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COMMUNITY SAYS YES TO SCHOOL DRUG TESTING

Independent MLC Ann Bressington will continue to push for legislative change in school drug policies given the latest news polls where over 75,000 people voted nationally.

- Channel 9 over 86% Voted yes
- Advertiser Local News Paper 82% Voted yes
- Nationally (The Today Show) 57%. Voted yes

“This should be a very clear message to both major parties and to school bureaucracies that they are out of step with the wishes of the wider community,” Ms Bressington said.

Dr. Michael Greg Carr, eminent child psychologist and author of the book “*The Princess Bitch Face Syndrome*” stated on 5AA last Thursday that drug testing had proven to be effective in Britain and there is also proof from the USA that this is an effective way to reduce drug use among teens. Dr. Carr was curious as to what was preventing a 12 month trial from taking place.

“The results of these polls cannot be minimized and they show that the community is saying enough is enough,” Ms Bressington said. In the 2002 NHS it was established that the average age of drug use had dropped from 15 to 12 years of age, with 59% of those aged between 14-24 having used cannabis. This is hardly an indication that what we are currently doing is working.”

“The social, health and welfare baggage that drug abuse is creating, as well as family breakdown is a direct responsibility of the Government and the tax payer dollars should be spent in accordance with addressing the drug epidemic we are now facing. We have approximately 20,000 kids in this state who are using drugs(that is a very large nut to crack) and the uptake of illicit drugs has to be curbed using every strategy available to us.

“The results of the polls is a good gauge for me to continue to push for tougher legislation on drugs and to continue to represent a community that feels disempowered because of our passive and obliging laws where drugs are concerned.

“The community does not want this state to become a mirror image of Amsterdam – and rightly so.”