

Submission
No 38

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I would like to write a supporting submission here for this bill.

I have suffered from chronic back pain for over a decade now and unfortunately with our public health system being so under-funded, EVERY time there is an excuse to why I can't have my issue resolved. First it was weight, when I fixed that it was then age (under age at 42). There is always some excuse to push me onto medicines.

My issue here is that the normal medicines (Endone and alike) DO NOT work on numerous people in my family as we have a strong resistance to it. I've been down this path and sure it worked for a few months but then quickly wore off.

What I'm left with is extreme pain, the inability to sleep properly and the inability to eat properly. The pain is annoying, the eating is only an issue with my diabetes and near killed me a few times already. The sleeping issue however is greatly affecting my ability to function in general day to day operation. I'm unable to clean house as I'm just too tired all the time, I'm unable to complete projects I'm wishing to complete as I'm just too tired. I'm unable to do many things I used to once enjoy simply because I'm in too much pain and too tired all the time. It's been affecting my mood and "how long my fuse is" with the children unfortunately as well.

I some 18 months ago began trialling the medical marijuana scheme in a hope for a reduction of pain and I must say I'm surprised how well it worked! It's not a silver bullet for my issues but the even temporary relief from the pain allows at least some quality sleep which is great. Just unfortunately I'm left with the choice of sleep and less pain OR the ability to drive and shoot (a sport I do enjoy participating in as I'm unable to partake in more mobile sports now).

What I have noticed in my experience, sure I wouldn't drive for some hours after partaking in the use of a vape for pain killer purposes (a prescribed method of use) as I wouldn't personally feel fit enough. That said, using the oils I was also prescribed I do not get the same issues either. What I WILL say though is that frankly, the next morning I wake up more alert and with better reflexes AFTER having used the vape for extreme pain relief than I would had I not used it for a week or more and instead were rolling around the bed all night like a washing machine, waking the next morning feeling VERY groggy, tired and just sluggish in regards to thoughts and reflexes. I find it extremely harsh that I can drive in that sluggish state but not when I'm "bright eyed and bushy tailed".

The old stigma of "potheads" in regards to people who partake in RESPONSIBLE use of marijuana needs to stop! Sure there are some who should never drive as they're always in a state of drone mode but they are usually the abusers not the users or more-so not the medical users. Picking on those who need this most would be like picking on a politician for driving a car after ONE glass of wine just because some drunks get in a car after several BOTTLES of wine and then go and kill someone. You could also make it akin to those who are prescribed Endone being mis-treated just because heroine users (a similar substance) wreak so much damage. There needs to be a separation here and more education.

Unfortunately due to the limits on driving and shooting I where possible refrain from pain relief just to ATTEMPT to have an everyday life, the end result though is I'm constantly in pain and it's getting worse, I'm constantly grouchy which is not good for "spousal rep" or for the children and generally life itself as I'm unable to get anything done since I'm just always too damn tired.

Please give some SERIOUS thought to this bill instead of just rolling with the old stigma.