

I refer to the *Daily* article of 28.3.07 “Forum put on Ice” concerning my proposal for a community education forum to be held on the northern beaches by Local Government concerning the dangers of Drug ICE and other harmful drugs.

The surging use of Drug ICE in our community is alarming. 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. 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 more people’s lives being destroyed by this horrific drug. I believe 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, their family and the community.

I share Dick Persson, Administrator of Warringah’s disappointment with the reaction of other northern beaches Councils that believe they should not have to spend money on such an issue. Our community needs leadership on this issue at all levels of Government and Council General Managers arguing over who pays for what is certainly not providing that leadership or taking the community’s welfare into consideration.

**Vincent De Luca OAM**