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05 MAR 2010

25<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Dr Janet Woollard  
Member for Alfred Cove  
Suite 1,  
30 Ardross St,  
Applecross WA 6153

Chief Patron  
Professor Emeritus Sir Gustav Nossal  
AC, CBE, FAA, FRS

Patron  
Professor David Penington  
AC, DM, MA(Oxon),  
FRCP, FRACP, FRCPA

Dear Dr Woollard

Each needle and syringe distributed through Australia's best-practice drug harm reduction programs has saved an average of \$19 in healthcare and productivity costs.

Our organisation Anex participated in the *Return On Investment 2* study which found that needle and syringe programs (NSPs) had prevented more than 32,000 HIV infections almost 97,000 hepatitis C infections in the past decade.

Each dollar invested in NSPs had saved an average of \$27 to communities, meaning that political parties and governments are serving their constituents well by continuing to fund these vital and cost effective interventions which reduce blood borne virus transmissions.

Regarding hepatitis C prevention, the *Return On Investment 2* researchers found that the NSP sectors' work resulted in a Disability-Adjusted-Life-Year gained cost of only \$1787. That is an extremely cost-effective health intervention, rivalling and even surpassing that of vaccination programs or diabetes interventions.

It is with pleasure that I enclose a copy of the Anex 2009 Annual Review so that your office can familiarise itself with our work ranging from training, advocacy, research and policy development.

One of the highest priorities for the drug harm reduction sector is to institute a nationally-oriented workforce development framework. With population growth forecast, the number of illicit drug consumers (including injectors) will expand alongside increased complexity of drug markets and behaviours.

With the budget season upon us, we hope that you can push for increased funding to support expansion of the vital needle and syringe sector. By increasing funding for the NSP programs you will be saving your constituents money.

I would welcome any approach from yourself or your staff to discuss Anex and the important work of harm reduction.

Yours faithfully,



Mr John Ryan  
CEO