

## DRUGS SUMMIT

13 May 2002

**The Hon. A.L. EVANS:** The drugs summit is to be held from 24-28 June. We applaud the drugs summit as an initiative to explore innovative ways of dealing with the serious drug issues facing our state. A number of community meetings will be held across the state in May purporting to hear from individuals and organisations within the community. Premier Mike Rann has stated that the summit will have a particular emphasis on the growing incidence of amphetamine and designer drug use and abuse.

In a notification placed in the *Advertiser* of 20 April, it was stated that the summit will consider current policy and practice aimed at preventing the uptake of drugs and reducing the harmful consequences of use, and recommend future directions for the government's consideration. The Department of Premier and Cabinet has distributed an information page on the summit which states that the community forums are being organised by local drug action teams. Members of the community have raised queries in relation to the nature of the summit and the process of community consultation.

My questions are:

1. What are the names of the local drug action teams that are organising the community forums?
2. Given that the process of community consultation has not yet been completed, on what basis has the government already determined that the emphasis of the summit will be on amphetamine use?
3. Will consideration be given at the summit to the impact on the community of decriminalising the growth and use of marijuana in our state?
4. Who will be invited to speak at the summit?
5. Will the summit address the current policy of harm minimisation?
6. If so, will the government consider the apparent ineffectiveness of the policy in reducing the incidence of drug use?
7. If the government will not consider the policy of harm minimisation at the summit, why not?

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I thank the honourable member for asking his first question in this council—and it is an important one. I will relay that question to the Premier in another place and bring back a reply.

**28 May 2002**

In reply to **Hon. A.L. EVANS** (13 May).

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Premier has provided the following information:

1. Drug action teams have been responsible for organising 21 community consultation meetings throughout May 2002, across the State. Drug action teams consist of representatives from government and non-government organisations including the police, Drugs and Alcohol Services Council, local health services, Department of Education, local government representatives (often the crime prevention officer), Drug Beat, Community Corrections, indigenous and other culturally diverse representatives. The following teams have organised the local meetings and will provide feedback:

Adelaide

Sturt

South Coast

Elizabeth

Holden Hill

Port Adelaide

Port Lincoln

Whyalla

Port Augusta

Port Pirie

Hills Murray

South East

Riverland

2. The South Australian drug summit will focus on illicit drug use, with a particular emphasis on the growing use of amphetamine-type drugs, including 'designer drugs'. It will also consider broad substance use issues for young people and Aboriginal people with a strong focus on early intervention and prevention strategies and community support services.

The emphasis on amphetamine-type substances reflects the substantial increase nationally and internationally in the last several years in the production, distribution and use of these substances.

There is also much less information available about the health effects of amphetamine-type substances or treatment options compared with other licit and illicit substances (eg alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and heroin).

Parliament has already acted to reduce the number of cannabis plants that can be grown before a person is liable for prosecution and clamped down on hydroponic equipment. There has also been a Select Committee on a Heroin Rehabilitation Trial that has looked at heroin injecting rooms and heroin trials.

Law enforcement agencies and health care providers regard the growing use of amphetamine-type substances as an issue warranting special attention. There is particular concern about the involvement of outlaw bikie gangs in the manufacture, distribution and sale of amphetamines and evidence that taking amphetamines can be a precursor to the use of other illicit drugs.

The drugs summit is an open forum and the government has organised this Summit to listen to people's views. Although there will be a focus on amphetamines, this will not preclude other illicit drugs issues being raised.

3. The drugs summit has been organised so that the government can listen to as many views as possible regarding the impact of drugs use and ideas to.

The government's emphasis on amphetamines and how to deal with its growing use and production will not preclude other issues being raised.

Marijuana will also be raised when discussing drug problems involving young people and Aboriginal people.

#### 4. Summit speakers

The following people have been confirmed to speak at the summit:

Hon. Mike Rann MP, Premier

Hon. Rob Kerin MP, Leader of the Opposition

Father David Cappo, Chair, Social Inclusion Board

Mr Keith Evans, director, Drug Strategic Policy

Mr Mal Hyde, commissioner, South Australian Police

Associate professor Robert Ali, director Clinical Policy and Research, Drug and Alcohol Services Council, SA

Mr Scott Wilson, state director, Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, SA

Dr Norman Swan, host of Health Report, Radio National, ABC, NSW

Prof Tim Stockwell, director, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University WA

Mr Geoff Munro director, Centre for Youth Drug Studies, Australian Drug Foundation Vic

Ms Stephanie Page, executive director, Student and Professional Services, Department of Education, Training and Employment, SA

Mr Russell Ebert, Power Community Youth program, SA

Prof Anne Roche director, National Centre for Education and Training in Addiction SA

Prof Richard Mattick, director, National Drug and Alcohol, Research Centre, NSW

Prof Jason White, Professor of Addiction Studies, University of Adelaide, SA

Ms Jill Keach, manager The Woolshed SA

Dr Adam Graycar, director, Australian Institute of Criminology ACT

Mr Graham Strathearn, chief executive, Drug and Alcohol Services Council, SA

Alan Moss, Chief Magistrate, SA

Mr John Paget, chief executive, Department of Correctional Services, SA

Mr Jim Birch, chief executive, Department of Human Services, SA

Mr Peter Bleby, executive manager, Public Relations and Communications, Anglicare, SA

Rev Tim Costello, executive officer, Collins Street Baptist Church, Vic

Mr Peter Sandeman, project director, Playford Partnership, SA

Ms Zell Dodd, principal project officer, Aboriginal Kinship Program, Department of Human Services, SA

Ms Anne Bressington, Drug Beat, SA

Hon Andrew Evans, member Legislative Council, Family First, SA

Hon Mike Elliot, member Legislative Council, member Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform, SA

The drugs summit will include plenary sessions where community members and interested participants attending the summit will have the opportunity to raise issues.

#### Harm minimisation

The purpose of the drugs summit is to generate debate and to look critically at the effectiveness of current policies and services, the results that have been achieved to date, what could be done better and what opportunities and new initiatives should be further explored. This is relevant to all aspects of existing and proposed drugs policies including harm minimisation.