

Submission
No 98

INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 17/02/2013

Partially Confidential

Dear Inquiry into Medical Cannabis,

Firstly, I would like to seek leave to have my submission included despite being late. I only just heard of your inquiry today. It was not canvassed by Vision Australia, which is surprising since the best-documented medical use for cannabis is to treat glaucoma.

I was born with glaucoma, which is a one in 10,000 chance which normally causes blindness. I am blind in one eye, but childhood surgery saved some vision in the other eye. I have been using cannabis medicinally since the age of 15. I am now 53, and have lost little further vision, despite cataracts and retinal detachments.

Cannabis has been extremely beneficial for me, and the benefits it bestows on me have been noted by many ophthalmologists, including the noted surgeon |

. For example, after one operation, my better eye underwent a hypotonous episode, which failed to respond to any treatment. When I finally used cannabis, the retina returned to normal within two hours. Over that two hour period my vision went from 6/36 to 6/18.

I continue to lead a normal life, apart from not driving. If it wasn't for cannabis, I would be using a white stick and labrador. Cannabis's illegality is a constant nuisance because it raises prices, impedes supply, and motivates many people (including police) to steal their neighbours herbs. In my own case I have proven that long-term use causes no cognitive impairment - I used cannabis for 36 years and then took an IQ test with |

I would be happy to provide more details, medical records, etc if you so desire.

Yours sincerely