

YOUNG PEOPLE AND DRUGS



When it comes to drugs, the **facts** can often be masked by the **fiction**. It's important that you're aware of the effects that drugs can have on your mind, body and even your life. It's vital that you know this.

There are many kinds of drugs that you may not be aware of, namely controlled substances and so-called 'Legal Highs'. We're here to give you all the right information so that you can keep yourself and the people you care about safe. Despite their label, '**Legal Highs**' are **illegal to possess, use or sell**.

[MORE INFO ON DRUGS](#)



THE LAW, DRUGS AND LEGAL HIGHS

What are the laws surrounding young people, drugs and 'Legal Highs'?

- It is illegal for anyone to supply 'Legal Highs' for human consumption. The penalty for selling legal highs ranges from a formal warning to 7 years in prison.
- It is illegal to give drugs or legal highs to anyone for free, even to friends.
- It is illegal to be in possession of a controlled drug.
- It is illegal to produce, import or export controlled drugs.
- It is illegal to supply controlled drugs.

TAKE 5 - EFFECT AND CONSEQUENCES OF TAKING DRUGS:



1. **Physical Health** - Anyone who consumes a controlled substance is susceptible to poisoning. Poisoning is caused by very high levels of drug consumption in your system, which is very dangerous to the brain's vital functions such as controlling your breathing. It also affects judgement and co-ordination, which can lead to incidents such as drink-driving, excessive alcohol consumption and unprotected sex.
2. **Mental Health** – Drugs don't just affect the brain physically; they also affect people mentally. People who consume drugs regularly are at higher risk of developing depression and disturbed mental health, which can lead to self-harming and even suicidal thoughts.
3. **Violence** – Drugs impair judgement, which can lead to unexpected outbursts or unpredictable, violent behaviour.
4. **Friendships and Relationships** – Drugs don't just affect the person consuming them; it affects the people who care about them too. Drug usage impairs your judgement, which can lead to unexpected and potentially violent fights and arguments.
5. **Convictions and Job Prospects** – If you're caught in possession of a controlled substance, you could be arrested and end up with a criminal record. This may limit your job options in the future when your employer does a background check, or when you're applying for a Visa into Australia or America.



LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

What are the legal consequences of misusing drugs?

Class A – These drugs are treated as the most dangerous by the law. These include cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms and crystal meth. Possession of a Class A drug can lead to 7 years in prison, whilst supply can lead to life imprisonment.

Class B – These drugs include amphetamine, ketamine and cannabis. Possession of a Class B drug can lead to 5 years in prison, whilst supply can lead 14 years' imprisonment.

Class C – These drugs include prescribed medication, chemicals such as GBL and anabolic steroids. Possession of a Class C drug can lead to 2 years in prison, whilst supply can lead to 14 years' imprisonment.

If you have been offered drugs, say no!
Watch our video to see how buying even small amounts of drugs affects your community

[HOW DRUGS AFFECT YOUR COMMUNITY](#)

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