

Submission
No 48

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

Organisation: Cannabis Psychedelics

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Cannabis is a plant medicine with thousands of years of history, hundreds of millions of users and a safety profile that is positive, despite successful negative media campaigns used globally since US prohibition in 1937.

No one has ever died directly from Cannabis. *1a Cannabis is scientifically safer than water.*1b Cannabis does not increase mortality*1c, 1d

Cannabis has now been legally prescribed over 1.2 million times in Australia. *2

7 out of 10 people who consume cannabis do so illegally, without a prescription*3

Over 86% of Australians drive *4

Cannabis continues to be the most widely used illicit drug (11.5% of Australians have used in the last 12 months, or 23% of 20-29 year olds in 2022-23)*5. Furthermore, 52% of all illicit drug seizures are from cannabis*5

Cannabis Psychedelics now offers courses to teach Doctors, Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Wellness Practitioners (acupuncture, massage therapists, sound healers et .) the appropriate and safe way to use Cannabis for mental health. *6 In 2024 one in seven Australians use anti-depressants, with suicide being the most common cause of death for Australians aged 15-44 and by age 45, 86% of people meet the formal diagnostic criteria for a mental illness.*7

According to the Australian Institute of Criminology, Cannabis law enforcement costs the Australian community well in excess of \$300 million per year (about three-quarters of the total cost of illegal drug enforcement). The enforcement of laws relating to cannabis can have an impact on future employment, education and travel prospects of thousands of young Australians. *8

With legal use of Cannabis we could:

- save hundreds of millions of dollars in enforcement
- prevent young people entering the criminal system and ruining their chances of being an upstanding citizen
- support people with education
- tax the businesses
- help many people who are scared to use such medication due to the potential of losing their drivers license

We could increase safety concerns about drug driving by bringing in a physical ability test. Currently cannabis maybe detected in the blood system up to 90 days* 9, despite NSW police advising it is only 12 hours. The science is not settled*10 as the metabolism varies, therefore having a law based around such science makes no sense. Being affected by driving does make sense and there are other physical tests for this, known as "Field Impairment Tests" which are cheaper and more reliable. This would allow medical patients to be able to use this medicine that is obviously (read numbers above) helping a lot of Australian's with pain not covered in the same way by other medications.

- *1a <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0376871620301939?via%3Dihub>
- *1b <https://cannabispsychedelics.com.au/cannabis-safer-than-water/>
- *1c <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425742/#>
- *1d <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK425742/#>
- *2 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-04-09/medicinal-cannabis-imported-not-tested-patient-health-at-risk/103673412>
- *3 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol-other-drug-treatment-services/cannabis-use-trends-and-availability-in-australia/contents/cannabis-use>
- *4 [https://www.finder.com.au/cars/car-statistics#:~:text=There%20are%20an%20estimated%2021.2,as%20passenger%20vehicles%20\(cars\).](https://www.finder.com.au/cars/car-statistics#:~:text=There%20are%20an%20estimated%2021.2,as%20passenger%20vehicles%20(cars).)
- *5 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia/contents/drug-types/cannabis>
- *6 <https://courses.cannabispsychedelics.com.au/joinus>
- *7 <https://www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/clinical/antidepressant-withdrawal-the-hidden-danger>
- *7 [https://www.lifeline.org.au/resources/data-and-statistics/#:~:text=75%25%20of%20those%20who%20take,44%20\(AIHW%2C%202022a\).](https://www.lifeline.org.au/resources/data-and-statistics/#:~:text=75%25%20of%20those%20who%20take,44%20(AIHW%2C%202022a).)
- *8 <https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/tandi048.pdf>
- *9 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2782342/>
- *10 <https://honahlee.com.au/articles/cannabis-stay-in-system/>