

**Christianne Andonovski**

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**From:** Greta Allen <wordpress@wp.greens.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 16 February 2017 1:01 PM  
**To:** LRR CSC  
**Subject:** Show Some Dignity

RE: INQUIRY INTO DRUG LAW REFORM

Show Some Dignity

Hello,

As a 19 year old girl living in Melbourne, I am very aware of the party drug scene. Although i do not condone the use of illicit substance, I cannot ignore how prevalent it is in society. The incidence of party drug use comes from a total cross section of people, including; university students and graduates, high school students, hospitality workers, trade workers, and so many more. It is everywhere, and the strategies in place currently for drug prevention have failed, and caused tragic outcomes such as death.

I visit bars and nightclubs regularly and am surrounded by people using illicit drugs to party with.

For years I have watched the news and heard of tragic deaths, tragic deaths that happened to people just like me, or your friend, or your daughter or anyone. Innocent lives taken because of the ignorance of these people to take a drug in which they sought to get a kick, just like they usually do, but receiving a pill that changes things forever, affecting not only them but there closest community.

Throughout school, I was apart of many workshops within my year group where we learnt about the risk of taking drugs and to never do it. Did this stop people from taking such risk? Not at all.

As a young girl, when I am told "no", immediately i get a curiosity inside, subconsciously, to in some way rebel, this is not something anyone should be proud of but I believe it is only human nature to want to do something you can't, and merely out of ones control.

After recent tragedies along Chapel street, Prahran in January 2017, I visited a nightclub in which I do fortnightly at least. Although deaths were reported the previous week at the venue, I still saw people taking drugs from strangers at there own risk, which occurs week in week out. It should be enough that if a person dies from taking unknown substance, we stop doing this procedure. But, it is 2017 and the party drug scene in Melbourne is larger than ever, and young adults are still taking drugs no matter what happens. Us young people have the belief that "it won't be me, there is such a small chance i will die, I know what bad drugs look like" etc. But in reality, this is not true. No one knows what is in a bright coloured ecstasy pill, or a clear plastic capsule, but they are so used to being 'safe' when taking drugs that any caution is now irrelevant. Nightclubbers will still take drugs, festival goers will still dance for three days under the influence of drugs, because they are used to doing it and it is a repeating occurrence for some, after all "it won't be them", "I took this last week and it was fine". It is completely ignorant of the government to push the issue of drugs aside and ignore it until something tragic like death occurs, death should never occur from something that can be prevented, and I believe life should be valued much higher than what it must be within the law of Australia.

I urge the government to view this day and age with more care, and put the lives of our younger generation, our future, before traditional practice.

We can continue to say "no", "drugs are illegal", "take them at your own risk", or we can take an approach that encompasses prevention and care for humanity. Pill testing would not increase the amount of drug users, but make it a more safe practice for those who proceed in taking drugs.

Pill testing will remove bad drugs and the people who are selling them from the scene. Pill testing will help the parents and family of partygoers to never receive that call telling of there child's death. Pill testing will save the lives of the younger generation who are Australia's future.

Once again, I urge the political leaders of Victoria and Australia, to strongly consider the growing need for pill testing, so we can see our friends, brothers, daughters and sisters return home safely.

-- Greta Allen



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