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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 March 2017 9:41 PM
To: LRRCS
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I am a small business owner, a taxpayer, and a resident of Yarra.

I support a supervised injecting facility at the North Richmond Medical Centre because residents and taxpayers of Yarra are struggling with a public injection and discarded needles epidemic. This is common knowledge. This situation has been wavering between unbearable and just plain filthy for the best part of two decades.

This parliament has a wealth of prior investigative history dating back at least to 1996 and David Penington's report. It chooses to sit idly by while residents rot.

It is a fact that the safe injecting facility in Sydney has been a success. It has improved the amenity of the Kings Cross area, fewer needles discarded on the streets, fewer overdoses, less public injecting. There is no meaningful debate to be had on the efficacy if this approach, it is beyond question. I note the Kings Cross MSIC has become permanent and has the support of residents and traders of the area.

Sixteen children live on my street that I know of. Every day they are confronted by heroin users publicly injecting outside their houses, every day they walk past uncapped syringes in the street. The status quo is both disgusting and unsafe.

These children need not be confronted with such filth but for the cowardice and lack of vision of our state MPs.

Residents demand an MSIC. There is no bravery here, you are not venturing into unknown lands, this is a simple question of applying a known, quantifiable, practical partial solution to the a dire problem. Stop playing political games and consigning the children of Yarra to live in filth. Do your jobs.

Zero debate exists beyond the typical political infighting show by the Victorian State Parliament:

1. "The general consensus of the safe injecting room in Kings Cross, while it has been controversial, is that it has been on balance, a success." - Malcolm Turnbull, PM

2. "I am happy to say that in principle the City of Yarra has already agreed to the piloting of a safe injecting house in Richmond" - Richard Wynne MP, 1999, (Hansard)

Yarra Council has voted unanimously to support the trial of a MSIC at Richmond, something that I note it does repeatedly at a frequency of every 2-3 years.

There is overwhelming and diverse support for an MSIC from The ambos, the Australian Medical Association (Victorian Branch), The Salvation Army, Ron Iddles of the Victorian Police Association, residents, some traders, the council. What more are you waiting for?

All Australians should be disgusted by the current putrid state of affairs in the heart of one of their capital cities. The current environment in Yarra is a health hazard, it is unsafe, it is shameful, and it must not be allowed to continue. Have some pride.

Residents of Yarra expect Richard Wynne to find the voice that he once had. Sixteen children live on my street, the filth is unnecessary. We are watching keenly for even the faintest flicker of leadership.

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File1:

File2:

File3: