

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

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Date Received: 1 May 2022

The current roadside drug testing regime is fatally flawed as a road safety measure as it does not detect impaired drivers. Instead it detects only minute quantities of illicit drugs and legally prescribed medication such as medicinal cannabis.

Since drugs can be detected many hours after the intoxicating effects have subsided, (sometimes even over 48 hours in the case of cannabis), the roadside drug testing regime does not even discourage impaired people from driving since they are just as likely to test positive as they would if they drove "sober", yet within the detection window. It's akin to failing a breath test after having a single beer the day before

As a medical cannabis patient, I never drive intoxicated, yet if I choose to drive, even 24 hours after taking my medicine I run the risk of losing my license and facing a huge fine. I am lucky that I live in the city and have plenty of transport options available besides driving. Those who live in regional areas where driving is the only way to get around are not so lucky, this has a huge impact of rural medical cannabis patients.

This unjust situation no doubt arises because the roadside drug testing regime was put in place prior to medicinal cannabis being made legal in Australia.

We need to fix the law so unimpaired medicinal cannabis patients are able to drive without the fear of losing their licence, just like other patients who may take legally prescribed medication. The law needs to be based on scientific research, so we keep impaired drivers off the roads and no longer persecute medicinal cannabis patients.