

## **INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO REDFERN/WATERLOO**

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Ms Rachel Williams

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**Theme:**

**Summary**

## Committee Social Issues - Inquiry into Issues Relating to Redfern/Waterloo

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**To:** <socialissues@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 9/03/2004 5:00 PM  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Issues Relating to Redfern/Waterloo

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To whom it may concern,

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute.

The difficulties experienced in Redfern and Waterloo present a microcosm of difficulties experienced in many other parts of Australia.

I do not present a solution to all of the community's difficulties, but urge you to recommend dealing with the problem of drugs in this community with courage and compassion. Young children are experimenting and flailing, and we all will carry the consequences as they grow toward adulthood addicts.

As has been reported in the press, Britain's top police officers have called for the mass prescription of heroin to addicts on their National Health Service. These officers believe this radical approach will break the link between addicts and property crime, and allow the police to concentrate on combating major drugs dealers and organised criminals.

If addicts who agreed to register and inject prescribed heroin in strictly controlled injecting rooms under medical supervision were no longer treated as criminals but cared for by professionals in the community I believe there would be greater opportunity to inform these addicts of other opportunities, and in addition the crime rate would drop markedly.

The injecting room in Kings Cross has seen a happier community, both drug-using and non-drug-using. There has been a reduction in the number of needles left lying in the streets and a reduction in the number of people over-dosing.

At the very least given the insurgence of drug use in the Redfern/Waterloo area this community too deserves a safe injecting room. Please do not stop there - use this opportunity to act radically to lessen crime and improve people's lives. React to heroin use at a street level as a medical issue that can be treated. Introduce prescription heroin use.

Thank you.

Rachel Williams  
[REDACTED]

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