

Please find below the information sought regarding the frequency of traffic to the HEMP Embassy website,
 Also find further information for all committee members.

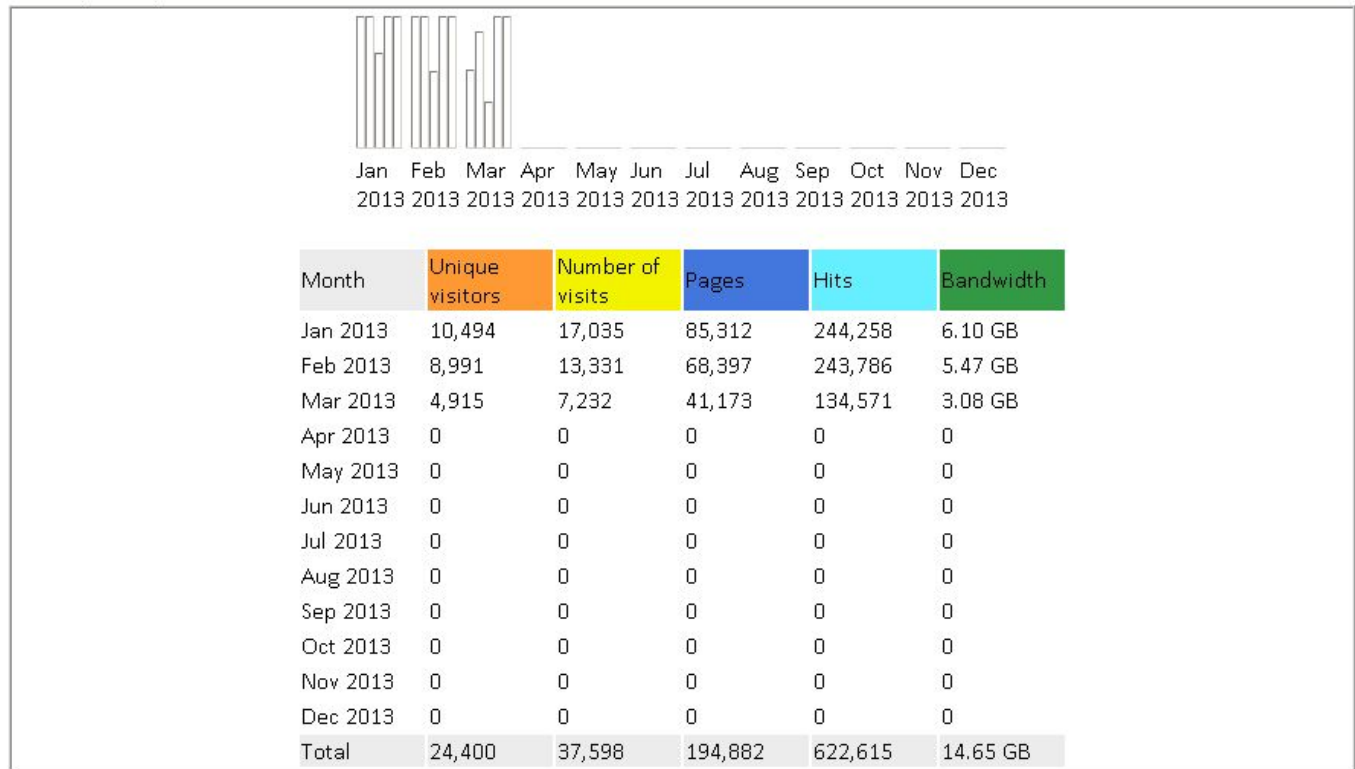
Thank you
 James Moylan for
 HEMP Party Australia

Summary

Reported period	Month Mar 2013				
First visit	01 Mar 2013 - 00:14				
Last visit	15 Mar 2013 - 08:14				
	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	4,915	7,232 (1.47 visits/visitor)	41,173 (5.69 Pages/Visit)	134,571 (18.6 Hits/Visit)	3.08 GB (446.4 KB/Visit)
Not viewed traffic *			66,923	99,870	3.80 GB

* Not viewed traffic includes traffic generated by robots, worms, or realies with a special HTTP status codes.

