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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
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To: LRRSC
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Mr Tim Fraser
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Communications Coordinator
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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“On November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) on the Western Front in France suffered more than thirty-five hundred casualties, although it had been known unofficially for two days that the fighting would end that day and known with absolute certainty as of 5 o'clock that morning that it would end at 11 a.m.”

Like all wars, the war on drugs will inevitably end.

For those who are willing to learn from to it, history shows that no matter how many prisons we fill with those who use or sell drugs, no matter how emotive the media representation of drug seizures by law enforcement, no matter how often anti-drug advice is dispensed, prohibition will never succeed in removing drugs from our society.

By acknowledging this, we can also begin to acknowledge that the peace we seek will only come about when we stop demonising drugs and accept everything that they can offer, both bad and good.

It is already common knowledge that marijuana, once sensationalised as a drug capable of producing a 'reefer madness' that drives people insane, has huge potential medical benefits. Similarly, over the next decade the medicinal potential of a number of currently illegal drugs will become equally apparent to the public. In the US, MDMA is on track to be a prescription medicine as an adjunct to therapy in the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by 2021. This is only the beginning. And as the evidence continues to mount, the urgency for peace will only increase.

This war is going to end, but in the interim the number of casualties will be a lot more than thirty-five hundred.

You, the people reading this today, have the power to reduce that number. You can recommend that a safe injecting facility be established in Richmond or Saint Kilda, to help reduce the number of fatal overdoses.

You can recommend that comprehensive drug-testing services be introduced at festivals, so that uninformed festival goers can avoid taking a pill that ends their life. You can recommend that cannabis be legalised and drug penalties for possession be reduced, giving otherwise innocent people years of their lives back and saving them from a criminal record. You can recommend that the Victorian Parliament officially condemn the extra-judicial killings licensed by Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines as an abuse of human rights. You can recommend that provision for psychedelic medical research begin in Victoria, exploring the immense therapeutic potential that psychedelic substances offer for some of the most damaged, suffering members of our society.

Whether you choose to do any of this will not be the decisive factor as to whether the war does end. All you can do is shorten it or prolong it. But while we wait for it to end there are lives to be saved, and you are the ones who can save them.

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File1: [58ca6e37e3275-PTSDandMDMA.png](#)

File2: [58ca6e37e4318-HarmCausedByDrugsTable.jpg](#)

File3: [58ca6e37e46fb-Drug_danger_and_dependence-en.png](#)