

DRUGS SUMMIT

16 May 2002

The Hon. A.L. EVANS: During community consultations of the New South Wales drugs summit, the issue of safe injecting rooms was not considered. Regardless of this fact, shortly afterwards, the New South Wales government introduced safe injecting rooms. Until September this year, the safe injecting room in Sydney is costing taxpayers \$8.1 million.

My questions to the minister are:

1. If the summit is not going to address the issue of safe injecting rooms, what is the government's attitude towards this issue?
2. Does the government plan to introduce safe injecting rooms into South Australia without the issue being considered by way of a summit forum?
3. If the government is considering introducing safe injecting rooms, from where will the funds come?
4. If the funds are already available, why are they not directed into treatment rehabilitation centres that aim for individuals to be drug free?

The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):

I will take those important questions on notice to the Premier and ask him to bring back an urgent reply.