

**Submission
No 16**

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

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Date Received: 8 May 2024

I believe that the current restrictions on the use of Marijuana for recreational purposes in NSW is resulting in higher prices, possible criminal penalties and a lack of safety regulations and quality control during the cultivation of marijuana intended for recreational, and often even marijuana intended for medical use by those people who are unable or unwilling to attend expensive doctors consultations in order to obtain a prescription for marijuana.

The lack of quality control is worrying, as it is a fact that sometimes dangerous chemicals are added to black market marijuana during the cultivation and sale stages of distribution.

Chemicals used to allegedly increase marijuana potency are often toxic and not intended for human consumption, these can include; fly spray, to increase the chemical taste and deceive users into thinking they are smoking a higher grade of cannabis, there are even reports of extremely toxic, red lead in powdered form being added to cannabis to increase visual appeal and weight. There are many other substances that some people will unfortunately add to increase the apparent weight and quality/potency of cannabis, many of which can be harmful to human health. Even simple water being misted over cannabis to increase weight can lead to cannabis becoming mouldy, which in turn can lead to consumers developing diseases such as Legionnaires disease, which is a horrible disease which affects one's lungs and respiratory system.

It is commonly accepted that controlling the manufacture and distribution of cannabis, both recreational and medical, will undoubtedly lead to better respiratory health for consumers.

There is also the legality of recreational cannabis use, if recreational cannabis was legalised, many people who resort to criminal activities to obtain cannabis products will then be far less likely to be penalised and convicted for drug charges.

This could increase the number of people who apply for jobs they at one stage could not of dreamed of seeking employment for, such as as military service, medical professionals and essentially any form of employment that utilises random drug screening, therefore, employment in these fields will probably see an increase.

There will be many jobs created in Australia if recreational cannabis use is legalised, such as those related to cultivation, import export, quality control etc

The legalisation of recreational use of cannabis will also undoubtedly lead to higher numbers of tourists flocking to Australia, there's a lot of people who may consider travelling to NSW to experience the freedom of choice permitted in NSW when it comes to recreational and medical cannabis use.

It is my submission today, that the Legalisation of Recreational Cannabis use would be a logical and practical way to improve Australia's economy, increase trade, boost morale, lower crime, increase safety of cannabis consumption and it would also mean there would be one less vice that could lead to potential incarceration.

It would mean that "pot" would no longer be a "gateway drug" as it would not need to be bought from criminals on the black market.