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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
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Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Drug Law Reform 2017-18 [REDACTED]
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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File1: [REDACTED]

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Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Drug Law Reform 2017-18

(p1 of 4, sorry)

1. Your experiences of current drug laws:

The 'War On Drugs' is arguably the most evil thing Man has ever invented:

- it has killed way more than Atomic Bombs, and on a daily basis world-wide;
- it has made some of the world's worst psychopaths incredibly rich and powerful;
- it is eating society alive from the inside out, a cancer that is poisoning the planet.

And so personally I am appalled by the needless death and destruction of people and Planet Earth caused by these ineffective, self-defeating and corrupting laws.

1.1 What are your experiences of the criminalisation of drug use; how that has affected your life?

I consider myself lucky. My only illegal drug of choice has ever been cannabis. I've never been in the same room as any other illegal drug, and never want/ed to be. Thus I've never put myself in harm's way by ingesting substances of unknown potency and purity (often lethal), made by criminals who don't follow 'best practice'.

Given the arguments (made below), it's clear that **drugs are nothing; it's the LAW that kills.**

My *experiences* stem from having eyes, ears and a brain, and an ever-increasing sense of horror at the way it has become 'Standard Operating Practise' to criminalise 5 million Australians on a daily basis:

- 4 million Australians currently use cannabis, and are thus liable to arrest 24/7/52. *(In 2016 more than 75,000 Australians, mostly young, were arrested for the 'offence' of being "in the vicinity of cannabis" – they didn't actually have to do anything WITH it, just be NEAR it. And that figure increases more than 5000 a year; by the turn of the decade it will be over 100,000 arrested yearly, our first 'six-figure' crime.)*
- another million or so Australians take illegal drugs **manufactured by criminals.**

Thus 5 million Australians are daily and constantly classified as criminals, liable to arrest at any time, in their homes, in the street, in their cars, at the beach, at a park, at a festival ... anywhere, everywhere, anytime.

They say respect flows from the top down. Given the disgraceful and even criminal disrespect shown to twenty percent, or one in five, citizens who are discriminated against as being criminals for what they do to themselves in the privacy of their own homes, what chance is there for a 'respectful' and a 'generous' society?

Suicide is not a crime; why should smoking a joint, or even heroin or ice, be one?

The LAW is the crime, NOT its citizens.

1.2 What are your experiences of the criminalisation of drug supply and how that has affected your life?

Criminalisation has effect my life in so many ways it's hard to know where to start.

(a) POWER FROM PROHIBITION

The creation of black markets for anything that ISN'T alcohol (tried in the USA in the 1920s, a short-lived nightmare thankfully) and tobacco (both the world's greatest 'drug' killers by far) has resulted in the perversion of economics and politics world wide, eg:

- Cannabis: a cannabis plant is the same size and as easy to grow as a tomato plant. But where a tomato plant is worth perhaps \$30 in tomatoes, a cannabis plant is 'worth' \$3000 (a hundred times as much) because it's a crime. That \$2970 difference goes mainly to criminals, untaxed.

- Heroin: it is cheaper to send a kilogram of heroin into space (\$10,000) than it is to get it on the street (\$100,000)

For a plant that costs nothing to grow and not much to turn into a useable substance (virtually harmless if controlled potency and purity), each of those \$100,000 find their way into the pockets of criminals, again untaxed.

In Australia, that comes to around \$10 BILLION A YEAR; around the world, closer to \$1 TRILLION a year. ('Oil' is worth around \$1 Trillion a year, 'Arms and armaments' (armies) is around \$1 Trillion a year. At least they are regulated and taxed; the \$Trillion\$ that goes to criminals is neither)

This obscene wealth ends up in the pockets of the world's biggest psychopaths, giving them power over governments ('influence' in most countries, outright 'control' over drug-producing countries) resulting in the increasing death and destruction of so much of the world it's heartbreaking.

(b) POVERTY FROM PROHIBITION

In Australia, that \$10 Billion has to come from the pockets of the lower middle class (shoveled up to the ruling class). (The 'Dooh Nibor Effect: 'Robin Hood' in reverse)

As well as impoverishing citizens who have to find fortunes, often daily, to support their habit [see '(d) crime and punishment' below], that \$10 Billion ISN'T spent on eg carpets, cars, TVs, clothes, FOOD, SHELTER etc.

The direct effect of that lack of 'disposable income' to business etc is an increase in unemployment – ie, how many 'jobs' would \$10 Billion create if spent in shops, not on street corners? (Estimates around 150,000)

(c) TAX LOSS/INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE FROM PROHIBITION

- \$10 Billion a year is untaxed, leaving Australia \$3 Billion short a year to spend on hospitals, schools, public transport, housing, health etc, the results of which we see EVERY NIGHT on the news.

- 150,000 Australians not working (thus on the dole) and thus paying no tax, adds massively to the drain on budgets around the country daily, yearly, by the decade.

- the lack of infrastructure, social services etc increases the overall disruption and decay of society, requiring even more money trying to band-aid repair the damage.

(d) CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

CRIME

It is acknowledged that most violent crimes (robbery, burglary, home-invasions, bullet-riddled bodies in streets, homes shot up etc) are directly attributable to the War On Druggies.

This war means that users having to commit sometimes horrendous crimes to get enough money to PAY for illegal drugs (sometimes thousands of dollars a day) ...

... and it fosters the endless and generally-horrendous violence required by gangs to CONTROL drugs, streets, suburbs, nations and even politicians.

(As CI Logie, NW Division said in the Brunswick Sentinel, 1990s, "If it wasn't for drugs, police would be TWIDDLING THEIR THUMBS")

(THAT sentence deserves to be re-read several times ... HINT: for 'drugs' read 'drug laws')

PUNISHMENT

The Punished

It is estimated that 70 percent of males, and 90 percent of females, are in jail for drug-related crimes committed as a result of their expensive addictions.

And prisons are regarded as little more than 'colleges', training the latest generations on how to commit worse crimes

(given impetus by the fact that prisons are full of drugs, at exorbitant costs, and so addicts 'owe' their suppliers big time when they get out, having to pay off massive drug debts by engaging in more crime)

The women-in-prison statistics are the most shocking and 'telling': of those 90 percent in jail for drugs, 90 percent were physically and emotionally abused when young.

In other words, women's prisons are full of the victims of repeated childhood rape. And this is regarded as 'Standard Operating Procedure'? THIS is the way to run a caring society?

The Punishers

It is estimated that the overall annual cost to Australia of maintaining the drug laws (police, customs, courts, prisons, social services, health etc) is around \$10 Billion a year.

When this cost is added to the billions of dollars (above), the damage the War On Australia causes to Australia's bottom line, infrastructure etc is shockingly magnified.

And it is having a tragic effect on the punishers, especially the police themselves. With regard to cannabis, they all realise it's a sick joke that no-one (cop or citizen alike) thinks makes any sense, but they are nevertheless compelled to arrest people in the street, break into people's homes, remove children from parents etc ...

They are fully aware that every time they punish another victim their social standing is decreased further, and they become more hated by the day. This has led to great increases in substance abuse, self-harm and even suicide by police officers. They didn't join the force to arrest teenagers, they joined to stop crime. And they know the laws they are enforcing are the actual crimes themselves, so in fact they are the ones 'committing' the crimes, under orders from above. (Now where have we heard THAT defence before?)

If you or your committee can find any good news among that lot, we'd ALL love to hear it.

1.3 What are your experiences of passive alert detection dog operations and how they have affected your life?

The "just following orders" line above wasn't meant as a cheap shot. As a person of European (Italian) descent, MOST of whose family managed to escape WW2 alive, it brings back very bad memories to see squads of men in Black Shirts roaming the streets with dogs, armed to the teeth, looking for anyone they deem 'unfit' for human connection.

As someone whose cousin in WW2 was dragged out of his home by men in Black Shirts, never to be seen again, these parallels are terrifying.

'Policing in the 21st Century' has seemingly been reduced to "what's that in your pocket son?", and has destroyed so many lives ... and continues to do so, at an ever-increasing rate.

You didn't ask about

Roadside Spit Tests

As well as being random, unreliable, and used nowhere else in the world the way we do here, they are also likely directly responsible for the latest trend in the road toll, a steadily-upwards curve since they were first introduced about 3 years ago.

The statistics are damning: cannabis does NOT statistically increase the driver's chances of being involved in an accident, let alone a fatality, compared to a driver with no cannabis. However, a drunk driver (over 0.5) is around 120 times more likely to kill someone on the road than a non-drunk driver. Or a stoner.

Yet cannabis drivers are losing their licences at the rate of dozens, even hundreds a week. Not for 'road safety' reasons, more for 'control of the convicts' reasons*. And still the road toll rises.

(* We started out as a Convict Colony, and it we're STILL a convict colony.)

Personally, I'm not in favour of a government that deliberately makes the roads more dangerous while criminalising more innocent people. A government that knowingly and with premeditation maintains laws that have no other outcome than crime, suffering and death.

Drugs are nothing. **It's the law that kills.**

2. How you would respond to law reforms?

If it meant putting an end to the obscenities above in Australia, and around the world, I'm all for it.

*

A quote from film-maker Johann Hari, "Chasing The Scream", about prohibition, puts it all in one simple sentence, and goes something like:

"I thought I'd live in a '**A Country Practice**' world; instead, it's '**Breaking Bad**'.