Ice monster looms

AS a responsible drug user on occasion and a faithful taxpay-er, I was dismayed to read your article “Cold hard truth” (NT News, April 28).

In their zeal to drive out lesser drugs, or simply their pragmatic strategy of pursuing “amateur” drug dealers whose convictions will result in the least paperwork, the police have aided hardened criminals in their mission to expose the young and vulnerable to the most horrific and profitable illicit substances available.

The purported malaise of young adults ripping a few cones on the weekend will be nothing compared to the violent and destructive methamphetamine epidemic that has hit southern rural towns – not to mention the amplified ef-fects we will see when ice takes off in indigenous communities.

Methamphetamine will always be the most appealing market for criminal organisa-tions; notwithstanding its unrivalled addiction potential and high return on investment, the chemical process to make it is dead simple.

While a cannabis “opera-tion” requires at least two to three months and produces distinctive odours and conspicuous power hills, a methamphetamine venture can be done in a matter of days and in diverse locations ranging from a junkie’s kitchen or an aban-doned shed to a car boot.

Despite its comparative ap-pearance, I do not anticipate the legalisation of cannabis for recreational use in any time soon. I am sure that even if the popular demand was present, and such a law passed through the Legislative Assembly, the NT’s benevolent moral guar-dian in the Federal Parliament, Kevin Andrews, would once again have the Self-Govern-ment Act amended to strip the NT of the power to make a law he finds offensive.

But police discretion in in-vestigating these matters is a different story and when teen-agers are presented with a cheaper and more intense high that is far easier to procure, and the ice epidemic hits the NT in full force, I think we will finally realise that we have cre-ated a monster.

Name and address withheld

Took deadly risk

IT is a sad day for the families of executed pair Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. However both knew what the consequences could be of smuggling drugs in Indonesia.

They knew it could mean death. They certainly weren’t considering their families or for that matter how many lives it could change for the worse back in Australia.

Who’s to know if they were successful that they may have tilted it again and again. It is alleged that both Chan and Sukumaran had been re-habilitated. Wouldn’t you do whatever you could to prevent the firing squad?

It is a pity both chose the wrong path. I don’t agree with the death penalty by Indonesia. However, we have to respect their laws and with all the media coverage, newly elected Indo-nesian President Joko Widodo couldn’t lose face.

Kym Chilton, Darwin

Treated like mugs

TREASURER Dave Tollner’s description of the exorbitant (at least $50,000) trip by Ms Price and her minister to New York to attend a UN confer-ence on the status of women in March 2014 as “incredibly im-portant” really drew the long-est of long bows and brought on an outbreak of extended eye rolling out in “public land”.

The Treasurer just has to accept that the other MPs (aka the “mug punters”) of the NT have the fundamental right to view all instances of extrava-gance by their elected political representatives with great sus-picion. The public demands, again as a fundamental right, that moderation at all times is applied in all regards from these representatives.

The bluster and faux indig-nation of the Treasurer was most definitely not an approp-riate response to the general, well-deserved criticism from the mug punters regarding the particular obscure unusually urg-ent issue here.

Tony Hosking, Nakara

Unwelcome calls

IT’S WEDNESDAY and since Monday I have had four calls from a firm saying it is a solar panel installation firm wanting me to confirm that I do not have a solar installation fitted to my house.

When questioned about where they got the infor-mation from regarding my solar panel status and phone number, they were not able to say. On the next occasion they said it was from the “National Census”, which we all know is just BS.

When I told them my num-ber was on the Do Not Call Register and they should not have called, I still got two ad-ditional calls – two today.

Has the power provider provided this organisation with phone numbers of cus-tomers without solar power connections? I hope not.

Robin Henry, Alice Springs

On this day in the territory

10 YEARS AGO: Nearly $90 million in loans have been funded and approved under the Territory Government’s HomeNorth scheme, figures have revealed. Housing minister John Al-iot said 506 Territorians had taken advantage of the new scheme.

20 YEARS AGO: The Federal Race Relations Commission yesterday called on the AFL to urgently introduce its code of conduct for footballers to counter racism on the field. Ms Zita Antonios said she was disappointed to learn the AFL had yet to ratify the code.

25 YEARS AGO: The NT University’s bid to compete in the second world solar challenge has been given a $100,000 boost from the NT Government.