

To continue our work and to give strength to our commitment we need a vibrant membership. Please contribute by joining FFDLR. To do so complete and return the following form to:

Families & Friends for Drug Law Reform (ACT) Inc  
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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print clearly

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr &c) .....

Surname .....

First name/s .....

Organisation .....

Street .....

City/Suburb .....

Post code .....

Telephone H.....

W.....

Fax .....

Email .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Annual membership fee \$15 (single or family)  
\$5 unemployed.

Any donation would be most appreciated.

## How Families and Friends began

In 1995, by the end of the Easter break, eight people had died in Canberra from overdosing on heroin.

For one father, the death of his son caused him to question the laws and wonder how a very potent drug could have been sold to his son with no controls whatsoever.

The father met Michael Moore, Independent Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly, who was at that time President of the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform.

A press report advised people with an interest in drug law and their effect to contact Mr Moore. Forty people attended a meeting.

They included parents and others who had lost family members, friends of some who had died and concerned members of the community.

*Families and Friends for Drug Law Reform* arose from that meeting.

## Families & Friends for Drug Law Reform

*Working for over a decade to put life  
and well-being first*

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02/08

Prisons

Crime

Mental illness

School drop out

Poverty

Child protection

Get informed, get involved with

## Families & Friends for Drug Law Reform

Better drug policies can  
help make so many things better

Family breakdown

WORRIED ABOUT SO MANY  
THINGS BUT DON'T KNOW  
WHERE TO START?

Suicide

Homelessness

Violence

# Why is illicit drug use in the middle of Australia's most serious social problems?

## Crime

Why are some 80% of those in Australian prisons addicted to illicit drugs?  
What part do illicit drugs play in the explosion in prison population over the last 20 years?  
How are illicit drugs involved in different path-ways to crime?  
What are the implications of findings that crime drops dramatically for those on maintenance?

## Mental health

Why are addiction and other mental health problems so often going hand in hand?  
Why are our prisons the mental health institutions of the 21st Century?  
How could dealing with addiction as a mental health problem help?

## Are all illicit drugs equally dangerous?

How dangerous are legal drugs like alcohol and tobacco compared to illicit drugs?

## Corruption

Corruption fueled by enormous illicit drug profits surfaces from time to time in Australian law enforcement agencies such as has most recently occurred in Western Australia and Victoria.

*Interested in getting to the bottom of any of these questions?*

*Interested in contributing your insights?*

*Interested in getting to the truth?*

*Interested in making a difference?*

If you're interested in any of these things, get involved with

Families & Friends for Drug Law Reform  
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## Disadvantage

Increasing intergenerational disadvantage, more children dropping out of school, more people "with complex needs" who are unemployed or homeless.

What does the fact that illicit drugs are very often in the mix tell us about how to reverse these trends?

## Addiction

What messages should we draw from the fact that addiction is a long term relapsing condition?

How easy is it to become addicted to illicit drugs?

Are some drugs more addictive than others?

Is detoxing all that is required?

## Child protection

Why is illicit drug use so common in families where children are in need of protection?

To what extent do existing policies erect barriers to addicted people being responsible parents?

How do drug policies gravely add to risk factors for children?

## Prohibition and drug availability?

The criminal law is meant to make harmful drugs less available but does it have the opposite effect and make harms worse?