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