

*Select Committee into Alternate Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use and its Effects on the Community —
Final Report — “Help, Not Handcuffs: Evidence-Based Approaches to
Reducing Harm from Illicit Drug Use” — Motion*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

The CHAIR: We have a few moments left for consideration of committee reports. We were considering the Select Committee into Alternate Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use and its Effects on the Community final report and that the report be noted.

Hon MARTIN PRITCHARD: I understand that I have a very brief time. I want to commend the committee; I think it has done a very good job on a very difficult subject. I want to give a couple of personal views about it. One of the purposes of decriminalisation is to, of course, reduce the interaction between drug addicts and police, and lock-ups and such. One of the consequences of that is that people will still be free to continue using drugs. I have had some personal interaction with people in the family on methamphetamine. One of the consequences of not locking them up—to highlight that this is a very difficult subject—is that people will be free to continue using if they so choose, unless they accept some diversion therapy. They will be able to continue terrorising their family. When the family probably does not prosecute, they will continue to steal from their family. It just goes to highlight the fact that when a person chooses to use drugs, they make a choice for not just themselves but all the people around them as well as society, particularly the people around them and their family.

I do not know what the answer is. As I said, I believe the committee has made a very valuable contribution, and that needs to be looked at. All the decisions people make in this place will have consequences and not all of them will be beneficial.

The CHAIR: Before I put the question, the time for consideration of that committee report is finished, so it will now go to the bottom of our notice paper. I noticed that members wish to continue to address that committee report.

Consideration of report postponed, pursuant to standing orders.