

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 14 May 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear Committee,

I am writing to you to express my thoughts on the current legal status of cannabis in NSW (and Australia in general). It is my belief that the current illegal status of cannabis is wrong and should be revised to allow personal use of cannabis.

I have this view on cannabis as I think the illegal status is part of the reason for the health concerns around cannabis, the following are my main concerns:

- currently there is no regulation on the quality or potency of cannabis.
- there is no control over who has access meaning teenagers can get it quite easy, and the idea of it being taboo is alluring to the teenage mind.
- people who may be suffering from psychosis or other health impacts are not likely to receive the help they need as the person supplying the drugs is not trained to recognise the signs of these issues and it being illegal may prevent someone with paranoia from seeking help.
- almost all acts of violence (domestic/family, or out on a night out) likely have alcohol involved, very few times would someone who has enjoyed a joint going to get up and punch people.

I think it is wrong to criminalise a plant, and people who use it. I think a regulated market would mitigate the risks and open up police funding for more important things and the added revenue would allow health services to better help anyone struggling with addiction or health impacts from cannabis (and likely other drugs). I also believe that random urine testing at work should be banned, urine testing doesn't show impairment, but could show cannabis from days to weeks prior, swab tests should become the norm for sites who want to eliminate the potential of people turning up to work impaired.

For the above reasons, cannabis should be made legal and regulated in a safe manner (similar to alcohol).