

Your Ref: CI.10.08

Quote in reply: Criminal Law Section

19 March 2010

Ms Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Chair
Social Development Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Email: sdcc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms Nelson-Carr

INQUIRY INTO ADDRESSING CANNABIS-RELATED HARM IN QUEENSLAND

I refer to your letter of 11 March 2010 requesting the Queensland Law Society's comments on the Social Development Committee Issues Paper which stems from the Drug Free Australia report, entitled *Inquiry into Addressing Cannabis-Related Harm in Queensland*.

We thank you for opportunity to participate in this inquiry.

The Society commends the work that Drug Free Australia and the Social Development Committee is doing to create an awareness of the harmful effects of cannabis, a drug that is often overlooked in terms of its addictive qualities and the risks inherently associated with its use.

While the Society is largely supportive of the strategies proposed to reduce cannabis use in Queensland, we note our reservations in regard to the recommendation to encourage schools to conduct drug testing on students. In our opinion there is significant potential for infringement of student's right to privacy and we are concerned that any such encouragement creates a slippery slope to administering drug testing of students on a wider scale.

In any event, in our view funds would be more beneficially directed towards producing educational resources and social marketing campaigns.



Should you require any further comments on this issue please do not hesitate to contact Ms Lisa Duncan, a Policy Lawyer with our office, on 3842 5872.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Eardley', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Eardley
President