

## Vickie Chapman MP

Deputy State Liberal Leader  
Shadow Attorney-General

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### Drug treatment iced

The State Liberals have attacked the Weatherill Government for blocking legislation that would have allowed parents, police and child protection officers to apply to a court for mandatory treatment orders for a child addicted to illicit drugs.

“The Weatherill Government has abandoned South Australian families desperately searching for effective ways to treat their children’s drug addiction,” said Deputy State Liberal Leader Vickie Chapman.

“There is an ice epidemic sweeping through communities across South Australia and many of its victims are children.

“The Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Amendment Bill would have led to the establishment of a vital facility for the treatment of young people struggling with drug addiction.

The recent National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program found Australia ranks second in the world in its use of methylamphetamine and that ‘*in terms of capital city populations, levels of methylamphetamine were consistently above the national average in Western Australia and South Australia.*’ (p26)

“South Australia desperately needs a secure therapeutic centre where children addicted to ice and other highly destructive illegal drugs can be sent for treatment, before they are lost to a life of misery and crime.

“The treatment needs to be mandatory because many young addicts refuse to believe they even have a problem, let alone that they are putting themselves in immense danger and are in need of medical treatment.

“South Australian families are being torn apart trying to deal with the highly erratic and destructive behaviour of children addicted to ice.

“We cannot afford to sit back and watch children fall into a life of addiction because we are concerned their rights are being impinged by making the treatment mandatory.

“Families and the authorities have the right, indeed the obligation, to seek help for children who are incapable of helping themselves.”