

Only by admitting weakness can we hope to become stronger

By Evan Sycamnias

Australia has become a primary drug consuming country; one that is in the midst of a major health epidemic that does not differentiate on creed, race or colour.

For many years, the Greek population has prospered with its high-level ethics, morals and family structures, enjoying minimal involvement in most unfavourable matters. Unfortunately, these same values combined with Greek people's inclination toward cultural pride have created somewhat negative outcomes for many.

In Victoria, more and more Greek families are being confronted with the reality that they or their children are in some way addicted to one or more licit or illicit substances.

Due to personal feelings of shame, guilt or failure over this self developed taboo area, many are unwilling to seek external assistance because most know that once they break their silence, they will be faced with further uncertainty created by the lack of linguistically and culturally appropriate social structures, information and education materials available.

In an effort to elevate this issue, the Australian Greek Welfare Society has endeavoured to expand its already established services to include a free and completely confidential drug-counselling program specifically designed for the needs of the Greek community. This program includes, but is not limited to, one on one or group support, as well as the ability to place individuals into independently selected mainstream care.

For further information about this program, contact Evan Sycamnias on (03) 9388 9998. Otherwise, you can browse numerous Greek and English drug related booklets, pamphlets and information packages at your leisure by visiting <http://www.agws.com.au/drug>.