

Submission No. 3

AUTHORISED

22/2/07 PS

Subject: Standing C/T on Family & Human Services; Inq. into impact of illicit drugs

Attention Bronwyn Bishop MP

Dear Bronwyn

STANDING COMMITTEE
22 FEB 2007
on Family and Human Services

and as a Primary Care Giver with over nine years experience with caring for a dependent with mental illness and psychosis. I myself experienced mental illness in my twenties but have been largely symptom free to date and take no medication and my husband has a brother in the UK with schizophrenia, now aged 56 years.

Bronwyn, I have the greatest respect for Tony Trimmingham and all that he has achieved for Family Drug Support.

I also support the use of injecting rooms as an assistance and essential aid in reducing deaths from overdose in addicts.

As you know, drug addiction is a physical illness. It is the result of a chemical response to substance use and requires medical treatment. Providing a safe facility for injections to take place is one way of acknowledging that addicts need the protection of a safe facility if we are to prevent accidental deaths.

We have to take the view that if the addict were a child of ours, needing a 'fix', would we prefer they had a safe place to go to receive this, like a supervised Injection Room or would we prefer they run the risk of overdosing in some back street and end up dying there.

Tony Trimmingham, as you know, lost his son this way and has since moved heaven and earth to try and spare other parents this pain in his efforts to endorse the harm minimisation program. So far he has succeeded.

Peter Debenham has changed his mind about recycled water; perhaps he can now support the harm minimisation program in the realisation that it is saving lives and make sure that our drug injecting rooms are adequately funded and resourced, even to the extent of providing sufficient Counselling and Treatment Centres for addicts.

Our loved ones who have taken the wrong path deserve a second chance, including a chance to live and to change. Perhaps we can give them that option.

Sincerely yours

