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MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SA DRUG LAWS A DISASTER?

HEMP SA spokesperson Jamnes Danenberg today agreed with Police Minister Stephen Baker, that SA's Cannabis Expiation notice had been a disaster, but for different reasons:

"The number of CEN notices has quadrupled since the system began and double the number of people have been convicted for simple cannabis offences (according to the Government's own research). Mr Baker has his facts wrong: claims that criminals are hiding behind the "on-the-spot" fines are baseless; the Police have the power to charge Cannabis growers with commercial offenses if they have the evidence - even if they are only growing just ONE plant" Mr Danenberg said.

Mr Baker is publicly at odds with his Police Commissioner Mr David Hunt, who has acknowledged that "Traditional methods of law enforcement haven't worked... and that a new harm minimising approach is needed".

" It's a pity Mr. Baker hasn't done his homework over this issue and read the Penington Report which identified regulated availability, as the only way to reduce the criminal involvement in the drug trade" Mr Danenberg said.

"Getting tough to combat gangs" only makes matters worse as Nobel Prize winning economist Milton Friedman, Interpol Chief Ray Kendall and Tasmanian Police Commissioner John Johnson have recognised.

"HEMP SA are seeking urgent talks with the Police Minister to make it's concerns known and to pass on the latest research to the Minister." Jamnes added.

For more information call: Jamnes Danenberg (HEMP SA) on (08) 8297 9442 .

Release Ends

Help End Marijuana Prohibition