

Submission
No 75

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

Name: Mr Macciza Macpherson

Date Received: 1 May 2022

To the Committee

I fully support the intentions of the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis—Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021.

Medicinally prescribed Cannabis should be treated no differently than any other legally prescribed medication, regardless of its alternate illicit use. The same protections that exist within the current legislation afforded to those that use opiates and similar substances should be provided to those whose use Cannabis. It should not be a complicated system and should not deprive people of their medications or mobility.

As a pure application of equity it should be possible to simply include Cannabis in the same provisions that protect others however I am not a drafter of legislation so I must accept that this is the preferred manner in which to reform the laws. Should the committee decide on other means to effect the same goal of equity between users of various drugs than I would support that as well.

On a broader level I believe that the general prohibitions against Cannabis and driving are inequitable as the test do not correlate to any proven level of intoxication or impairment of driving skills, and can detect minute amounts of Cannabis many hours to days after use and possible intoxication. As such I believe the laws against Cannabis and driving are in dire need of reform although I realise this is beyond the terms of reference of the Committee.

Likewise the broader general prohibitions against Cannabis have been shown time and time again to be a failed policy approach and are desperately in need of reform so as to allow legal home cultivation and consumption. Again I realise this is beyond the terms of reference of this Committee but it is a glaring elephant in the whole debate and is due some consideration.

On a personal level, I use legally prescribed Cannabis medications for dealing with chronic pain following an accident wherein I sustained two badly broken ankles. Despite 2 years recovery I am still undergoing operations on both legs, one for nonunion of bone and the other requiring ankle fusion. Whilst I am not driving currently when I am capable of driving I will still be requiring medication.

Under the current legislation my options would be to only consume Opiate based pain relief in order to drive or to risk loss of license should I instead use Cannabis which is my preferred medication.

Given the obvious equivalencies between the medication it seems obvious and logical that this legislation should be enacted. Were it not to be enacted then one would expect that the Committee would have to produce overwhelming evidence and explanation as to why the substances, and the people using them, are to be treated so differently before the law.

I thank you for your consideration of the points I have raised and trust that sense and equity will prevail and that the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis—Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021 will be duly endorsed and enacted