



PHOTO CANNALYST. COVER PHOTO RUSTY BLAZENHOFF

## NORML's Principles of Responsible Cannabis Use

- Adults Only
- No Driving While Impaired
- Consider Set and Setting
- Resist Abuse
- Respect the Rights of Others

learn more at [www.norml.org.nz  
/about/responsible-use/](http://www.norml.org.nz/about/responsible-use/)



## Cannabis is a health issue not a crime

Far more harm is caused by the criminal prohibition of cannabis than by the use of it.

- There are too many cannabis smokers to arrest - 540 000 NZers use it annually and 70 000 daily (Horizon Poll 2011)
- Criminal laws prohibiting cannabis possession do not deter use - NZ has the highest use rate in the world
- Law reform will not lead to greater use - international experience shows that it may go down
- Law reform will free up police resources to deal with more serious crimes - we'll all be better off

It's time for a legally regulated, adults-only taxable market for low risk drugs such as cannabis, including safe legal access to medicine.



## HELP US REFORM THE LAW

See our website [www.norml.org.nz](http://www.norml.org.nz)

'Like' us at [facebook.com/normlnz](https://facebook.com/normlnz)

Contact us at [info@norml.org.nz](mailto:info@norml.org.nz)

Make a donation to NORML NZ Inc (ASB Bank)

12-3057-0594667-00

Write or visit your MP - *it does make a difference*

Yes, I want to join NORML and help stop the war against cannabis users. Sign me up as a member!

- \$100 = Exceptional Membership  
 \$50 = Sustaining Membership  
 \$20 = Regular Membership  
 \$10 = concession for students, unwaged, senior citizens  
 Donation towards campaign materials: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  don't email me news and updates

Ideas/Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

RT02/12 OFFICE USE. RCV:

SNT:

ENT:

# REGULATE & TAX CANNABIS

It's time for a regulated, adults-only taxable market for low risk drugs like cannabis



**NORML**

## Say no to prohibition

It's time to stop arresting responsible cannabis smokers. Cannabis smokers are not part of the crime problem and should not be treated like criminals. Responsible cannabis use causes no harm to society and should be of no interest to the government.

Half a million Kiwis choose to use cannabis; few abuse it. Arresting these otherwise law-abiding people is discriminatory and divisive • is an ineffective deterrent • wastes police time and fills our prisons • costs millions of dollars • extends government into inappropriate areas of our private lives • and causes enormous harm to the lives, careers and families of the more than 10,000 cannabis smokers arrested each year in this country. For 40 years, politicians have exploited this war as a vote-getter, but who are they kidding?

## Law reform

NORML supports the removal of all penalties for the private possession of marijuana by adults, cultivation for personal use, and the casual nonprofit transfers of small amounts. NORML also supports the development of a legally controlled market for marijuana. Our preferred model is for tightly-regulated non-profit Cannabis Social Clubs serving their local communities.

## Reasonable Restrictions

As with alcohol, cannabis should be limited to adults. Driving or operating heavy machinery after smoking should remain prohibited. NORML's "Principles of Responsible Cannabis Use" defines acceptable conduct.

## Benefits of regulation

Regulation means control. There would be more control over how, where, when and to whom cannabis is sold. Plus lower crime and savings in law enforcement • revenues from taxation • reduced harm to users • better treatment outcomes.



## The law and rates of use

Findings from dozens of government-commissioned and academic studies overwhelmingly affirm that cannabis law reform does not lead to an increase in use or affect teen attitudes toward drug use.

There is no difference between states in Australia and the US that have decriminalised and those that have not. Teenage use in California has dropped since the legalisation of medicinal use.<sup>1</sup> Despite having the world's highest arrest rate for cannabis, New Zealand has the world's highest teenage use rate - double that of the Netherlands, where cannabis is legally regulated.

## Portugal: a case study

Portugal decriminalised all personal drug use in 2000. Drug deaths went down 27%, the feared "drug tourism" did not happen, and teenage drug use has actually decreased.<sup>2</sup> The new policy now has general support across all political parties.

- Drug users are not treated as criminals
- Those with drug problems receive treatment, not jail terms! *Why not New Zealand?*

ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT AN ADULTS-ONLY TAXABLE MARKET FOR CANNABIS

## Economics

A report prepared for the New Zealand Police by BERL estimated the annual cost of enforcing the War on Drugs at \$303 million including 598,000 police hours in 2006.<sup>3</sup>

With 70,000 daily consumers and half a million occasional tokers, the tax take on legal sales would be huge. Cannabis may already be New Zealand's most valuable cash crop.

US research endorsed by 500 economists found savings and revenues from legal regulation there of US\$10-14 billion per year.<sup>4</sup>

## Experts agree - change the law

"We recommend continuance of a prohibition policy so long as this can be shown to be largely effective." • NZ Parliament's *Blake-Palmer Commission* 1973

"Cannabis prohibition has not been successful in reducing the apparent number of cannabis users in New Zealand." • NZ Parliament *Health Select Committee Inquiry* 1998

"The current prohibition regime is not effective in limiting cannabis use ... facilitates the black market, and potentially exposes cannabis users to harder drugs." • NZ Parliament *Health Select Committee Inquiry* 2003

"The Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 should be repealed and replaced by a new Act, which should be administered by the Ministry of Health." - NZ Law Commission *drug law review* 2011

Governments should decriminalise drug users who "do no harm to others", experiment with "models of legal regulation" and "offer health and treatment services to those in need." - Global Commission *on Drug Policy* 2011



Footnotes: 1 goo.gl/OmEyR; 2 goo.gl/RlHhY  
3 goo.gl/EK4Rb; 4 prohibitioncosts.org