



**HEMP SA inc**

**PO Box 1019, Kent Town SA, 5071**

**phone info: (08) 8297 9442**

**e-mail: hempSA@va.com.au**

**internet: www.hemp.on.net**

**media release: for immediate release:**

**12/6/96**

## **HEMP Slams Jeff Kennett for Broken Promise.**

The Victorian Politicians have failed dismally in relation to the Penington Report's major recommendation; that marijuana be decriminalised, according to a leading Cannabis Law reform Lobby Group. Jeff Kennett's government was elected with a mandate to decriminalise marijuana and received support from a large number of young voters who believed him.

HEMP SA (Help End Marijuana Prohibition) spokesperson Jamnes Danenberg today criticised Premier Jeff Kennett's failure to implement his election promise and decriminalise marijuana use. Instead, a rhetorical PR puff piece "Turning the Tide" was issued. *"Mr Kennett has simply failed to get it: It's not what harm drugs do, but how we respond to those harms"* Mr Danenberg said. *"Prohibition remains the unaddressed central issue. Organised crime is collectively rejoicing, whilst politicians are sitting back content to ignore the problems and maintain the status quo."* he added.

The Penington report advocated increased focus on education. HEMP agree.

*"There is a absolute lack of accurate, reliable information on licit and illicit drug use and how we can reduce harm to individual users and the community. Those most in need are our politicians however, who once again have chosen to do nothing whilst increasing numbers of young people have their lives ruined as a consequence of prohibition"* Mr Danenberg said in a strongly worded statement.

*"The Premiers "firm belief" that "better co-ordination, more resources and maintaining a strict law enforcement strategy" should be given a chance to work is laughable"* said Mr Danenberg. *"Just how many more people need to be convicted before "the right signal is sent?"* he added. *"A co-ordinated national approach has now been jeopardised with Victoria out of step with SA, the ACT and the Northern Territory. The Victorian Governments failure to grasp the nettle will ensure the 1979 SA Royal Commission's finding remains: "The biggest risk of harm to cannabis users is the threat of criminal proceedings"*.

For further information about the failure of SA's CEN system, why Kennett got it wrong or a copy of the AIC's 14 point criteria for a good drug policy please contact:  
Mr Jamnes Danenberg on (08) 8297 9442.

**Help End Marijuana Prohibition**