

Submission
No 72

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

Name: Mr Owen Harris

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Im 24 and I have adhd, insomnia, irritable bowel syndrome aswell as signs of early onset gout and I have been prescribed several different central nervous system stimulants over the years for my adhd that has only made my insomnia worse to the point of not be able to sleep for 24 to 30 hours at a time when taking these medications. sleeping aids have been completely ineffective which resulted in me being unable to maintain my last job forcing me to resign, which sent me into a depression where i felt completely lost and unsure of how i can function in society and maintain a healthy lifestyle. This made me want to just give up, i was unemployed for roughly two years and during that time I tried to find some way to manage my life and find some purpose again, at which point i turned to cannabis, to my relief it alleviated most if not all of the symptoms I was experiencing. my adhd was much more manageable i was getting sleep again, my joints ached a lot less, it even helped with my ibs allowing me to be more social and outgoing, it started to greatly improve my mental health. the problems arose when I found myself thinking I'm ready to go back to work, around that time I was looking into getting medicinal cannabis and I learned that it's essentially completely illegal to drive while using thc based medicines in nsw, as you need to use it daily to get the desired effects and doctors have an obligation to report you to authorities if you are driving on thc medications. which ultimately meant i can't use the medicine legally as I need to be able to drive to maintain employment which had me feeling defeated by the very laws that are supposed to protect people not ruin their lives, these broken laws are a constant source of worry and frustration for me and have made it extremely difficult to function once again as I'm currently going through the same thing all over again as I just can't risk not having a licence, so I've been forced to stop adhd medications due to unbearable side effects. my insomnia has returned, I get 3 hours sleep a night if any. my neck, fingers, and toes constantly ache and my ibs is noticeably worse but what choice do I have, it's either deal with these issues and keep working fulltime so I can get somewhere in life or lay around feeling sorry for myself. i just can't risk ruining my life over an outdated, unjust and harmful law but I'm not sure how long I can put up with all of those things as it'd be far easier to give up on trying to be a functioning member of society and stop driving all so I can access a safe and effective medicine that helps thousands of people when nothing else will, without fear of being persecuted by the very people who are supposed protect us. This law needs to be changed, it's embarrassing to be apart of a country that is falling so far behind the rest of the world. I want to be proud of our laws, not ashamed.