

**Christianne Andonovski**

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**From:** Rosa Roberts <wordpress@wp.greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 February 2017 11:02 PM  
**To:** LRRCS  
**Subject:** Saving lives and reducing harm to the whole community

RE: INQUIRY INTO DRUG LAW REFORM

Saving lives and reducing harm to the whole community

I do not have a ground-breaking new piece of evidence to support safe injecting rooms - so much exists already and I hope you will give it the attention it deserves.

What I do have to share is a brief story about being a young woman who grew up in Melbourne, travelling to Richmond for birthday dinners, shopping trips, visits to friends and for a while, my place of work. I love this vibrant and friendly suburb and hate the many disparaging comments I hear about "junkies" and how the suburb is "beyond saving".

Less than a year ago I walked out of a shop to find myself faced with an IV drug user who had overdosed on Victoria Street. I jumped into action and performed CPR until medics and police arrived. I believe the man survived, however I believe that if he had access to a safe space to inject, instead of a public toilet on a corner, he would have been less likely to OD in the first place, plus he would have had access to medical attention sooner, placing him and the rest of the community at less risk. As a nurse I'm now used to these incidents occurring at work, but I shouldn't have to take responsibility for people's lives on my day off as well - providing them with safe spaces will help to reduce the risks and encourage safe using practices. We will never be able to eliminate IV drug use, but we can make it safer for everyone.

-- Rosa Roberts



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