

The Secretary,
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra

I make the following submission for the consideration of the Committee.
In this submission I refer to the use of "hard" drugs i.e. cocaine and heroin

Presently there is an attitude in many sections of the community including the churches and most politicians that those addicted to hard drugs are somehow unfortunate, should not be harshly criticised and should be supported. This has led to the present "trial" of supervised free injecting rooms. This latter move is the final admission of defeat for the attitudes mentioned above.

The first essential to control the existing and growing problem is;

1. To clearly recognise that those addicted do not deserve sympathy
Nobody is forced to take drugs. Everyone in the community is fully aware of the consequences of taking hard drugs. Those that take the attitude that such people are unfortunate as if it is no fault of their own, are, in fact, encouraging, particularly the young, to think that they will be well cared for if they "just try it" which we know is the road of no return!

2. It must be recognised that people who take hard drugs are a menace to society.

There is daily ample evidence that a high proportion of home invasions, robberies and violent crime are directly attributable to "druggies". In addition to the above there is a very heavy cost to the community in police time, hospital occupation and the costs of cleaning up the thousands of discarded needles which are often life threatening.

3. Druggies are the enemy of the community and should be treated as such. It is well recognised that people who contract communicable diseases are isolated for the protection of the community. Such people are blameless. "Druggies" on the other hand suffer from a self inflicted problem but yet are allowed to wander freely in the community and inflict severe damage to property and people.

4. The answer as to what should be done;

The solution is to open an isolated facility preferably along the lines of a working farm where those addicted will be sent (no choice) to undergo curative treatment. In such an isolated area the dealers would be deprived of their "clients".

The inmates could be put to productive work thus reducing the cost of treatment.

Those addicted to hard drugs deserve no sympathy, should be treated as a menace to society and placed where they cannot harm the great majority of law abiding citizens.

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