THE SALVATION ARMY
HONG KONG AND MACAU COMMAND

POSITIONAL STATEMENT

DRUG ABUSE

The Salvation Army accepts that many drugs beneficial to health can produce addiction. Only the physician can weigh the advantages and the risks attendant on their prescription for each patient.

The deliberate misuse of such drugs to induce either oblivion or hallucinatory states is condemned. The physical, mental and emotional disturbances due to such misuse are well known to The Salvation Army personnel, who will continue to offer treatment to the victims of addiction, realizing that such practices stem from deep emotional and spiritual problems and are particularly common in young people.

We believe it is fundamental to the health and well being of people, regardless of their age to teach and encourage them to say NO to all illegal drugs as well as the deliberate misuse of legal drugs, and to educate them in taking prescription drugs responsibly.

It is the belief of The Salvation Army which has been proven over time that taking any drugs without the direct supervision of a doctor is detrimental to health.

Many of the drugs of choice today are very addictive. A single dosage can lead to addiction. Whilst attitudes to both the cause and treatment of drug addiction have changed radically in the past 100 years, The Salvation Army still believes that total abstention is the only successful course open to an addict.

The Salvation Army believes in using the best of the medical and psychological treatments available to rehabilitate drug addicts. However, the power of God unto salvation has consistently proven the most effective agent of character change and therefore is the most effective force in rehabilitation for the addict.

12-Nov-02 ref: Positional Statements/Drug Abuse.word doc