INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Name: Name suppressed

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I have been fighting the impact of Hepatitis C for years, after using hard drugs when I was 17 years old. I was a survivor of sexual abuse and followed a well acknowledged typical life path of victims into self medication/drug abuse.

I also have a chronic pain inducing neck injury incurred whilst a

for nearly

years. Use of cannabis in a judicious way has helped me remarkably over the years. I am currently undergoing a very difficult drug program, for a year, to kill my Hep C virus as I now have cirrosis due to inadequate interpretation of my blood tests and poor drug regimes available until the last year. I am absolutely certain that the use of cannabis has ensured that I can survive this side effect riddled drug treatment, due to it's positive effect on appetite, pain relief, psychological bolstering and improvement in perspective. I have never had serious mental health issues into my adulthood despite using cannabis for many years. It has helped me avoid much more impacting heavier pharmaceuticals due to my neck injury/chronic pain state. In essence in many ways I think cannabis has saved my life. I know many people who, as they age, find cannabis to be the most effective way of keeping various medical conditions from ruining their lives.

The greatest impact when I got busted at age 18 for 4 grams of very poor quality cannabis was that I nearly lost my job, and that employment has built my life. Small scale cannabis prohibition causes much more harm than the act of using the drug itself. NSW citizens should be allowed to grow up to 10 plants per year outdoors if possible and a person should be allowed to have a years worth of cannabis without fear of going to prison, say up to 500 grams at home/50 grams when out. I do not believe that Doctors certificates etc should be required, just a mature approach. Thank you for reading my submission.