



DRUG FREE AUSTRALIA

Our mission: To lobby for the prevention, treatment & elimination of drug abuse.

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We are a not-for profit
community based group of
Australian organisations
and communities, working
for a Drug Free Australia.

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday 11th September 2003

Injecting Room Report 2003 **'THE ROAD TO NOWHERE'**

Australia's peak anti-drug-addiction community group labels injecting room a failure to reduce drug use or crime and a waste of funds.

"Drug Free Australia says 'bottom line the issue comes down to one question. Do we focus on keeping people on drugs, or focus on getting people off drugs?'" Executive Director Michael Robinson said today.

"What the NSW Government said it wanted and what the people said they wanted was a road to recovery, to help addicts and reduce crime. What the injecting room turns out to be is a road to nowhere."

"The experts, the injecting room, its all, as harm minimisation, so narrowly focussed that in practice it fails to any longer entertain the possibilities of helping people to achieve a life free from drug addiction"

"When parents see the millions of dollars going into the injecting room ask them what the bottom line is for them Do they want the government to be funding programs that help keep kids off drugs or that help kids to injecting illegal drugs?"

"What we're recommending its immediate closure, that more funds be made available for treatment and rehabilitation and that at all levels of government prevention, anti-induction to addiction programs, treatment and rehabilitation programs that get people drug free. They must all take a higher place of importance in an integrated and comprehensive policy mix."

"Of course the injecting room operators aren't going to like what we're saying. They are trying to assist addicts to take illegal drugs and we are saying that you can, should and must get people off drugs. Since when is prevention a dirty word?"

<http://www.drugfreeaustralia.org.au>

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