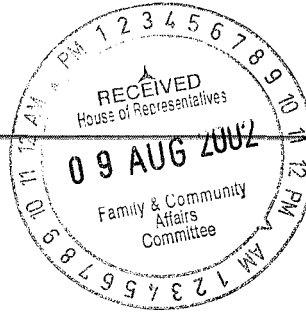


Irwin, Debbie (REPS)

From: Rob & Lynda Lange [rob.lynda@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 9 August 2002 2:11 PM
To: fca.reps@aph.gov.au
Subject: Response to letter calling for input into drugs



Dear Ms. Kay Hull,

I realise this is a late submission, however I too only became aware of this call for submissions through an email received from Mr Tim Quick from the Toowoomba Drug Awareness Network today. His group, I believe has requested an extension to the deadline and we too, would hope that you would grant us one, in making decisions on these crucial issues.

We are a local parent group based in Kingaroy, Qld, named "Australian Parents For Drug Free Youth" and our focus is on the prevention of the uptake of drug use among young people, including alcohol and tobacco. One of our projects is running a course called "How to Drug Proof Your Kids" developed by Focus on the Family, and we have had many speakers on the drug issue to the local schools and also community sessions. We are strongly opposed to the legalization of marijuana in any form, and believe that the average Australian knows little or nothing about the dangers of this devastating drug, which is largely perceived in our society as being relatively harmless. This in itself is one of the grave dangers of marijuana, in that it is so highly accepted in our society falsely believed to be even less of a health risk than alcohol or tobacco. Countless studies, which prove the health risks of marijuana are ignored by the bureaucrats and many professionals who promote a continual easing of laws regarding this drug, which marijuana expert and scientist, the late Dr. John Anderson of Sydney regarded as the most dangerous drug of all. Apart from being far more carcinogenic to the lungs, tongue, throat and jaw than cigarette smoking, heavy marijuana use also carries with it the life destroying "amotivational syndome" which Dr. Anderson claims as being the most damaging aspect of marijuana, in the loss of life potential of so many young people. The loss of motivation is a necessary chemical response which occurs in the brain due to the effect of marijuana on essential neurotransmitters which give us our drive to strive, work and achieve. There are countless other health effects including the reduction of white blood cell production, loss of short term memory, decreased male hormone, sperm count and sperm motility. Marijuana users also have an increased rate of malfunctions among their newborns compared to non-users, and there is an increase of lymphoblastic leukaemia among those offspring of marijuana users. All the leading reputable research points to these and other facts and we would strongly urge your committee to not allow the increased use of this drug, as increased availability of any product always promotes.

Yours sincerely,

Lynda Lange
President
"Australian Parents For Drug Free
Youth"