

LAW REFORM, DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

**Inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines, particularly ice,
in Victoria**

Melbourne — 9 December 2013

Members

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Mr L. Twentyman, OAM, 20th Man Fund.

The CHAIR — Good afternoon, Mr Twentyman. Thank you very much for coming before the Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee this afternoon. Currently we are investigating an inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines, including ice, here in Victoria. Mr Twentyman, you are representing the 20th Man Fund youth services this afternoon, and you have requested to speak to the committee in relation to the current inquiry before us.

Mr TWENTYMAN — Yes. I believe there are a lot of victims in this particular issue and some who probably do not come to mind, and it is particularly the children of those who are dependent on methamphetamine — —

The CHAIR — Just before you start, Mr Twentyman, I have to read you the conditions under which you are providing a verbal submission to the committee this afternoon. All evidence taken at this hearing is protected by parliamentary privilege as provided by the Constitution Act 1975 and further subject to the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003, the Defamation Act 2005 and, where applicable, the provisions of reciprocal legislation in other Australian states and territories. It is important that you note that any comments you make outside the hearing, including effective repetition of what you have said in evidence, may not be afforded such privilege. I understand you have read or sighted the guide for witnesses presenting evidence to parliamentary committees. It is also important to note that any action that seeks to impede or hinder a witness or threaten a witness for the evidence they would give or have given may constitute and be punishable as a contempt of Parliament.

We are recording the evidence and will provide a proof version of the transcript at the earliest opportunity so you can correct it as appropriate. I will flag with you that of course we cannot discuss the names of people who are currently before the courts or any action taken against them, just for your sake and ours. We have allotted until 5 o'clock for this session.

Mr TWENTYMAN — It would be a lot safer than pointing them out on the street.

The CHAIR — That is probably true, but it will protect you and us in relation to this hearing.

Mr TWENTYMAN — I do not need any more enemies.

The CHAIR — No.

Mr TWENTYMAN — Like I said, we are finding now that the children who are around parents who are drug affected are being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, and that is because of the violence and things of that nature and also the fact that a lot of these kids do not go to school, because their parents are addicted or dependent and addicted. They do not know what day it is. In one case, a young girl missed 120 days of her first two years at school. One of the issues there was that the vice-principal could not tell me whether or not the girl was at school, because of privacy. Eventually when it ends up in the Children's Court, out come the terrible facts that these kids have hardly been at school at all. They fall so far behind that eventually they are at risk of an early exit from education and of becoming users themselves.

One of the points I want to make is that the children who have been diagnosed by psychologists do not get the same benefits as someone with ADD. I think that is something that should be looked at as well, because they are going to have the same issues around concentration and things like that.

I travel right around Victoria and Australia speaking at various schools and also at public forums. Just in the past few months I have visited towns where they claim drugs are awash. I have an email from an ex-AFL footballer who lives up in Portland who has some concerns — sorry, my printer is not all that good, but I will leave it here. I was up at Rochester one night. There were about 600 people for a public forum with the police and local health workers. A woman got up and said she was a single mum with seven kids. Her two eldest boys were dependent on ice. They had been lured into ice by an older woman in the town via sex. She said that she and her five children, who are not drug users, live in fear of their lives every day, and the nearest service they can get is in Bendigo, which is over an hour's drive away. But to get a service anywhere is one of the big problems we have. My youth workers get calls every day from parents who are desperate to try to

do something about their sons and daughters who are addicted, and there is basically nowhere to send them. It is becoming quite a big issue.

The other big issue for youth workers at the coalface and police, doctors and nurses — in fact, one doctor in Footscray has had to take out intervention orders against clients — is their propensity for violence because they are addicted to ice. We did a media conference with the ambulance and police recently to talk about the issues of coalface workers, and it is obviously the same for nurses and doctors. In my case, I had a petrol bomb thrown at me. It was a stubby full of petrol which was alight. It smashed beside me, but I was able to lock myself in the office. It turned out that this woman in her paranoia thought I was dealing drugs to her daughter.

