

**Submission  
No 4**

**INQUIRY INTO ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT  
(MEDICINAL CANNABIS-EXEMPTIONS FROM  
OFFENCES) BILL 2021**

**Name:** Dr James Connell

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Dear committee,

I am GP who has spent the last 4 years honing my skills using medical cannabis to help relieve a wide variety of symptoms inc. pain, insomnia, anxiety, PTSD, cancer related symptoms, neurodegenerative conditions and many more. For many of these patients THC the potentially impairing cannabinoid within cannabis is essential to create an effective medicine. THC in the wrong hands does have the potential to cause impairment but you don't need to experience intoxication or impairment to receive the medical benefits from this molecule. Impairment or intoxication is something all medical cannabis patients want to avoid and as a doctor it is a side effect we actively monitor and manage. For medical patients to be grouped in with recreational uses is unfair and unscientific.

For many patients who have chronic disease they are significantly impaired by their disease or symptoms. For many of these patients medical cannabis by reducing the burden of their symptoms significantly improves their function rather than causing impairment.

Medical cannabis is not going away and is only going to increase in popularity due to the improved quality of life it brings many Australians. Unfortunately many patients continue to suffer because they are unwilling to stop driving, missing out on an opportunity to improve their wellbeing with a very safe and well tolerated medication.