

**Submission
No 51**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL
PURPOSES**

Name: Dr Graham Irvine

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President
NSW Legislative Council
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
Inquiry into the use of cannabis for medical purposes

Dr Graham Irvine

12th January 2013

Dear Madam

Please find enclosed my submission on cd to your Inquiry. This submission is based on my Doctorate of Philosophy thesis entitled "The Legalisation of Medicinal Cannabis in NSW" which was accepted by my University in September 2011.

As you can see it addresses all the issues contained in your Terms of Reference. Moreover it contains a detailed critique of the excellent NSW Parliamentary Working Party's "Report on the use of cannabis for medical purposes" Office of Drug Policy, Sydney, August 2000 which covered almost exactly the same terms of reference as those of your Committee.

Accordingly it is my submission that there is no sufficient reason to revisit these issues which have already been examined in the abovementioned studies in detail. Since their publication there has been little published which adds much to the debate or to the conclusions reached in the two documents - that there are now sufficient cogent reasons to make out a solid case for the legalisation of cannabis for medicinal purposes.

I would be happy to address your Committee and to do what I can to assist your deliberations and wish you every success in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Graham Irvine 

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS LEGALISATION

- 1. Legalisation of medicinal cannabis will bring immediate and profound relief to as many as 100,000 seriously ill patients in NSW.**
- 2. Legalisation will avoid seriously ill patients having to deal with the black market to obtain their medicine.**
- 3. Cannabis is a particularly safe drug. In the annals of medical history there has never been a death attributable to cannabis alone and adverse effects are relatively trivial.**
- 4. At the individual level legalization will free up carers of the seriously ill by reducing their attendance and increasing their chances of re-entry to the job market.**
- 5. Legalisation will forestall a possible legal challenge on grounds of breach of civil liberties and human rights violations.**

Dr Graham Irvine