

Submission
No 68

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 10 May 2024

Partially
Confidential

Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie St
Sydney 2000

10th May 2024.

Reference: Legalising Cannabis

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the possible legalisation of cannabis in NSW.

I write in support of its legalisation.

I've been an infrequent recreational consumer of cannabis since my 20s, and I've recently entered the realm of the retired, after a long and successful career in Telecommunications and Information Technology.

I can report the occasional joint or baked product has neither driven me to harder drugs, nor had any adverse personal effect on my life. You will be in receipt of medical evidence reassuring you that it's not a drug of addiction, and nor does its consumption result in anything like the sorts of adverse effects brought on by alcohol.

Many other jurisdictions – both within Australia and overseas – are well ahead of NSW in legalising cannabis. I'm sure you'll be referencing the impact on these cities, states and countries and noting that the metaphoric sky hasn't fallen in, as I'm sure some of the objectors will be foreshadowing.

If cannabis is a "gateway drug" (as is so often claimed), it's not the drug itself that's the issue here, but the incarceration of otherwise innocent people along with much worse offenders. Here's where the problem lies, not in people getting stoned in a social environment. We've been doing it wrong for generations, ruining lives and wasting ludicrous amounts of public money in the process.

Legalising cannabis will unlock the use of cannabis products in medicine and healthcare, removing the legal obstacles that currently put health practitioners and patients on the wrong side of the law when accessing proven, successful treatments.

Legalising cannabis will also save otherwise law-abiding citizens from the threat of a criminal record and the resulting life-long stain. A friend of mine has recently retired from a career as a university lecturer, and his “criminal record” for possession of marijuana poses a significant and unnecessary burden on him when he travels, especially to the USA.

Prohibition has proven itself a poor deterrent for drug consumption. Rather than criminalise the act, the modern practice of “harm reduction” removes the criminal stigma, opening the door to discussions about the motives for use and healthier outcomes.

A lot has changed in the world since the days cannabis was initially prohibited. I hope you will be in receipt of sufficient evidence – medical, social and personal – to support its legalisation in New South Wales.

Yours sincerely,