

APDFDY  
P.O. Box 73  
Maryborough  
Queensland, 4650

The Secretary of the Committee  
Email: fhs.reps@aph.gov.au  
Family and Human Services Committee  
House of Representatives,  
Parliament of Australia  
Canberra,  
ACT, 2600

**Submission No. 4**

AUTHORISED

28/2/07

KS

**Re: Submission to  
Family and Human Services  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Limitations of the Harm Minimization  
Based Drug Strategy**

**Ways to strengthen families who are coping with a member(s) using illicit drugs.**

The APDFDY ran a very successful parent education pilot program through TAFE College, schools and community bodies this program had very clear guidelines.

Many of today's parents are not able to teach drug information to their children, because they do not have the background data necessary to do so, in fact, it was not a part of our learned experience or information passed down from generation to generation, because it is a relatively new phenomenon in our history. It is necessary, therefore, for parents to become educated and informed about drugs and their effects and for parents to recognize that drugs are a part of their children's world. Parents must become credible sources of information to their children, or their children will accept the street knowledge of their peers instead.

The program is based on a group learning process; the participants will be able to claim some ownership to the program. There are five stages of addiction; parents can intervene successfully in the first two stages of chemical addiction that is why parents need the skills to be able to recognize chemical drug use in the early stages.

This program should deglamourize drug and the drug scene, scientific studies and their results will be the basis of the program. It should be noted that this has been adopted by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy during their meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006 to not use terms such as "recreational" and "party" to describe drugs or drug use. This preference only applies for any future programs. These requirements do not apply

retrospectively. Terms that glamorize drug in all drug related programs should retrospectively be required to implement this very important strategy ASAP.

During the Queensland Pilot program which was expanded into primary schools and must be said this is where the real success in drug prevention can take place. Drug education program must start in early primary because if drug education is only allowed to begin in High School it is too late by then you are not talking to the person but to a drug.

### **Inquiry into the impact of illicit drug use on families**

The committee request into how to address the impact of the importation, sale of illicit drugs.

The Queensland Government has strongly refused to give greater powers within the CMC's operations in overseeing the police service, in the prevention and investigation of major crime and in witness protection. I refer specifically to interception of communications.

In his paper "**Liberty and Security: Striking the Right Balance**" (see attachment ) Charles Clarke outlines three principle approaches to tackling issues at the top of the political agenda across Europe, specifically including drug-dealing. Clark endorses shared information, strengthening practical and pragmatic police and intelligence work, and the effective use of that intelligence.

Firstly, Clarke makes the important point that tackling serious and organised crime is shared problem and that "no single country can tackle these problems alone,...we will all...achieve most by sharing experience, information and resources". Secondly, we must "strengthen the foundation of practical and pragmatic police and intelligence work". But it is his third principle that I wish to highlight, that of effectively utilising intelligence to reach convictions for serious and organised crime and specifically in regard to modern technology:

"Criminals and terrorists use modern technology: the internet and mobile communications to plan and carry out their activities. We can only effectively contest them if we know what they are communicating. Without that knowledge we are fighting them with both hands tied behind our backs, and of course the criminals know that and actively and consciously organize themselves to take advantage of our weaknesses."

We need to face up to the fact that the legal framework which we currently operate within makes the collection and use of this kind of intelligence very difficult and in some cases impossible.

We now have the research to implement a clear model for Queensland CMC's in the paper called "**Regulation of Interception of Communications in Selected Jurisdictions**" (see attachment ) for the office called Research and Library Services Division Legislative Council Secretariat, Hong Kong. This report studies the statutory

regulatory regimes of interception of communications in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. They are examined in 10 aspects: legal framework; authorities responsible for issuing warrants; application procedures; grounds on which warrants are issued; duration, termination and renewal of warrants; lawful interception without a warrant; internal safeguard measures; external safeguard mechanisms by the executive branch, the legislature and the public; limit of executive discretion in bringing laws into operation; and legislative amendments in relation to the 9/11 incident and the development of communication technology. **These models clearly show that human rights, privacy and civil libertarians' concerns have been addressed.**

An example of my grave concerns happens in late February 2007 when Police were forced to draw on powers of interstate colleagues to bust one of the biggest drug syndicates in Queensland history. Premier Peter Beattie has refused to give police those powers, despite CMC boss Robert Needham last year saying it was letting public servants and drug lords commit crimes. "The Courier-Mail February 22, 2007.

The House Standing Committee on Families and Human Services has the urgent responsibility to get help in bringing Queensland into line with all other states in Australia. Ms Bishop, please remembers the key recommendation of the Carter Inquiry into Police and Drugs - the implementation of these recommendations are long overdue and telecommunication interception is at the top of the list.

#### References

- (1). Liberty and Security Striking the Right Balance Paper by the UK Presidency Mr. Charles Clarke
- (2). Regulations of Interception of Communications in Selected Jurisdictions 2 February 2005 Prepared by Thomas WONG Research and Library Services Division Legislative Council Secretariat 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong website : <http://www.legco.gov.hk> E-mail : [library@legco.gov.hk](mailto:library@legco.gov.hk)

Mr. Herschel M Baker  
President  
APDFDY