

\$1.58m drug bill _{J-4}

THE Government is spending \$1.58 million this financial year on anti-narcotics preventative education and publicity programs, the Attorney-General, Mr Michael Thomas, said.

Replying to a question from Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen, Mr Thomas said it was not possible to provide a breakdown on the spending on programs relating to the abuse of non-opiate psychotropic substances.

"In Hongkong, the most commonly abused drug is heroin and, for this reason, the main thrust of publicity is di-

rected towards the heroin problem."

He reminded members that measures directed specifically at the abuse of psychotropic substances had been outlined by the acting Attorney-General, Mr Findlay, on May 21.

With regard to crisis counselling, Mr Thomas said: "Abusers of psychotropic drugs would probably not realise that a crisis situation had arisen until either they were in urgent need of medical treatment or their drug-taking had led them into social and financial difficulties."