With one of my other youth workers there was a guy who we had been helping for some time at our office in Footscray. We have a doctor who is well known in the drug services, Dr John Sherman. He sees about 2000 patients a month, mainly dealing with heroin but a lot also have mental health issues. With one particular guy, who was doing okay on his medication, his brother got out of jail and got him back onto ice. He came into the office to kill one of my youth workers, thinking he was having an affair with this other woman who works part time. It took eight police and three cans of mace to take him down. Then about four weeks later I was driving through Footscray and I saw him walking across the crossing. I tried to hide, but anyway he walked up to my car and said he wanted the youth worker's phone number. Obviously I said I did not know it, but it turned out that he already knew it. He had been released and been barred.

I was in Sydney the other day and saw Angry Anderson, who works with youth. He was telling me about one kid on ice who took all his mates who were on ice back to live at his mother's place. They all gang raped his mum, including him. These are some of the things that are extremely concerning.

I have just come back from the States. I bought this book called *Methland — the Death and Life of an American Small Town* at a conference in New York. It sets out how it has taken over whole towns in America, as it is doing here. As I said, we are getting calls from Colac, Healesville, Echuca and Bendigo. One mother said, 'You've got to get our son out of Point Cook; the whole place is awash with it'. Of course we know about Bacchus Marsh because of the horrendous murder. The girl used to be a pupil at the school where my brother was the principal. Last night I got a call from people in Morwell all saying the same stuff. If you go through the book, it mimics exactly what is happening here in Australia. It is of grave concern. It is getting to younger kids. A friend of mine works at a narcotics support group. She said that two Saturdays ago they had a boy in who was 14 years of age. He was totally fried from ice.

It is the towns, it is the isolation, it is the violence. I was in jail about six weeks ago speaking to 60 prisoners in the new remand centre, which is already full. I asked them how many of them had been expelled from school pre year 10, and all of them put up their hands. I asked them how many of them had gone into drugs, and all of them put up their hands. I asked them how many had used ice and methamphetamines, and two-thirds put up their hands. Putting them in jail is not solving anything, because eventually they are all going to get out. There really has to be a multipronged attack.

There is what I call the 'Ben Cousin's syndrome'. When the documentary was made about him, it seemed to me it was so irresponsible, because basically it was saying to young people that they could compete at an elite level in sport and you could use this drug. We all know Ben Cousins is not looked upon as being Ben Cousins the Brownlow medallist or Ben Cousins the premiership captain of an AFL team; he is looked at because of his recent history with his drug dependency.

These are the sorts of things that do not really help us when we are trying to do something about giving young people an opportunity to not go down that path, which is very difficult, because we have horrendous unemployment in the north-west of Melbourne. Youth unemployment is around 56.7 per cent, and it has been like that for nearly 15 years. With the gangland stuff we saw that a lot of them were kids that I dealt with years ago. They get into the local gang and then into the drugs, and we are seeing another generation with the same stuff. I guess it is all to do with having very little opportunity to be able to participate in work and have money. The drug stuff becomes a

lure, and obviously with some there are what they call OMGs — outlaw motorcycle gangs — who seem to be able to be involved in some of the stuff, and young kids are recruited to be the distributors. It just hits the children in so many different areas with the violence and the coalface community workers.

As I said, it is something that is only going to get worse before I can see it ever getting better, because there is no easy fix to unemployment and there is no easy fix, I guess, for ghettos of areas that really sort of struggle on a day-to-day basis to have a sort of quality of life.

The other thing I might add is that there seems to be a bit of a movement around shift workers as well. In the book here they talk about one particular town, and the workers are on 18 bucks an hour, I guess, in an abattoir. They were bought out and they were put back to 6 bucks, and so they had to do double and triple shifts and sort of got onto the meth. I am hearing that is the case also. I had a guy ring me, and I think he might have rung Sandy as well; he said he has about 80 employees and he reckons almost 50 per cent of them are using it. I know of a fairly large complex in the western suburbs, and their union guy has told me that they have a big problem with the night shift people using ice as well. As someone said, you have got to do your job; if you have got the substances that can keep you awake, you can do the double shift.

The other thing is, apart from kids not going to school and that sort of stuff, they are also subjected to potentially being the victims of some terrible sexual assaults and things like that, purely because these people are not in control of their faculties. That is another concern we have as well.

The CHAIR — Thank you. We are hearing there is, as you have described, a demographic which you are very familiar with and working amongst, and I understand that. You have the unemployed, the low sociodemographic. There is not much money, obviously a lot of truancy, and there are generational problems with parents being unemployed and also probably on drugs. There is that — what is the word they use; is it ‘cohort’?

Mr TWENTYMAN — Yes.

The CHAIR — Then you have, as we have been hearing, the sort of middle class, where you have the bored housewife who has some ice just to get her through the day and make her feel good — him or her. And then you have the recreational users, who are the young kids who go to the discos and ice up, if I can use that word, before they go. It creates a feeling of wellbeing, is a stimulant, alertness — —

Mr TWENTYMAN — Yes, an upper.

The CHAIR — And a sexual stimulant as well. A lot of those use it just as a recreational drug, and there is not a major impact. They come off it, they sleep and they generally fit back in society and then perhaps go again, because it has quite an addictive nature; we understand that. But the area that you are representing and working in is an area of concern because they are virtually habitual users and they get caught in the trafficking to finance the drug and then are associated with a whole lot of criminal elements along the way.

I guess the point I am getting to is: where do you see us as a committee being able to make some significant recommendations that will deal with the demographic that you are associated with? The trouble is that from a medical point of view, so we have been told, once they are addicted to ice there is little in a clinical sense or medicinal sense that can be used — not like methadone for heroin — and can get them off ice and stop that aggressive behaviour and that criminal activity. At what point of intervention do you think — —

Mr TWENTYMAN — I think outreach youth workers should be in every school, primary and secondary. That way they can pick up kids at risk of falling out of school into truancy. Our research shows that kids that have a fractured education are the most at risk of getting into or accessing drugs and alcohol at a far earlier age than those who are in the school system. That is what I would have, because we are getting kids who are hardly ever at school and no-one is doing anything about it because they do not have the resources to be going and finding them — ‘Why isn’t Billy Joe’, or whoever, ‘at school?’.

That is one thing. The other thing is that we need far more creative educational things to stimulate kids who have learning and those sorts of problems. There are a few programs I have looked at overseas. There was one that was set up by a guy who was educated and lived here in Melbourne; he runs it in London, in Hackney. He is currently here putting on *Chopper the Musical* of all things. They get their outreach youth workers to collect all the kids who have been kicked out of school and are hanging around in gangs. They get six or seven well-known actors and singers, people like Pamela Anderson and all that, and the outreach workers bring them to this point where they spend every day for a couple of months writing a play, putting it to music and that sort of stuff.

We run a school on a Saturday in Flemington for 60 kids. They are all Africans. These are kids who do not want to go down the gang path. They really want to make a fist of their education. We have six or seven dedicated workers, including a retired professor who comes all the way from Berwick, and those kids just have a hunger for it. We used to have warring gangs in Footscray, and it got to a point where two kids were nearly killed in McDonald's. They closed down a school, Maribyrnong Secondary College, a week prior to Christmas, and because there was that semester break we were able to work on the two gangs and found out the one thing they liked was basketball, so we set up a basketball club. It started with eight teams; now we have 500 kids who play every Wednesday and every Saturday. We took the two commissioners out there four weeks ago, and they could not believe all these kids of all different nationalities used to fight each other with machetes. It is not just a sport; it is a culture. Their parents come along and all that sort of stuff. They are the sorts of things we should be doing. It is not rocket science, but it is too bloody hard to get the resources to do it.

