

Interview with Young Sid

Interview by Lewis Whaitiri

Have you ever smoked?

Yeah I picked up a smoke when I was probably about ten or something like that so that's pretty much it. I'm a non smoker.

Do you think smoking is socially acceptable?

It used to be, but now like in clubs they don't allow smoking anymore. I don't accept it aye. Like a couple of my friends smoke and when they're around me they just know to move away, cause it's fucked man, straight up.

What would you say if someone lit up next to you?

I wouldn't have to say anything. If people smoke by me I just give them the eye and they'd just get the message, 'oh sorry bro' and walk over there. You're my mate still but I'd go that way you know what I mean?

Do you think using help like Quitline and nicotine replacement products like the patches means you're too weak to quit by yourself?

Nah man straight up you can use all the help you can get to help you quit that habit you know what I mean? All the help you can get is good.

Would you consider quitting smoking a real achievement?

Yeah of course man. It's like winning the lotto, straight up I'd rather have someone quit that than win the lotto, cause if you win the lotto you're going to buy packs of that shit.

What advice would you give to siblings who have started smoking socially?

Shucks, stop smoking man, get a slap from your parents and that. You should go smoke in front of your parents when you want to start and see what happens.

Do you have any advice for people who have tried to quit?

It's a habit that you have to try and get out of and back away from. It's going to be hard but there're things like the Quitline, the patches, the nicotine replacement gum, that can help you, so just go hard on those. And a lot of will power as well so it's up to you man. Just stop smoking man that's pretty much it. Don't even pick it up. Like it says on the smoke packets, 'smoking kills', what do they make it for you know what I mean?

Why do you think some young people still take up smoking?

I don't know. Maybe they think it's cool, peer pressure too, probably their mum or dad smokes, they see their favourite actor smoke or they see their favourite artists smoke, whatever. I think it's a bad thing to be honest. It sucks if they pick up that and they get addicted. Thirty years down the track they come across cancer, what's going to happen after that?

Do you think it's uncool to refuse a cigarette?

Nah never man, I refuse heaps of them, it sucks. And I'm the coolest dude in New Zealand.

What do you think smoking says about a person?

To me personally I think that people who smoke don't care about themselves. I mean like for some of us who care about them they should put it down. We can't care about people that don't care about themselves.

In your opinion, what is the worst thing about smoking?

What it does to you man, what it does to your families. And for example if someone gets ill off it, their kids are going to be sad and everything but it was their fault for picking up the smoke in the first place you know what I mean?

How does smoking affect you?

How does that affect me? Shucks, I just don't like the smell. I don't like being a smelly #@*! and plus I've got family members who died from it too.

Is there anyone in Smashproof who does smoke?

Nah, all of us are anti smoking.

Would you go out with a smoker?

Nah, it's unattractive and like I said before, like if you don't care about yourself how am I going to care about you too you know what I mean? I won't go out with a smoker.

Have any of your friends or whanau tried to quit smoking?

My aunty quit smoking. She was smoking for a while then we went to the Cook Islands and when we came back home she quit.

What ways do you think you could help someone quit?

Shucks, write a song about it. Yeah actually I could probably write a song about it, about the whole thing of when you smoke and then what can happen and that shit.

What is your view on the tobacco industry?

We need to like burn them down, nah! Yeah it just fucks up lives aye? Like I said before, 30 years later on you catch an illness and then what happens? You just die and that's the result of smoking. And the result of the tobacco industry making tobacco and you know putting it in people's hands and putting it in the shops. What the fuck? Especially where I'm from, like I come from a low socio economic background and a lot of people smoke it sucks.

What is it that turns you off about smoking?

It just sucks man, stink breath. Yeah I don't smoke cause you've got stink breath and I don't want it. I don't want it fucking me like 20 years from now when I can't see my grandkids grow up, you know what I mean?

What are the benefits of being smokefree?

Yeah my voice is like perfect yeah nah, I'm a lot fitter. I like to go outdoors and do stuff so I'm not like gasping for breath or anything so that's cool. Because I'm smokefree I can do a whole set on stage, like an hour, two hours after that I can probably go play a league game, and then after the league game I can probably go play basketball all in one.

We've got smokefree bars and restaurants and things like that now but do you have any other ideas about how to create a smokefree New Zealand?

Yeah man, ban it, make it illegal, you know what I mean? That would be the best way.

Do you think being a role model is important?

Yeah of course I think being a role model is important and by me not smoking I hope that a lot of my fans, they try and pick up on that and do the same thing.

What are your views on smokefree marae?

Smokefree marae? That's awesome man, straight up that's the best thing you can have. I know a lot of us Maori tend to smoke and there're heaps of us...to have a smokefree marae, that's really good.