

## Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Shadow Minister for Police, Community Safety and Correctional Services

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### **Labor issuing unlimited 'get out of jail free' cards!**

The Weatherill Labor Government is continuing to hand out 'get out of jail free' cards for alleged drug offenders.

Alleged offenders are given the opportunity to participate in the drug diversion program to avoid charges for simple possession drug offences.

A Freedom of Information request and subsequent media reports have highlighted abuse of the program where offenders are repeatedly attending the drug diversion program to avoid more serious sanctions.

State Liberal Leader Steven Marshall announced in October, that if elected to Government in March next year there will be a cap on the number of times an offender can participate in the program.

In contrast, after years of abuse by hundreds of participants, the Weatherill Labor Government has done nothing.

"Unlimited access to drug diversion programs ties up police in paperwork, ties up resources for genuine rehabilitation and allows serial offenders to avoid tough sentences," Shadow Minister for Police, Dan van Holst Pellekaan said.

"After 10, 20, or even 30 diversions, does the Weatherill Government believe that a person is going to take the program seriously?"

"When asked in Parliament what plans the Government has to change this program, the Weatherill Government spruiked it as a success.

"We want to enable police to get on with their job and not be tied up filing paperwork for alleged offenders who are abusing the system.

"We support and recognise the importance of the drug diversion program as part of the rehabilitation process but not for repeat offenders who are clearly flouting the law."

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