



HOW TO SET UP A 'NORML ACTION GROUP' (NAG) OR BRANCH

You and a couple of others want to start normalising in your area - here's what you can do:

1. Educate yourself, read all you can about NORML, it's aims and policies, the costs of marijuana prohibition, the benefits of legalisation etc. Read as many old NORML News as you can.
2. Have meetings, even if there's only three of you. Make it a regular thing. Get a notebook and record your meetings - what decisions were made, who's going to do what. Read it out at the start of each meeting. Let other people know when the regular meeting times are - perhaps a notice at the library or around town.
3. When your NAG has been firmly established and you have 15 paid up members, you should apply to the Management Committee to become a provisional branch (branches are provisional for one year, refer Ops Manual). This will entitle you to keep half of the membership fees you collect and to hold membership lists.
4. Open a bank account to deposit any donations and proceeds of stalls. Record all transactions in a journal and keep receipts.

Things to discuss at meetings:

General discussion on Norml/ marijuana/ the law, what you've read, what you know and what you're unsure about. Find out things you're unsure about. Get non-members to join Norml. Decide to form a NORML Action Group (NAG) and assign positions ie. Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer.

Have a **session on civil rights** - at the end of it make sure people know what to do! If there's a question you can't answer, write it down and find it out.

Hold a **public meeting**, invite members of the community to come and debate the marijuana issue. Invite your MP, other political party reps, and someone from NORML H.Q.

Lobby your MP: first each write them a letter, then wait for the replies (and send NORML HQ a copy), then go and see them - try and get one of you to see them every week.

Media: Get to know your local media contacts, and write letters to the editor and call talkback shows - let's get this issue aired! Send any cannabis-related news clippings to NORML HQ especially those that mention NORML or that may require an official reply or further action.

Organise a **peaceful protest**, outside the **District Court** is an excellent place as that's where our people get "done". Make up some signs ie. NO VICTIM NO CRIME - LEGALISE MARIJUANA, THE ONLY THING CRIMINAL ABOUT MARIJUANA IS THE LAW, or just NORML. Make sure you've got enough leaflets and get there about 9.30am on a weekday.

Organise a **"Smoke-Out"**, for this you'll need more people, so advertise. Use your signs and have a stall (you may need prior permission for a stall). Hand out leaflets and tell people why they are there. Have a plan for if you get hassled by the cops - in our experience this is unlikely because it's bad publicity for cops to be seen arresting peaceful people who are doing no harm to anyone. Have someone there with a camera. Take care with what you say to the press - stress that NORML is a law reform group, not a pro-marijuana group.

Write or phone NORML HQ and tell the rest of us what you're up to! You may want to write a Branch Report for the Norml News magazine to let the rest of the country know.



BRANCH APPLICATION FORM

To the NORML NZ Board of Directors:

ACTION GROUP NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Print name and sign)

COORDINATOR _____

SECRETARY _____

TREASURER _____

M.P COORDINATOR* _____

COURT SUPPORT COORDINATOR* _____

** these two positions are optional*

SUPPORTED BY (10 FINANCIAL MEMBERS) *(Print name and sign)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

We wish to apply for provisional branch status of NORML NZ Inc.

Date _____