

Vincent De Luca OAM

BA LL B Macq Grad Dip Leg Prac

23 October 2006

Media Release

De Luca Calls for Education to Stop Ice Epidemic

Youth welfare advocate, Vincent De Luca has welcomed the recent initiative of Premier Morrie Iemma to hold a summit of the nation's leaders to form a coordinated strategy to target the surging popularity of the drug ICE.

Mr De Luca who is President of the Curl Curl Youth and Community Centre, Co-Founder of GAPS Inc - Give Anything Prevent Youth Suicide, a former Executive Member of the People's Council on Drug Prevention (High on Hope) and recipient of the Order of Australia for services to youth welfare said "I believe that the estimated 12,000 young Sydneysiders believed to be dependent on ICE is one of the most tragic problems confronting our community".

"ICE" is a street name for crystal methamphetamine hydrochloride, which is a powerful, synthetic stimulant drug. Stimulant drugs speed up the messages going to the brain. Soon after taking ICE, a person may experience a number of psychological and physical effects.

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre report found that there has been a 253 per cent rise in the number of people arrested for methamphetamine use in New South Wales.

Mr De Luca said "research shows that the highly addictive drug causes a range of serious health problems such as psychosis, violence, depression and sleep deprivation. The drug can also result in death".

"We as a community need to tackle this problem head on. We cannot risk any person's life being destroyed by this horrific drug".

"I have always believed that the best way to stop young people going down the black tunnel of drugs is to educate them about the catastrophic affects drugs can have on a person".

Mr De Luca is proposing to Warringah Council Administrator, Dick Persson that Warringah Council conducts a Public Educational Forum about the drug and that all northern beaches Youth and Community Centres, and sporting clubs ensure that Fact Sheets about the drug are readily available for the community.

For more information please contact Vincent De Luca on 0414 990 551