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HACK

Friday, 5 May 2006

STEVE CANNANE: This afternoon's show is going to be submitted as evidence to a Senate inquiry into drugs. I'm sure that doesn't happen all the time with radio programs. The inquiry into the manufacture, use and importation of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs is currently touring the nation and hearing evidence from all kinds of people: cops, doctors, researchers, academics. But they're not hearing anything from the people who actually use these drugs and that's where you come in. If you use amphetamines or pills or other synthetic drugs and you want to make a contribution to this inquiry, you can give us a call right now on 1300 055536. If you get on air, your comments will be submitted as evidence to this inquiry, and you never know, that could have some influence on how the government decides to deal with these drugs.

The chair of the inquiry Senator Ian Macdonald wants to know why people take these drugs. He wants to know whether you think tougher policing and tougher laws would reduce harm in the use of these drugs. And the chair would also like to hear your thoughts on pill testing. The chair, Liberal Senator Ian Macdonald, seems to have a pretty open mind about this. I spoke to him about it today.

IAN MACDONALD: Unfortunately, a lot of the submissions that have come into our inquiry are from the other end of the scale. We haven't had a lot of approach ... a lot of contact with the actual users. And I think it would be very useful for the inquiry to get some idea from people who are users on what motivates them to use what it is that they ... why they feel the need for the use of these party drugs, the amphetamines, other synthetic drugs.

We also want to look at whether there are perhaps alternatives. If there are concerns about the quality of drugs being used. Across the board, we'd like to get a user's perspective of some of the things they're looking at rather than getting it from the other end of the question.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay. For example, would you like to know whether tougher laws would actually lead them to using these drugs less?

IAN MACDONALD: Well that's one of the things that will be very much in the committee's mind. Should we toughen up the laws or does that just make it more underground, one might say? Does increased police activity really have the wrong effect? Would more education be useful? Do people really understand that, in the long term, drugs can do harm ... can affect their futures? Do people care about that?

STEVE CANNANE: And will you be addressing the issue of pill testing, whether that could reduce harm amongst users?

IAN MACDONALD: Well that's a question that will come before the committee, and we've had some evidence from Dr Caldicott on that. It's a complex question. There are two sides to that argument. But again, I'd like to hear the views of people

who are using drugs on whether pill testing would be useful, whether it would help with harm minimisation, whether it would be part of an education process that people might have a go at it but then work out that that's not really for them. All of these questions are questions that the committee really would like to learn about and I think the best way to learn about it is to get some who are currently using party drugs.

STEVE CANNANE: So it sounds like you have got an open mind about this?

IAN MACDONALD: I certainly have a very open mind and that's what the whole inquiry is about.

STEVE CANNANE: We're talking to Senator Ian Macdonald. He's the chair of the inquiry into manufacture, use and importation of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs and he's encouraging you—if you use synthetic drugs, like amphetamines, like pills—to make a contribution to the Senate inquiry. You can do that by calling us right now: 1300 055536 or you can even send us an email and we will pass it on to the Senate inquiry. You can do that through the *HACK* website.

Dr David Caldicott has invited you to a dance party to witness pill testing. Will you take him up on his offer?

IAN MACDONALD: I'd be very keen, personally, to actually do that to get a better appreciation myself of just what the scene is all about. There are, of course, difficulties with dates and the fact that I'm in North Queensland and that's happening in Adelaide on a particular date where I do have other commitments. I also share a concern with a lot of my fellow committee members in the issue that if rock up and there are people in authority there seeming to condone this that it may send the wrong message to those young people particularly who are not takers at the present time. That's a fairly complex problem, a complex issue. It's something that I really need to give some further thought about. But my initial reaction is that I'd like to see what it's all about and I'm absolutely convinced, as are other committee members are as well, that Dr Caldicott is very genuine, very concerned, wants to do something positive about this. And it's just a question of whether the committee in the end result agree that his approach is a better approach or whether perhaps there is that concern of appearing to condone to non-users the taking of synthetic drugs.

STEVE CANNANE: And I guess that idea of politicians sending the wrong message is based on the premise that young people are listening to that message in the first place.

IAN MACDONALD: Well that's a good question as well. I suspect that a lot of young people feel quite divorced and remote from the political process and the decision making at government level. Perhaps if some of us did get down ... perhaps 'down' is the wrong word, but get involved with younger people in the dance party scene, we'd perhaps have a better appreciation. Perhaps younger people might then feel a little more confidence in the political system and the decision-making process.

STEVE CANNANE: Senator Ian Macdonald, thanks a lot for talking to Triple J this afternoon.

IAN MACDONALD: That's my pleasure.

STEVE CANNANE: That is Liberal Senator Ian Macdonald. He is the chair of the Senate inquiry into manufacture, use and importation of amphetamines and other synthetic drugs. And that inquiry is going on right now and it could have an influence on the laws relating to these drugs but he's not getting any info from people who use the drugs so call us if you are a user of the drugs we've just been talking about—1300 055536. Your comments could influence government policy.

Before we go to the calls, I got an email from a listener who wouldn't go on air because he works at a law firm, a bit worried about his job. He says crystal meth and pills are the easiest drugs to source. There are never times when you can't get them. After that enormous pill bust last year, there was no hiccup in supply, no increase in prices. For a country of 20 million people, that is unbelievable. Pills here are now cheaper than ever before—20 bucks per unit for 50-plus, I'm told and guaranteed good or money back.

He goes on to say: I found it interesting that despite having some of the highest prices and stiffest penalties for MDMA, i.e., ecstasy, we lead the world in usage. After 40 years, this is the best result they can get for prohibition? Do people realise that in some places in the world, Spain, Holland, et cetera, you would never get in trouble, ever, for eating some pills on a night out. Yet here we could be subjected to public searches and still we eat more. That is one comment via the email.

Gidday, Ben.

BEN: Gidday, mate.

STEVE CANNANE: How are you going? What do you want to say to the Senate inquiry who are listening right now?

BEN: Oh, there's many things I could say that I probably shouldn't. As a comment to what you were saying before about sending it underground, that's exactly what it would do, if they toughen laws up. In my community, drugs are rampant. Through the grapevine I heard there were three houses that went down who were manufacturing; 42 arrests and still, like you just said before, there's no stop in supply. It's still as easy to get, that's speed, amphetamines in that way.

STEVE CANNANE: Ben, have you had a negative experience with these drugs?

BEN: Yes. I've been taking illicit drugs since I was 14. I'm now 29. I've been through a lot of rehab in the last few years. I go to Narcotics Anonymous a lot and the message that comes across the board there is the main reason people do take drugs [inaudible] that sort of jive, you know. And there was never any education, when we were at school, about them, ever.

STEVE CANNANE: So you'd like more education?

BEN: [inaudible] sex ed just came in. That was like, 'Oh wow. Sex ed. What's this?' And drugs, we never heard about them. The only thing I ever knew about drugs was Hendrix and Jim Morrison.

STEVE CANNANE: Ben, what about pill testing?

BEN: Pill testing would have been great. I spent about four years of my life on the street with heroin addiction because I lost my brain completely off bad pills, off nasty, dodgy pills. And if there was testing there, I would have used it.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay, Ben, we've got to move on because we've got a lot of people. But thanks for your call.

I'll have a word to Caleb. Hi there.

CALEB: How are you doing?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks. What message would you like to get across to the inquiry?

CALEB: I'd have to agree with Ben, for a start. I do think that they need better education. But I definitely don't think they should legalise it. I've been addicted to amphetamines since I was about 16, 17. I'm 22 now and I've had many close calls with it. They are very, very dangerous. I was trying to get off of ice. I still struggle. I'm still using it, even though there's not a part of me that wants to keep using it.

STEVE CANNANE: So Caleb, what would you like? Would you like tougher laws?

CALEB: I don't think they need tougher laws. I just think they need better education because people are getting into it at such a young age and they're going out using pills recreationally and I honestly don't think there's any such thing as recreational use. Like everybody I've seen that starts off using pills, either they get out of it or the majority of the people, they just keep getting into harder drugs and get more addicted to harder things.

STEVE CANNANE: Caleb, what kind of education?

CALEB: Well I'm not really sure what sort of education they could do, just to make people more aware on how bad the addictions to these things can get. People think that just because ... just ecstasy, it's like it's a walk in the park in terms of whether they want to stop doing it or not, but it's not. It's actually quite hard.

STEVE CANNANE: Caleb, thanks for that.

Alex, hi.

ALEX: Hi, how's it going?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks. What would you like to get through to the inquiry?

ALEX: Basically, during my uni days, I did take quite a few recreational drugs ... took a bit of ecstasy, meth, all those ones there. But with regards to tougher laws, I don't think that would have deterred me whatsoever. It was more, I wasn't thinking about the laws. It was more a spur of the moment thing, just to have a good night out.

STEVE CANNANE: So you don't think it would make a difference if they crack down and had tougher sentences or things like that for users?

ALEX: It might to some. Most people, when they take them, I believe they sort of take it just to have a good time. And on the same note, I don't take any any more. I've finished my uni degree and I'm a productive member of society.

STEVE CANNANE: So Alex, do you think people grow out of it?

ALEX: Well that's what really happened to me. I went through a bit of a depressive stage, and a lot of my friends did as well, whether that was linked to the ecstasy, well the drug-taking itself, if I had to guess, I'd say 'yes'. But on the same note, I did learn a lot during those days about who I am and what my limits are and things like that and I wouldn't really change my actions.

STEVE CANNANE: Thank you, Alex. We're taking calls from people who have used synthetic drugs. By that I mean pills, amphetamines, trips, that kind of stuff, because there's a big Senate inquiry going on at the moment, around the country, and that Senate inquiry has asked us ... or we've asked them if they want to hear from you, people who've used the drugs, because they're getting no-one at this inquiry talking about use of the drugs. This is your chance to make a contribution to the evidence put forward at this inquiry.

Gidday, Jane.

JANE: How are you going?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks.

JANE: First of all, what I wanted to say is: definitely, I agree with what everyone else has been saying and that it's definitely harm minimisation. That's what people have to be educated on rather than just trying to make it illegal because I think that's way that everyone ... if you want it, you're going to get to it. And by making stuff illegal, you're only pushing it further underground, and by increasing the amount that people cannot get it then you increase the length that people are willing to go to to get it. Does that make sense?

STEVE CANNANE: So Jane, if you want harm minimisation, if you want that to be the policy in relation to synthetic drugs, as far as the government goes, give us some examples of how they could do that.

JANE: They need to ... pill testing, that's one of the biggest things and not just for pills, it's for other drugs as well. People are going to take it. You want to know what you're taking. They're still going to take it regardless of if ... if it's available to being test ...

STEVE CANNANE: So have a testing pill so you know that, for example, that there's not ketamine in your pill?

JANE: Yes, exactly, and not that that's even one of the harmful things that you can get in your pill, like PMA [inaudible]. It's when that's mixed with other substances, that's when you get stuff occurring that people don't want to occur pretty much.

STEVE CANNANE: Anything else as far as harm minimisation beyond pill testing?

JANE: The ads on TV that the government have been choosing to show to scare people away from the drugs ...

STEVE CANNANE: For example, the one that if you take a pill you could have a toxic meltdown and end up in intensive care?

JANE: Yes. And the one with them all on the stretchers and all that sort of stuff. I've been taking drug recreationally for a long time and like the other caller said, I'm at uni and I'm doing well and I'm an active member in society and that's just not what happens.

STEVE CANNANE: And those messages don't seem to cut through, do they, because people say: Oh well, I know my mates are taking drugs and not ending up in intensive care.

JANE: Exactly. It's not the truth. They're just trying to scare people.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay, Jane. We'll have to leave it there, thanks, because we want to get through a whole lot of calls. Let's talk to Vanessa.

Hi, Vanessa.

VANESSA: Hi.

STEVE CANNANE: What did you want to say about this?

VANESSA: I just think there's a massive stigma attached to going out and taking synthetic drugs. I've never had a bad experience on them and I remember when I was 18, I came home from a big night out drinking and my dad gave me a pat on the back for having a hangover. Could you imagine the reaction you'd get if you came home and you were coming down? You'd hide it from your parents and stuff like that because there's this ...

STEVE CANNANE: So you've never had a bad experience from drugs?

VANESSA: No.

STEVE CANNANE: Not even coming down off drugs?

VANESSA: Yes.

STEVE CANNANE: So that's a bad experience, isn't it?

VANESSA: A hangover is a bad experience, but people don't seem to think that that's a terrible thing. It's part and parcel of the whole experience. You go out for a 10K run, you come home feeling amazing; the next day you're in a world of hurt but that's good for you.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks, Vanessa. Tracy is on the line.

Hi there, Tracy.

TRACY: I just think that everyone who does take part in the survey and the people who are looking at minimising harm in drugs should go and read a copy of Ben Elton's *High Society*. I don't know if you've ever read that book at all?

STEVE CANNANE: No, I haven't.

TRACY: Okay. Well it's actually a book that goes into the reasonings why people take drugs. They're supporting the fact that you're giving to the underlying criminal society that supports all of the drugs and once you take that criminal element away from it and put it into, say, your local liquor store. So if you wanted to go down and buy a bag of cocaine or you wanted to go and buy a couple of pills from your local liquor store, you can go and do that and that's going to minimise all of the criminal activity that goes on around it. So if you go and you want to be the kind of person that goes down to the liquor store, buys a bottle of Tequila every day and write yourself off, you can do that because that's absolutely legal in this country.

If you want to go and do the same with pills, it's happening right now. But if you decide that you don't want to do that, well then you don't it. But I'm the kind of person that will go out and take recreational drugs and I'll do it and I've been doing it for about five years now. But I'm not addicted. It's like alcohol. I could go down to my local store and buy a bottle of alcohol and write myself off, but I don't. And that's important.

STEVE CANNANE: Tracy, a quick question: Senator Ian Macdonald said he wants to know the motivations why people take synthetic drugs. Why do you take synthetic drugs?

TRACY: I take them because it doesn't give me the same effect as alcohol. So if I go out in the evening and I go and drink a half a bottle of Tequila over the bar, it's going to make me disorientated.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay. That explains why you don't take alcohol but why do you take synthetic drugs?

TRACY: Well, that's why I take synthetic drugs because I have a really good time. I have a good time on the drugs. I don't feel like I'm going to lose control of myself. I'm always in control. I know what I'm saying. I can get into a cab at the end of the night, tell the guy where I'm going. I get home. The next day I have a come down, which just the same as the other caller said before, it's just like a hangover. But during that evening, I'm completely in control of what I'm doing. Everyone is so different as to the way it's going to effect them. You can never tell that one person is going to be out of control and one person won't.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks, Tracy. We are taking your calls this afternoon on *HACK* as part of the Senate inquiry into synthetic drugs and they're happy to hear from you if you've used synthetic drugs, things like ease, amphetamines, trips, that kind of thing, things that aren't grown in the ground, things that are manufactured. Anything that you say on air this afternoon will be part of the Senate inquiry into amphetamines and other synthetic drugs and we're going to have a word now to Chris who is calling.

Hi, Chris.

CHRIS: Hi, how are you going?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks.

CHRIS: Three points I'd like to make. Firstly, in regards to methamphetamine, a terrible, terrible thing I got off my girlfriend was ... is now a recovered addict. A very, very rare group indeed and zero support for anyone trying to get off it, basically, in the community.

STEVE CANNANE: More rehab, you'd like to see for crystal meth?

CHRIS: Yes, that's a massive, massive problem and it's going to get worse. I'd like to draw people's attention to something called the Montana Meth Project. They can look at the Internet.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay, Chris. What's your other point you wanted to make. You said you had three. You had two more?

CHRIS: Yes. The Montana Meth Project, I want to draw everyone's attention to that. It is an advertising campaign in America talking specifically about crystal meth and its affects long term.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay, and your third point for the inquiry?

CHRIS: In relation to cracking down and making tougher laws. As every other caller said, effectively, it's become a guerilla war. People don't rat each other out. The

community is very, very tight and the supply chains are there and to try and break in and break that up, it seems futile.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks, Chris. Stewart, what would you like to say to the inquiry?

STEWART: It's more about educating them from the very beginning in a non-condescending way. Every time you read something and they try to educate you, it's done: this is bad and this will happen to you and this will happen to you, and never once do they describe the good parts about it. Because everything has a good side and a bad side. And then when you've got a good educated friend that you've gone to uni with, comes back and tells you about a great experience, because from where I've experienced it, it all started from people like that and the early rap parties. You know that, well, I'm being misfed information or I'm only given the biased, liberal-minded side of view from the policy makers who feed us that education compared to your peers and you just know you can go out and have a good time and not agree with it.

STEVE CANNANE: Stewart, one of the things ... I was talking to a number of people this afternoon and one of the things was they said they were sick of a government message coming out that drugs are bad. They think that message is misleading and it stops other messages getting through and educated messages to young people who might be thinking about taking drugs.

STEWART: Exactly and, from what I've experienced, recreational use has never hurt anyone. But some people have substance abuse vulnerabilities and they turn from recreational to habitual. And had they been fully educated, what the harm they would do to themselves and the people around them, and you've got a better chance of avoiding it.

STEVE CANNANE: Stewart, thanks for that. I think some people might challenge that comment about the recreational issue. But anyway, thanks.

Gavin, hi.

GAVIN: Giddy, mate.

STEVE CANNANE: What do you want to say to the inquiry?

GAVIN: I just want to say like people ... myself, I'm quite conservative and I've steered clear of drugs all my life until about three years ago. Now, I went out and had a pill and I went: wow, this great. This isn't like what I've been informed. Then all of a sudden, what used to be one then takes two, then takes four, then without that knowing, you end up getting into a situation where you might as well be an alcoholic or you could quite easily become an alcoholic but just with drugs. If you had proper education, maybe from people who have been there themselves, not from policy makers and things like that ...

STEVE CANNANE: What kind of education, Gavin?

GAVIN: Just like from experience, like people who have been there, done that. I've seen those ads on television and they're not realistic. Maybe if people who have been there, got themselves into trouble, then got themselves out of it, they talked about that, then maybe that might make a difference.

STEVE CANNANE: What about tougher laws, Gavin?

GAVIN: I was in Brisbane last week when I walked through those raids that were in there. And the people who were getting caught are just young kids going out, trying to have a good time. The people who are actually dealing it and the people behind the scenes, they're not there.

STEVE CANNANE: And that's what happens with sniffer dogs, if you look at the statistics. They get small-time users, they don't get dealers.

GAVIN: Well, that's it, mate. That's it, that's for sure. That's what I witnessed the other day.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks, Gavin.

Laura, hi.

LAURA: Hi, how are you going?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks.

LAURA: I'm pretty much was going to say along the same things as that. I don't think the police and the government actually realise what they're doing to ... I have actually come out of the rave scene and it's spread beyond that, but now you see a lot more commercial ... kids going to Summer Days and things like that and they're actually double dropping and taking extra drugs because of the sniffer dogs that are out there.

STEVE CANNANE: I've seen it on the train to the Big Day Out. I've seen people who are 16, 17. I was talking to them. They were saying: look, we're going to take all our drugs now to avoid the sniffer dogs and they took them on the train, all in one go.

LAURA: Exactly, and they're actually doing more harm by increasing ... pumping up the iron, you know, putting more pressure on the scene and it's actually having the opposite effect to what they actually want to have.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks for that, Laura. We're talking calls this afternoon for people who use or have used synthetic drugs because there's a big Senate inquiry on synthetic drugs. They have given us permission to put forward a submission from you, the listeners, who use drugs. And what you're saying on the air right now will be part of the Senate inquiry evidence.

Gidday, Jodie. Hi.

JODIE: Hi, Steve. How are you going?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks.

JODIE: That's good. I'm 36 years old and I have gone through a few of the drug scenes and I've come through an addiction, I've come through being clean. I'm still clean. I consider myself clean but I do take pills occasionally. Now, when they talk about the pills, they seem to forget about the damage that the alcohol causes. It's portrayed as such a wonderful, great Australian thing to do, yet the consequences of alcohol are so evil. They are so much worse and for myself, if I drink alcohol I turn into just a raving lunatic. I black out. I don't know what I'm doing.

STEVE CANNANE: Jodie, we're not so much talking about alcohol, but I want to ask you a question about addiction. What would have helped you, as far as government policy go, get through your addiction?

JODIE: I think better rehabs, more rehabs. I managed to get through it ... it was awful, but I managed to get through it and not through the help of the government.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay, Jodie, thanks for that. Jodie is saying more money into rehab.

Dave, hi.

DAVE: Hello.

STEVE CANNANE: What did you want to say to the inquiry?

DAVE: I'm 21 now. I've been a regular user of marijuana since I was 15 and have been through a stage of ecstasy and ...

STEVE CANNANE: What about synthetics, Dave?

DAVE: How do you mean?

STEVE CANNANE: You know, pills and stuff.

DAVE: Yes, that's what I mean, ecstasy and crystal meth. I do still use it occasionally but I have noticed a growing amount of young people, particularly from 16 to 20 years old, the availability that they have of the drug.

STEVE CANNANE: So Dave, what about public policy? What about government policy? What would you like to tell them?

DAVE: To really focus on the younger generation with crystal methamphetamine.

STEVE CANNANE: So what? Education? Law? What?

DAVE: Yes, education awareness. And I think also really it does have to come back to setting laws. Like these are very good but also I think a lot more work has to be done on behalf of the federal police on what not and where the source of all these drugs are coming.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks for that, Dave.

Chris, hi.

CHRIS: Hi Steve, how are you?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, how are you?

CHRIS: Good, thanks.

STEVE CANNANE: What message would you like to get to the inquiry?

CHRIS: I think that the inquiry should actually thank God that pills are actually around. Because when I was in high school, I used to take acid. That was my drug of choice. And my friends and I used to buy 100 of them for like \$2 each. And a pill in those days cost \$60 and now it is like \$30 for a pill, and it's cheaper than going out drinking.

STEVE CANNANE: But there other synthetics, Chris, at the moment that are causing problems, like crystal meth.

CHRIS: I actually suffer from ADD. So I get a rush off pills generally from the additives, not from the actual amphetamines in it. If I smoke ice, I fall asleep; if I snort or ingest speed or whatever, I'd generally feel tired and want to go to bed. But I think that drugs in moderation are okay.

STEVE CANNANE: Okay, Chris, thanks for that.

Danny, hi.

DANNY: Hi.

STEVE CANNANE: What did you want to say to the inquiry?

DANNY: I'd want to say that I fully support the inquiry but young people also have to realise—and I'm a young person—that they have to realise that the government do make these laws because young people don't have the relevant life experience to think for themselves with an educated point of view.

STEVE CANNANE: But the laws do apply to everyone, Danny, not just young people.

DANNY: Yes, absolutely, as they should. What I mean is, for instance, the government has made all motorcycle riders wear helmets because if they didn't then there'd be a lot more deaths. Do you know what I mean?

STEVE CANNANE: Yes.

DANNY: They make these laws regarding drugs for a reason.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks, Danny.

Hi, Jennifer.

JENNIFER: Hi Steve, how are you?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks.

JENNIFER: One of the things I think is really important is that there is a real distinction between people who do take synthetic drugs. I'm a white-collar worker, and so are a lot of my friends, and all of them had their time doing pills and coke and things like that and all of that group of people just eventually grow out of it, like they don't tend to become users. You know, they just have a couple of years of partying really hard and grow out of it. But amongst that group, that group would never touch things like heroin and meth and things like that because they have a really grotty image. The education that was provided to me when I was at school about heroin means that I would never go near it and I don't think pills and coke have achieved that. People aren't embarrassed about telling people that they take pills or coke, and it's not underground at all. Like workmates would openly talk about that they do pills and coke.

STEVE CANNANE: Jennifer, so what would you like to say to the inquiry about government policy in relation to the synthetics?

JENNIFER: I think definitely that education and honest education, and I think the Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Centre in New South Wales, the Uni of New South Wales do a very good job of that.

STEVE CANNANE: What about pill testing, Jennifer?

JENNIFER: Definitely. When I was younger and I used to take things, if I found out there was K in something, I wouldn't have gone near it, and instead you find out the hard way, and it's nasty. Somebody said before that that was something that would put them off taking a pill, but I would never want something that had ketamine in it.

STEVE CANNANE: Thanks, Jennifer.

Lexie, hi.

LEXIE: Hi, Steve. How are you doing?

STEVE CANNANE: Good, thanks. What did you want to say to the inquiry, quickly?

LEXIE: Just very quickly that a lot of the people that have been on the radio, basically the people that have the got severe problems ... not the people that classify themselves as 'recreational' are probably people that have [inaudible] personalities. They're trying to use it, probably, they shouldn't even go near to start off with. They'd probably be alcoholics if they weren't taking drugs and if the government doesn't do something to try and help these people with the proper rehabilitation after they've got themselves into a problem, then pretty much we're not going to have too many young people around.

STEVE CANNANE: So would you like to see more money go into that rather than law enforcement?

LEXIE: Well, the law enforcement doesn't seem to be working. They're catching people here, there and everywhere but then everything, as everyone said, just goes underground. People put more crap in it, sell it for a cheaper cost, because they know they can get rid of it.

STEVE CANNANE: Lexie, we'll have to leave it there. But thanks for your contribution, and thanks to everybody. And if you do want to write to us, you can send your submission triplej.net.au/hack. Send it to us via email. We'll chop your name out of it, chop your email address out of it and we'll pass it on to the Senate inquiry into amphetamines and other synthetics. That's the show for today and for the week.