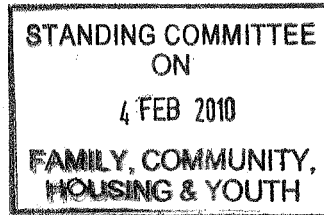


B. DAVID MORRIS (HOLDINGS) PTY. LTD.
ABN 63000620459



January 27, 2010

The Chair,
Families, Community, Housing & Youth Committee,
The Honourable Annette Ellis M.P.
P.O. Box 6021, Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Ref: *About the House* Issue 39 December 2009 story page 20
STREET SMART by Georgie Oakeshott

I spoke with Mr. James Catchpole this morning about the above and am writing to you at his request.

The question of youth violence cannot be addressed without reference to alcohol and drugs. To run workshops for years 9 to 11, while certainly doing no harm, is a waste of time, effort and money.

Give or take a couple or three years ago well meaning talks and workshops – government inspired - were given on the evils of alcohol and drugs to senior high school students. A waste of time, effort and money. There is now more alcohol and drug abuse – seemingly a greater percentage increase by girls – along with an accompanying increase in every kind of violence – random (just for the hell of it), racial, ethnic, sexual (rape and gay), family, domestic – in fact there is no area of everyday living that has not increased its level of violence.

By the time a young person, boy or girl, reaches fifteen not only are the overwhelming majority not the slightest bit interested in hearing messages from people *who don't know as much as I do* - more likely they say *as me* - and add, *these people are talking garbage because I can quit anytime I want.*

Education starts in Year 1 and it is in Year 1 where anti drug, anti alcohol, anti violence and sex education should start. There are experts in teaching this age group as there are experts in teaching every age group through to Year 12.

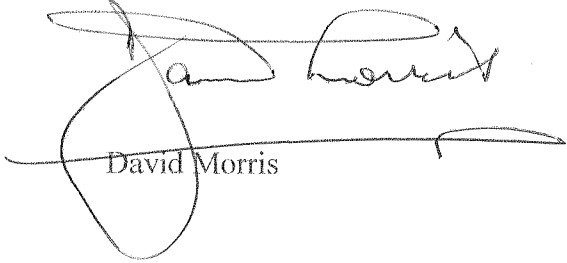
It's about time governments – state and federal no matter the colour – got together and took charge but then why bother to think about it, no governments ever have.

I am aware that some independent and Catholic schools would be unhappy with this and it would be their democratic right to refuse to include such education in their curriculum just as it is within government's right to refuse government aid to those schools. I am also

aware that no matter the obvious correctness of what I'm saying, nothing will be done.
Nothing.

Should you wish to further our discussion please do not hesitate to get in touch and as I said
at the beginning, nothing you're doing can hurt.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping loop on the left side that extends downwards and then back up to cross the main line of the signature. The name "David Morris" is printed in a simple, sans-serif font directly below the signature.

David Morris