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The report says marijuana is becoming uncool amongst young people. (Reuters)

## **Cannabis loses appeal for young people**

A new study has found a third of young Australians think using cannabis is unacceptable, and the majority believe it is a dangerous drug.

The report by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre has found half of people think cannabis can lead to schizophrenia and depression.

It also found half of people under 30 have friends who use cannabis, but a third of those surveyed find the practice unacceptable.

The centre's Paul Dillon says marijuana is becoming uncool amongst young people, and that is mainly to do with education campaigns.

"We're not focussing on the long-term health effects or even necessarily the psychological effects, we're looking more at the social impacts, the way that it will affect your relationship, how will it affect your financial situation - these are the things young people really relate to," he said.

Mr Dillon says there is a sense the drug is anti-social.

"I think we've done a pretty good job of educating, particularly young people, that getting stoned is not a particularly fun thing to do," he said.

The Federal Government says the figures are proof its war on drugs is working.

Assistant Health Minister Christopher Pyne says Government education campaigns are having an effect.

"Obviously the tough on drugs message has been getting through and the link between mental health and cannabis has been getting through, and I think that's a very positive step," he said.

"This report confirms what many of us had been hoping for a long time, that young people themselves are recognising the dangers of cannabis."

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