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From: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 February 2017 4:41 AM
To: LRRCS
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Drug Law Reform

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The present laws, procedures and regulations relating to illicit and synthetic drugs are alarmingly out of touch with a wealth of literature in the medical, scientific and social sciences.

The present irrational policies and farcical disconnect between the evidence and present Victorian legal regulations undermines the public's faith and trust in our system.

For example, consumption of alcohol is legal from 18 years of age for any Victorian. Alcohol is a relatively addictive drug, has lethal potential, is toxic to many cells and increases substantially the risk of many cancers. Yet it is illegal to consume marijuana or MDMA, drugs that (when produced with good manufacture procedures) are according to the scientific literature far less addictive, have far reduced toxicity and in the case of the former cannot kill an individual user.

The cost of policing drugs that are clearly less harmful to users and society than already legal compounds is not a rational use of taxpayer funds. A regulated market similar (of greater strength than exists for alcohol) is a rational alternative that would provide tax revenue, allow law enforcement resources to be diverted to areas of greater importance and provide greater financial flexibility to the government for more important activities such as rehabilitation programs.

In several areas, the data exists and the facts are clear. There are examples we may follow from US States and European nations (Portugal, Netherlands) to guide us on producing a fairer and rational based system.

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File1:

File2:

File3: