

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

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
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Submission To: Standing Committee on Law and Justice
Submission Regarding: Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis-Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021

Submission From:

I support the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis-Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021, on the grounds that people prescribed Medicinal Cannabis have gone through rigorous medical assessments to prove they are eligible for a prescription. I have worked with people who have suffered Traumatic Brain Injury, for 15 years, and in that time I have witnessed the dramatic change in the quality of their lives transitioning from prescription medications like Risperidone, Amitriptyline, Nordiazepam, opioids, to Medicinal Cannabis. Traditional prescription drugs as an alternative to medicinal cannabis are a far greater risk to road safety. Over time they cause brain chemistry to change irreversibly, resulting in involuntary muscle movement, tardive dyskinesia, and dementia – requiring higher dosage, becoming a life sentence in a chemical prison, to be able to drive.

A far better alternative is for them to be administered small doses of Medicinal Cannabis, which is usually 50% CBD oil, a dose is only a therapeutic amount of THC. However, it is still interpreted by tests as Cannabis and prosecutable. This is a travesty for people with disabilities, chronic pain, and epilepsy.

Medicinal Cannabis is not recreational, it is medical treatment, necessary, to enable a person with chronic health problems to be able to function and eat without nausea, this helps build immunity and reduces health costs. People with chronic pain and epileptic risks can drive whilst the traditional prescription medications and there is no evidence that the Medicinal Cannabis Exemption Bill would increase road trauma.

To prevent people with prescription MedReleaf from being able to drive diminishes their ability to participate in social engagement, further, and unnecessarily isolates them more. When people need medicinal cannabis, it alleviates their pain and physical condition to bring them for a short time to be able to have some level of normal life without as much discomfort, as they need to have some ability to manage their severe suffering. It is not a means of 'getting high', it is a means of reaching pain free parity with others.

To deny this Bill is to discriminate against the population who need Medicinal Cannabis. This discriminatory against prescription medicinal cannabis users is entirely preventable, enabling those people on Medicinal Cannabis to drive, will alleviate the burden of dependence on transport upon their family, and others. The costs saved would be life changing, I have one client who pays \$86 per week to attend a hydrotherapy pool, via a maxi cab, where he could drive himself in the facility van. Many more clients would be able to do their own shopping, attend events, go to family visits, attend courses, volunteer, and work.

I pray and urge representatives from all political affiliations to support the Road Transport Amendment (Medicinal Cannabis-Exemptions from Offences) Bill 2021 to pass and ultimately be assented to in legislation.