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Methadone treatment still relevant for drug addicts

KUALA LUMPUR: The existence of many clinics which offer methadone treatment programme to help drug addicts to overcome narcotic withdrawal effects and dependence showed that the treatment is still relevant in treating drug addiction.

Malaysian AIDS Foundation chairman Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman said apart from helping the addicts,

the implementation of the programme had also given positive impact to the government, especially in reducing prison costs.

“Our survey found that the risk for those who are taking methadone to return to prison is only two per cent as compared to 8.8 per cent for those who are not taking methadone,” she told reporters after attending a seminar entitled ‘Enabling

Environment in Harm Reduction Through Advocacy’ here yesterday.

Present were Malaysian AIDS Council President Tan Sri Mohd Zaman Khan and Bukit Aman Narcotic Crimes Investigation Department director Datuk Noor Rashid Ibrahim.

Due to its effectiveness, Adeeba also proposed to the government to expand the programme to other agencies. — Bernama