



**Hon Ann Bressington MLC**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**TO LEAVE OR NOT TO LEAVE –**  
**THAT IS THE QUESTION**

Independent MLC Ann Bressington is deeply concerned by complaints from residents living near a drug treatment facility in Norwood of intimidation and criminal behaviour by drug users who frequent the premises. Ann said residents near the Warinilla Clinic have had their homes broken into and property damaged and were constantly verbally abused when coming and going from their homes, and that the situation had become so bad they were contemplating leaving the state.

Warinilla is a state-funded facility that offers detoxification, needle and syringe program as well as a methadone program. According to residents the operation of the facility has spiralled out of control over the past 18 months. Ann said one couple complained to their local Member, Council, Police and to a number of state politicians only to find that “they have no rights”.

“This is not a case of people suffering from ‘not in my backyard’ syndrome, but a case of residents having their property destroyed and losing their rights to feel safe and secure in their own home,” Ms Bressington said.

“The residents who have come to see me have lived near the facility for a long time and say that the situation has become intolerable. They have people dropping empty packets of diazepam, used syringes, and empty methadone cups in their front garden and are sick and tired of the verbal and physical harassment.”

“It is unbelievable that in a place like Adelaide which has so much going for it there are some who are intent on turning this beautiful city into the next Amsterdam. I have often had to discourage people from taking action themselves because I don’t think that is a line we really want to cross. There is a surging level of resentment from reasonable Aussie citizens who are just fed up with the fact that their way of life is disappearing right in front of their eyes,” Ms Bressington said.

“It is certainly sad that people are threatening to leave this state because they no longer feel safe or even protected by the law anymore, and even worse these residents are fearful of speaking out in case they are targeted even further. We have to ask the question: **“WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THIS STATE?”**”

Ms Bressington said communities were being forced to accept drug use by stealth and there was a groundswell of discontent with programs designed to have a “honeypot effect” that impacts on the daily living of others.

“In 2001 Kim Beazley released Labor’s national drug policy prior to the election. The policy stated clearly that the Labor government endorsed establishing a heroin trial, shooting galleries and marijuana for medical use. These policies are being covertly introduced on a state level and are out of touch with the expectations of average citizens,” Ms Bressington said.

Ms Bressington said the Rann Government was failing miserably to address the state's drug problems and its government-funded facilities were failing to achieve desirable outcomes. For example, the Substance Abuse Minister has been under fire a number of times over SAVIVE, a government-funded agency, for its newsletter promoting drug use, selling body-piercing needles to underage children and running 3 advertisements for outreach workers with injecting drug use experience and experience in the sex industry.

Earlier this year, Ms Bressington and Family First MLC Dennis Hood raised concerns over the lawless behaviour of individuals frequenting the Hutt Street Centre earlier this year where drug dealing, public drug use and anti-social behaviour was reported as a problem to shoppers in the precinct.

"This sounds like the complaints made to me about Hutt Street all over again," Ms Bressington said. "Obviously the Minister has not learnt any lessons from the embarrassment she has already faced over the mismanagement of her portfolio. She cannot claim ignorance that things are not going well for the non drug using community. At the end of the day she must accept "Ministerial Responsibility" for what is occurring."