

and many more people seeking help. They receive no government funding. Users fighting P addiction will tell you that the best support is from ex-P addicts, those who know exactly what it's like trying to get out of its clutches. We need centres like this throughout the country, but no one in government is interested – there is no tax take from P, just huge social cost. Individuals like Marie Cotter have sunk thousands of dollars of their own money and huge time and energy trying to get the P warning out there, but they are on their own and can't keep going like that. We need an 0800 Hotline, because help is hard to find. Family involvement is hugely important – this problem is an epidemic – it affects 100s of 1000s of New Zealanders. It won't go away – we have to beat it.

Further information: Alex 021 0746268, Palmerston North Street Van: pns.v.org.nz 06 356 3337



Comment from Constable Noel Surrey

“As I read this article I said to myself several times ‘this man knows what he is talking about.’ This is an excellent summary of the methamphetamine problem in New Zealand and we in Franklin are experiencing exactly the same chain reaction of events. Police capacity is being taken to the limit – other agencies MUST put their shoulders to the wheel. The community must ever more loudly demand more education, for prevention and treatment for the ones who didn't learn by others' mistakes. Every person who buys point packs of methamphetamine supports that horrifically destructive industry. We need to unite as a society to ensure there is no market for these inhuman dealers to supply.”

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A recession is not pleasant and only a fool would suggest otherwise. No decent person likes to see anyone go out of business or lose a job. But the sooner a recession is allowed to evolve, the sooner it can pass. The alternative is to continue to interfere and subsidise what doesn't deserve to be propped up. Subsidisation creates too much of what is not wanted. Anytime that government subsidises industry, for any reason, it gets expensive. The longer the recession, the more likely it will bleed into an outright depression.

In this global age it is too much to hope that a small economy like New Zealand will dodge the coming crisis, but with the application of sound economic principles we could emerge from it more quickly than our unfortunate ancestors in the 1930s. Living within one's means is common sense, surely. It means the application of that dirty word 'discipline' in both the home and the Beehive.

In plain speech, I guess it also comes back to my grandmother's viewpoint of “You learned to live within your means and 75% of something being preferable to 100% of nothing”.



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