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**Parliamentary Standing Committee on Family &
Community Affairs**

**SUBMISSION FOR DRUG ABUSE
How are we handling it?**

Drug Abuse

I think there is too much of a soft line being taken toward towards drug addiction. Some drugs are beneficial for health and recreational purposes. However, I would like to see **ZERO TOLERANCE** for **DRUG ADDICTION** and think that a really hard line should be taken.

Apply the **Definition of drug addiction** -- Is it causing an adverse situation in any area of a person's life including health, relationships or impact on society?

If drug addicts can't, or won't take responsibility for their actions, they should have the responsibility taken away. I would like to see a systematic two-pronged program designed to totally eliminate drug addiction from society. It would be something along the lines of:

- (a) Identification of drug addicts, and
- (b) Effective treatment.

Handling the Drug Addiction

1. Identify Drug Addicts

I would like to see a Register of Drug Addicts. Once a person has been identified as a drug addict their details should be put into the register and they should be made to attend for compulsory treatment. Also, I would like to see the following strategy employed.

- a) Make it a criminal offence for drug addicts to avoid treatment
- b) Give penalties or gaol for drug addicts who refuse treatment.

2. Compulsory Treatment for Drug Problems

- a) Work out a drug reform program for each addict

- b) Program to include detox and counselling where required
- c) Re-education. Operate compulsory Drug Education classes and give penalties for non-attendance. Addicts to attend classes until rehabilitated. If they finish the classes before rehabilitation has taken place, they should repeat. Alternatively, send them on to advanced classes to cover issues at a deeper level or in greater detail. The addict should only be able to stop attending Drug Education when they are rehabilitated. Drug Education topics should include:
 - The problems with drug abuse and dependency
 - How the addicts behaviour impacts on society.
 - Working out strategies, appropriate life goals and activities, the role of work, sport, art, hobbies and interests in creating a meaningful life.
 - Self discipline and life management
- d) Monitor drug addicts -- regular blood tests.
- e) After treatment, conduct regular checks until it is obvious the problem has been overcome.

3. How to Pay for this treatment

Drug addicts to perform community work. The level of obligation to community work should depend on the severity of their addiction, the impact on society and the time and effort taken for rehabilitation.