



Really!?

The harms caused by TSOC (Transnational & Serious Organised Crime) involvement in the Australian illicit drug trade are significant and extend far beyond individual users to a myriad of crimes and harm to the community. In 2020-21, TSOC cost Australia up to \$60.1 billion of which \$16.5 billion was specific to illicit drug activity.

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement: Australia's illicit drug problem: Challenges and opportunities of law enforcement 2024

“Over one million Americans have died from a drug poisoning and/or overdoses

since 1999. Millennium Health Signals Report: The “Fourth Wave” – The Rise of Stimulants and the Evolution of Polysubstance Use in America's Fentanyl Crisis — Vol. 6

“According to studies, the initiation of drinking at a young age is associated with lifelong risks of alcoholism and alcohol use disorder” [This is why 21 Be There is still so vital] (Crews, Coleman, Macht, & Vetreano, 2023)



Failing Mental Health and 'Vote for Medicine' Models: Cannabis Conundrum Grows

The debate over medicinal marijuana continues to evolve, with recent discussions focusing on the outcomes of self-medication. A key point of contention is whether medicinal cannabis truly benefits patients or if it leads to unintended consequences like cannabis use disorder (CUD). [Studies have shown that while some patients report relief from symptoms such as pain and insomnia, others develop dependency issues. This dichotomy underscores the need for more regulated and evidence-based approaches to prescribing medicinal cannabis.](#)

A recent 9-month follow-up study on medical cannabis users has provided valuable insights into the long-term effects of cannabis use. The study found that frequent cannabis use did not significantly improve symptoms of pain, anxiety, or depression. [However, it did lead to the development of cannabis use disorder in a notable minority of participants. This finding highlights the importance of monitoring and regulating cannabis use among patients to prevent dependency and other adverse effects.](#)

We could go into the mounting evidence of [harms during pregnancy, the growing cancer risk related to the use of cannabis](#), and the now confirmed multiple journal published evidence-based research on the [Genotoxicity and Neurotoxicity](#) of this 'medicine'.

Even before this growing and alarming research was published and it was becoming clear that cannabis as 'medicine' was falling spectacularly short of its propaganda promises, and sometime after the *vote for medicine* protocol had unleashed this unwisely 'medically' validated substance, the [Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Royal Australian College of General Practitioners \(RACGP\) released its primer on this new 'medicinal' offering.](#)

It's important to note that this 2021 publishing is now three years behind the new concerning evidence about the harms of this recreational substance, turned *medicine*. Not least the new research revealing that [CBD \(Cannabidiol\)](#) is not the benign substance it was touted to be, even in this publication. It is research emerging in the last three years that have raised serious alarms about the long-term harms of this cannabis component and other cannabinoids.

The primary sentiment behind this generalised classification of CBD is 'harmless' was that around the fact that it's unadulterated form it doesn't get you 'high'; but that outcome is only one side-effect of this psychotropic toxin.

[RACGP - A primer on medicinal cannabis safety and potential adverse effects](#)

Continued back page

Dalgarno Institute – Live & Active

WRD. news

WRD News:- Continues to grow and expand with now over 1700 news articles on everything AOD related, with Dalgarno Institute’s flavour imbued.

We now have a full suite of social media supporting platforms and as always, encourage all our subscribers, supporters and partners to connect and place in your favourites.

- [WRD NEWS](#)
- [WRD Facebook](#)
- [WRD LinkedIn](#)
- [WRD Instagram](#)



BE LOUD 4 CHANGE: On this year’s **World Cancer Awareness Day 2024** The Dalgarno Institute team produced two short video reels for the **Be Loud 4 Change** campaign. Along with a ‘ditty’

promoting hard the indisputable evidence of causal link that alcohol has with cancer. Promoted through our www.greaterrisk.com platform



World Resiliency Week

In June we saw the official launch of our internationally trademarked [World Resiliency Day/Week](#) education and advocacy platform. This is conducted on the same date as World Drug Day, to give a more proactive and protective perspective on the AOD issue. This year’s theme was ‘faces of resilience in drug focused world’. We released a major White Paper, ‘Resilient Brain – Resilient Life’, saw our Blog posts grow, and fresh videos, articles and resources developed over the year. Our partnerships also tripled in the past 12 months, with over 30 from around the world now on board.



