

Hi, I heard about this website through the story in the Standard. I was moved by the problems further illuminated but not the standard of journalism. Having had a cursory look around the site I was saddened by the cherry picking of scientific 'facts'. Young people are so used to ill informed and biased information from authorities and the adult world that they are understandably cynical about such missives. Remember the Leah Betts hoarding campaign? NO ecstasy tablets killed her. Anyone who had as much glanced at a paper knew she died of coning of the brain caused by excessive hydration. An outright lie told to young people and sanctioned by the state. Why on earth would they look to authority figures to "send a message"? However I am highly supportive of your efforts to increase information to parents and teens. Any bad science or emotive diatribe will completely undermine the project and render it counter productive. Please remember that. I am very concerned. I have an 18 year old son myself. He's at University and doesn't smoke cannabis as far as I know. He does get smashed on booze with his friends occasionally. Not a new thing with students but it concerns me as I and most of my family have had alcohol problems. I smoke cannabis moderately myself. I like it. It helps me to concentrate on work and relax. It also really helped me get off booze. I am not recommending it. It's a personal choice. If you're going to use any drug you have a responsibility to know yourself and what is good for you .A teenager can hardly be expected to know that. At that age the brain is not fully developed and putting further chemicals in is highly inadvisable. Alcohol was bad for me back then and I drunk heavily for 20 years...no information or support from adults. Who are these people who call cannabis harmless (it is for most moderate users btw)?Who is saying "go for it kids. It's fine"? I want names. As for skunk. What caring parent has never heard of it? Most kids know a pint of beer is not the same as a pint of whisky. If they don't then it reflects very badly on the parents. I have every sympathy with parents with mentally ill teens. Lets face facts. Behind every chemically experimenting teen is a powerful depression caused by family dynamics as much as genetic make-up. A small fortune has been spent keeping W on track as an exam passing machine. I would suggest family and individual therapy to deal with the underlying issues. This is what we have done in our family. It's hard and uncomfortable for the parents but if we love our kids we should do it for all our sakes. It's too easy to blame drugs, politicians etc for all the fear and unhappiness that is lurking in a home, Doug