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MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Santa, Next year I want...

Dear Santa,

Thank you for your early gift this year of my election to the Legislative Council of S.A. as a drug reform campaigner. I can't wait for the coming New Year to unfold!

I am now writing to get in early with my request for next year's gift and I hope you can manage it.

I don't mean to be too unreasonable or demanding, but I would really love it if you could give our elected members a conscience so they will not mislead Parliament and the public of South Australia, like (Hon) Gail Gago, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse did when she suggested Sweden was going back to a "harm minimisation" drug policy ("Drug Policy", Hansard 5th and 6th December, 2006) and even more so that Sweden would be seeking any advice or guidance at all from South Australia, given our track record.

Of course, we now know that no contact was made by the Swedish National Drug Policy Co-ordinator, Mr Bjorn Fries to contact the Chief Executive of Drug and Alcohol Services, Mr Keith Evans, to discuss South Australia's "harm minimisation" strategy at all, much less with the view to adopting what we all know is not working. He stated in response "***I have never consulted with drug and alcohol services of S.A. on any issue and I never intend to do so***".

Santa, do you suppose it would also be a big ask that our legislative draftsmen use an ounce of logic and common-sense when creating laws by which we must all abide?

For example, why do our legal experts insist on proposing ludicrous laws like *Amendment No 1 [Police - 1]*, Clause 4, page 2, after line 21, (1a) of the *Criminal Law Consolidation (Drink Spiking) Amendment Bill 2006*, which would make it an offence only to be in possession of drugs used to spike drinks between the hours of 9pm and 5 am, but not at other times.

I am delighted that our law makers don't want our kids' drinks spiked with asthma puffers or gastric reflux medications, but I'll take my chances if, instead, we can get our addicted youth into rehabilitation programs, effective drug education into our schools and those who grow, manufacture and distribute drugs off the street and behind bars.

That's all,

Love to you and Mrs Claus

Ann Bressington

RECOVERED ADDICTS SAY:

"THE ONLY WAY TO RECOVER FROM DRUGS IS TO STOP USING THEM."

For further information contact Ann Bressington - 0448 887 277