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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 8 April 2022

Partially Confidential

The Parliament of NSW Maquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

Transport Law Amendment to give drivers prescribed cannabis an exemption from THC positive drug tests on NSW roads.

Please accept this submission supporting the proposal to exempt NSW drivers prescribed cannabis for their health. I am prescribed cannabis for health reasons and have been prescribed the flower for about 4 months.

- 1. In my 45 years driving experience I have seen that NSW Police use random drug and alcohol testing as a means to harrass/provoke young male driver's, aboriginal people and people who look poor (old cars). That's the way the Northern Rivers police openly misuse these 'random' testing laws. There is absolutely nothing 'random' about them, not here.
- 2. In rural NSW smoking cannabis is a common practice so we must be over-represented in state numbers for positive THC roadside tests. This region like many others have no public transport, no trains, no public bus service so when somebody loses their driver's licence, often they have no alternative but to lose their job. So loss of licence bears a far heavier burden in country NSW compared to our city counterparts.
- 3. If random drug testing currently does not test for morphine or heroin, how can they be considered fair or comprehensive? Of all the drugs NOT to test for, are the drugs that commonly cause users to 'nod off' or fall asleep mid-sentence! It's unreasonable that S8 drugs are AOK but you ban the slightest trace of THC! Makes you think road transport drug laws are only there to raise revenue.
- 4. Cannabis is now legal in many US states so let's catch up. The drug in moderation, does not impede driving. It is recommended to be taken in small quantities so if you must test us for THC, please use a biofeedback method that quantifies the drug like with the alcohol test? The technology is there so stop giving alcoholics preferential treatement.
- 5. Cannabis use should be promoted to combat domestic violence as an alternative to alcohol and users should not be criminalised.

Medicinal cannabis users should enjoy the same freedoms as morphine and heroin users. If you can't test for all 'recreational' drugs, especially the worst of them, why criminalise what has been legally prescribed?