

Ms Marie Cotter
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17 FEB 2006

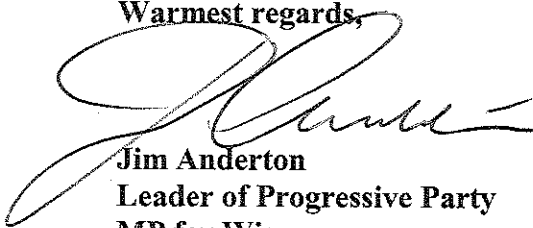
Dear Ms Cotter,
Thank you for your letter of 12 February advising me of the Fight Against "P" hiko
that you are organising.

I would very much like to meet you and the children who will be accompanying you, to hear your views, and to discuss what this government has done with regard to trying to combat the scourge "P". Unfortunately, as my office has informed you by phone, I am booked to fly out of the country on the morning of Thursday 23 February, and must leave for the airport at 10.30am. I understand your 11.30am estimated time of arrival cannot be brought forward so I have asked my colleague Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Customs and Youth Affairs to meet you and your group on my behalf. Her Senior Private Secretary is Alistair Ferris (04) 4719 9907, Level 4.5R in the Beehive.

As the Minister responsible for this government's drug strategy I am always interested in hearing from those whose communities are affected by this drug. To this end I have been chairing "P" Alcohol and other Drug public forums around New Zealand over the last two years. These forums have taken place predominately in areas where the government has established Community Action Youth and Drugs (CAYAD) programmes. The aim of these programmes is to co-ordinate drug information. There is a CAYAD in your locality. It covers the Otahuhu and Otara/Papatoetoe areas and is run by Hapai Te Ahuora Tapui in conjunction with Auckland Regional Public Health. This CAYAD did get some media profile when it was established and when I chaired a forum at the Manukau City Council in 2004, so I was very disappointed to read that the basis for your Hiko was the lack of information you could get in Papatoetoe on "P".

The situation you describe is the very situation that the CAYADs were established to meet, so I have asked officials to look into why you were unable to get this information, look at what can be done to improve the situation, and report back to me. "P" is a very dangerous drug that concerns us all, and I congratulate you on taking this initiative to raise awareness. Reducing the demand for this drug is part of this government's National Drug Policy and we need every individual and group to work with us to make this happen.

Warmest regards,



Jim Anderton
Leader of Progressive Party
MP for Wigram
Associate Minister of Health

