



THE FENCE BUILDER

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REALLY!

Big Tobacco 2.0—Marijuana Mayhem!

1. Teenagers are FIVE times more likely to buy alcohol after seeing TV Ads <http://dailym.ai/1KrkoXz>

2. The U.S. economy has a \$249 billion hangover from binge drinking. The Centers for Disease Control has put a number to how much alcohol cost companies — about \$807 per employee.¹

3. "In 2014, 84.3 percent of drivers positive for cannabinoids were positive for THC, compared to only 44.4 percent of cannabinoid-positive drivers in 2010." Washington Traffic Safety Commission: Driver Toxicology Testing and the Involvement of Marijuana in Fatal Crashes, 2010-2014

4. "The most recent EMCDDA Report 2015 estimate suggests that almost 1% Europeans use cannabis daily or almost daily (defined as 20 days or more per month). Since 2008, cannabis use is the main reason that Europeans enter drug treatment for the first time." <http://www.russellwebster.com/tag/emcdda2015/>

5. Australia - Between 2005 and 2012 the number of women who arrived at hospital with alcohol related injuries increased by 44 % compared to 30% for men. ²

I had the distinct honour of greeting Kevin Sabet at Melbourne Airport for his first visit to Australia and showing him around the sites of our beautiful city, as well as treating him to the delights of Melbourne's world famous coffee in the South Melbourne precinct.

While the initial part of Kevin's visit was rather relaxed as he overcame the wonders of jetlag after a long flight from the east coast of the US, Kevin hit the media trail with enthusiasm at outlets such as Sky News as well as conducting interviews with Clayton on Light FM and Tom Elliot at 3AW.

Kevin eloquently presented his perspective on rational thinking about drugs, particularly on the topic of cannabis, and fielded in his interviews a range of questions on the US experience of legalization and decriminalization of cannabis. He also expressed concern about the route that Australia was travelling in regards to the issue of medicinal cannabis, which conveniently was touted in the media on the day that he arrived, as the Andrews government were spruiking in the media their legislation to legalise medicinal cannabis.

Some key points made by Kevin included pointing out the misnomer that decriminalization means legalization. There is in fact a marked difference between decriminalization and legalization of drugs and that in the media the differentiation appears to be more grey than clear. He explained that most people don't see that there is a difference, yet

decriminalization does not mean that a substance is legal yet the criminal aspect of drug use has been reduced. The process of decriminalizing is and should never be, about making drug use more 'normalised'. What the legitimate process is supposed to do, is move beyond a simple punitive response to an educa-



Dr Sabet on SKY NEWS

tive, demand reduction position. The law is used not to 'jail', but divert to treatment or other demand reduction enterprises, including counselling, 'rehab', fines/warnings and if necessary, jail time. Portugal is trialing this process with mixed success (depends on which data 'interpretation' you listen too!) Sweden have an even better and more effective diversion and drug use exiting model that has made it one of the world's lowest drug taking nations – This is a massive turnaround from being one of the world's most prolific drug taking nations in the 70's

After a long day conducting media interviews, Kevin was the guest speaker at the Dalgarno Institute Annual General Meeting to conduct the H. R. Francis Memorial Lecture with the

1. <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/hangovers-cost-u-s-companies-billions-year-article-1.2402023>

2. . (Alcohol-related injuries in young women skyrocket, study finds: Nicky Phillips, Science Editor, SMH June 20, 2015) 4 ICC Illicit Drug Report 2013-14

Continued on back page

MONASH UNIVERSITY CANNABIS DEBATE

Monash University approached Dalgarno Institute in June this year to be part of the annual Monash University 'Issues' Debate to be conducted in September this year. This year's topic was **'Should Cannabis be Legalised for Recreational Use!'**

The Executive Director took up the invitation and set about putting a team together. As part of this annual public debate process, both sides of the debate had to have one Monash Student. Professor Stuart Reece of Dalgarno's Drug & Alcohol Resource Team was engaged as our 'primary weapon'.

It appeared that the majority of the people in the room were in favour of legalising marijuana. The usual terms such as 'the war on drugs has failed', 'prohibition never works' and 'people should be free to choose' were spoken of, but the debate didn't really give speakers on either side enough time to explain those terms. Many in the audience were university students and some who rose to ask questions at the end seemed to try and give their own talk supporting the 'for' side.