That is what I am looking at. In some cases we may have lost a generation, particularly some of the older African kids who have no education and have been caught up in the war. But the younger ones definitely have the mojo to really make a fist of their new life in their new country. That needs to be stimulated and resourced, and that is what I am basically putting to you.

The CHAIR — I have a quick follow-up question on that and then I will open it up. I will be happy with just a short answer. Do you think advertising and promoting the fact that ice in particular is made from substances like battery acid and detergents and other things, and promoting its impact as affecting the brain, creating psychosis and depression and a whole lot of other things, as against what the drug does for the reasons that people take it, would be effective in a Grim Reaper-type program, or do you think it would be counterproductive?

Mr TWENTYMAN — We know that was really effective with driving and then drink driving and things like that. I have been all day in the Coroners Court, and this was to deal with an ice-related situation. I think education is one of the most vital things of all. We run an ad on TV called 'Knives Trash Lives'. It is a 30-second ad, but it goes backwards. It starts with a stabbing, then it rolls back so that people think, 'If I hadn't pulled that knife out that person wouldn't be dead, I wouldn't have lost a partner', and all that sort of stuff. As it says in here about the medical things, it ruins their kidneys, it ages them. I think something around that, because the kids want to think they look good, if you can show the hacking of the skin and that sort of stuff. Maybe using some people who have a fairly significant influence over kids, like with girls if you used someone like Pink to say, 'You're going out with a bloke who's doing this. Give him a miss, because he's going to spend the rest of his life in and out of jail', or something like that. I think that does have some impact, being able to get to the person that has that. It might mean many people doing many different things, but education is most definitely the most important.

We are probably one of the most successful countries that has been able to deal with HIV and things like that, because we saw them as a health issue. The problem with countries like us and America and England is that we always go down the police area first. I was only talking to one of our superintendents the other day about the gang issues, and he was talking about a woman in Scotland, in Glasgow. She has had a lot of impact on stopping gang recruitment, because she has taken it out of a police sense and put it into a community and an educational thing.

I think that is where we have to go with these sorts of things, because if we do not knock off the gang stuff, they are already involved. They are making millions of dollars, billions of dollars, out

of it. That also may be another issue you have to look at. But it is trying to give young kids who are in depressed living circumstances the ability to be happy through other activities that may be sport and recreation, drama. It is education, it is just education in another form.

I am an ex-schoolteacher. Believe it or not I was a phys. ed. teacher; classes used to consist of two laps around me. Anyhow, a lot of kids learnt via doing activities through sport. It was another form of getting to express themselves by using some music, acting it out and then writing something about it. They did not realise it was really an English thing. They just saw it as a fun thing, and so that is where creativity has to come into it. Just saying, 'Don't take ice, blah, blah, blah', does not cut it, because the thing is it does make them feel really good. That is the hard part about it. I used to say to young people doing heroin, 'What are you doing taking that crap?', and they would say, 'That's the problem, Les, it's so good'. They know they are addicted and their lives are passing them by and they are not in it. But certainly it is education that has worked from the kids up. Maybe the kids are the ones who can see what is best.

When I first started to do youth work the biggest issue was what time kids got home on a Saturday night. Parents wanted them home at 10; they wanted to come home on the last bus. That has all changed. When they go out, they come home on the last train a day or two later, so that all adds to it. You have the big rock concert or whatever, the disc jockey. I live near it, so I hear it just about every minute of the day. What are there — 90 arrests or whatever? The kids know they are going to get searched; they do not bloody care. If they want to go and have a good time and they think the only way they are going to have a good time is if they get the substance, then somehow we have to — —

The CHAIR — Thank you for that.

