

**Did you know?**

NZDDA supply a unique on-site drug testing service.



From the left: Darren Broadbent, Beverley Cash, Jason Trembath, Calum Davie, Spencer Rockett

# NZDDA

Figures just released by the New Zealand Drug Detection Agency reveal the number workplace drug tests more than doubled in the past year.

The statistics comparing 2010 with 2009 show that the number of on-site drug tests conducted by NZDDA jumped by 122% from 13,179 in 2009 to 29,315 on site screening tests in 2010.

NZDDA Central General Manager Calum Davie says the increase is largely due to companies realising the benefits of having a drug free workplace.

"Those benefits are largely focused around improving the health and safety of employees and also meeting the legislative requirements. It's about making sure that staff go home to their families in one piece at the end of the day," says Calum.

"We've seen a big shift to the on-site testing we provide since the new industry standards were introduced in 2008. It's been really popular with companies because it's so efficient. We have a result within five minutes, which either allows that worker to go straight back to work or for the company to start taking action immediately."

NZDDA supply a unique on-site drug testing service - the only one in New Zealand that has received accreditation

from International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). They conduct on-site drug and alcohol testing across a range of industries including manufacturing, forestry, construction, transport, waste, freezing works, mining and oil and gas. The drugs they test for include cannabis, opiates, amphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine and benzodiazepines.

As a reflection of the growing demand for workplace drug testing, NZDDA has grown from having 2 offices servicing 6 regions in 2008 to 14 offices, covering 17 regions, and with around 30 specialised mobile testing vehicles. Local men Calum Davie & Jason Trembath own and operate the Central region which covers Manawatu, Horowhenua, Wairarapa, Wanganui, and Taranaki.

Calum Davie says companies are required to take action once they have identified a hazard in the workplace.

Drugs and alcohol are considered a major hazard and having a Drug and Alcohol Policy that is actively managed by regular testing goes a long way to reducing the hazard and making the workplace safer. The on-site drug and alcohol testing that NZDDA provides allows this vital process to take place with the minimum disruption to both workers and the workplace.

NZDDA national statistics about the types of drugs workers tested positive for are similar to 2009 with cannabis again topping the list of detected drugs in over 70% of positive tests. Opiates remained in

second place with just over 16% and there was a slight fall in Methamphetamine and Amphetamine positive tests.

Despite that, in the Central region Methamphetamine and Amphetamine use is 2.7% higher than the national average of 11.3%, and is 4% higher than 2009. Many of the cases where an employee has been identified as a Methamphetamine / Amphetamine user disturbingly come as result of post accident / incident testing.

In 2010 NZDDA conducted 13821 breath alcohol tests and had 1.9% of people test positive. This compares to 2009 when NZDDA conducted 5923 breath alcohol tests and had 0.7% of people test positive. The highest level a person recorded for 2010 was 1535 micrograms per litre of breath which is almost 4 times over the legal driving limit of 400 micrograms per litre of breath. This test was conducted at 3.30pm.

For More Information Please Contact:

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