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put that issue to rest 40 years ago in the case of Bunning v Cross where it was held that incriminating evidence uncovered by an illegal or unauthorised search could still be admitted as evidence in a case where the interests of justice required it.

A significant drug haul located in a bust where there was no proper warrant would rarely be excluded these days. It just wouldn't happen.

But even assuming there is some need for the new measures, is it likely to work?

Random breath testing, as proper as it is, has failed to put a dent in the rate of drink driving over the 30 years it's been in place. There is little reason to believe that random

vehicle searches would be any more successful.

There is no end to the ingenuity of serious drug dealers who operate in the highly lucrative market that currently exists in WA. Unlike the hapless driver who had one too many at the pub, most drug ventures are highly (and extremely soberly) planned.

The fact the drug trade has continued to flourish and defy all new legislative measures for the past 50 years is testament to the fact that its proponents continue to stay a step or two ahead of the legislators.

Not to mention that the new laws won't apply in the metropolitan area, where at least 90 per cent of the market

is, which gives no cause for confidence that any fortuitous seizures will make anything other than a token impression on the problem.

The politicians would, no doubt, respond by saying that any result, no matter how minuscule would make it worthwhile. It can't hurt, can it? Again I disagree. The cost of countless meaningless, unfounded searches of private vehicles each year is an unjustified waste of police resources. They already have their time cut out investigating and prosecuting cases where there is a genuine prospect of a result.

The drug problem is the result of demand, not supply. Until we address the problem

of why people continue to use illegal drugs, and how we can decrease that, there will be no solution.

Focusing the so-called "drug war" on simply catching and punishing the suppliers has long been an abject failure. The resolution of the dire situation in which we now find ourselves with methamphetamine is essentially a social and medical one.

There is no reason to expect that the new proposal to randomly search vehicles is anything other than another step down a well worn path.

**Tom Percy is a Perth QC and can be heard on 6IX at 7.40am on Thursdays. percy@qc**

WHY  
HOW

REDUCE  
DEMAND

SUNDAY TIMES 3 JULY 2016

## Cancer risk to kids from cannabis use

■ **Cathy O'Leary**  
Medical Editor

WA researchers have warned that cannabis use causes genetic mutations that can be passed on to children and grandchildren.

University of WA scientists found cannabis alters a person's DNA structure, potentially exposing future generations to serious illnesses and diseases such as cancer.

They said the implications for future generations had not been understood and were alarming.

The link between cannabis use and illnesses such as cancer was known but the research was among the first to look at why it occurred and the impact on future generations.

Associate Professor Stuart Reece and Professor Gary Hulst, from UWA's School of Psychiatry and Clinical Sciences, reviewed all studies in the area.

Professor Reece said the research found cancers and illnesses were likely caused by cell mutations resulting from canna-

bis properties chemically interacting with a person's DNA.

A person might appear to be healthy, yet unseen damage to their DNA could be passed on to their children and cause illnesses for several generations.

"With cannabis use increasing globally in recent years, this has a concerning impact for the population," Professor Reece said.

"Even if a mother has never used cannabis, the mutations passed on by a father's sperm can cause serious and fatal illnesses in their children.

"The parents may not realise they are carrying these mutations, which can lie dormant and may only affect generations down the track, which is the most alarming aspect."

Professor Reece said when the chemicals in cannabis changed a person's DNA structure it could lead to slow cell growth and serious implications for foetal development of limbs and organs.

"The worst cancers are in children exposed in utero to cannabis effects," he said.

**The Worst Australian**  
Tuesday, May 24, 2016

### Quadrant Fundraiser

This is a most worthy and important cause.

The Australia Council has cut off the literary grant to Quadrant magazine. This is a blatantly political operation by the cultural left. Quadrant was founded in 1956, in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Hungary, to provide a forum for non-left creative writers in Australia. The sum it received from the Australia Council was comparatively small - \$35,000 last year. By contrast, left-wing magazines such as Overland continue to receive grants which now total 6 figures. This must eventually lead to a complete monopoly by the left of Australian literary and cultural magazine publication.

Some friends of Quadrant are holding a fund-raiser to assist it, **on 27 August**, at the **Victoria League premises, 276 Onslow-road, Shenton Park**, from 5.30 to 7.30 pm. Entertainment (to be arranged)

We very much hope you will be able to attend. Please also bring a friend.

RSVP to Hal Colebatch, Tel: 93898166 or e-mail [halcolebatch@hotmail.com](mailto:halcolebatch@hotmail.com).