

Submission  
No 85

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

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Women were afforded voting rights and have made much ground in gender equality today. It is no longer a crime to be gay. Same sex couples have the right to marriage. Aboriginals won recognition and are counted in the census, given land rights and have greater equality than the recent past. Laws change, generally for the better.

The next step in broader social equality and justice is to legalise cannabis and to end the war on australians who use drugs other than legal alcohol, tobacco and coffee.

Humans have been using Cannabis for thousands of years, in medicine, spiritual/religious pursuit, for relaxation, for inspiration among other reasons. The reason why cannabis was banned around the world in the first place, 1930's America, was racist and economic and had nothing to do with any so called harms invented by those responsible. We were lied to and have since been lied to by the police, politicians, people in power and authority and of influence and many in the medical community.

Since the 1930's, lies, misinformation, half truths, hysteria and negative propaganda have been the story of Cannabis...the previous thousands of years of medicine, culture, religion and spirituality has and had been ignored, rejected, wiped from history.

It is time to right an historical wrong. Report after report done on Cannabis has shown it to be safer than alcohol...far safer. And medical review after medical review from the british in India and the medical community of 1930's America has said that cultivating and consuming Cannabis should not be a criminal offence and that Cannabis was safe to use.

Not only is the criminalisation of cannabis a crime against humanity, criminalisation empowers organised crime, makes criminals of our youth and adults who are otherwise ordinary law abiding citizens. Criminalisation results in zero quality control, with the very real possibility oh harmful substances being mixed with the herb, anything from insect repellent to ice and heroin.

But of course you should know this by now.

No longer should a Cannabis consumer feel any guilt or shame for consuming weed, ganja, grass, nor should they feel fear or paranoia regarding the police. Will they be found out? Will they lose their job, their children, their money, their friendships, their dignity and pride? All because of a/the law, and nothing to day with the effects of the herb itself.

I can ride a skateboard or a bike while "high". I can read, watch a movie, go to a play, make love, laugh, go for a bush walk or hike, run, play sport. Can I do these things while drunk on alcohol? Likely not.

Just as there was opposition to women gaining the vote and equal rights, but nothing really to fear. Just as their was opposition to aboriginals being afforded equal rights and recognition, but nothing to really fear, just as their was opposition to same sex couples gaining marriage equality, but

nothing really to fear. So it is time to legalise Cannabis despite the opposition...because there is nothing to fear, only more freedom for a still marginalised and suppressed section of society.

Full legalisation of Cannabis asap. I want to buy it from the retailer, not have to grow it. And I want variety, in strength and strain be it raw or ingestible .And make it cheap...becuase it is cheap to grow you know, and good for the environment too unlike alcohol.

Legalise Cannabis please,

thank you for considering this submission.

Andrew Ongley