

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

Name: Dr John Teh

Date Received: 27 April 2022

Hello, I am a medical doctor that is currently in the practice space of medicinal cannabis. I have received SASb federal approval to treat over 2000 patients since medical cannabis legalisation in 2016.

I urge the parliament to reassess the current drug driving laws. Currently any detectable level of THC (the level is measured in NANOgrams per millilitre at RDT- an extremely small amount) in a driver results in a drug driving offence. As THC is a fat soluble molecule, it will remain stored and detectable in a person well after the period of potential impairment has past. The period for impairment from inhaled cannabis is approximately 4 hours and the time for impairment from oral application of THC is approximately 8hrs. Due to the fat soluble nature of THC it may be detected by RDT weeks or even months after the consumption of THC containing medication. This is like saying it is illegal to drive 2 days after having 1 standard alcoholic drink.

The current RDT tests are a detection for a presence of THC and this test has no correlation with the potential impairment of the driver. Any penalties for driving should be correlated with impairment, not simply presence of a drug.

In my experience, many people are also scared from taking a potentially beneficial medicine, because of the potential to suffer a DUI offence. That is, they are not undertaking a beneficial course of treatment due to external factors that have nothing to do with road safety, nor impairment.

I believe firmly that patients taking cannabis medicines, prescribed legally and whom are not impaired when driving should be exempt from prosecution. Any test should be based on impairment, not simply detection of the presence of a legally prescribed medicine. There are many medicines in our current Australian pharmacopeia which are much more impairing, yet we permit people on such medications to drive, and in fact these drugs are not even routinely tested for (for example, opiates, benzodiazepines, antipsychotic medications).

Yours sincerely

Dr John C Teh