

Statement from Peter and Karen Dow, parents of Matthew Dow:

“Matthew was a responsible and careful young man robbed of his life a year ago by a reckless drug driver. We are launching this petition in his name to get drugged driving taken seriously and in order to get random testing introduced in New Zealand. If we can save just one life and one family the heartache we have experienced, this petition will be worth it.

“The tragedy that struck our family could have been anyone’s. Matthew was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. This was not an accident, but drug induced crazy driving that was always going to harm someone. We call on the families from all corners of New Zealand to get behind this petition to make our roads safer.”

Statement from Terry Richards, recently retired Police Sergeant in charge of highway patrol in the Nelson Bay Police District for 15 years:

“Drug impaired driving is having a huge impact on the road toll. Without a drug screening programme similar to the drink driving legislation, the current practices used by the Police have no effect. The limited options currently available to Police when they suspect a driver is high on drugs make it near impossible to secure a conviction.

“The convictions for drug driving are almost exclusively when there has been a crash and a fatality when it is too late. We owe it to the memory of innocent victims like Matthew Dow to urgently adopt the random saliva testing regime that has been successfully introduced in Australia, the UK and Canada.”