

Submission
No 1

INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Dear Parliamentary Committee,

I convey my observations to you of 3 years of my Marijuana use.

I have suffered serious depression and Asperger syndrome since I was a teenager. It got to the point where I no longer wanted to get up out of bed each morning. My marks at school were falling and struggled to make friends. I would argue with my family on a daily basis. I lost my appetite and became very underweight. I could never sleep. It scares me to think how I would have ended up if I hadn't tried Marijuana.

I've been using it every day for the last 3 years and my day to day is much happier, more productive and stress-free. I never have trouble sleeping since. I have gained 20 Kilograms and am now at a much healthier weight, and I have more motivation to eat and exercise.

School starting to become interesting again. I started to enjoy talking to people at school and formed more and better friendships. I was praised at work for my recent improvement in performance and got promoted.

After 2 years I did feel slightly breathless because I had been smoking it. I subsequently switched to a vaporizer, a machine which heats the marijuana below its combustion temperature to produce highly purified vapours to inhale. This eliminated the respiratory effects of my daily marijuana use.

Unfortunately my parents eventually found out about it. They were completely close-minded as they have been bombarded with decades of government propaganda campaigns like "Marijuana kills brain cells", and "Marijuana users go onto harder drugs", and they still believe it to this day. They were very abusive and strict after that and I moved out very young and still avoid them to this day. Maybe if the public was better educated and not bombarded with mis-information, people wouldn't be so ignorant.

I also use it with friends recreationally, if someone tries it for their first time and has too much, they just feel tired and go to sleep. Alcohol on the other hand, has put some of my friends in ambulances. Many tobacco users also end up in hospital years later. So why is Marijuana the illegal drug of these three? It is a far safer alternative for a typical night out. And do people who are high roam the streets looking for fights and other trouble like alcohol? Of course not.

Marijuana has been thousands of years before recorded history, and there is not one documented death caused by it. Synthetic drugs such as anti-depressants have only been around for several decades and have killed thousands.

It is safe to drive under the influence of Marijuana. I ask the committee to conduct a study which compares the effects of two beers to a large quantity of marijuana on reaction times. I'm sure you'll find the reaction times at a 0.05BAC will be much more dangerous than any amount of marijuana. The current 'drug driving' law against marijuana is absolutely ludicrous, no wonder the police rarely enforce it. Marijuana users do not deserve to be targeted for their choice of medicine! There are many prescription medications which are far more dangerous than 0.05BAC of alcohol or any amount of marijuana and perfectly legal to drive under the influence of.

Marijuana does not harm brain cells, the heath Tulane study failed to give oxygen to the monkeys in question in addition to the smoke they were pumped full of, invalidating this study. In fact, a number of studies have shown Marijuana has actually stimulated brain cell growth, of course these don't get the same attention!

While smoking marijuana can harm the lungs, it does not cause cancer or emphysema like tobacco smoking. There are other delivery methods available for medical patients like edibles and vaporizers.

Furthermore, the Australia public demands the full legalization of Marijuana. See "ABC The Drum Polls":

"07/11/2012: In the US election, Colorado and Washington state voted to legalise marijuana for recreational use. Should Australia follow suit?

Yes 70%

No 30%

35509 votes counted"

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/thedrum/polls/>

For obvious reasons, my identity must remain confidential to the public.

Please wake up and accept these facts Parliamentary Committee.