

**Submission
No 61**

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

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I have been a cannabis user for 30 years. Now I am prescribed it medically. In that time I have completed a first class honours degree, held down full time jobs in ASX listed companies and worked internationally. I have never had a bad reaction, a problem or cost associated with it - apart from stress caused by it's illegality.

Despite my contribution to society I am made to feel like a criminal for a personal recreational activity that brings me enormous joy, comfort and benefit.

Cannabis is a naturally occurring substance that helps people explore the very essence of life - friendship, creativity, community. It is a force for good and it is time to move with the times. As we see around the world, old ideas of prohibition are on the way out.

Society and government needs to trust its citizens to create an effective political ecosystem. We need freedom to, not freedom from - because those are the only real freedoms we have!