

Abuse of heroin by young 'is dropping'

THE problem of heroin abuse among young people is decreasing as a result of a continued and concerted effort from the community and the Government, according to the commissioner for Narcotics, Mr Gareth Mulloy.

"Fewer youngsters seem to be turning to heroin. This problem is recently under control," Mr Mulloy said.

Speaking at the Southern District Anti-Narcotics Beach Concert at Repulse Bay yesterday, he said since the Government reached agreement with China in May 1986 to ban the import of drugs, only 2,000 seizures were recorded in the last quarter of last year.

In view of the recent rise in psychotropic drug abuse, Mr Mulloy noted that this year's publicity was aimed at alerting the public about the detrimental effects of drug abuse.

The concert, which marked the opening of the Southern District Anti-Drug Campaign, was jointly organised by the Action Committee Against Narcotics, the Southern District Fight Crime Committee and the Southern District Office.

Mr Mulloy said it was hoped the beach concert would be an effective method of spreading the anti-drug message, especially to those youths who were most vulnerable to drug abuse.

He said that many young people abused psychotropic drugs because of curiosity and peer group pressure and called on parents to help their children avoid drugs.

In addition to the Southern and Tuen Mun districts, district anti-narcotics campaigns will be launched in Sham Shui Po and Yau Ma Tei later this year.

The objectives of the district anti-drug campaigns are to create public awareness in the community about the drug menace, and to help prepare young people lead a meaningful life free from the influence of drugs.