

Submission
No 89

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

Name: Sophie Watkins

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My name is Sophie, and I am a passionate advocate for the legalisation of cannabis in Australia. As a cannabis ceremony facilitator and a medicinal cannabis user, I have seen firsthand the transformative power of this plant in promoting healing and well-being.

I use cannabis primarily for medicinal purposes. After experiencing chronic pain and anxiety for years, I turned to cannabis as a natural alternative to pharmaceutical medications. Cannabis has been instrumental in managing my symptoms, providing relief without the harmful side effects often associated with traditional treatments. Whether through smoking, vaping, or consuming edibles, cannabis has become an integral part of my daily wellness routine.

In my role as a cannabis ceremony facilitator, I have witnessed the profound impact cannabis can have on individuals seeking healing and spiritual growth. Through guided ceremonies, I create a safe and supportive space for participants to explore their relationship with cannabis and themselves. Many attendees come seeking relief from physical pain, emotional trauma, or simply a deeper connection to their inner selves. Cannabis helps facilitate this process, allowing participants to experience profound insights, emotional release, and a sense of connection with the world around them.

My personal experience with cannabis use has been overwhelmingly positive. Not only has it provided me with relief from physical and mental ailments, but it has also opened doors to personal growth and spiritual awakening. I have found cannabis to be a gentle yet powerful ally on my journey towards healing and self-discovery.

It's disheartening to see the government continue to perpetuate outdated stereotypes and misinformation about cannabis. No one should be treated like a criminal for seeking relief from pain or enjoying the benefits of this plant with friends. The legalisation of cannabis is long overdue, and it's time for Australia to join the ranks of progressive nations that recognise the medicinal and recreational benefits of cannabis.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. I urge the NSW Parliament to take bold action and legalise cannabis for the benefit of all Australians.

Sincerely,

Sophie