

## Depression, psychosis strike dope smokers

**The Australian: September 29, 2008**

NCPIC's Bulletin, 'The management of cannabis use in Australian general practice', received extremely widespread coverage in Australian newspapers and on radio stations. This article, like many others, focussed on the findings in the BEACH study (Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health), that "cannabis smokers are more likely to suffer depression, anxiety, and psychosis than those people who take stimulants." The article goes on to say that, "of patients who mentioned cannabis use to their GP, 48% had a psychological problem, including 19% with depression and 9% with psychosis. six per cent had anxiety." While our media release about the Bulletin focussed on the main finding of the study, that Australian GPs report a low number of presentations where cannabis is raised as an issue, the articles instead highlighted the mental health related aspects.