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MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPP's BOLD NEW APPROACH TO REDUCING DRUG RELATED HARM.

HEMP SA inc today welcomed the comments of SA's Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Paul Rofe QC. Mr Rofe is the latest high profile Australian to join the growing number of experts who see the need for a new approach to dealing with the issue of illicit drugs. Illicit drugs are now the world second largest traded commodity worth over \$150 Billion /year. In Australia 83.5% of 20-24 y.o men, and 40% of the total population - some seven million people have tried Cannabis according to the Government's own research!

Prohibition has clearly failed. That has been acknowledged by criminologists like Profs Paul Wilson and Duncan Chappell, Grant Wardlaw, Phil Dickie and the Australian Institute of Criminology. Judges like Michael Kirby and Russell Fox have joined the chorus of State Law Societies, smaller legal centers and civil liberties groups calling for change. Police and law enforcers like Ray Kendall, the Secretary General of Interpol, and the Tasmanian Police Commissioner John Johnson have joined with public health experts to condemn our current laws. Prof Peter Baume, ex Liberal Health Minister, Dr Alex Wodak, from the Public health Association, Dr. Neil Blewett, and international experts Dr John Morgan and Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Uni Lester Grinspoon have all called for a reappraisal of current policy.

"Mr Rofe's plan has shown the way forward. It is time for the politicians to seize the moment and act bipartisanly in the best interests of the entire community. Australians deserve no less" said HEMP SA spokesperson Mr Jamnes Danenberg .

"The War on Drugs has failed; current laws just perpetuate and protect a billion dollar black market. Only by regulating availability can the government introduce some measure of supervision, quality control, education and taxation over of illicit drugs." he added

HEMP SA are calling on all politicians *"To make an informed decision on forthcoming legislation based on a sound understanding of the facts. "*

We are urging all State Parliamentarians to read and debate the Pennington Report and to act in a positive and progressive manner.

For more information call Mr Jamnes Danenberg on (08) 8297 9442

Help End Marijuana Prohibition