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## Malaysians study human rights police practice in Melbourne

**MELBOURNE:** A group of six Malaysian police and human rights experts has concluded a four-day visit here to observe human rights-based police practice with regard to drug users.

Leader of the group, Fifa Rahman, from the Malaysia Aids Council, said the aim of the visit was to increase police leadership in public health.

“Basically, there is no way we can effectively deal with addiction, death in police custody, HIV and Hepatitis C without the help of the police,” she said.

Senior officers from the Victorian State Police and health experts gave talks on the drug problem in the state and took the visitors on a tour of spots frequented by drug addicts.

“Victoria has very successfully improved HIV rates. Victoria

police say they don’t come across that many people with HIV because of their successful needle exchange and methadone programme,” she told Bernama here.

Fifa said the meeting with the Professional Standards Command and the Custodial Medicine Unit was enlightening.

“The custodial medicine service is basically a bunch of doctors, nurses and pharmacists hired by the Victorian Police to ensure individuals in police custody get access to health services, including methadone and anti-retroviral therapy for HIV.

“Depriving an individual of HIV and other medicines would result in an investigation by the Professional Standards Command which monitors police misconduct and looks at trends in police misconduct,” Fifa said. — Bernama