

**Submission
No 91**

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

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Cannabis

Cannabis has played a significant role in my life, and as I reflect on it now, it's tempting to attribute missed opportunities for career advancement to its influence. However, the responsibility doesn't lie with cannabis itself, THC, indica, or sativa. Instead, it's the result of a failed prohibition that has been ongoing for as long as I can recall.

Cannabis has played a significant role in my life, and as I reflect on it now, it's tempting to attribute missed opportunities for career advancement to its influence. However, the responsibility doesn't lie with cannabis itself, THC, indica, or sativa. Instead, it's the result of a failed prohibition that has been ongoing for as long as I can recall.

Prohibition compels individuals to associate with undesirable characters, putting themselves at risk to obtain their illicit medication from the black market. This exposure often leads to encounters with harder substances and associations with individuals with criminal records. We understand through the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) theory that people tend to adopt the behaviors and characteristics of those they surround themselves with.

It's evident that alcohol exerts a detrimental influence on various aspects of Australian society, ranging from road accidents to incidents of domestic violence. I genuinely believe that if the roles of alcohol and cannabis were reversed, we would see improvements in both of these areas.

It's rather peculiar that Australia has implemented segregated cannabis laws, particularly evident in the ACT where, during a dubious period amid the COVID pandemic, cannabis has been decriminalised.

Legislation which appear to allow the elites to grow up to two cannabis plants, "but not the rest of the peasants in the land"

Recently, I lost my teaching career because I was prescribed medical cannabis, despite having a fulfilling job at a special education school with 16 students who adored me and enjoyed coming to class every day. Ironically.

I now find myself back in the hospitality gaming industry, which addiction is one of the most detrimental to the people of NSW, it is bizarre that it's not only legal but encouraged to blow your life savings.

I'm optimistic that the upcoming elections in NSW will reflect the growing support for cannabis legalization among constituents, leading to potential change in the government's stance.

The government's top priority should be upholding the rule of law and permitting medical cannabis patients to drive. It's troubling that meth addicts or benzodiazepine patients can receive exemptions for their dangerous behavior on the roads. The Minister for Roads acknowledged that

THC alone isn't solely responsible for accidents and for there to be further research to detriment the cause of recent fatalities on NSW roads.

I believe the government has begun to recognize the potential of the hemp industry and acknowledges the missed opportunities due to outdated legislation. It's plausible they'll have a similar perspective on the cannabis industry in a decade.

Governments, law enforcement, and judicial systems globally grapple with the fact that cannabis, much like “mateship”, is deeply ingrained in various individuals' cultures. It fosters unity rather than exclusion.

Cannabis prohibition emerged around the same time as the enforcement of the White Australia Policy continued in the 1960s. Ask yourself, why are we legislating laws which are clearly outdated.

Should magistrates and judges neglect their responsibility to consider public sentiment regarding cannabis when issuing decisions related to cannabis?

Is it truly in line with societal desires to see individuals caught with cannabis face arrest and imprisonment alongside murderers and rapists? I don't think so.