Mr SCHEFFER — Thanks for your presentation, Les. I was interested in your written submission that you sent in — you also made reference to it at the beginning of your presentation — about schools being unable to follow up or will not provide information to services. You said that you had gone down to the school and they would not tell you. On that first part of it, about schools being unable to follow up, you said you were a schoolteacher, and I am not really familiar with the process, but at what point in your view do the kids drop out so that the schools cannot respond to the lack of attendance?

Mr TWENTYMAN — In the case of this particular kid — she was five or six — her mum was drug dependent on ice and her dad was in and out of it and eventually took his own life. That is where I have been today. The schools do not have the resources to be able to go and track every kid. There tends to be a cluster of parents who all have the same issues. They fall out and they are very difficult for services to contact. DHS cannot find them, and one of the problems with DHS is they have a lot of workers turn over, so it is not uncommon that in the case of this girl she has had eight social workers in the past four years. If there is no continuity, it becomes very difficult when the workers cannot get to physically speak to the mother and that, because they are always ducking and weaving and things like that. It is about giving the schools the resources, and that is why I talk about the outreach youth worker part. 'Les, you're the youth worker here. Joe Bloggs hasn't been to school for a week or so', and I'm off, bang, catch up, get onto his parents.

It is also about supporting the parents who are having difficulties, as a lot of them do when they have kids with drug addiction, getting them out of bed, because they do not have a normal sleeping pattern, so they cannot get up to go to school. They have been on the computer or out so-called playing and using. That is just one example.

Mr SCHEFFER — So you are saying — just to go back to that pointy end, for me anyway — that schools may know. One point is that they might not know at all that a student is missing and, if they do know, they do not have the wherewithal to follow up.

Mr TWENTYMAN — Yes, that is right. I once rang a school — we run a back to school program where we provide all the school textbooks. A boy in year 7 — I provided his books. The next year I had not heard from him, and I could not track him down. I knew which school he went to. When I rang the principal, he said, 'He's here. He's been here every day'. I thought, 'I don't

know why he hasn't come to get his books'. I get a call an hour later. He said, 'I'm sorry, he hasn't been to school all year'. It was already into the second semester.

We are finding also that the kids who get expelled or suspended — there is no real effort to make them come back. We had two 13-year-olds — year 7s — suspended from a school. Two years later they were in a gang and in a major brawl at a shopping centre. When it ended up in court the magistrate said to the barrister, 'What's their school?'. He said they had not been to school for two years. The school's thing was, 'We thought they went interstate'. There is a disconnect of services all the way through.

The CHAIR — Les, I might just ask Mr McCurdy because he has to leave shortly.

Mr TWENTYMAN — Yes, certainly.

Mr McCURDY — You spend a lot of time with our youth. Is it education, or is it a mind shift in our communities? Alcohol, for example, seems to have been around for 50 or 60 — however long. In the last 10 years all of a sudden shots are the go, and it is writing yourself off. Marijuana has been around for a long time, as we know. Now in the last 10 to 15 years we have seen this change again — ecstasy, through ice and that. If we get rid of ice or can stamp it out, will it just be something else because it is the mindset of the community, or is it truly education that is going to change it?

Mr TWENTYMAN — I think it has to be education at some point — of being able to put an old head on young shoulders because when kids are young they think they are indestructible. They do not see the big picture, particularly if they are in dysfunctional families. It is to try to give them that sort of sense of belonging.

I have had two people in the past two weeks — one is an old guy who said he reckons there is a meth lab above his flat, and he does not want to do anything about it because he is worried they are going to get him and that. I was just saying to him, when I spoke to him in the car park earlier today, that there were some people who approached me and said that they think the empty house next to them is also being used, and they are too scared to do anything about it because they think it might be linked to a fairly significant violent group and that sort of stuff. You have people who are too frightened to put up their hand, and, as we have seen, there has been all these explosions and hands and that.

