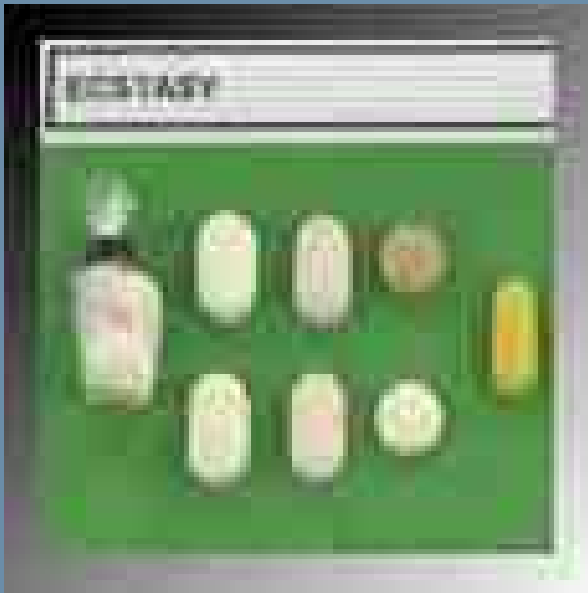




Noureddine Bader
Director, Community Welfare Representative

Youth And Drugs





In the youth lies our hope for a brighter future - that is why we are spending every effort to protect and guide the youth on the road to becoming the best people they can possibly be, representing the best way of life.

- The specter of drugs and associated crimes has become widespread in western societies.
- Drug taking and drug dealing can have a damaging effect upon families and communities.
- Yet drug taking is on the increase with the users of drugs becoming younger and the drugs they use becoming stronger.

- Some of the youth experiment with drugs to look ‘good’ and ‘fit in’ with their peers. Others do so on an “I’ll try anything once” mentality.
- Youth begin their drug behaviour with using illegal drugs such as ecstasy or marijuana and later on end up using heroin.

Behavior And Character Of An Addict

The addict personality includes :

- Mood Swings
- Unreliability
- Unable to finish projects
- Unexpressed resentment and secret hatred
- Dishonesty:- lying to family, friends and others

Behavior And Character Of An Addict

- Withdraws from those who love him/her and isolates self
- Intentionally causes arguments with loved ones
- Uses intimidation, threats, violence
- May appear chronically depressed
- May begin criminal activities to raise money for drugs



Why do young people use or sell drugs?

- Peer pressure
- Escape from reality
- Enjoyment
- Goal
- Boredom
- Lifestyle/ Impression/ Image
- Escape pain & suffering

The Relationship Between An Addict And The Family

- Most people think that the solution to a drug problem is by ceasing the drug seeking behaviour of an addict.
- Unfortunately - it's not that simple nor is it realistic.
- You cannot “just stop” an addict from using drugs

The Relationship Between An Addict And The Family

- The addict can escape the responsibility of facing up to deal with the addiction differently
- For example the addict:
 - Refuses to discuss the problem
 - Begs for forgiveness & promises that it won't happen again
 - Deliberately causes arguments

The Relationship Between An Addict And The Family

- This continual cycle of behaviour causes the family to become more and more anxious about the addict
- Eventually the family members become obsessed with the addicts problem which may be affecting their family's life

- Few slide shows to show the extent of harm that drugs can do to your body
- Some of these are quite graphic pictures of illegal drug users...



**The results of injecting illegal drugs
into the muscle of an arm**



**A classic example of what using
methamphetamine for five years can do for
your complexion**

How do Muslim families react to a drug user?

- Drug taking is forbidden in Islam, and this is often the only response many of those in the community
- Some families try to help by keeping the addict at home. However, they will not seek any community or professional support as they are ashamed and think they are alone
- This is unfortunate as drug use cannot be viewed in isolation - it is a family and community problem

Why should we consider it serious?

- Accidental overdose leading to unconsciousness and/or death
- Depression leading to suicide
- Addiction
- Diseases such as HIV, AIDS, hepatitis, etc
- Psychiatric illness such as schizophrenia
- Arrest and imprisonment

Conclusion

- Research shows most people may feel better as a direct result of using drugs in the short term, and believe they benefit from a variety of social and other factors, in the long term
- Therefore, trying to get them to stop when they don't want to is unlikely to work

Conclusion

- For most, taking drugs is a purely recreational. But for others, it offers a relief from stress or may be a symptom of a deeper problem
- If you are concerned about someone who is taking drugs, you need to focus on their feelings, and personal circumstances - not on their drug use alone

Mission of Hope

So if a person you know decides that their drug use is a problem, and they want to do something about it, **Mission of Hope** is available

www.missionofhope.org.au