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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2017 11:32 AM
To: LRRCS
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

MR Aran Burns
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The current “tough on drugs” approach is not achieving its goals of reducing drug use and harm to individuals and society. Because of this it is a massive waste of taxpayers money. This policy also causes harm to many individuals and financially supports (sometimes violent) criminal organizations locally and internationally.

In generally I think we need to move to an evidence based, harm minimisation approach to substance use.

Specifically I think we need to:

-Stop the use of sniffer-dogs; they have a low effectiveness and high rate of “false positives”. This leads to many searches of individuals when they are not carrying drugs which can feel like harassment and leads to resentment of law enforcement officers. They also tend to disproportionately negatively affect lower socioeconomic people. They also can encourage individuals who use drugs to use them in a more risky way, taking larger amounts in one dosage to avoid carrying them when encountering sniffer dogs.

-Stop the use of road-side drug testing unless it can be proven to test for impairment, not just trace amounts in an individual’s system. This policy places unnecessary burden on law enforcement and the courts when individuals may not be impaired at all, especially less than an individual with 0.05% alcohol in their system. This policy also encourages drug users to use drugs that are not tested for which may potentially be more harmful than those that are.

-Legalise marijuana, it is hypocritical that alcohol and tobacco are legal when they cause similar, if not higher levels of harm.

-Assess the potential outcomes of de-criminalisation of each other commonly used illegal drug and trial de-criminalisation based on the assessments.

-Enact harm minimisation initiatives by looking at what has worked internationally. These can then be

trialled locally and assessed for effectiveness. These may include safe injecting rooms, drug testing at festivals and events, treatment for problem users including rehabilitation and/or counselling.

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File1:

File2:

File3: