

**Submission  
No 84**

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

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I use legal medicinal cannabis to ease symptoms of depression, severe anxiety, and insomnia and our ill-informed laws mean that even if I haven't used cannabis for days, I may lose my licence during an RDT because metabolites are detectable in my saliva long after the impairing effects of cannabis have worn off.

If it weren't for cannabis I would have to take powerful benzodiazapine drugs or "z-drugs" such as Zopiclone which leave me drowsy for up to 48 hours after taking them, yet even if I was to take a massive dose of these drugs then immediately drive I would not be breaking the law as these drugs are not detected in an RDT, despite their incredibly strong effects and long half life.

As someone with a health science degree, and having extensive experience with various medications for anxiety and insomnia, I know that benzodiazapines and z-drugs will impair my ability to drive safely to a higher degree and for a longer time compared to cannabis, yet I'm forced to take these powerful, legal drugs if I anticipate the need to drive over the next 4 or 5 days or otherwise risk my licence if minute trace amounts of cannabinoids are detected in my saliva long after cannabis effects have worn off.

We have come a long way with modernising our policies towards medicinal cannabis use and it's time we did away with testing for such minute traces of cannabinoids in motorists. Let's keep our laws fair for all individuals who use prescribed medications as let's face it, there is an array of vastly more powerful drugs that are legal to drive whilst under the influence of.