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Protecting People & Profits
Through Education

Collins rising to the challenge of P:

Acknowledgements by Police Minister Judith Collins that we need to do whatever we can to remove the scourge of P from our streets is a significant call to action according to MethCon Group Director Mike Sabin.

"The National led government has signalled its clear intention to respond with a number of initiatives to try and meet head on the challenges and devastation P has brought to our shores and just as importantly they have highlighted it as part of their hundred day plan", said Mr. Sabin.

"It is a relief to hear that this issue is being acknowledged in this way, but critical to the success of any initiatives will be the balance achieved between the demand that fuels the seemingly endless supply, the way in which we are willing to identify, respond to and heal drug users and far more robustly disrupt the upper level drug markets", claimed Mr Sabin.

Mr. Sabin, a former Clan Lab detective and now managing director of MethCon Group, has spent a number of years since leaving the Police researching proven solutions to the meth crisis from a local and international perspective, placing a 21 point plan before a Parliamentary Select Committee in May this year.

"One thing is clear from my work in this area and that is that continuing to do what we have been in recent years will continue to fail and the starting point should be our national drug policy which is centred around the philosophy of harm minimisation", said Mr. Sabin.

"Legislation that says we prefer you don't use drugs but we accept you probably will, so here's how to reduce the harm they can cause, is like giving someone a pillow to break their fall out of a five story building", said Mr. Sabin.

"This nonsensical, mixed message approach runs pervasively through so much of our legislation and policy and is totally counterproductive. It's like telling your kids you don't want them to play on the railway lines, but if they do, keep an eye out for trains!" said Mr. Sabin

"There are so many proven strategies our country could implement that would start to bring rapid change. From robust protocols and laws around the purchase of cold and flu medication, drug treatment courts, policing priorities and focus, through to comprehensive education campaigns to 'un-sell' the appeal that meth still holds", said Mr Sabin.

"The challenge will be breaking down the entrenched agendas perpetuated through policy analysts and advisors across a range of ministries. The important thing is that Judith Collins has made strong statements about the need to address this issue and willingness to look at better ways to do it."

"As a country that now has the highest prevalence of methamphetamine and cannabis use there will be a sea of New Zealand families who will be eager to see just how they intend to make the difference", said Mr Sabin.

The research and recommendations to the methamphetamine crisis in New Zealand can be found on the following link:
<http://www.methcon.co.nz/press/research.pdf>

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