

The National Drug Research Institute invites you to

# *The 'War on Drugs': A case for drug law reform*

*A public forum with Dr Norm Stamper  
Former US Police Chief and  
Advisor, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition*

**Thursday 15 October, 2009**

**3pm**

National Drug Research Institute Seminar Room  
Health Research Campus, Curtin University of Technology  
Level 2, 10 Selby Street, Shenton Park, WA

*A significant number of Australians use illicit drugs and more than a third have used an illicit drug at least once in their lifetime. One in ten prisoners is imprisoned for drug-related offences. Illicit drug use costs the Australia \$8.2 billion annually – in crime, health care and lost productivity.*

*Former US police chief Dr Norm Stamper is a major proponent of significant drug law reform, believing the “war on drugs” has actually been a war on people. Through his experiences, Dr Stamper has decided that the ‘War against Drugs’ has not worked to address the issues around drug dependence.*

*A police officer for 34 years, Dr Stamper argues that:*

- *The US ‘war on drugs’ has failed and costs thousands of lives and US \$69 billion a year;*
- *Millions of dollars being spent in the justice system could be better spent on improving health and social interventions to ameliorate drug problems;*
- *Alternative approaches to control drug availability would make our neighbourhoods safer and citizens healthier;*
- *Dr Stamper is an advisor to Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), an organisation comprising former and current police officers and other government agents.*



*Dr Stamper was brought to Australia by the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation. The ADLRF is an incorporated non-profit organisation which promotes open debate on drug policy and provides information on alternatives which reduce the harm, social costs and personal tragedies caused by illicit drug use.*

*Please RSVP by telephoning NDRI Reception on (08) 9266 1600 or  
emailing [ndri@curtin.edu.au](mailto:ndri@curtin.edu.au) by Tuesday 13 October, 2009.*