



nsw commission for
children & young people

The Hon J Burnswoods, MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Burnswoods

Thank you for your letter inviting me to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Social Issues' Inquiry into the *Inebriates Act 1912*.

I note that in the past, both the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and the Law Society of NSW have recommended that the Act be repealed.

I offer no view on whether the Act should apply to adults. However, I believe it should not be applied to young people under the age of 18 years.

Should the Act not be repealed, I suggest the Government follow the precedent established by the Drug Summit Legislative Response Act 1999, which excludes people under 18 from medically supervised injecting centres.

There already exist options for compulsory treatment of young people who are at risk as a result of drug and alcohol dependency, under Part 3, Chapter 7 of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*.

Yours sincerely

Gillian Calvert
Commissioner
3 November 2003