

Our Vision - Halving Crime

AUSTRALIAN
DEMOCRATS™

Our Vision

To halve crime by taking control of the illicit drug trade, cutting back gambling and reducing problem drinking.

Taking Control

Controlled Government Supply to Registered Users - Almost half of all crime is caused by alcohol and illicit drug use according to the government's recent [National Drug Strategy](#) study.

We propose that the government take control of the drug trade, selling selected clean, uncontaminated drugs to registered users while providing treatment programs to get the registered users off the drugs forever.

Cutting Back Gambling - We would limit poker machine bets to 50c and consult with gambling addiction recovery professionals to develop other measures to reduce problem gambling without impinging on the rights of responsible gamblers.

Controlling Alcohol - We propose making liquor licensing fees much more expensive for premises wanting to serve high-alcohol drinks while cutting licensing fees required for only selling low-alcohol products. We also support more restrictions on alcohol advertising.



The Failure of Attempted Prohibition

After decades of prohibition anyone who wants illicit drugs can still easily obtain them.

Attempted prohibition really means "Uncontrolled Criminal Supply". Surely it's time to look for a new tactic in the war on drugs..

Countries Using Prescribed Heroin

We should join the list of countries using Prescribed Heroin:

- Switzerland - major success with 70% public support.
- Netherlands.
- Germany.
- United Kingdom.
- Denmark.
- Canada - trials only.
- Belgium - trials only.

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Uncontrolled Criminal Supply

Prohibition is supported by all major political parties* but causes many problems:

Uncontrolled Supply: Drugs are supplied to anyone including children and the mentally ill.

Uncontrolled Quantity: Criminals are happy to supply as much as you can pay for.

Active Promotion: Use of drugs by new and existing users is actively encouraged by suppliers. There is a very strong incentive to get new users hooked on drugs.

High Availability: Illicit drugs are available throughout Australia including in high security prisons.

Zero Quality Control: Impurities and the concentration of drugs is left to criminal syndicates.

High Crime Rates: Users often need to commit crimes to pay for the drugs.

High Corruption: A vast amount of cash is available to corrupt law enforcement personnel and politicians.

Needle-stick risk: Used syringes present a risk to the general population.

High Health Risks: Communicable diseases such as HIV, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis can thrive in the drug dependent population if it is closed off from regular health services.

Making Drugs Harmful: Drugs such as [MDMA](#) which are mixed with toxic chemicals and supplied in a hazardous form because they are illegal.

(The Greens [Drugs, Substance Abuse and Addiction Policy](#) supports limited decriminalisation of some drug use and 'safe' injecting rooms. However this would have little effect on the illicit drug trade.)*

Controlled Government Supply to Registered Users

Controlled government supply would radically improve the situation, both reducing drug use and reducing the harm inflicted by drugs:

Controlled Sale: Heroin, cocaine, marijuana and possibly some amphetamines would be supplied to proven existing users. All drugs would be supplied with extensive 'how to quit' information and offers of counselling and rehabilitation.

Controlled Quantity: Drugs would be supplied in strictly limited quantities to reduce overdose risks and help ease users off the drugs.

Active Discouragement: Government supply agencies would continually encourage existing users to quit and would not supply new users. There would be no incentive to get new users hooked on drugs as the user could then just get them from the government.

Low Availability: Government supply only to registered users.

High Quality Control: Manufacture and distribution of all drugs would be highly regulated. There would be no harmful impurities.

Low Crime Rates: Price of the drugs set so that users will not need to commit crimes to pay for the drugs. Crime rates should reduce by up to 50%.

Low Corruption: With the collapse of the illicit drug trade there would be much less corruption.

No needle-stick risk: Only safety syringes would be supplied with injectable drugs.

Reduced Health Risks: Communicable diseases that exist in today's drug dependent population would be brought under increased control as users' lives were stabilised.

Making Drugs Safer: Drugs such as [MDMA](#) which could be supplied to registered 18+ users in a clean, low-dose form.

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Implementation

Registration of Users: Users would be able to buy their drugs from the government after proving they were already addicted. Eligibility and other details of the registration and supply process would be developed by a panel of medical and addiction recovery professionals.

Delivery: A public inquiry involving medical and addiction recovery professionals would determine the safest and most cost effective means to source, deliver and administer each type of prescribed drug.

Early Intervention

We support early intervention programs, especially those that target disadvantaged families.

"It is very doubtful if such prohibition has lessened to an extent the amount which is brought into Australia ...Owing to total prohibition, the price of opium has risen enormously ... the Commonwealth gladly gave up about £60,000 revenue with a view to a suppression of the evil, but the result has not been what has been hoped for. What now appears to be the effect of total prohibition is that, while we have lost the duty, the opium is still imported freely."

(1908 annual report to the Commonwealth Parliament by the comptroller-general of customs two years after the prohibition of opiates.)