



TOUGHLOVE SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

*A SELF HELP, SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR
PARENTS, KIDS AND COMMUNITIES.*

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Further to our initial submission to the House of Representatives we are pleased to assist with the enquiry and present the following as submitted to the South Australian Drug Summit Enquiry held last month.

“As members of Toughlove SA we know that the majority of our parents who attend our Parent Support Groups (PSG) are there because of problems experienced with their children and young adults using marijuana and amphetamines which is the main cause of their family problems in the home, i.e. - verbal and physical abuse, property damage, police involvement and depression, truancy from school and so on.

These children and young adults are using drugs for a variety of reasons, including low self-esteem, availability of the drugs, peer pressure, fun & enjoyment.

Our organisation would like to see the following changes in the law made in South Australia:

Zero tolerance – confiscation of assets for big drug dealers (such as confiscation of their cars, houses, assets etc). – tougher penalties - enforced rehabilitation and enforced counselling for minors – hydroponics shops accountable and the drug related paraphernalia confiscated (eg. bongos in tobacco shops & small businesses).

We believe that education should be a top priority from junior primary onwards. Education also needs to be out in the community via the media, advertisements, shop windows, large businesses giving Drug Free messages to our children and parents. TV campaigns are a very effective way of getting the message across. More drug rehabilitation facilities should be available and publicly known via pamphlets and advertising – also rehabilitation centres need to be available to minors, not only adults, and must be compulsory.

The community can help to tackle the drug problems in this State by getting more involved with the Youth – more organisations to support the parents of kids with problems instead of blaming them – there could be local Government sponsored mobile drug education vans through the local Councils manned by volunteers who could give counselling to the young kids, such as Hallett Cove has had recently. Also more encouragement in our community to get more involved with report ‘dobbing’ in a drug dealers.

In summarising, Toughlove SA Inc. would be prepared to assist with any further forums regarding these changes that we hope will be considered and perhaps implemented.

**MARY STEPHENS – REPRESENTATIVE
TOUGHLOVE SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**