

Australia Dossier by Robert Barwick

Heroin 'trial program' approved

In a victory for George Soros, federal and state ministers succumbed to a pro-drug media disinformation campaign.

On July 31, the Health and Police ministers from Australia's eight states and territories approved, by a 5-3 majority, a trial program to prescribe heroin to 40 addicts in Canberra, Australia's capital. To be wholly funded by the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government, the trial program will charge heroin addicts \$15 per week for four daily injections; it is loosely modelled on a similar trial just completed in Berne, Switzerland. After a trial period in Canberra, where some 7,000 heroin addicts have reportedly taken up residence in anticipation of its approval, the program will be expanded to other states.

Prominent anti-drug campaigner Brian Watters, the commander of the Salvation Army's rehabilitation services, described the decision to the *Weekend Australian* as a "tragedy." He charged that "the ministers have responded to a carefully crafted pressure campaign of disinformation," run through Australia's major media.

Indeed, the difference between last year's ministerial summit, which resoundingly voted down the same proposal, and this year's, which passed it, was the media barrage, particularly in May, June, and July, on how heroin was flooding Australia, and how deaths from heroin usage had increased 700% over 1979. Channel 7's "Witness" program, ABC's "First Wednesday" program, and especially the media empire of Kerry Packer, ran numerous features on the subject. The media constantly paraded the families of heroin or other drug overdose victims, who now support legalization, organized as the Family and Friends

of Drug Law Reform, while blacking out similarly affected families who are vehemently opposed to drugs, such as anti-drug campaigner Angela Woods, whose daughter Anna died after taking Ecstasy two years ago, and who has rejected the dope lobby's attempts to use her to promote legalization.

Accompanying the media onslaught, were the pro-legalization calls by a number of high-profile law enforcement figures in New South Wales, including its Director of Public Prosecutions, Nicholas Cowdery; its Police Commissioner, Peter Ryan; and Justice James Wood, who headed a two-year, \$100 million Royal Commission investigating "police corruption" and pedophilia. Ryan, a fiercely pro-drug import from Britain, and Justice Wood shut down the NSW anti-drug squad, claiming that it was "corrupt," even though Wood acknowledged that it had been "highly effective" in stopping drugs. While he found plenty of corrupt cops, Wood managed to find virtually no pedophiles, despite extensive evidence presented in the NSW Parliament, of pedophiles at the highest levels of society.

The pro-dope lobby repeatedly declared that the war on drugs had been a "failure," to which the Salvation Army's Watter replied, "We've never had a war on drugs; we haven't even had a decent skirmish. If Australia had fought World War II the way we've fought this war on drugs, we'd all be speaking Japanese today." Watters also debunked the oft-cited 700% rise in heroin deaths from 1979, noting that there was hardly any heroin in Australia

then, and that a more accurate figure was the 25% rise during 1985 to 1995.

The most notable feature of the pro-drug legalization forces in Australia, is their financial connections. The ACT heroin trial program was first proposed in 1991 by George Soros's main flunkie in Australia, Rep. Mike Moore (Independent-ACT), who chairs the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform, a group of more than 100 politicians who promote drug legalization. Moore is the point man in Australia for the Drug Policy Foundation, Soros's pro-drug mouthpiece, and also the recipient of the DPF's 1994 Justice Gerald Le Dain Award for Law.

In addition to Moore's efforts, the most important organization promoting drug legalization is the Australian Drug Foundation, composed of impassioned exponents of the DPF policy of "harm minimization." The ADF is funded by Australia's largest banks and family foundations, including the Reserve Bank of Australia, which are desperate for cash, given their heavy exposure in international derivatives markets.

On the media side, the individual who most championed dope legalization was media magnate Kerry Packer, through his "A Current Affair" TV program and his *Bulletin* magazine. Packer, who is worth an estimated \$4 billion, was investigated in the early 1980s by the Costigan Royal Commission, for a number of alleged crimes, including murder, tax evasion, drugs, and drug-money laundering, before the incoming Labor government of Bob Hawke shut down the investigation in 1983.

The key vote which made the ACT heroin trial program possible was that of NSW Premier Bob Carr, who had voted against the proposal last year. Perhaps coincidentally, Carr was formerly employed at Packer's *Bulletin*.