Monthly history



The HEMP Party approve the Hansard extracts provided and have no corrections to offer.

We thank the committee for inviting our submission and for asking such respectful and insightful questions.

We remain at the service of the committee or any of its members.

Below are short notes relating to matters canvassed during our testimony.

‘Positive leakage’ – the ‘substitution effect’.

That cannabis is the least harmful of all the recreational agents is significant. There is academic work that indicates that when the supply of medicinal cannabis is authorised by a community, some people who commonly use much more harmful recreational agents use medicinal cannabis as a substitute. Thus, in this way, a leakage to these groups in our community actually reduces the overall harm visited on our society by drug abuse. There are a number of peer reviewed studies which document this ‘positive leakage’ phenomenon. See for example, Lucas, Philippe & Reiman, Amanda. ‘Cannabis as a substitute for alcohol and other drugs: A dispensary-based survey of substitution effect in Canadian medical cannabis patients’ *Harm Reduction Journal* 2009, 6-35.

On how to legally source cannabis seed without ‘supply’ being a problem

Section 219 LEPPRA indicates that property in custody relative to a cultivation offence (such as seeds) may be disposed of, on application to the court, as the court sees fit. The applicant should be a non-profit body with written articles of incorporation including advocacy on behalf of medicinal cannabis patients and also the taking of lawful actions in support of cultivation efforts.

If the recipient of this application is a legal cultivator working on licence to provide (grow, grade, assess, produce) seedstock for medicinal cultivation, then the court is likely to entertain the application as being lawful and appropriate to the public interest.

On licensed cannabis growers: how to licence? how to regulate?

Initial licences can be granted by statute (in amendments to the Drugs Misuse and Trafficking Act declaring that a license to produce medicinal cannabis shall be a complete defence to cultivation and supply charges if undertaken in accord with the license stipulations, and, that a valid licence to cultivate medicinal cannabis shall be a license issued by a NSW government Authority, being the Health Department, in accord with the promulgated regulations).

Regulations stipulating the conditions attaching to individual licenses or classes of license can then be formulated by an appointed advisory board. If a licence to cultivate is attached to each dispensary licence then the horizon of how much can be cultivated under licence can be pegged to how many patients each clinic is allowed to service. This direct coupling of dispensary license and license to cultivate is likely the simplest mode of both regulating an appropriate quantum of cultivation and also ensuring that legally cultivated cannabis does not ‘leak’ into the black market. In this model wherever cannabis is purchased by a dispensary it will be from another dispensary which shares the same obligations for security of provenance.

Further, if both licenses are always ‘coupled’ then every part of the chain, from seedstock to dispensing over the counter, will all be highly motivated to remain in accord with the promulgated regulations as there will be viable penalties available to the state if the regulations are breached (i.e. the holding of the license would no longer act as a shield for ‘supply’ charges and the coupled dispensary licence may also be revoked).

On ‘directing’ the TGA.

Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 - s 6AAC provides very specifically for such an instance where state law (in this case the facility for the prescription of cannabis under the *Drugs Misuse Act NSW*) authorises a facility not entertained in Commonwealth legislation.

The NSW government can and should direct the TGA to provide criteria for prescription, grading, and packaging criteria sufficient to facilitate the intent of existing statute. (The HEMP Party of Australia stands ready to supply a range of possible models for this set of required criteria should they assert that this is not possible.)

On dodgy estimates of cannabis value.

The Police say that each outdoor plant is worth \$2000 and each indoor plant \$5000.

However, these estimates of value fail to account for there being a ‘wholesale’ market in cannabis in Australia. The Police evidence was that they are only targeting commercial cannabis crops and so any Police seizures should be valued at the wholesale rather than the retail price.

