

Submission
No 67

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am a cannabis addict, it has been 6 months since I last used cannabis. I became a daily user since I was 18 and quit when I turned 30. The detox period was incredibly painful. I had believed many myths about weed, such as that it was non habit forming, has no ill effects and could even be used to treat depression and anxiety. It turned out to be the opposite to me. When I was 20 I suffered a psychotic episode yet continued to use.

However, I understand that my experience is not the same as others. Just as some people are able to drink alcohol in moderation, alcoholics struggle and suffer terrible consequences as a result. This does not mean that alcohol in itself is dangerous, just that it is not right for alcoholics. I don't believe cannabis is right for me but do not begrudge others their choice to use.

I believe legalising cannabis will not only reduce crime but also encourage scientific and medical studies into the benefits and harms of cannabis. People will be able understand the real risks without the myths that proliferate unchecked due to its stigma. I also believe regulation will encourage more responsible and healthier use ie. edibles over smoking. Most lung doctors believe the only thing that should go into the lungs is air and cannabis smoke can contain up to 4 times the carbon monoxide than tobacco smoke.

Legalisation will put Australia in line with other developed countries such as the US, where cannabis is legal into more than 25 states and may soon be rescheduled as a drug class at a federal level. I hope this parliament has the courage to do the right thing on this issue and stop creating criminals out of ordinary Australians for enjoying a bit of cannabis in an otherwise responsible fashion