

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Request for public awareness campaign on Drug "ICE" - Crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride

Question from: Mr Vince De Luca

Meeting Date: 24 October 2006

Question:

Asked the following three questions to the meeting:

1. The Drug "ICE" - Crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride

a) Is the Administrator aware of the growing prevalence in our society of the drug ICE, which is the street name for crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride, a powerful, synthetic stimulant drug that causes a range of serious health problems such as psychosis, violence, depression, sleep deprivation and death?

b) Is the Administrator aware it is estimated that there are 73,000 users of the drug across Australia and that there has been a 253 percent rise in the number of people arrested for methamphetamine use in New South Wales?

c) Would the Administrator be willing to have a Public Education Seminar in the Warringah Council Chamber as well as ensure that Fact Sheets about the drug are distributed throughout Council, particularly Youth and Community Centres and sporting Clubs?

Response:

The Administrator shared his concern on this issue. The Director Customer and Community Services said that education was the main way to address the issue. Council is aware of the problem and it has been identified as an issue in the draft Social Plan currently on exhibition. We work closely with the Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre. Council will take the proposal for a seminar to the Centre. The Administrator advised that Council will work with the Manly Drug Education Centre and requested the Director to provide a response to Council within a month.