

Theme 4: Drug issues in the community

Suggested content

Teacher notes

Contemporary drug-related issues in the community

Drug-related issues in the community

- local
- state
- national

Local, state and national issues may be generated by investigating media information or consulting local health agencies, local government road safety officers and Community Drug Education Program officers with the NSW Police Service.

Impact of drug-related issues in the community

- on individuals
- on the school
- on the local community
- on the wider community

Topics could include:

- decriminalisation and legalisation of drugs
- needle exchange programs
- methadone programs
- prevention versus treatment versus enforcement
- tobacco sales to minors
- restrictions on smoking in public places
- alcohol and driving campaigns.

These topics are ideal for investigations through debates, forums, case studies and critical media studies.

Action to address drug issues in the community

- individual action
- social action
- political action

Students can look at different levels of involvement and apply these to their situation (e.g. personal behaviours, awareness raising activities in the school, investigation of community health promotion campaigns). State and Commonwealth government policies e.g. National Drug Strategy, could also be discussed.

Obtaining information about drugs

Sources of accurate information about drugs

- media bias
- ways of obtaining information
- the reliability of information (e.g. Internet, the media, friends).

Schools may wish to involve relevant community groups or agencies (e.g. community health centre, NSW Police Service and counsellors) to inform students about their role in providing support to the local community.

Students should be given opportunities to critique sources of information and investigate skills involved in being an informed consumer.

Help and support for drug-related issues

Areas of support

- within the school
- within the community
- personal networks