

The facts about The Greens' drug policy

The Greens support a public health approach to drugs.

Recent media reports that The Greens want to legalise drugs, including the dangerous drug "ice", are false.

It is clear that the Government has failed to deal with this ice epidemic. The Greens believe the death, illness, violence and corruption caused by the use of ice is appalling.

People who are addicted or dependant on dangerous drugs need treatment and rehabilitation rather than gaol.

There are some State Government initiatives to divert ice users from the justice system into treatment, but experts say there is a serious shortage of treatment and rehabilitation programs for people who want to get off ice.

The Greens support a significant increase in education, treatment and rehabilitation programs and referral to programs, instead of criminal sentences for people who use drugs.

The Greens policy also supports tough penalties for importers, manufacturers and suppliers of ice and other illegal drugs.

Eminent people have publicly supported a harm minimisation approach to tackle drugs, including:

- Retired judge and former Royal Commissioner and inaugural National Crime Authority Chairman, Don Stewart
- The current Director of Drug and Alcohol Services at St Vincent's Hospital at Darlinghurst, Dr Alex Wodak and
- Former Royal Commissioner and Supreme Court Justice the Honorable James Wood.

"As a specialist in this field, I wholeheartedly support the Green Party's policy on drugs and congratulate them for their courage and honesty...And also urge the other parties to have the same courage and adopt harm minimisation policies without hesitation." Dr Fares Samara, MD, FACHAM (Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Addictions Medicine)

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VIRGINIA TRIOLI (ABC 702 presenter):
Do you think the Greens are on the right track here with their [drug] policy?
DR WODAK (Director of Drug and Alcohol Services at St Vincent's Hospital):
Yes, I do. Yes I do the plain fact is that, whether we like it or not, the war on drugs has failed, and failed miserably.....

*Interview with Dr Alex Wodak on ABC 702
– 15 March 2007*