

Christianne Andonovski

From: Sally Thompson <wordpress@wp.greens.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 March 2017 3:43 PM
To: LRRCS
Subject: Make it safe.

RE: INQUIRY INTO DRUG LAW REFORM

Make it safe.

I have lived in Footscray for many years. When people say they don't want the state to introduce injecting spaces, I laugh. Injecting spaces already exist in Footscray- they are just not safe, or private. The park across from my last home was a common injecting space. Parents would often turn up syringes in the kids sandpit. I would find uncapped syringes in my pot plants. My tap head and cover had been removed by the previous residents because people would use the water and would hide their paraphernalia under the cover. I have personally had to intervene to call an ambulance on an overdosed person collapsed across the children's play equipment in full view of any kids who might have gone to the park that day. I was frightened. God knows what the kids thought.

The IV drug addicts in my area are old - they look about 100 but they are probably only in their fifties. Many have been hooked on heroin their entire life. If telling them to move on, or trying to shame them by pointing out that there are kids nearby worked to get people off heroin, there would be no junkies left. They have a disease. They are more to be pitied than despised. The only reason people like me have to put up with the social inconvenience and danger of open air drug use is because of political pressure from people who wouldn't know a drug addict if they stood up in their soup. And political gutlessness from people who know that this is common sense policy and long overdue.

-- Sally Thompson

[REDACTED]

I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.