

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of the East Africa Women's Foundation Inc and certain citizens of Australia

Draws to the attention of the House: that Khat is a psychotropic drug containing cathinone and cathine and its use is addictive and destructive.

Khat impacts on users and their families by increasing poverty, creating financial hardship, causing family break downs, and increasing domestic violence and the neglect of children. Khat use can induce anti-social behaviour. The plant gives users a rush, mild euphoria and sometimes hyperactivity or manic behaviour. Users can become violent or aggressive. The use of khat is blamed for destroying the fabric of many Somali families. We are concerned about the spread of Khat in Australia, especially young people.

Khat affects the users' ability to work. Users chew Khat for long hours during the night and then can't sleep at night. If they are tired, users cannot support their families. Users neglect their duties and responsibilities as parents or guardians. Users influence younger members in the community to use Khat.

Khat is linked to many medical problems including gastrointestinal and cardiovascular disorders and can induce psychiatric symptoms. Use of Khat has been associated with psychoses, depression, self-neglect and anti-social behaviour.

Khat remains legal in Australia even though the import, sale and use of Khat is illegal in many other countries including United States of America, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada.

We therefore ask the House to: Prohibit the sale, distribution, use, importation and production of Khat in Australia.