

**Christianne Andonovski**

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**From:** Rebecca Mclean <wordpress@wp.greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 16 February 2017 11:05 AM  
**To:** LRRCS  
**Subject:** Safe spaces and knowledge save lives

RE: INQUIRY INTO DRUG LAW REFORM

Safe spaces and knowledge save lives

Though I do not take party drugs myself, a large section of my friendship group and community do. My friends that partake in these behaviors are all professionals like me and in their 30's 40's and 50's, I would like to point out that these behaviors are undertaken by many people of many ages with in our society. I have known people who have died while taking recreational drugs and in all cases it was not the drug they thought they took that killed them, it was in fact some other substance mixed with the MDMA or amphetamine that did the damage. (in one case alcohol consumption) My peers like to think after years of using these substances on occasion, that they have some knowledge about what and how much they can take. They would also not buy any drugs from an unknown person. The same can not be said for the younger generation.

I have two children, both are in their late teens and as I have a very honest relationship with my 17 year old daughter, she tells me what the scene is like for her. Though she does not take party drugs herself, like me, she has many friends that do. The parties our teenage children are attending are flooded with ecstasy pills and poppers, pressed in some ones shed and the active ingredients are cut with whatever can be found, pills at a party can be as cheap as \$10 each contain dangerous mixes of LSD, MDMA and other newer substances like GBH. Today's kids don't know that less is more with drugs, they have not been educated and will pop several of them in one go. They also add alcohol to the mix, very dangerous.

I have worked as a teacher with drug effected and disengaged youth and the change has to come from education. DRUG EDUCATION IS KEY - history have proven many times that a war on the drug users and ignorance does not result in less or safer use, but instead results in more reckless behaviors and more dangerous drugs being sold as something they are not. Educate our children properly in the effects and outcomes of the drug so they don't make bad choices based on lack of knowledge.

SAFE SPACES FOR USERS - if you took the drug and you suddenly feel like something is very wrong, you would need to feel safe and with out fear of repercussions to say so and seek help.

DRUG TESTING KITS that give complete and accurate results - If you were going to take a party drug and you tested it and found that it contained something other than what you thought it was, 9/10 times you would not take the drug as intended... saves live right.

People supplying drugs would be less likely to sell dodgy mixes of chemicals to our kids if they knew that people could test the drugs and have accurate results.

-- Rebecca Mclean

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I'm happy for my submission and details to be made public.