

Submission
No 80

INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Dear reader,

I am writing to let you know that I support both medical and recreational use of marijuana, when I say that I mean the decriminalisation of both, I fully support the legalisation of medical marijuana. Currently people will medicate with it and have to source it from dealers, where there is zero quality control and possibly contaminated with pesticide as this is not regulated. This is a natural substance and it can be cheap and accessible way to treat a wide range of ailments. Different strains are suited for different conditions and when legalised people will be able to get what will help them most and know that they are quality meds.

I think that a similar system to what states in America is introducing is a good approach, where you have dispensaries. A person gets a prescription from their doctor and these dispensaries fill the prescription.

In addition to the dispensary I think people with medically prescribed marijuana should be able to purchase seed and grow their own, to grow these I think it is reasonable to expect the cultivation area to be secured. One of the great things about a natural medicine is the amount it costs, if you are able to grow your own, it would not put strain on your finances. If it were available via dispensary I imagine it would be cheaper than the black market prices, so growing may not prove very popular depending on the price.

The pro's I see to this is not creating organised crime around this plant. Legitimate business would be able to develop and help community health from a natural source which has been used throughout human history, the last 100 or so years is really the only time this has not been used, and digging into history it was brought about by business interest not public ones. Then years of stigma and misinformation have gotten us to where we are now.

I think also legalising it would take a lot of cool out of marijuana, over time. So that say 40 years time, youths will not view marijuana as we do. Their associations will be more of medical use, and whilst humans as well as many other species like to experiment with drugs (this statement I am basing off my views and what I see in culture and the wild) people will still no doubt try this for recreation but having it regulated it would be much more difficult to get as legitimate business will not sell to minors, just like alcohol. When I was at school most people I knew had an easier time getting some pot rather than alcohol.

With the range of human experiences available to view on YouTube, I have seen many people illegally medicating with marijuana, they have tried many other drugs and find this works the best. As the side effects can contribute to better health and quality of life. One lady that has stayed in my mind had MS, and when she was not medicated she had pain and could not use her hands. When she medicated with marijuana, her hands unstiffened she was able to run them along a couch, and she said when she has this she can feel with her hands, it restores her sense of touch whilst she is medicated. Her sense of touch, this lady grows her own and also for a couple of other people and she states that if she could not do this with that quality of life, life would not be worth living.

I believe that due to overseas influence specifically with the "War on drugs" and various trade deals which have been struck with clauses Australia agrees to prohibit certain plants. For decades perhaps even more we have allowed and enforced unnecessary suffering on those with illness. That the misinformation of drugs from the government has caused suffering and I believe that to be criminal. The ignorance of the past has been lifted, we see this plant to be a great tool and are only beginning to understand how it can be used, when scientists can research this I imagine for decades to come they will discover more and more beneficial uses.

If we do not change the law regarding this, ignorance will rule and people will continue to suffer.

We will not be the first to legalise medicinal use, we have the benefit of those who have already begun, learning from their models and adapting it for Australia is the best way to go about it in my opinion..

In regards to legal implications, I think recreational use should be decriminalised as well, as these are not violent people. They pose no threat to society or others. The violence that grows around this I believe is

due to laws placed around it. Create a law, create an industry, in this case the government creates and supports organised crime via the black market.

This movement in the right direction. people should not be left to suffer, pay for expensive meds, live with the side effects of these pharmaceuticals. The law needs to change, it was wrong and has been wrong since it was introduced. Wrong for the people! It is time to change this. I wish you all the best in this good action you are a part of