

THEY SAID...

That having **Pill Testing** would...

- ...reduce consumption of dangerous or unknown substances
- ...help users make informed decisions
- ...make drug use safer
- ...reduce emergency service callouts

THEY WERE WRONG!

THE FACTS

Within 5 years of pill-testing being introduced in the UK Ecstasy **deaths increased** by



214%

Not only does pill testing cause an increase in use, but the **majority of deaths are from causes which pill testing simply does not prevent.**

48%

of MDMA deaths are from taking pills **with alcohol, cocaine**, etc., which pill testing **won't stop**

14%

of MDMA **deaths** were due to **allergic-like reactions**, which testing **cannot detect**

29%

of MDMA-related deaths resulted from **accidents post-intoxication**, which drug testing **cannot prevent**



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We should never pretend that illicit drugs only harm the user, and that Parliamentarians should only ever focus on the harms that directly affect them, because drug harms go so much broader.

Sue is an example of the 500 Australian grandparents who are part of a support network she founded called Kinship Care.

“*I became a kinship carer eleven years ago when my granddaughter came into our care. This was due to my daughters’ mental health issues which resulted in her being unable to care for her daughter. She had met Mr Big Future, who introduced her to marijuana and methamphetamines which soon induced psychotic episodes. It was three years before she attended rehab and cleaned herself up. In my role as an advocate I have come to realise that most drug addicts self-medicate their mental health issues with illicit drugs and most children enter out-of-home care due to these comorbidities.*

As with the child protection system and the mental health system, Australia remains in a cycle of reactive measures rather than proactive measures to help these victims of the governments’ failure to fund vital services to prevent the damage in the first place. Injecting rooms, while they may have a perceived place in society, are not the answer and will provide no long-term benefit to the drug user.

Whichever government is in power continues to close rehabilitation centres which provide real time assistance - to not only the drug user but to the family in a ripple effect. I have been robbed of being a grandparent, having instead having to provide the parenting role for my granddaughter. I have wondered many nights if my daughter would see the sun rise, and have been subjected to many delusional accusations, losing friends as they do not understand nor do they try to. I hear many (including doctors) say it is safe to use drugs, however I believe if there is any mental health history in the family, then the fuse is lit for heartache and failure in the future.”

- Sue Erben



DRUG POLICY WITHIN AUSTRALIA IS VERY FOCUSED ON HARMS TO THE USER, WHILE LARGELY IGNORING THE HARMS DONE TO SO MANY OTHERS. DRUG PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION NEEDS TO BE GIVEN DRUG POLICY PRIORITY.



**THEY
WERE
WRONG!**
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