

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am the parent of an adult child with debilitating anxiety and lumpy mental health. She recently obtained her first prescription for medical cannabis and it has been a game changer for her capacity to manage her anxiety and her overall well being. Had she not been able to secure a prescription, I have no doubt that she would have sought out alternative options to buy cannabis from unreliable and illegal providers, with no certainty as to the quality and dosage of what she was buying. And she would have had to do it covertly, with the ever-present fear of being caught and potentially charged by the police. This would have contributed profoundly to her anxiety, with a net negative impact on her mental health and well being overall. The last thing she would have wanted to do was break the law, yet that's the situation that many (often young) people find themselves in and it shouldn't be the case in a progressive and modern society. I was not always of this view, but I have come around and am now in favour of legalising cannabis because I believe there would be a net benefit overall, and would hope that any concerns (many of which are likely out of date and not in keeping with the values of a progressive society) could be managed with quality policies and processes. I am not a user of cannabis but I appreciate that for many people, it is a savour when it comes to pain management and also for relaxation and recreation. We have a particular mindset at the moment that is informed by the past, and needs to progress and align with modern values. We especially need to minimise the harm on those people most affected by the criminalisation of cannabis, those who are forced to access it through dubious means with all the added stress, fear and harm that goes with that. I think NSW can do better.