Each mature outdoor plant in the Northern Rivers region produces an average of about 150 grams of dried head per plant worth between \$1500 and \$3000 on the retail market. Along the way 60% of plants are either male (so worthless) or are removed or die before reaching maturity (and so are also worthless).

Indoor plants at maturity vary greatly in size depending on variety and length of growing season. Indoor varieties that are picked at between 80 and 90 days produce an average of about 120 grams of dried head per plant worth between \$1200 and \$2400 on the retail market.

In the Australian instance cannabis in bulk is normally supplied in kilogram lots. The cost ranges from \$3000 to \$4000 per kilo (or \$3 to \$4 per gram) if sold by the kilogram, to as low as \$2200 per kilo (\$2.20 per gram) if sold in quantities greater than five kilos. [These kilo bags are (typically) sold by the grower to a distributor who breaks them down into 'ounces' which are sold at \$200 to \$250 dollars per ounce (\$7.15 to \$8.92 per gram) to retail dealers who sell to individual consumers at \$280 to \$560 dollars an ounce (\$10 to \$20 per gram).]

The HEMP Party estimates that each mature outdoor plant produces an average of about 150 grams of dried head per plant worth between \$330 and \$600 on the wholesale market.

The figures that the Police quote for 'seizures' must be discounted at least 33% and as much as 60% before once more being discounted to allow for wastage by at least 15%.

Whenever the police talk about 2000 plants they quote $2000 \times \$2000 = \$4,000,000$.

The HEMP Party would value the same at $2000 \times 150\text{gm} \times \$2.50 \times .85 = \$637,500$ (number of plants x 150 grams x wholesale price per gram, less wastage).

These matters are of significance as much of the funding supplied to the Police is largely in response to these inflated estimates of the value of the 'seizures' made.

The therapeutic uses of cannabis:

- **AIDS and Cancer:** Marijuana reduces nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite caused by both the ailment itself and treatment.
- **Asthma** THC acts as a broncodilator and reverses bronchial constriction.
- **Arthritis:** Effective in controlling pain associated and acts as an autoimmune modulator.
- **Depression and Other Mood Disorders:** Marijuana has been shown to help dysphoria and associated mood disorders.
- **Epilepsy:** Marijuana is used as an adjunctive medicine to prevent seizures.
- **Glaucoma:** Marijuana can reduce intraocular pressure, alleviating pain and slowing the progress of the condition.
- **Multiple Sclerosis:** Marijuana limits muscle pain and spasticity.
- **Migraine Headaches:** Marijuana relieves pain and inhibits the release of serotonin during attacks.
- **Paraplegia and Quadriplegia:** Cannabis can act to suppress muscle twitches and tremors.
- **Pruritis:** Marijuana can be used orally and topically and may be more effective than corticosteroids and antihistamines.
- **Insomnia:** Research shows pot can help people sleep without the side effects or tolerance problems of other hypnotics.

California's Compassionate Use Act of 1996 lists:

- (1) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).
- (2) Anorexia.
- (3) Arthritis.
- (4) Cachexia.

- (5) Cancer.
- (6) Chronic pain.
- (7) Glaucoma.
- (8) Migraine.
- (9) Persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, spasms associated with multiple sclerosis.
- (10) Seizures, including, but not limited to, seizures associated with epilepsy.
- (11) Severe nausea. (see HS 11362.7)

James Moylan for
HEMP Party Australia

Talking to the committee made me realise what a unique community Nimbin is in that it has been attracting people who love cannabis for about forty years now. Our common ground is that it's a medicine that works for us. There are many ex alcoholics and I wish I had mentioned how I have slowly discovered there are a number of epilepsy sufferers here who realised pot prevents them fitting. The muscle relaxing properties of the herb are loved by MS and cerebral palsy sufferers and I have watched an old man with shocking Parkinson's disease completely stop shaking after two big lungful's of cannabis smoke. He swayed from side to side with a grin from ear to ear. I cried! The other thing I wished I had mentioned was how popular cannabis is amongst Aboriginals and how much better it is for them than grog!

Michael Balderstone