

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **ACTION NEEDED ON DRUG SUMMIT REPORT**



NEW SOUTH WALES  
BAR ASSOCIATION

4 April 2025

The NSW Bar Association welcomes the release of the Drug Summit report and calls on the NSW Government to act promptly on its recommendations, and the remaining recommendations of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug Ice.

President of the NSW Bar Association, Dr Ruth Higgins SC, said that the NSW Government now has more than enough advice from legal and medical experts to make informed policy decisions concerning illicit drugs.

“Drug addiction is best addressed as a health issue outside the criminal justice system.”

“The Drug Summit report makes important recommendations, including in relation to the expansion of diversion initiatives and the Drug Court, harm reduction, medically prescribed cannabis, and the use of drug detection dogs and strip searching.”

“This report follows the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug Ice, which provided a more comprehensive and ambitious range of recommendations, all of which are supported by the NSW Bar Association.”

“The NSW Bar Association participated in the Drug Summit’s Lismore and Sydney Forums. While there were a range of positive discussions, there was also stakeholder frustration caused by the NSW Government ruling out any form of decriminalisation from the outset.”

“Adequate funding for drug and alcohol rehabilitation services is very important, but the NSW Government cannot ignore the urgent need to engage in substantive legislative reform,” Dr Higgins said.

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