



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.

Thursday 11th September 2003

OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF NSW

Re: A response to the Injecting Facility

Drug Free Australia takes encouragement from the many statements from state and federal political leaders taking a strong position against illicit drug use.

It is on the basis of considering what alternatives, that is what options may exist to the current practices of drug policy, that this report is presented.

Against a background of large lobbies and voluminous reports, with their weight behind a growing commercialisation of addiction management, Drug Free Australia posed the question; ***Rather than ask what the experts are telling us is the best they have come up so far, lets consider not only their narrow perspective, but also what do the people want from drug policy, and what is best practice?***

From this question and subsequent discussions the Kings Cross Injecting Room Report July 2003 was evaluated for both its ability to achieve its own goals, but also its ability to achieve what the people of NSW would want for their own children.

The *'bottom line'* the issue comes down to one question. ***Do we focus on keeping people on drugs, or focus on getting people off drugs?"***

Critically the Kings Cross Injecting Room Report July 2003 shows an all too rosy picture, one viewed best through a perspective of harm minimisation, and that is a too narrowly restricted perspective for us to accept as appropriate in these times. For this reason the DFA response report examines and responds critically to the Injecting Room concept.

“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.”

Yours Sincerely
Michael D. Robinson
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