

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my anguish towards the current legislation regarding illicit substances.

My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am a creative entrepreneur, career circus performer, professional costume designer, and recreational drug user.

As a circus performer, I find alcohol to be a toxic and cumbersome substance. It dulls my senses, throws off my balance, and makes me worse at everything I am generally pretty good at.

I have had the privilege of growing up with the internet, and with access to the worlds information at my fingertips I have done extensive research into the various substances us humans can consume to induce euphoric effects. I have found in my own research that alcohol is one of the riskier substances to consume whereas cannabis has never had an overdose in human history.

Why then is the former legal and socially accepted, while the latter is illicit and socially stigmatised?

This is not a question of public health, there is no evidence to suggest that users of Cannabis, (pure)MDMA, or any psychedelic compound are in danger to themselves or the public at large.

I can only assume that this legislation is in place to marginalise the minority of free thinking, truth seeking, drug taking population of this country.

When I first started recreationally using substances, I had no idea that the chemical traces of these substances lingered days after the actual effects wore off. I regrettably drove home one Monday after a music festival, whereby I had taken MDMA and cannabis the previous Saturday night. All though I was in no way impaired, I faced a hefty fine which I could not afford, loss of my license and inevitably employment (I had a job delivering flowers which I lost).

But wait, it gets worse.

I want to talk specifically about the treatment I received from the police officers working at that blockade.

As I was the only licensed driver in the car, I was told that I would have to wait 12 hours before I was allowed to drive again. It was a 35+ degree day, The blockade had provided no shade, no water, no food, in the middle of a country highway.

We explained to an officer that we had no water and he instructed us to start walking down the highway to a shop that was "about 2ks away"

So we did, and about an hour later one by one my friends started dropping off, hitchhiking home, as we realised this shop was not 2ks away... after 2 hours of walking in the blistering sun we saw a sign for the shop "3ks away"

I stuck out my thumb and hitch-hiked in the opposite direction while my two friends determindly pushed on for the shop.

I was picked up by a truck driver who made me hide from the police when we drove past the blockade. I will never forget how my heart raced when I got into that strangers truck, wondering if it would end up like those horror movies, but knowing I would pass out on the side of the road if I didnt do something – I had been walking for hours with no water now.

(please note, I was 19 years old at the time)

Luckily, the truck driver was a good person, and took me straight to the service station.

After eating and drinking and hitch-hiking once again back to my vehicle, my two remaining 'friends' returned in a taxi, to collect their things from my car, as they had called their mum to come and collect them from the shop.

I broke down, I did not stop crying for several hours, and I drove home in hysterics. I was not safe to drive after waiting the 12 hours, after everything I had endured, I was on the verge of suicide.

The blatant negligence of the Australian police force on that day has forever tainted my perception of any authoritarian figure in our society.

Since this incident, I am discriminately pulled over religiously by any officer on the road for 'random checks'

I consider these encounters blatant discrimination.

Because I choose to consume substances that heighten the senses rather than dull them, I am treated like a criminal. I have no freedom as an individual if I do not have the freedom to choose what chemicals I consume.

This is not a question of road safety, I have no dangerous driving record, no drink driving record, I think I had one speeding fine once and that is about it.

I can't tell you how hard it is to try to run a small business when your license is taken away from you.

And how hard it is to show remorse when I have actually been on the road for 6 or so years and NEVER been in a car accident.

As I gain success in my business and career as a circus performer, I often wonder whether its worth sticking around to fight for a fairer system, or to just jump ship and move to the Netherlands.

For now I'm still here, writing this letter in hopes for a better future for my country.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]