



23/11/2018

To whom it may concern,

Alternative Approaches to Reduce Illicit Drug Use and Its Effect on the Community,

I am writing today to raise my concerns as to why Marijuana isn't made Legal.

In the last week I have been picked up by the police. Twice.

First time I was speeding the second time I was doing nothing wrong.

Firstly I would like to say it was my own fault the first time as I was at the end of my trip (6 hrs) and I was enjoying the drive ,music was going and I just didn't realise I was speeding and got pulled over (My FAULT!) My last offence I had before this was in 2009 for speeding and before that was in 1990 and 1991 when I was in my very early 20's. Now all of a sudden I'm a criminal again!

I got asked to do a breathalyser which I did, the police went back to their car did a licence check and then came back with a drug swab (as I had shown positive once before) I refused the test because I had a smoke the night before of marijuana and knew it would still be in my system so I knew I would go positive even though I was NOT stoned at the time. That was one of my reasons for refusing. The other was because when I first had been pulled over brief No: [REDACTED] it was explained to me that that you do the first test if it shows positive then you go for the second test, IF you contest the result then you have to pay for further testing for proof. I received my fine and was charged an Analyst fee of \$165.

**Is this payment required when someone test positive for an Alcohol test?**

My TOTAL BILL was \$355.85 so I am assuming that the \$190.85 is my fine amount.

The police then asked me if I had any drugs on me to which I responded by saying yes and gave them what I had (5.4 grams) after this they searched my car and found nothing more. I was then asked to follow them to the police station to have my finger prints done. This was on the 18/11/2018 (ticket no for speeding: [REDACTED]) I was not rude or disrespectful in any way to the officers. I complied in their entire request.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2018 I was driving in [REDACTED] and was pulled over I was doing the speed limit and again was NOT stoned. I also refused the drug test again as I had been smoking the night before and again knew I would not pass. Then another police car came and the conducted a search through my car including under the bonnet inside the car and my purse and found nothing. After this the dog squad car was called and the police proceed then to do a second check through the car and again found nothing. This was all out the front of [REDACTED] Honestly I felt like a WANTED criminal.

I have smoked Marijuana since I was 16 years old and I am now 6 months of been 50 years old.

In this time I have had one accident on the road when I was about 20 years old and that was because I went through an intersection and thought I had right of way. I have had several speeding fines over the years but not because I was stoned but because I was speeding.

I have been with my husband for 25 years we have four children none of which do drugs (although they have all tried different things during different stages of their lives they just don't like them) including my husband who does not do any kind of drugs.

I have always talked openly with my children because I believe that you don't hide things you educate and by doing that you are taking out a lot of risk and also a lot of curiosity so they weren't sneaky but just normal kids testing and trying as kids do...this is something that will NEVER change no matter what the laws. Every night for the last 25 years when my husband comes home he has a beer and I have a couple of pipes and we talk about our day and our business etc. etc. My house is always clean there has always been a meal on the table and a normal regular family with its normal family issues.

For the last 14 year we have run a family business our son works with us. We pay our taxes we donate to charity I give to homeless.....I am not a bad person by any means. I JUST LIKE TO SMOKE WEED.

My self personally I don't drink I don't do any other kinds of drug I don't even drink coffee I don't like prescription medication unless I REALLY REALLY have to take it for e.g. after an operation or dentist.

I am violent in NO way.

But I do like to smoke a few pipes at the end of the day if anything my worst habit is cigarettes and I'm not a big smoker of them even. My point is I am NOT a criminal just because I smoke HERB.

Just to point out a few issues I have with the swab testing

- **Cannabis: 7-30 days in urine and up to 2 weeks in blood** (I could have a smoke tonight and still get a positive reading time after time even way after I have had a smoke) This alone makes this test wrong. Unless there is a test that can show like alcohol what is and what amount is in your system AT THE TIME then no one should be able to just assume you are high when in like my circumstance I wasn't but still would have produced a positive reading. Also I conduct business overseas, I do not smoke weed at all when I am out of the country but also why should me smoking pot put me in the bracket of a criminal where I may not be able to enter another country. I don't sell it I am not a manufacturer of it I just smoke it I am of no risk to anyone and yet am looked upon as a criminal type person who does BAD things. Good people are getting put into the jails with BAD people and for what because they smoke some HERBS. A lot of these people wind up coming out with more criminal skills than they went in with so now we have a criminal in the making when really in the beginning all they wanted to do was just smoke some weed.



## How long can the drugs be detected?

<https://adf.org.au/insights/roadside-drug-testing/>

Whether or not you have a positive test will depend on a number of factors: the size and potency of the dose, other drugs you may have used at the same time, and your body's metabolism.

**Cannabis:** Random roadside drug testing can detect THC (the active ingredient in cannabis) for at least several hours after use. The test cannot generally detect use in previous days or weeks, although there have been reported cases of people testing positive to cannabis a few days after consuming.

I took this from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation and by the looks of this paragraph even they know that this test is not accurate. There are just too many varying factors as stated above between the time smoked and the length of time it will stay in a person's body.

- **Alcohol: 3-5 days in urine, 10-12 hours in blood**

In this case No one wants to see me drink and drive I KNOW and am VERY AWARE I am NOT a drinker and should NEVER get behind a wheel of a car if I ever had a drink. And yet I have driven around Australia twice stoned and again have had no accidents. Not all people handle things the same but you're always going to get those who think they are bullet proof and can do anything no matter how much CONTROL is put in place.

- **Amphetamines: 1-3 days in urine and around 12 hours in blood**

- **Methamphetamine (crystal meth): 3-6 days in urine and 24 - 72 hours in blood**

The reason in our area that a lot of people are getting into this drug is because it is in and out of the system so quick so they can finish a hard week at work and party for a few days and clean up before going back. Its nearly easier to get than pot and essentially will cause more harm and destruction to families than pot ever will and yet there are injecting galleries and free needles that get scattered all over the community When if these things where legal like the methadone program then you might just find a shift in mentality. This is the kind of drug though that whether it is legal or not they will still find it and use it.

- **Methadone: 3-4 days in urine and 24-36 hours in blood**

I'm still shocked to this day that this and injecting galleries are government funded and I still can't smoke a joint or a pipe.

I would be more than happy to be able to go to a store and buy my marijuana and pay my 10% tax or to be able to at least to grow 2 plants at my home. No fines for doing so but to be totally legal no decriminalization where if you have it we will still fine you. TOTALLY LEGAL. For me that would take a lot of stress out of getting my weed as a lot of people these days don't just sell one product and for myself personally I don't want to be around the other products. For those that say weed is the gate way drug ....it really isn't.. I see kids drinking at home under the legal age I see peer pressure on kids and adults but I also don't believe in the word addiction..... EVERYTHING we do is a CHOICE.....but it should be OUR CHOICE! It is not the drug that controls a person it is their mind that they allow to be controlled by a drug.....no matter what drug it might be including alcohol.

So it is my CHOICE to smoke weed and enjoy been at MY home that we have worked hard and sacrificed things for over the years and enjoy a moment of MY time to relax on MY front porch with my hubby ....im at home I'm not at the pub, most of my friends come to my place because they know I LOVE been home...I'm happy...and I know so many others out there would be too. To be able to live with our choice openly without judgment that weed makes us bad people. Bad people do bad things for whatever reasons. Weed smokers get stoned chill out and relax and eat good food.

We NEED to make Pot Legal it works for everyone involved

The grower

The seller

The smoker

but most of all if run properly by the government our country would be sitting pretty financially and they wouldn't need to rip the PEOPLE off doing it. Keep prices the same...amounts the same collect the tax. Everyone is happy. It's a no brainer.

May I also say while we are at it can we be one of the first countries to manufacture everything HEMP! Stop cutting the trees down... without them we are dead!

Grow the amazing hemp farms and let it be used for all textiles. I mean really you DON'T get stoned of hemp so what really is the issue?

