



NSW

after the Drug Summit

NSW Drug Summit: **a springboard for action**

In 1999 the NSW Government held a Drug Summit. Everyone who attended came with a different view on how society should deal with the drug problem.

Politicians sat alongside parents, police officers talked with former drug users, and academics mixed with youth workers.

After five days of debate, it was agreed there was no single, simple solution. The drug problem needed a fresh approach, a new attitude and a commitment to work together.

Based on the 172 recommendations of the Drug Summit, the NSW Government developed a Plan of Action covering education, prevention, treatment and enforcement.

The Plan outlines more than 400 projects and an evidence-based approach to drug policy, backed by \$176m in new funding.

Plan of Action: **a united response**

The NSW Government is leading the State's action against drugs.

The Premier appointed Special Minister of State, John Della Bosca as Minister in charge of the Government's drug strategy. A committee of experts advises the Minister on drug programs, law enforcement and public health. The Office of Drug Policy was set up to make sure all Government departments are working together to battle the problem.

The Government cannot tackle the drug problem alone. As a result of the Drug Summit, police, community services, health, education, justice agencies and the community are now united in their stand against drugs.

The Government is working with communities to develop local solutions to local drug problems. The aim is to make drugs harder to get, reduce the number of young people using them, cut drug-related crime and increase treatment options for people with addictions.

A PRIORITY ON EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Almost half of all young people will try drugs at least once in their lifetime¹. Just because a young person may experiment with drugs does not mean they are or will become addicted. The NSW Government is working with parents, teachers, police, health and welfare workers to provide:

- the best possible drug education in both primary and secondary schools;
- helpful information for parents through information evenings, telephone services, web sites and publications;
- public awareness campaigns, drug and alcohol free entertainment, and accurate information for young people;
- extra services to help vulnerable families and young people; and
- improved training of health care and welfare workers.

BETTER TREATMENT FOR MORE PEOPLE

To help more people beat their addiction, the biggest share of new funding has gone into expanding treatment – an extra \$93 million over four years.

This funding supports the NSW Government's work with the Federal Government, local governments, families, church and community-based organisations in:

- making sure people at risk of developing serious drug problems receive help and advice before it's too late. For example, a young person caught with a small amount of marijuana now can be cautioned by police, and given legal and health information, including referral to treatment;

¹National Drug Strategy Household Survey, May 1999.

- expanding detoxification, rehabilitation and counselling services, plus major improvements to the methadone program;
- trialing and evaluating new medical treatments, like buprenorphine and naltrexone, to increase the treatment options for people addicted to heroin; and
- helping drug users who come in contact with police and the courts to break the cycle of crime and drug abuse by providing supervised treatment programs, such as the Drug Court.

FIGHTING DRUG CRIME

Despite tough sentences for drug trafficking and the consistent efforts of police, the drug trade is still big business. To help fight drug crime, the NSW Government is supporting the police by:

- making sure people who traffick in drugs are caught and penalised to the full extent of the law;
- reducing the supply of drugs through intelligence-led policing and by working closely with law enforcement agencies in other States and Territories;
- encouraging people to report drug crime by expanding the successful Crime Stoppers campaign; and
- reducing the amount of drugs in prisons and juvenile justice centres using extra visitor searches and drug detector dog teams.

LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL PROBLEMS

Drugs do not only hurt individuals and families. In some areas they have a serious impact on the whole community, causing crime, anti-social behaviour and disruption to people's daily lives. The NSW Government is working with communities and local government to create local solutions by:

- helping communities solve drug problems through Community Drug Action Teams (CDATs);
- responding to local needs, such as educating people through community forums or promoting drug and alcohol services;
- making sure all local services are working together to tackle the drug problem; and
- cracking down on drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Drug abuse is not just a city issue. The NSW Government has developed specific projects to assist country areas to deal with local drug problems. These include working with families and young people, improving access to drug treatment, and providing training for local health workers.

COMMUNITY DRUG ACTION TEAMS

Across the state, Community Drug Action Teams are working to lessen the impact of drugs.

The teams are made up of people from the community, Government agencies, local government and non-government organisations.

For more information about Community Drug Action Teams in your area visit www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/drugs_action or call (02) 9228 3731 to get the details of your local team.

Need help?

If you, or someone you know, needs confidential help or advice about drugs, call the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) on (02) 9361 8000 or toll free on 1800 422 599.

ADIS is open 24 hours a day, providing confidential advice, information and referrals to local agencies.

As a parent, tackling drug issues can be very challenging. For advice about how to talk to young people about drug use or behavioural problems please contact Parent Line toll free on 13 20 55.

REPORTING DRUG CRIME

Any information you have about drug crime, even if you think it's unimportant, may help the Police make an arrest. To report drug-related crime call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the NSW Government's response to the drug problem, visit www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au

At www.druginfo.nsw.gov.au you will find more information about drugs, projects and measures being taken to address drug problems. Copies of the NSW Government's Drug Summit Plan of Action, other resources and links to other relevant sites are also available at the web site.

NSW DRUG SUMMIT

Your local contact is:

