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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 March 2017 2:53 PM
To: LRRSC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am writing this submission as a mother, who lives within the Victoria Street Precinct, North Richmond/Abbotsford who is affected daily by the public use of heroin in the area.

I support of the trial of a Medically Supervised Injecting Centre within the precinct as research indicates that it will:

- 1) Reduce overdose deaths;
- 2) Reduce public consumption of drugs;
- 3) Improve public amenity and remove drug waste from residential streets;
- 4) Improve outcomes for users by way of providing pathways to recovery; and
- 5) Save tax payers money by way of reducing ambulance call outs, emergency room stays, collection and disposal of syringes ect.

I am concerned that there is limited political support for this evidence based solution to the Heroin problem that has plagued this locality for 25+ years.

The core element of my submission is in regards to the impact that this problem has on the children and families that live within the precinct. There are 14 children living in my street, 120 children that attend Abbotsford Primary and 280 children that attend West Richmond Primary. There are hundreds of families affected in the North Richmond estates. There are around 3000, families within the precinct that are impacted by this issue every day.

How are families impacted?

Let me talk you through a normal day here - Monday 9am, out the front door to walk the dog, luckily my son is strapped in the pram, as a drug-affected man is walking up the street, I walk fast but I still spot two syringes in the gutter, one uncapped. That afternoon on the way to the shops, my son and I pass a woman sitting in the gutter between two cars, she is injecting into her groin. My son is on foot this time; he refused to get into the pram. I spot the woman in time to scoop him up into my arms and distract him by making

silly noises.

Last week with a 24-hour period my husband called 000 to report a dealer with a concealed weapon and a woman unconscious in her car, her baby boy asleep in the back seat.

Chatting with the receptionist at my sons daycare, I learned that centre [REDACTED] attends has trained its staff to collect syringes, as they must complete a sweep of the grounds daily. They have to hire in security over the weekend and have upgraded their fencing (the centre is 4 months old). That afternoon, when collecting him, one of the parents advised that there was an aggressive man 'shooting-up' in the centres car-park.

We have found syringes in our front and back gardens, and asked users to get off our property on multiple occasions. I have opened my carport to see a user with a blood filled syringe in his arm directly opposite.

Children that attend the local primary school regularly witness ambulance officers attending to users who have overdosed in the local 'unsupervised injecting room', the public toilet at the corner of Victoria Street and Lithgow Street. Abbotsford Primary School is 100m up the street.

All this is normal. All this is everyday. And this isn't the worst of what some my neighbours have witnessed.

The Victoria Street precinct in North Richmond and Abbotsford has been a heroin ghetto for over 25 years. It hasn't just popped overnight; successive Labor and Liberal governments have not succeeded in making any positive changes within this community.

The proposed MSIC (Coroner Jackie Hawkins recommendation / Fiona Pattens bill) is a much-needed facility for our community. The people who will use it currently inject heroin publicly, in our community and personal spaces - in our streets and laneways, in our yards and in our parks. They put their lives at a risk every time they inject and this issue is destroying our community and damaging our children.

Personally, the trauma of living in this environment has taken a heavy toll on me, I have seen my doctor about treatment for anxiety and insomnia, and I believe that the stress is preventing me from falling pregnant again. I feel trapped. I stress constantly about the safety of my son. We can't we afford to move, and I'd feel a huge sense of guilt about passing the problem onto another family. Us moving won't fix the problem, it'll just make it someone else's and this does not sit easily with me. This is a local issue, which needs a local solution and I believe that the severity of the situation warrants a trial of a MSIC.

Warm regards

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File1:

File2:

File3: