



Hon Ann Bressington MLC

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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 14th September 2010

EXPIATION NOTICES FOR USERS NOT DRUG DEALERS

Independent MLC Ann Bressington is today calling upon the Government to support her Bill to fix the flaw in the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme that allows street level cannabis dealers to walk the streets with impunity.

“My Bill will close the loophole that allows street dealers to be in possession of up to 50 street deals of cannabis and not face criminal conviction,” Ann said.

To demonstrate the flawed nature of the current Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme, Ann will be holding a press conference today at 11:30am in front of 50 street deals (shown in the photo below), which could retail for up to \$1250 but only attract a \$300 fine.



The amount currently considered personal use

The Controlled Substances (Simple Cannabis Offences) Bill 2010, which Ann will be introducing tomorrow, will restrict the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme to only users by reducing the expiable amount to 25grams – less than 1 ounce.

“Users typically buy cannabis in \$25 street deals, which weigh as little as 2 grams, and rarely buy more than half-an-ounce for consumption,” Ann Bressington said.

“To reduce cannabis consumption, we need to get on top of street level dealing. It is street dealers that push cannabis on our young people, but at present the Police are powerless to prosecute.”

Referring to the gradual winding back of the expiable number of cannabis plants – from 10 to four to one – Ann stated:

“Similar to Parliament realising that allowing someone to grow 10 plants was open to abuse by criminals, it is now time we wake-up and prevent street dealers abusing the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme”.

That the Cannabis Expiation Notice Scheme inadvertently captures dealers is supported by the results of a recent *Freedom of Information* request, which revealed that last financial year over 5211 expiation notices were issued for possession of less than 25grams of cannabis, but only 375 were issued for possession of more than 25grams but less than 100grams of cannabis.

“SAPOL’s figures tally with common sense, users are rarely found in possession of more than a street deal (2-5grams). It is street dealers, who buy in ounces, who are in possession of more than 25grams,” Ann said.

“One has to question whether 375 street dealers escaped criminal conviction because of this flawed scheme.”

***Ann will be holding a press conference in the courtyard of Parliament House today at 11:30am
For further information, please contact Ann Bressington directly on 0448 887 277***