The ‘**Unnecessary Harm**’ Podcast will complete its second season at the end of 2024. This informative and very engaging podcast is becoming a key resource for authentic, experienced and evidence-based commentary on Alcohol & Other Drug impacts on community & recommendations for better practices – This is a must subscribe Podcast

In depth and candid interviews with subject matter experts and remarkable people with profound lived experience and earned resiliency, all shedding light on ‘**unnecessary harm**’. The episode featured here no exception. <https://unnecessaryharm.com.au/audio/drug-policy-healing-hope-or-harm>

We not only encourage you to check out the range of excellent subject matter but [subscribe to the channel and share it with your networks.](#)



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Cannabis Conundrum – Chaos Continues

First the good news... You will recall in our last issue, a delegation from Dalgarno Institute presented to the National Senate Inquiry to [Legalising Cannabis Bill 2023](#). We acquitted ourselves admirably, and whilst we believe upward of 70 percent of submissions and delegations were pro-legalisation, the committee in the end let evidence and fact, not hyperbole and emotion determine their decision – the bill was dead in the water. This is a great result on a national level,

Ah, but the ‘Legalise Cannabis Party’ and their ever supporter Greens are continuing their push on state fronts and with different agendas.

As you have read with our headline article, the ‘wheels’ are beginning to fall of this ‘vote for medicine’ prescribing debacle, but still not enough for policy makers to deny the heavily funded and propagandized cannabis industry and its ‘recreational’ user supporters.

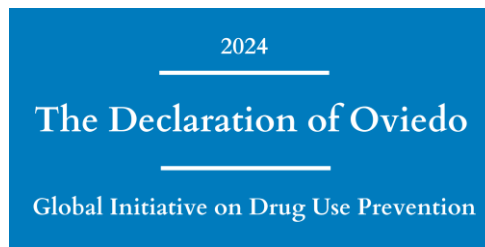
- 1) Medicinal’ Cannabis and Driving is on such agenda, with it getting its first ‘pass’ after years of lobbying in Victoria. Whilst it wasn’t a complete free for all, the Victorian upper house ‘snuck through’ new laws enabling those with a ‘prescription’ to drive, with some clear restrictions. You can read about Dalgarno’s submissions and articles on [P.A.D.D.](#)
- 2) Pushes for further decriminalisation are happening in NSW and QLD

Dalgarno continues to advocate for best practice and push back on all these community harming agendas.

We added several special articles to our growing and comprehensive ‘Cannabis Conundrum’ platforms. This past 6 months saw one of such number’s ben the two exposes on CBD ‘Medicinal’ cannabis, including part 2 on the failing and contributing harm of CBD as a pain medicine. These also appeared in [WRD News](#).

One very significant article was the [Failing Mental Health and ‘Vote for Medicine’ Models: Cannabis Conundrum Grows](#) piece. This in-depth article drilled down into the shallow and flimsy foundation on which the ‘vote for medicine’ protocol was based, exposing the utter disregard for community health and well-being, both now and future.

Oviedo Declaration



The Dalgarno Institute was one of the very first organisations in the Southern Hemisphere to be approached by the platform to not only affirm and promote it but was asked to speak to it at an Oceania Regional Webinar **2024 GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DRUG USE PREVENTION: The Declaration of Oviedo** earlier this year.

The Executive Director delivered an insightful and unique perspective during the webinar that critically challenged the hijacking of prevention by bad actors in the sector, whilst assiduously promoting best-practice prevention models.

Can’t Say No to Drugs – Part 2

HEADS UP TEACHERS/ COACHES/ MENTORS/PARENTS and other Educators!

