



# Media Release



Date: August 27<sup>th</sup> 2014

## Issue: 'Family Violence and drug crime linked?!'

["Permissibility, availability and accessibility - all increase consumption." Dalgarno Institute.]

"Family violence and drug use are almost always invariably connected, whether it is legal or illegal drugs and it's time to call a spade a spade", said Mr Varcoe of the Dalgarno Institute.

For too long, the drug policy emphasis has been driven by ideologues that have not only shown little regard for prevention and demand reduction platforms/processes, but have often declared them 'unworkable'. That unchallenged pejorative mantras about drug prevention, and the use of 'victim' speak around drug users, has created a not only soft, but tacitly permissible model on drug policy. Statements like 'war on drugs have failed' would be relevant in Australia if such a 'war' had even been fought, but the evidence is clear – a near 30 years of Harm Reduction **only** policies that have also often 'pushed' for illicit drug legalisation have only added to the sense of, not only 'inevitability', but a growing entitlement for said toxins, by the uninformed, easily manipulated, damaged or straight up recalcitrant hedonist!

The only redeemable aspect of the re-emerging ICE epidemic, is that it totally exposes Harm Reduction ONLY ideologies weakness. With Methamphetamine, there is NO pharmacotherapy, no 'medicated' sideways move – you only have two choices DON'T start, or STOP using. Both of these equal the word that has become unpalatable in drug policy space; Abstinence!

The Dalgarno Institute and its growing coalition, have noted that we have won a 'war' on a legal drug (tobacco), and the way this was won, was through promoting: **DON'T uptake and if you have, then QUIT**. In 1945, 75% of adult Australians were smoking, this is down to 17% - remember this is the once highly socially acceptable and legal drug! The journey to cessation can be long, but the goal post never shifts, it is to STOP. Yet, the 'drug elites' would have us believe such an outcome is not possible with illicit drugs of which current users percentages are significantly less than tobacco users.

It is time we start to seriously focus on demand reduction strategies and processes as Sweden did in the 1970's after their failed foray into the Harm Reduction *Only* experiment, the reversal of fortunes in that country are remarkable.

We can sit as a community and wax horrified by ICE, but look the other way on alcohol, Cannabis or even MDMA. The so called 'grown ups' of the culture continue to send a mixed message to the emerging generation, that 'soft' drugs are ok, but don't take 'hard' drugs. The developing brain (up to 25 years of age) will be encoded quicker for reward with any substance use, and if the dopamine release via alcohol, MDMA, or Cocaine don't suffice, then the 'bigger buzz' is needed. The price of 'fun' is costing a generation more than potential, IQ, and cash - it is costing their future.

A NSW Drug Court Judge is on record as saying... "I've never meet a heroin addict yet that didn't start on alcohol then cannabis!" No surprise that it is the same with Crystal Meth, and violence so often ensues. Hence, the victims of drug use increase – families, neighbours and the already struggling health care system.

It's time to stop the hypocrisy and for adults to 'grow up' and realise that 'fun and fulfilment' is not at the end of an ICE pipe, joint or syringe.

For more information read "Will the Real Drug Policy Emphasis Please Stand Up"

<http://dalgarnoinstitute.org.au/images/resources/pdf/Will-the-real-drug-policy-emphasis-please-stand-up.pdf>

## Dalgarno Institute

admin@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au

P: 1300 975 002 F: 1300 952 551



Dalgarno  
INSTITUTE



[www.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au](http://www.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au) [www.nobrainier.org.au](http://www.nobrainier.org.au)