

**Christianne Andonovski**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 March 2017 3:50 PM  
**To:** LRRCS  
**Subject:** Submission for Parliamentary Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

[REDACTED]

IMPORTANT: I wish that my name is kept confidential, not disclosed to the public.

I am writing to express my views on the current policy on drugs in Australia, which I believe to be outdated and archaic. It stems from a failed international war on drugs, which was created for selfish interests and has been propagated in order to keep certain industries alive such as the prison industry. I also believe that the war on drugs has been entirely ineffective, where addiction rates have stayed the same since its inception but spending has increased significantly. It has done nothing to reduce demand or supply and in effect, sustains a dangerous, violent, global, criminal enterprise. I believe the government should be held accountable for the violence and deaths that is caused because of the war on drugs. I also believe that drugs such as LSD, MDMA and psilocybin mushrooms have potential therapeutic benefits (this claim is backed by research) and by keeping them illegal the government is preventing treatment of curable illnesses such as PTSD and depression. This is unacceptable. The government is not acting in the public interest.

I would like to add a personal anecdote on my experiences with drugs and those of my friends. I was never educated in school about drugs and what their effects actually were. The closest we ever got to discussing drugs was the teacher being asked "have you ever smoked weed?" to which she sheepishly replied "yes, once at a party". That was where the discussion ended. The message I received from parents, police, the media and society in general was that drugs are bad and I shouldn't do them because they are harmful. While this is definitely true in some circumstances, I received no knowledge of *why* they were bad or what they actually did. And so I was left to find out for myself, sometimes with catastrophically bad effects. I have two friends who have gone through drug induced psychosis because of marijuana and psychedelics. They were also never educated on the potential risks of said drugs and received the same education as me, which is little to none. This approach does not work in other areas of personal development, such as sexual intercourse. Schools no longer teach abstinence in order to get adolescents to practice safe sex, they educate them about safe sex. So it should be with drugs, that schools should teach students about safe drug use.

The fact of the matter is that people are going to take drugs whether they are illegal or not, the challenge is to educate our population, one that has ranked highest in the world for recreational drug use.

In summary, the laws surrounding drugs are draconian and produce more harm than good. It is an outrage that the government cannot put outdated ideologies to rest and look at the research behind drug law reform. I sincerely hope the laws change in the coming years so that society can eliminate its drug problems.