



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Dangerous Driving

Submission Number: 009

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To:

LA Committee - JCS

Subject:

SUBMISSION FOR COMMITTEE

Date:

Monday, 5 September 2022 10:13:30 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

it is good to see that the ACT Government has acted appropriately to decriminalise small amounts of illicit drugs.

There is another problem which applies equally to alcohol use and drug use. I refer to the TV advert "Yeah...Nah" where anyone with an overabundance of alcohol in their system is encouraged to get a lift. Or a nominated non drinking driver is involved. I write not seeing the detail of any legislation or the promotion thereof to the public and in particular those users involved.

I notice that for awhile now a number of offences have occurred where the individual involved was high on drugs, and ends up killing or injuring an innocent party.

Like the drinker being encouraged to catch the booze-bus or having a nominated driver involved, I believe that those who partake of small quantities of drugs lose their inhibitions and this can create a sense of unreality, causing the user to hit the road.

I am not sure of the fix but I feel there needs to be some level of supervision by a friend or relative to ensure that the drug imbibed user is unable to leave home, and use a vehicle whilst under the influence. Drinkers in pubs and clubs at least have mates around generally, and also where alcohol is consumed at home. How do you achieve that outcome of supervision?

Anyone under the influence (of either) is not capable of driving but can still kill or wound and then claim not being in control. It has to stop at the place of consumption. To leave it to become a police problem is too late. It fails the pub test!

I have since received a reply from the Minister, hence my reason for writing. To say we're doing everything we can, and even education is not enough.

When under the influence of anything, anything is possible and it has on too many occasions. Such is the ease with which the ACT Govt has handed over carte blanche the use of small quantities of drugs but without some form of confirmed responsibility for not driving by the user. It doesn't work! It needs to be stopped at source!

Sincerely,

Russ Morison