

**Submission
No 3**

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK FOR CANNABIS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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Finding Freedom: How Cannabis Transformed My Wife's Life and Our Finances

As I sit down to pen this piece, I can't help but marvel at the transformative power of cannabis in my wife's life. Her journey from the grips of opioid addiction, following a herniated disc ordeal, to a life of liberation and wellness, is a testament to the healing potential of this plant.

When my wife first herniated three discs, our world turned upside down. The excruciating pain led her down a path of opioid reliance prescribed by conventional medicine. However, as many unfortunate souls discover, opioids come with a heavy price and not the monetary type—the shackles of addiction. Witnessing her struggle was heart-wrenching.

It was cannabis that eventually became her beacon of hope. After much research and consultation with medical professionals, we decided to explore cannabis as an alternative. The results were nothing short of miraculous. Not only did it alleviate her suffering effectively, but it also provided a pathway to break free from the grips of opioids.

However, navigating the legal, medicinal cannabis landscape came with its own set of challenges, primarily the exorbitant costs. As a horticulturist deeply passionate about organic practices, I firmly believe that cultivating our cannabis should be within our rights. The current system places a heavy financial burden on patients already grappling with health challenges. Allowing individuals like me to grow cannabis would not only empower us to take charge of our healthcare but also significantly reduce our cost of living.

Many argue that growing cannabis is complex, but with the right knowledge and resources, it's a manageable endeavour. As responsible citizens, we are more than capable of cultivating our medicine safely and efficiently. By granting us this autonomy, policymakers can contribute to a healthier, more sustainable future for patients like my wife.

Cannabis has been a lifeline for us, providing relief, freedom from addiction, and a pathway to financial stability. It's time we advocate for the right to grow our medicine, not just for ourselves but for countless others facing similar challenges.