Did You Know... that Synthetic Psychoactive Substances are a large and growing group of manufactured chemicals found in New Zealand.

Some of these chemicals may make you feel relaxed, others can make you energetic and talkative, however they can also cause you to feel agitated, paranoid, and uncoordinated.

The comedown from synthetic psychoactive substances can last for several days.

Using larger amounts or long term use will increase the unpleasant effects.

Some speed up bodily functions and are usually found as pills or powders. Some, usually smoked, slow the brain and body down, and some cause hallucinations.

These chemicals often have much more unpleasant effects and dangerous side-effects, than the traditional drugs they mimic, such as cannabis, MDMA, LSD and speed.

There are hundreds of manufactured chemicals available on the black market.

None of these chemicals have been tested as being safe, and it's impossible to know how you will be affected.

Though they may look similar to the drugs they mimic they smell different, and can be a lot stronger with very different effects.

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Though they may look similar to the drugs they mimic they smell different, and can be a lot stronger with very different effects.

So, remember, it's best to avoid using synthetic psychoactive substances as they can be unpredictable and unpleasant.

If you choose to use them, then:
- Only use a small amount
- Take breaks to eat and sleep
- Always look out for your mates

Want to find support for a young person in New Zealand? Call the alcohol and drug helpline on 0800 787 797.

At the heart of the matter, NZ Drug Foundation.

Te Tūāpapa Tarukino o Aotearoa.

drugfoundation.org.nz/didyouknow