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 by Tuesday 13 October, 2009.