I feel as though greed has taken over when all that is really needed is change and all involved would be made content there is money to be made for our government but we need to change the mind set to make it a reality. It would create jobs

I have always bought my kids up with the saying

"For every action there is a reaction"

"and for every reaction there is a consequence"

so choose wisely!

And I'm proud to say as they have grown and done stupid things along the but they are at that point where they are always making better and smarter decisions.

Just because I chose to smoke so be it that they choose not to. But again that doesn't make me a bad person a bad mum or a criminal.

So to the person's on this panel I welcome you to my home to come and see how I live and what my day entails. I am happy you educate you on anything you may not see in your world that I experience in mine. You will find that I am no different to you or the person sitting either side of you. I just like to smoke weed.....everyone has their vice of some sort. Marijuana is the least of this world's worry.

Please stop making us look like Bad horrible criminals when we really aren't.

Educate our children and people to make right choices and that if you are going to use drugs or alcohol **TO USE, NOT ABUSE**, and that if they can't handle situations or a substance what to do in those situations. But PLEASE parliament, don't bury your heads and think that by not making this available that our kids, wives, husbands, and partners will go about it the wrong ways to source what they want with people they may not necessarily wish to be involved with and then wind up in worse situations...(This is where you get **thugs** that want to bash people over \$50) where if it was sold at the shops you wouldn't have this issue as much because you sell it buy the gram so no matter how broke you could get a smoke which then in turn takes away the bit of people getting drugs on credit, not been able to pay it back and then getting bashed or sometimes even killed over something as small as a fifty bag of pot.

Drugs have always been in our world and people have been using them for centuries whether they have been legal or not. So make it Legal.... and safe.

**There should be drug quality testing at major music events and night clubs etc. They do this in the UK and it has proven to be very successful at least this could prevent someone taking something bad...prevention is better than the cure. Because let's face it, no matter what the law there will ALWAYS be someone with drugs.**

Thank you for your time

Regards

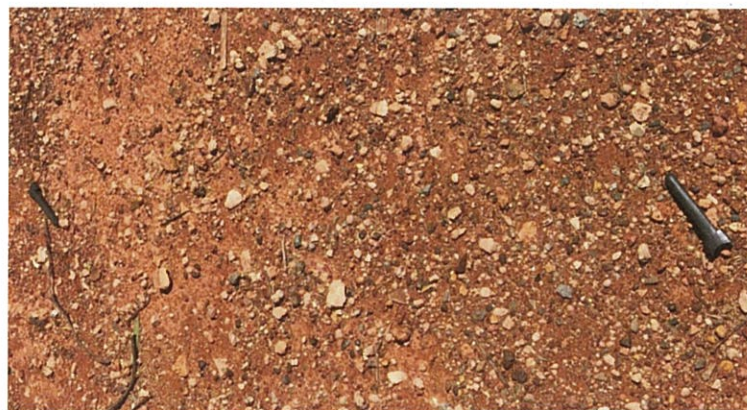
**Make the crimes suit the punishments (in this case they don't).**

All of this because I got caught with **FIVE GRAMS** of Marijuana a few days before. In this picture I wasn't stoned and I had nothing on me. **Two** police cars, **ONE** drug dog car **ONE** drug dog and **SIX** police officers. Ask yourself, could these resources not have been put to a better use in other major criminal areas?



And yet Today I went for a walk and have taken photos along the way of two syringe containers. When I came back home I went to the back of my house in the carpark and this is a few pictures but there were more I could have taken but I'm sure you get the idea. As a smoker I have a hard time throwing a butt on the ground. Again smoking pot is not going to ever create this kind of issue. I did not see ONE pipe, bong, and piece of hose, cone piece or any other relevant tool related to smoking weed.

I have rang the police about 6 months ago because in this area there were THREE people with a CHILD shooting up and pushing the kid to go around the corner while they were doing it and the EXACT words I got from the police man on the other end was AND I QUOTE "We don't deal with that anymore but if you ring the council they will go and clean up the area" at that time there would have been at least 40-50 1ml syringes all over the place.....AND I CANT SMOKE A JOINT.. Just doesn't seem right does it?



**My Personal details below are not for Public print:**

