

DAD  
15-6-94

Final Report Recd. - Leigh Knight

Malcolm Irvine to discuss it  
with Neville Aitiz in next weeks.  
Up to Neville & "Lacortis" to decide  
what procedure to follow.  
My expectation is Aitiz will  
report to Minister on options  
& what the Minister wants  
to do - prob. draft memo to  
policy rather than a  
decision paper.

Strategy:

We should put them on notice  
of "judicial fairness" &  
"legitimate expectations"

mary, more men have tried illicit drugs and take larger doses of drugs, but many claim that, "... The sexes are involved with them in equal percentages at present" (Fidell, 1982).

The current situation relating to the use of *cocaine* has developed so rapidly, there is little reliable information about the usage by men or women. There is no question about the rapid escalation of its use. During the 1970s, the "ever used" incidence appeared to have tripled in all age groups. By 1980, estimates were that 28 percent of young adults between 18 and 25 had used cocaine, a third of them within the previous month. Cocaine overdose deaths have multiplied within recent years: between 1980 and 1983, San Francisco reported a 300 percent increase in cocaine overdose (Smith, 1984). Several patterns of use have been identified: experimental use, recreational use, situational use, intensified drug use and compulsive drug use (Siegel, 1977). High school seniors who reported ever having experimented with cocaine increased from 9 percent in 1975 to 17 percent in 1981, and Ray (1983) believes that use by adolescents and young adults will continue to increase. Available information indicates that cocaine, like other illegal drugs, has more male users than female users. Concern has been expressed by health authorities about increasing use of cocaine by women.

The male-female ratio of "*designer drug*" use is not known; such drugs having appeared so recently as drugs of abuse that statistics about prevalence have not been obtained. It is to be expected that more males will be experimenting with these new drugs as they appear, although some women, probably heroin addicts, will be experimenting with them as well.

### **WHAT IS DRUG ABUSE?**

Drug abuse is usually defined in terms of heavy alcohol consumption and/or use of illicit drugs—and the consequences of such use. Drug abuse is deviant behavior and, as Gusfield (1967) points out:

Deviant designations have histories; the public definition of behavior as deviant is itself changeable. It is open to reversals of political power, twists of public opinion, and the development of social movements and moral crusades. What is attacked as criminal today may be seen as sick next year and fought over as possibly legitimate by the next generation. (p. 187)