To your question, I think young people by nature experiment. It may be that they will try something else. With the girl's murder in Bacchus Marsh, she was what — 21? He was 40. Both were dabbling. You can do something around safety. Those sorts of people are out there, and this is what this substance does. It does not matter how good looking and that you are; if you are playing with this stuff, you are playing Russian roulette. It is people like Michael Carr-Gregg who are probably best to answer that sort of stuff, because we find that by including kids we do not have as much trouble as if we just come down.

I and my other two workers have been in the western suburbs collectively for over 100 years, so we have second and third generations. We have some sort of power over those particular families, and that is why we provide them with the school books and the basketball and things like that, but that is only 0.5 per cent of that region. The other 99.5 per cent are just left to wither, I guess, without those resources being put there. But you are right. Drinking was a big issue, and it did not change, except, I think, with drink driving. I think that was very effective. Hopefully there can be something like that around drugs, but, as I said, using people who have a fair bit of influence over kids to get a key message out that this is a loser's game.

The CHAIR — It was a mix of education and penalty — the drink driving.

Mr TWENTYMAN — Yes.

Mr CARROLL — Thanks, Les. I fully hear what you say about government investment in jobs, education and sport. But with all your experience dealing with youth that are already

addicted, do you have any best practice examples that this committee should investigate or acknowledge from your experience of dealing with youth that have a drug addiction?

Mr TWENTYMAN — Look, the only stuff I know of is the Kings Cross experiment with the safe injecting facility. They have fairly interesting data about how many they have been able to get out of the drug scene totally. They have had something like, I think they said, 7000 or 8000 people use it; they have had over 6000 drug overdoses, no deaths, and I think there is a reasonable percentage of those that have been able to be redirected.

I have been through that facility a few times with Tony Trimmingham and Dr Ingrid van Beek, who set it up. It is interesting how it operates because there are six or seven people there at all times — doctors and counsellors — so after the person has injected, before they go back out in the community, they are sat down, and if they want to engage with a couple of professional counsellors, they can. Apparently without being pushed, it has been quite effective. That is the only thing.

But depression is a major issue. I mean, just to give you another statistic, during the off-season of 2010, I think it was, of the country footy, 27 registered players committed suicide. That was put down to the fact that they did not have the footy club to go to as they did in the winter months and there was the drought and those sorts of things. Depression is a big issue around drug use and things like that; there are factors.

We think that sport or connection and maybe a younger version of the men's shed could be of some significance. That is where I see extended community skills playing that role. Or even blending with a men's shed because you have people there with a lot of skill and they could probably be teaching. I have seen that happen up in Horsham and up in Ararat, where they have used the men's shed with the at-risk kids in the schools, and it has blended in well and that sort of stuff. So it is thinking outside the square a bit on that.

That is the only one that I think has any strong data. We have one girl whose mother brought her in. We did a TV ad called Daniel's story and a *Heroin Without the Hype* documentary which went to air on Channel 9 some years ago. But she came in at 15 with I think it was about a \$100-a-day habit. We nearly lost her on three occasions, and bit by bit we got her through it. Now she is 25 and has got a three or four-year-old child. But as I said, there was a lot of intense work done. There were at least three youth workers involved. She is an example of what can be done if you have got the resources.

Mr CARROLL — I have just one other quick one, if I could, Chair. We have also received some evidence about a shame factor associated with ice, in particular in Indigenous communities. You know, they particularly feel a shame factor being associated with it. In the multicultural groups that you deal with around the western suburbs and northern suburbs, is there a shame factor associated with it, and are you hearing any anecdotal evidence amongst the youth that they are not even referring to it as ice, that because it is regarded as a dirty drug they are now calling it shard, shabu and a whole heap of other terminology amongst that cohort?

Mr TWENTYMAN — The New Zealanders call it P. We have had some issues around islander gangs out in the western suburbs, and of course in America they call it crank, so it has a thousand different names and that sort of stuff, as heroin did, like hammer and all that sort of stuff.

But when you said about shame and about some of those multicultural leaders, we have been doing a bit of work with an African group that the Attorney-General put us in contact with, iEmpower and Abeselom. He is also interested in the alternative education stuff, particularly around the drama, and also he is a big advocate for outreach youth workers in the schools. In a couple of schools way out the other side, they get community leaders into the playground every recess and every lunchtime. It cut down the violence and the drug use in that school significantly, because these cultural leaders have the ability to tap them on the shoulder and pull them into line just with a dirty look, so to speak.

I think we underplay how powerful community leaders and religious leaders can be. In my early days I used to use a lot of taxis because I do a lot of speaking and would get tired late at night, so I got to know quite a lot of the Lebanese and speak to them. I was finding that I would be able to say things to them like, 'We are having X, Y and Z in this area', and they would say, 'Leave it to me, Mr Les'. They would then go and speak to the church leader and bang, bang, bang! I think that is a valuable resource that needs to be massaged more and given a lot more.

It is sad to see so many young kids not even make it to old bones. I have buried probably over 80 kids in my days, and I think it is so tragic that not only do they die early but their lives have been trashed while they have been alive. Like with that Danielle, her mother was drug affected when she was pregnant with her. There is a little girl that I am looking after at the moment. She was born heroin dependent. Some of these kids are coming from hell. We have got to somehow redirect them into some sort of Disneyland of being children who are laughing and playing and having a good time. That is why we are putting on a Christmas party this Christmas morning for 600 kids in the western suburbs, because it is a tough time when you are in a family and there is no money. One woman wrote a letter to me saying, 'On Christmas Day I lock my kids in the house with the blinds down because I do not want them seeing other kids out in the street with toys and having a good time when they have got nothing'. They are the sorts of things we need to be able to have.

The CHAIR — Thanks, Mr Twentyman.

Mr SOUTHWICK — Thanks, Les, for your presentation and all the work you do in the community. I want to ask a pretty hard-hitting question to finish with. We have had a lot of evidence — and you have given some of that today — where we see kids who are in harmful environments and parents often using their kids as drug buddies, particularly with this current drug we are dealing with. At what point do we intervene and take these kids out of these harmful environments?

Mr TWENTYMAN — That is the question that is the most important one I have heard, because I think that the longer we leave them in these damaged families, the greater their risk of having post-traumatic stress disorder. I met with the soccer team that came here recently — Liverpool — because I have done some work. I was over there when those two kids murdered that two-year-old and that sort of stuff. They were saying that their evidence says that, if you do not get the kids before they are eight, they are gone — others say it is if you do not get them before they are five. But when they are living in families where ice is being used, they are basically at risk every minute of the day. I think once it is established that there is a dependency by either one that they should be at least placed with maybe a relative who has the ability to be able to cope or take them from them. But I know that there are not enough foster placements. There are so many grandparents who are now the primary carers of their grandchildren because of ice.

Mr SOUTHWICK — Thank you.

The CHAIR — We might leave it there. Thank you for your time, Mr Twentyman. I again congratulate you for the work that you do, particularly in relation to the youth service. You are synonymous with help and support out there for those who are disadvantaged or need help, and I congratulate you. You have put a lifetime into it. You are to be commended, as you have been with an OAM. We certainly acknowledge those efforts.

Mr TWENTYMAN — Thank you.

The CHAIR — Thank you. You have provided good information to this committee this afternoon, and I am sure it will feature heavily in the report.

Mr TWENTYMAN — If you are able to get *Methland* — —

The CHAIR — We might ask Sandy to scan the bookshops and see if we can track one down.

Mr TWENTYMAN — It goes back to the 1800s apparently, and Hitler was using it on his troops and things like that, so there is a bit that we did not know about. All of a sudden it is in our face, and there is all this vacuum.

The CHAIR — Thank you.

Committee adjourned.