

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Alcohol is a major cause of death, injury and illness in Australian society. The annual cost of alcohol-caused problems in Australia has been estimated to be \$4,494 million – about 2.6 times the cost for illicit drugs between 1990 and 1997. Cannabis for medical or recreational use has NEVER caused death in Australia - ever.

Recommendations for action are as followed:

This topic really needs very little research, when it has all been done before thanks to our international friends. The United States has introduced a fantastic system that is already showing huge benefits in the community and this system should be modeled for the Australian government. Introduce new laws to regulate cannabis use as an equivalent to alcohol, stop spending money arresting and discriminating against cannabis users, tax cannabis like tobacco cigarettes and in return we see a cash injection to the Australian economy, less Australians being arrested or in jail for something that so many Australians do, without harm, and without hurting themselves, or anyone else.

Cannabis is SAFER than alcohol and never have studies shown any different, there is absolutely NO reason or just cause for this medication to be considered illegal.

I, myself, suffer from social anxiety which causes a lot of stress and difficulty to cope in many situations that others would see as being normal. I have tried many legal prescription drugs to help control my depression and anxiety including Prozac and Lozan, all of these drugs cause serious side effects and provide me with very mild relief from my anxiety symptoms.

Cannabis, when used for anxiety, provided IMMEDIATE relief of symptoms and has NO side effects - I have never once in many years of cannabis medication had a single side effect, and this plant allows me to continue with day to day life like everyone else, so why am I being discriminated against?

I have never hurt anyone, I have never made myself sick, no one even knows I smoke cannabis. I do it in my house, on my own, like a medication - so why should I be labeled a criminal and put in jail? What am I doing wrong?

Cannabis is one of the single most beneficial medicines for depression and anxiety, and the majority of Australians support cannabis when regulated like alcohol, over 18's or 21+, with I.D, and you'll instantly see a drop in "criminal" activity.

By keeping marijuana use illegal, you FORCE regular, professional, intelligent Australian citizens like myself, to purchase the product from shady individuals where the product is not controlled, quality varies, and availability is not always possible - but if I wanted to buy tobacco cigarettes, which kill millions of people and bring no real health benefits, are freely available for smokers to purchase from a tobacconist.

Isn't it about time we legalised Cannabis, regulated its use and FIXED the Australian drug system, it's obviously broken.