Professor Stuart Reece moved very fast showing a large amounts of very recent data which the 'against' team took notice

of but the 'for' team seemed to tune out for. I imagine people who used marijuana that night would not have been able to keep up.

During question time, one man was particularly noticeable as he rose to make three statements involving his long term use of marijuana that he had claimed he had never suffered any harm from.... then he paused for a long time as he couldn't remember what his third point was no matter how hard he tried. This suggested to me that the arguments the 'against' team presented about brain damage and short term memory loss for marijuana uses were indeed true. One student stood up and said he had smoked marijuana an hour before the debate and he was completely normal so it must be a safe drug. I don't think his argument convinced anyone. It was an interesting debate but it was very brief. I would have liked to have heard more. I think speakers on the 'against' side had a lot more relevant things they could have said.

Don Cameron – Board Director

Education: Update

Introducing our new Education Prospectus and..."around the traps"

We are pleased to tell you that Dalgarno Institute's latest schools' Alcohol & Other Drugs Education Prospectus for 2016 – 18 is now linked to the Australian curriculum. To see how our Drug and Alcohol education program can add value in the classroom and learn more about what else we can offer, visit <http://www.nobrainier.org.au/index.php/resources/education/curriculum> and also check out the other links and options.

The last 6 months has seen a variety of school alcohol and other education seminars delivered to high schoolers of all ages in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. Positive feedback from teachers and students alike has given us great incentive to advocate for mandatory curriculum inclusion in this regard; as one of our greatest challenges is working with teachers and schools to find slots in their packed, compulso-

ry schedules and class times. Our Education Manager, Deb O'Mahony, along with Director, Shane Varcoe has also taken the opportunity to network with a cross section of government and non-government agency and service provider representatives who work across the three pillars of the Harm Minimisation framework - Demand Reduction, Supply Reduction and Harm Reduction. Both Deb and Shane have promoted Demand Reduction and provided input at a number of forums such as: Deakin University student "21 Be There" debate: Should the "Legal Drinking Age be raised to 21?" – a joint venture between Dalgarno Institute and Deakin University. Access Ministries Chaplains Conference. IGCD (Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs) Stakeholder National Forum. We face a number of challenges as we advocate for Harm Prevention and Demand Reduction

strategies to be adopted; not only in the education sector but also in the wider community. However, we take heart in the fact that many others – both professionally and personally – take the same stance on these issues and we will continue to look for partnerships, avenues and opportunities to promote this common sense approach into the future.

So...stay tuned and please be prepared to provide your support, knowledge and expertise as we continue to "fight the good fight"! By the way, if you haven't already done so, then 'do yourself a favour' and sign up for our **No Brainer 'HEADS UP'** Monthly update. This funky monthly newslet-

ter will deliver some important, and often rarely heard, info into your mailbox on most months of the year.

Check out previous emails and sign up here <http://www.nobrainier.org.au/index.php/news/heads-up> today!!!!

Deb O'Mahony
Education Manager



Education Manager in Action!

No BRAINER TRAINING BEGINS—VISION REALISED!

*Great things are happening in Tasmania.

We have been working tirelessly over the last 14 months to establish Teen Challenge here in northern Tasmania. We moved here 5 years ago and thought Pete, with 28 years experience with Teen Challenge WA, would retire and potentially help the odd family or individual gain help to find freedom from addiction.

Sadly, in Peter's words, we walked into a war zone. The concentration of those affected by addiction was staggering. 2014 we commenced Teen Challenge to establish, Home of Hope, Women and Children's centre and we're working diligently to source a facility.

In 2013 Tanya founded a mentoring program within one of the toughest High Schools in North Tasmania with approx 68% students living on or below the poverty line, after she heard young people's personal stories whilst assisting in mock interviews. The program places a positive mentor with an "at risk" or "disengaged" young person. The results have been highly successful, we have been invited by 5 other High Schools to help them with the mentoring program.

Funding is so tight in Tasmanian schools that sadly they have to rotate vital programs like sex education, drug awareness sometimes in 3 year cycles, meaning literally generations of young people miss out on these really important life tools.

Tanya was confronted with the disdain of external providers in the area of Demand Reduction, it was simply only about Harm Minimisation and they proclaimed that it was against Education Department policy to provide Harm Reduction programs!

And so, the #NotEvenOnce Project was born. It was time to stand up for these kids and balance the message being given to them and become fence builders rather than just be the Ambulance at the base of the cliff.

After meeting Shane Varcoe of Dalgarno Institute, we immediately understood the synergy between the two organisations, Teen Challenge with its coalface experience and Dalgarno its powerful educational foundation. Collaboratively, Tanya and Shane have developed #NotEvenOnce High School and Community Project.

November saw us deliver to 8 High Schools and 2 community seminars in 10 days, just over 3000 individuals have now been impacted by the program.

Each school has asked us to come back next year and how we can work with them in this space as, in their words, this is far more powerful than anything they have had delivered to their students before.

Feedback from the students has been really encouraging with shifts before and after of likelihood of taking up substance use. What we have been impacted by is the depth this message has. We ask kids to delve deeper into the causation issues that can result in substance uptake and to talk to someone rather than choosing the path that leads to substance use.

An example of this in action: a young man came forward at the end of a session with tears falling down his face. His demeanour was so broken and beaten down, his hair was over his face like a physical wall between himself and the outside world. He opened up and explained his situation and how scared he was that he would fall into substance use to help deal with his pain. He stated he had no sense of self worth, he was useless and hated himself. He simply isolated himself from everyone and everything to cope. The connection of the program came through at such a crucial time in this young man's life to offer hope for his future.

Discussions have commenced to roll the program out nationally with Teen Challenge and Dalgarno Institute working together to reach more kids and families and change the dialogue everywhere so that young people like this young man see a very different future for themselves.

Teen Challenge Team, Tasmania



**Teen Challenge Tassie Director
Tanya Cavanagh**



**E.D. delivering 'Changing the Narrative'
Community Forum**

Advocacy - Challenging the madness!

The Fence or The Ambulance

Joseph Malines

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed, though to walk near its crest was so pleasant:

But over its terrible edge there had slipped a duke and many a peasant; so the people said something would have to be done. But their projects did not at all tally:

Some said, "Put a fence around the edge of the cliff" Some, "An ambulance down in the valley." But the cry for the ambulance carried the day. For it spread to the neighbouring city: A fence may be useful or not, it is true, but each heart became brimful of pity, for those who had slipped o'er that dangerous cliff,

And the dwellers in highway and alley gave dollars or gave cents, not to put up a fence, But an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is alright if you're careful," they said, "and if folks even slip or are dropping, it isn't the slipping that hurts them so much as the shock down below-when they're stopping,"

So day after day when these mishaps occurred, quick forth would the rescuers sally to pick up the victims who fell off the cliff, with their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old man remarked, "it's a marvel to me that people give far more attention to repairing results than to stopping the cause, when they'd much better aim at prevention.

Let us stop at its source all this mischief, cried he. "Come neighbours and friends, let us rally:

If the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense with the ambulance down in the valley."

But a sensible few who are practical too, will not bear with such nonsense much longer.

They believe that prevention is better than cure and their party will soon be the stronger. Encourage them, then with your purse, voice and pen and (while other philanthropists dally)

They will scorn all pretence, and erect a stout fence on the cliff that hangs over the valley

Compiled by Hazel Felleman - Published by Doubleday, 1936

Medicinal Marijuana - Concerning development!

Our team was shocked (along with dozens of other groups and individuals) to see the Federal Government, without warning, come in behind Sates endeavours to set up an entirely 'new' regulatory system for emerging 'medical marijuana' streams.

Our concerns were articulated and sent just prior to this new and concerning development.

The lengthy and investigative correspondence was sent to all Australian Senators and to both N.S.W and Victorian Premiers. Only three politicians bothered to reply to our important requests! One was the N.S.W. Premier. To view our 'Open Letter to Senators' and our evidence based concerns on a hasty emotion driven process go to <http://dalgarnoinstitute.org.au/index.php/advocacy/dalgarno-aod-policy>

UNGASS 2016—As we mentioned in our previous Fence Builder, Dalgarno was making a submission to the United Nations General Special Assembly on Drug Policy. It has now been loaded up to the UNGASS website. You can view Dalgarno Institute Submission to the United Nations General Assembly on World Drug Problem https://www.unodc.org/ungass2016/en/contribution_ngos_dalgarno.html

Findings from the DUMA program: drink and drug driving among police detainees

Authors Susan Goldsmid, Sarah Coghlan, Eileen Paterson 14 May 2015

Australian Institute of Criminology Government of Australia

In Australia, random breath testing (RBT) was introduced in the mid-1970s to detect drivers under the influence of alcohol. This resulted in a reduction in fatal crashes and alcohol-related traffic accidents across Australia. The success of RBT can be explained through the classic deterrence doctrine, which suggests that decision-making is influenced by the perception of whether the benefits of the crime outweigh the risks of being caught. The introduction of RBT

arguably increased the perceived and real risk of being caught, which positively influenced individuals' decisions to refrain from driving while intoxicated. Following the successful implementation of RBT, between 2004 (in Victoria) and 2011 (in the Australian Capital Territory), random roadside drug testing (RRDT) was introduced across Australia. The aim of RRDT was to deter drug driving, decreasing both the prevalence of drug driving and the associated harms. In 2013, data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) indicated that drug driving and drink driving had been engaged in by more than one in 10 Australians (16% and 12% respectively) surveyed during the previous 12 months. Rates of drug driving are even higher in populations where illicit drug use is common, such as among police detainees, where 65 percent of detainees surveyed reported driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in the previous 12 months. Examining perceptions of risk of drug driving, in terms of both being caught and legitimacy (perceptions of impairment to driving ability), will identify whether the preconditions exist to support drug driving deterrence through RRDT

For Complete paper http://apo.org.au/research/findings-duma-program-drink-and-drug-driving-among-police-detainees?utm_source=Australian+Policy+Online+Weekly+Briefing&utm_campaign=7edb99a865-Policy+Online+Briefing+19+May+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1452ee3b6b-7edb99a865-84335389

The growing perception of risk being small, continues to be aided and abetted by an ever diminishing sense of consequence for action. Drug testing is very expensive by comparison to alcohol breath testing, and the fact that a mere fine applies for the illicit drug taker continues to send a passive normalisation message to users—"slap on the wrist, cops couldn't be bothered; bigger fish to fry": attitude is emerging stronger. Without serious, aggressive and relentless demand reduction processes along side robust judicial education processes to facilitate drug use cessation, we'll continue to see this dangerous emergence of Drug Driving grow!

Drug Policy—Changing the Narrative

As you are aware from our last *Fence Builder*, we released our **Prevention: Time For Culture Shift** DVD. This is a key vehicle was the commencement of our national push to start changing the narrative around drug policy.

We've had some great feedback both national and international agencies...

"In 'Prevention: Time for a Culture Shift' Shane Varcoe of the Dalgarno Institute provides much-needed leadership on drug policy. With information for parents, educators and youth, this presentation makes it clear that the best way to reduce addiction and the tremendous consequences of drug use is to bolster prevention efforts with a no-use message."

- Robert L. DuPont, MD, President, Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.

"Prevention!! Time for Culture Shift! is a thought-provoking presentation that tackles the public health and public safety issue of substance abuse. It wisely focuses on helping people make healthy choices in life and shows why drugs and alcohol cannot be a part of that process... This DVD does a great job of defining the issues surrounding substance abuse and presenting viable solutions to get things moving forward to affect a much needed cultural shift. It provides useful resources and evokes hope that positive change can occur."

Calvina Fay—Executive Director, Drug Free America Foundation, Inc. United States

The current narrative, particularly in the illicit drug space, has become increasing more permissive, and whether deliberately or not, it has been driving a drug use 'normalisation' message.

The Dalgarno Institute and its growing network, continues to look to ways to advocate for changing of this narrative.

Yes, we are involved in policy conversations, attend forums and conferences, write letters and make submissions to governments both State and Federal. However, we also want to focus on our key and historical 'bottom-up' approach of educating and equipping communities to make differences in their families, neighbourhoods, and towns.

New vehicles in play to assist with this are...

1) **Big Tobacco 2.0**—DVD presentation by Dr Kevin Sabet of Smart Alternatives to Marijuana (SAM) exclusively for Dalgarno Institute. This includes full Power-Point presentation and other resources for you to use in your networks.

2) **Drug Policy—Changing the Narrative** DVD. This short, but punchy presentation opens the conversation on how our current permissive narrative has emerged and some of what needs to be done to shift that.

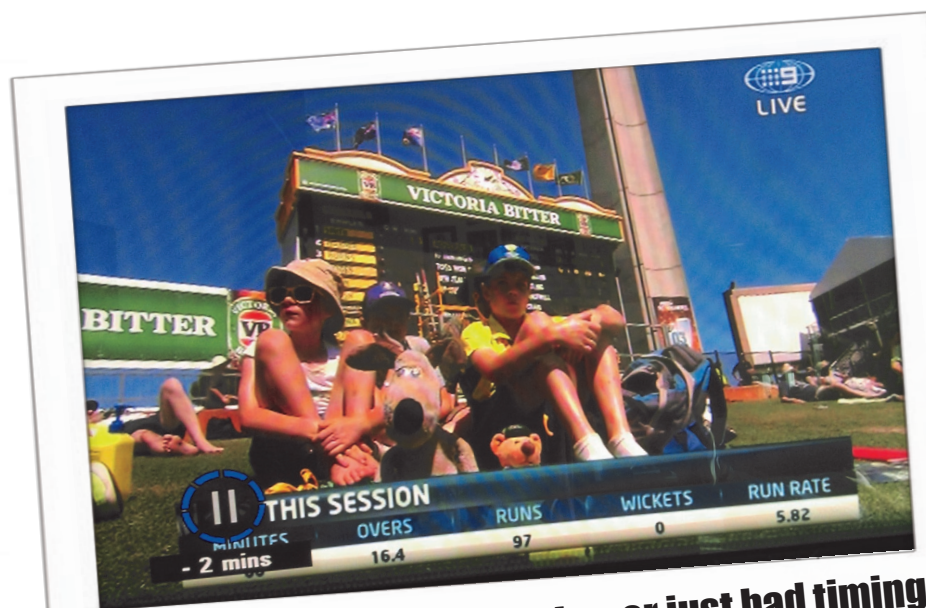
Again, we continue to work toward a recalibration of attitudes to alcohol and other drug use in our society, and have in play, a number of vehicles to do so—Vehicles you can engage

with by

- 1) Purchasing resources from our new 'online store'
- 2) Members can request copies of our **Community Fence Building Forum** PowerPoints.
- 3) Request a Dalgarno Institute team member to present to your school, community, club or group.

Don't hesitate to contact us at 1300 975 002 or our education Manager at ...

education@dalgarnoinstitute.org.au



Picturing a preferred Narrative, or just bad timing by Channel 9 and VB??



topic focusing on SMART Approaches to Drug Policy to a very receptive audience. Kevin's comprehensive presentation focused on the emergence of the new Big Tobacco—'Big Marijuana, and the clear cognitive dissonance this creates.. After decades of fighting Big Tobacco, combatting their

- 1) Obscuring the science
- 2) Playing down health risks
- 3) Touting tobacco as 'just a plant
- 4) Marketing to the young etc

We now see the exact same tactics being employed by the pro-drug lobby to present Cannabis as 'harmless' - which overwhelming evidence posits otherwise.

The 'Q&A' session afterwards produced some well thought out and challenging questions which were fielded intelligently by Kevin. The event was videoed and a new DVD Resource is being produced, ready for release in early 2016.

If you want to listen to one of Kevin's interviews you can do so at... <https://soundcloud.com/899lightfm/kevin-sabet>

We'd like to take this opportunity to express again our appreciation to the WTA (Warrnambool Temperance Alliance) for their co-sponsorship of Kevin Sabet's visit, and EyeAm Productions for their generous support in the resource production.



Dr Sabet interviewed on two Victorian Radio stations

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☐ Schools ☐ Education ☐ Fence Building ☐ Research (D.A.R.T.)

☐ Bounce (Parent Night) ☐ B.O.W.I. Mission (Better Off Without It)

Gifts of \$2 and over to COADE Inc (Dalgarno Institute) are Tax Deductible

Dylan Redman—Operations

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 at a safer and healthier future.

