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

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Hi there,

Cannabis, unlike many legal recreational substances available to us, has health benefits and uses in medicine that have stood the test of scientific rigor. This isn't to say it is harmless, nor is it for everyone. But if certain legal substances such as tobacco (which should be for no-one) and alcohol can be made readily available, it makes sense that cannabis should be allowed as a recreational alternative.

I am personally not a cannabis user, but have been previously in my life. I think one of the most positive outcomes from this decision would be that it could be a way to significantly progress the drug legalization debate here in Australia. Prohibition has been shown only to increase the isolation and criminalization of drug addicts. If the general public is allowed to see the benign affects of drugs such as cannabis, the discussion for further legalization or decriminalization can start from there. Which I believe is an important discussion to have, but a discussion for another day (hopefully not too far in the future).

Again, tobacco and alcohol are by far some of the most dangerous and addictive substances around, and they happen to be legal. They are responsible for millions of deaths. Marijuana hasn't been found to be the direct cause of any deaths (as far as I'm aware, regardless, it is far, far safter on a broad level), I can attest on a personal level, quitting cannabis wasn't a particularly difficult process for me, and I still have an occasional drag and don't feel temptation at all to start smoking again when I do so.

One last point, cannabis will be consumed regardless of its legality. Taxation of cannabis can funnel money into government coffers - and it's quality can be assured for consumers, perhaps with different levels of strength. So a joint of a weaker strain could be seen as a viable alternative to an "afternoon beer" or something like that.