

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

Name: Mr David Zaloudek

Date Received: 16 April 2022

My name is David Zaloudek, I am 45 years old. I work professionally as a financial planner. I am married with two young boys aged 10 and 4 years old. I am medicinal cannabis user who uses medicinal cannabis to treat mild depression and to address poor sleep.

I sincerely wish for medicinal cannabis users to have an exemption, so they can use their medication without fear of criminal convictions, fines and potential loss of car insurances when driving unimpaired.

With the current drug driving laws around cannabis, detection of the presence of THC in my saliva, blood or urine from a RDT is a punishable offence, even if I am using prescription medicine, and I am not impaired whilst driving. THC remains detectable in ones system long after the impacts on driving ability have subsided. The psychoactive impact of THC lasts on average for 2 to 4 hours, whilst detection of THC in the system for regular users can be detected for up to 1 to 3 days after consumption, in some cases even longer.

This is highly discriminatory and places medicinal cannabis users in a difficult situation. In many cases I find myself needing to choose between medicating to relieve my medical conditions or not medicating and retaining the ability to drive legally without the risk of THC detection. This is frustrating, unfair and simply unjustified.

Presently cannabis is the only prescription medicine with a zero tolerance in the system allowed. The law needs to change as soon as possible on this matter. Medicinal cannabis use continues to grow exponentially in Australia with over 60,000 prescription users around the country.

Whilst I fully support keeping the roads safe, and for having laws to prevent people from driving whilst impaired, allowing medicinal cannabis drivers to have an exemption so they can drive with THC in their system, but not impaired would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks and regards, David