

We The People
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We the People 348 Going to Pot



Good Day to you. My comments today are based on a book called [Tell Your Children the Truth about Marijuana Mental Illness and Violence](#) written by American author Alex Berenson. The use of marijuana as an illicit drug is well known but it's not so clear when it comes to medical use. 'Getting high' has sadly become a socially acceptable term which is really saying this mind altering drug like any other creates a fantasy psychotic world where an individual can escape life for a short time which is very sad and very foolish. In some ways it is like the beginning of smoking tobacco which was a socially acceptable thing to do but not any more so surely we wouldn't make the same mistake again..... would we?.

Tobacco has killed millions and in many cases because people didn't know about the health dangers. Smoking marijuana is just as irrational except the damage to the lungs is not fully understood yet but the damage to the mind is becoming very clear. Those who dismiss the dangers are not listening to the science or common sense and yet their insistence that it's a harmless drug is relentless because stupidity knows no bounds. The truth is suppressed because business sees a quick dollar to be made and in Australia its already a \$2 billion dollar a year industry at least. In the USA it's an industry generating \$52 billion in sales each year and growing rapidly. Just imagine 20 years ahead and wonder at the outcome which may well bring many Americans and Australians to their knees mentally and financially and destroy many young minds. One of the biggest dangers is that through prolonged use the psychosis produced causes violence and in this Berenson reflects on a mass murderer from far North Queensland. Raina Thaiday, the 37-year-old Cairns mother who stabbed to death seven of her children and her niece in December 2014. Thaiday's murder spree shocked the nation, but less well known is that the judge at her trial, Justice Jean Dalton, found that Thaiday's long-term marijuana use had caused her psychosis and wrote.... "Thaiday had a history of the use of cannabis since she was in high school..... all the psychiatrists thought that it's likely that it was this long-term use of cannabis that caused her mental illness, schizophrenia, to emerge." Contemporary history has many more examples to offer of the violence and madness which may well occur through the smoking of Marijuana.

Marijuana also has many other negative effects. These include slower reflexes, poor co-ordination and concentration, nausea, glassy eyes and increased heart rate and appetite. Regular users can get chest infections, lower sperm count, irregular menstrual cycle, reduced IQ, lower sex drive and they can become dependent. There is also some evidence that cannabis can produce psychotic symptoms in people with a family history of mental illness. It can also make psychotic symptoms worse and harder to treat if you already have a mental illness like schizophrenia. Marijuana users can have social and financial problems and don't do as well in education. Problems are more common for people who start using marijuana at an early age, and for people who use it regularly.

There is more than one way to take in the major chemical psychoactive ingredient in Marijuana called THC but smoking is the most common. To make matters worse plant types being developed have gone from low single digits for THC to more than 20%. Whatever the method of delivery to humans the results can be disastrous and yet the tax payer will pick up the bill. I believe unlike smoking we know this stuff is dangerous and so perhaps the government should not pay medical benefits when things go wrong because people have been warned. There may be some uses for medical purposes with pain management or seizures but if appropriate they will just use particular controlled prescribed components. In the meantime do not support legalisation or encourage anyone to try Marijuana and especially not your grand children.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley