

Global & Regional

[Decriminalisation: What works and what doesn't](#)

Radio NZ (01/04)

There's been an explosion in the number of countries and states liberalising its use over the past two decades - some have legalised it entirely, while others have decriminalised it only for medicinal use.

[A call to reprioritise metrics to evaluate illicit drug policy](#)

The Lancet (02/04)

The 2016 UNGASS represents a rare opportunity to reassess the global approach to drugs and to move towards drug policies that more effectively address the three UN pillars of peace and security, human development, and human rights. We believe that we need a new consensus that includes a commitment to revise the range of indicators used to assess and improve drug policy effectiveness.

Australia

[Research shows that Medical Marijuana industry could be worth \\$150 million](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald (29/03)

The research from Sydney University comes as the New South Wales (NSW) government drafts regulation supporting legalisation, and the NSW premiere Mike Baird has said he wants to make NSW a 'global leader' in medicinal cannabis research.

[Hope of sentence cut for Bali Nine after penal code revision](#)

The Australian (02/04)

The six remaining Bali Nine drug-smugglers jailed for life in Indonesia may soon be looking at the prospect of reduced prison sentences. On the eve of their 11th anniversary behind bars, the convicted drug couriers have a ray of hope in the form of a revised penal code, which is slated to go before Indonesia's parliament in a few months.

China

[Australian national Peter Gardner set to learn whether he faces death by firing squad for large 30kg meth haul](#)

Daily Mail (28/03)

Peter Gardner's claim that he thought he was transporting \$13,000 of legal steroids, was rejected by Chinese prosecutors, who earlier released Gardner's girlfriend who was arrested at the same time, following 'diplomatic talks'. Death by firing squad is the fate drug traffickers face if they attempt to smuggle more than 50g of heroin or methamphetamine.

[China becoming money laundering haven for Mexican and Colombian drug cartels](#)

Fox News Latino (28/03)

The country's well-developed underground financial networks, lack of cooperation with other nations and large tides of legitimate trade and finance make it the perfect haven for the proceeds of drugs and fraud, according to a number of documents analysed by the Associated Press.

[China comes to grips with opioids](#)

Bloomberg Businessweek (01/04)

China's aversion to opioids is part of a global puzzle: How do hospitals, health ministries, and pharma companies use these powerful painkillers effectively without laying the groundwork for serious abuse and addiction? Nobody has the answer. Instead the world's use of opioids is seriously lopsided, as the UN-linked International Narcotics Control Board reported in February.

Indonesia

[Al Jazeera show says Scientology's Criminon program is having a positive impact on drug convicts](#)

World Religion News (29/03)

The recent documentary by Al Jazeera 101 East, inside Indonesia's Drug War, appears to suggest that the scientology sponsored Criminon programme is having a positive impact on Indonesians serving sentences for drug abuse, suggesting that prisoners who have undertaken the programme are happier, more cooperative and discipline orientated.

Malaysia

[Death penalty: Home Ministry says 12 executed in last six years](#)

Malaymail online (30/03)

Malaysia has executed 12 out of a total of 829 people who were sentenced to death since 2010 for offenses including murder, drug trafficking and kidnapping, the Home Ministry has said. Despite moves since 2011 to abolish the drug policy in Malaysia, especially under the Dangerous Drugs Act (DDA), no legislative amendments have been proposed to date.

Myanmar

[Pat Jasan vows to continue its movement to eradicate opium production in Kachin State](#)

Mizzima (29/03)

Baptist Convention chairman, Rev. Gyung Hkawng, speaks to Mizzima and admits to searching private property for illicit drugs and destroying 9,000 acres of cultivated land. Hkawng said the group would continue the campaign regardless of how long it takes to achieve their aim of total poppy eradication, but that the operation could be complete in two years with government support.

[Testing times: Ten challenges for the NLD government](#)

Myanmar Times (31/03)

Together with a [surge in production](#) and consumption of methamphetamines, the illegal narcotics trade will test the new government's ability to cooperate with the military, which coordinates anti-drug efforts under the Tatmadaw-controlled Ministry of Home Affairs.

[5 Challenges Facing Burma's New Civilian Government](#)

Time (31/03)

Burma ranks as the No. 2 source of the world's opium — after Afghanistan — with the military, proxy armies and rebel armed groups all thought to make money from the crop, which feeds demand for heroin in China. Burma is also a production hub for synthetic drugs like meth. Domestic drug use is a rising problem, as is a lack of clarity over where the massive profits from the narcotics trade are going.

New Zealand

[Govt may soften approach to drugs – Dunne](#)

Radio NZ (30/03)

The government is considering taking a more tolerant approach to minor drug offences, says Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne. The potential change comes as a joint study by Johns Hopkins University in the US and the British medical journal *The Lancet* says the punitive approach to drug offending has done more harm than good.

[Peter Dunne takes health, rather than criminal, approach to drugs](#)

NZ Herald (30/03)

How severely people are dealt with for possession of illegal drugs or drug utensils is to be reviewed - as a major international study says the punitive approach to drug offending hasn't worked. Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne has this morning reiterated the Government's commitment to review drug policy and make sure drug offending is primarily seen as a health matter.

[Drug law reform a health issue](#)

Greens.org.nz (30/03)

The Green Party is offering to work with other political parties on evidence-based drug law reform and welcomes Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne's suggestion that drugs be viewed as a health issue

[Dunne on wrong side of UN cannabis debate](#)

Scoop (31/03)

Contrary to popular belief, cannabis law reform is "neither imminent or likely" in New Zealand according to Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne. In the government issues paper relating to New Zealand's official submission to the upcoming UNGASS conference, Dunne said "New Zealand is not currently considering decriminalisation of cannabis (or other controlled drugs) domestically."

[Racial bias to drug enforcement](#)

Waatea News (01/04)

There's a warning any relaxing of drug laws needs to be done in a way that Maori benefit.

[National Portrait: Peter Dunne, the cautious drug reformer](#)

Stuff.co.nz (02/04)

"This is a nuanced argument. I'm a great one for believing that Rome wasn't built in a day, but it was built. If people want to pillory me, what happens is someone with a far less open mind comes into the job. Is that what you want?"

Pakistan

[Karachiets spend substantial amount on drug abuse](#)

Pakistan Observer (01/04)

Force Commander and Regional Director, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Sindh, Brigadier Abuzar has maintained that 1 million people in Karachi spend a substantial amount in drug abuse. Brig. Abuzar said that ANF has established a drug rehabilitation centre in Lyari area, where drug addicted are treated free of cost. He said that the force is also conducting awareness campaigns in educational institutions.

Taiwan

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[Police launch national crackdown on drugs](#)

The China Post (03/04)

National Police Agency Director-General Chen Kuo-en has asked police around the nation to crack down on drugs, and to list drug-trafficking hot zones, as well as to prevent drugs from entering school campuses, as priority tasks.

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