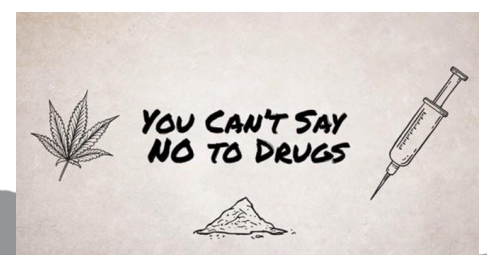
The most important Protective Factor – the Number One most effective in drug use Prevention Science for denying or delaying uptake of substances for Your Children/ Students is... the “Belief that Drugs are Bad”. Latest research out of University of Illinois, and not before time, has published what has been intuitively known for decades – That is that the key, and it would appear overarching, protective factor against substance use uptake is the ‘Belief that drug use is wrong’. (Also, parental reinforcement of this belief, along with honest caring and proactive parenting of the child as the other bookend of this primary protective factor)

Subsequently the most important protective response from this protective context is to use the most effective proactive and protective choice your child has – the capacity and empowerment to say **NO** to drugs.

As planned, we have completed Part 2 of our YOU CAN’T SAY ‘NO’ TO DRUGS? Video series.

You can watch and use, not only the 3-minute full clip, but the half dozen shorts from it. Just click on the [YouTube link here](#).

Finally, for the complete research go to [Protective Factors – No Brainer Curriculum](#)



Failing Mental Health and 'Vote for Medicine' Models: *continued from page 1*

Even back then the somewhat muted concerns of the RACGP were clear. On reading their publication it is important to also note that this peak medical body made the very clear distinction between fully trialled pharmaceutical prescribable medicines, and the new more 'holistic' offerings allowed by the TGA.

While medicinal cannabis offers very few benefits other than mere temporary relief of symptoms of a small number of medical conditions, it more concerningly poses significant risks, particularly in relation to mental health. The increase in psychosis cases and the development of cannabis use disorder among users alone, call for stricter regulations and more comprehensive patient evaluations.

The very few positive benefits associated with medicinal cannabis are outweighed by the growing number of short- and longer-term harms of this highly engineered and increasingly under-performing therapeutic and they can no longer be ignored or easily dismissed as outliers.

Manufacturing consensus – The Start of 'Vote for Medicine' Protocol

Where did this very concerning and inevitable public health issue begin?

I'll start the journey here back in December 2014, the Victorian Law Reform Commission Consultation on 'medicinal' cannabis released its report. It drew from a miniscule 9 very poorly attended public hearings in Victoria and a mere 99 submissions, mostly from then illicit cannabis users.

This exceedingly small sampling of a community largely unaware, and arguably disinterested in, this

issue was to become the basis for simply 'rubber stamping' (as we'll see) a fait accompli of predetermined government decision. A being 'seen to do the due diligence' pantomime.

As mentioned, these 'town halls' drew very small numbers, with the major one in the city of Melbourne, having less than one hundred people attending, and all but a few clearly pro-cannabis delegates.

At this consultation, the Dalgarno Institute was represented by Drug Free Australia Research Fellow who was deeply concerned, but not surprised, by this small Melbourne consultation. Prepared evidence-based research on the harms of cannabis was ready to be shared, but our representative was quickly marginalised and/or managed, by the facilitators when they noted his voice was a dissenting one.

Repeated attempts to have his well-prepared evidence tabled were no less than stifled. However, our affiliate in the room experienced, observed and noted the following,

Emotive tone seemed not merely permitted but set for meeting by facilitators. The meeting was facilitated by representatives of the VLRC who appeared to have a bias toward the legalisation of 'medical marijuana' in manner that suited the self-medicating option, regardless of evidence-based science....

For complete investigative article <https://www.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au/index.php/resources/next-phase-blog/2414-failing-mental-health-and-vote-for-medicine-models-cannabis-conundrum-grows>

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Schools Education Fence Building Bounce (Parent Night)

LEAVING BEQUESTS

Many long time and faithful supporters have and will choose to leave a portion of their estate to the work of Temperance. Whilst over the years, the labour and passion of our movement has not changed, its name has.

Consequently we have had recent experiences of Estates leaving bequests to our work, but under a previous name. As you can imagine, this creates some legal issues and often delays or denies our movement receiving the gracious gift.

To avoid this, we would like to simply request that if you have, or intend on, leaving a bequest to the work of Temperance that you stipulate it be given to DALGARNO INSTITUTE (C.O.A.D.E Inc.) This will ensure your gift contributes to the continuation of helping Australians have a better chance of a safer and healthier future.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.



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