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**From:** Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 March 2017 9:52 PM  
**To:** LRRCS  
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Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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As a 30 year old that attends music festivals and such, I know a few people who use illicit drugs. These are some things that I've noticed.

With so much in the news about deaths due to bad pills I note that they haven't reduced their drug use, but have put significantly more effort into trying to get pill testing equipment to determine how safe/unsafe their drugs are.

I have no doubt that if pill testing were more readily available then people would make use of it, potentially avoiding serious injury or death.

Because of rumours that you can test positive in a roadside drug test even days or as much as a week later, I've noticed people gravitating towards drugs that they don't think will be tested for, like LSD, ketamine, cocaine or new synthetics, rather than cannabis or MDMA. This seems like a failure of the system since this means they're often taking harder, more obscure drugs that they have less experience with.

Either way they don't drive the night they took it, they're worried about being tested on Monday or Tuesday and still showing up positive.

The only places I've ever seen drug dealers openly selling is, counter-intuitively, in places where we were searched by the cops on the way in. Presumably because the dealers know that no one will have their own stuff and so go to lengths to smuggle drugs in.

Again this seems like a failure, not only did the police blockade fail to stop people taking drugs, but they're taking stuff they bought from some guy they just met, with no way of knowing if it's what he says it is.

The rumours are that there is a shortage of MDMA and because of this dealers are selling other stuff, like these new synthetics, and just saying that it's ecstasy. That's what I hear happened at the Electric Parade festival where all those people OD'd on GHB.

Reducing the drug supply is all good and well, but it's not much use if the vacuum is just filled with something more dangerous. I think this is something that easier access to pill testing would help with.

What I've witnessed seems to indicate that strict policy only serves to encourage more risky behaviour in an attempt to avoid the law. We already have a better focus on harm minimisation than many places in the world, and it's an attitude that I strongly support. You only need to look at the overcrowded US prison system or the bloodshed in the Philippines to see that you can never make policy harsh enough to eliminate drug use. We should just focus on trying to keep people safe.

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File1:

File2:

File3: