

Response to the letter: Comments on BZP and New Zealand's alternative approach to prohibition

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the authors of the letter; *Comments on BZP and New Zealand's alternative approach to prohibition*, for offering a counter to the transcript *BZP and New Zealand's alternative approach to prohibition*.^[1,2] As they suggest, it is important that the readers of *Drug Testing and Analysis (DTA)* do not take the opinions expressed in the interview in isolation but rather as a constituent part of the special issue in which it is placed.

The transcript of the interview between Matt Bowden and me is contextualized within the *DTA* special issue on New Psychoactive Substances wherein it is poised between peer-reviewed articles offering counter-balances to this purely discursive opinion piece. The article by Elliott regarding the pharmacology and toxicology of piperazines reviews dutifully the human intoxications published by Gee *et al.* and an alternative view on the legal aspect of BZP is offered by Bassindale.^[3–7]

DTA has publicly announced its intention to publish peer-reviewed material together with the occasional discursive article where the latter offers context to a topic or opens up wider debate within the arena of drug testing. Given the unique regulatory nature of New Zealand and the visibility of entrepreneurial advocates of legal use, low-to-moderate risk drugs it was determined that the transcript offered an interesting contextual piece that could only be presented in conjunction with a scholarly counterbalance offered by adjacent articles in the special issue.

Yours,

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References

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- [4] P. Gee, S. Richardson, W. Woltersdorf, G. Moore. Toxic effects of BZP-based herbal party pills in humans: a prospective study in Christchurch, New Zealand. *New Zeal. Med. J.* **2005**, 118, U1784.
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