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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 18 March 2017 4:00 AM
To: LRRCS
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Mr Casey Scott
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Paid Academic (Philosopher)
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my deepest concern at the wayward manner in which this country's government approaches drug laws. I believe that prohibition causes more harm than good in our society and that a nation-wide conversation about drugs and drug use is absolutely needed. I urge the Australian government to consider the real harm-minimisation possibilities that would come with the decriminalisation of drugs, with the addition of pill-testing in festivals and proper drug education in schools that is informed, factual and divorced from unnecessary moralisation. Drug use ought to be a health issue and not a matter for the courts.

Here are a few common sense reasons that support the decriminalisation of personal drug use: 1. it is a fact that alcohol and tobacco are more biologically damaging than many illegal drugs and that alcohol abuse has worse impacts on society than many other illegal drugs - to suggest that we ban other kinds of drugs under the guise of 'harm minimisation' implies a double standard; 2. decriminalisation makes economic sense and saves room in prisons for people who actually deserve to be there; 3. we could save money on policing those who use drugs and invest that money in healthcare and proper education – we could properly invest in research into the many complex reasons for why people use drugs in the first place; 4. there is nothing intrinsically immoral about drug use; 5. when forming policies we should acknowledge the fact that we, as human animals, naturally seek out elevating experiences and altered states of consciousness through many different means; such as sex, food, music, experiencing new things, and, for some, drugs. Policy makers in Iceland acknowledge this fact and it seems to have helped them decide upon clever strategies for motivating people towards less damaging means of achieving those kinds of experiences. And 6. As well as considering the dangers of different kinds of drugs we should acknowledge the possible personal benefits of the use of some kinds of illicit drugs in safe environments, such as with people who use cannabis to relieve pain and anxiety and those who have responsibly used psychedelics for personal improvement as well as to help with inventive ideation and artistic creation.

Lastly, in regards to pill-testing at festivals. The law as it is does not save any lives. Pill-testing has been

shown to help reduce the amount of overdoses at music festival and helps the police learn what is on the market at the same time. It is a win-win situation. To not have such testing facilities available flies in the face of reason and common sense. Most people would agree that the consequence of taking drugs should not be a prison sentence or death.

There are many issues with drugs, but we know that prohibition helps none of them. We need another approach, and it is time to consider alternative strategies and ways of thinking. To quote the philosopher Bertrand Russell – “Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric.”

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File1:

File2:

File3: