

**Submission  
No 100**

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

**Name:** Mr Jim Billington

**Date Received:** 16 May 2024

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To NSW Parliament

I'm Jim Billington, and way back in 1975 I started the Cannabis Research Foundation of Australia with the specific aim to bring together world-leading research and findings of cannabis for health purposes. These documents were shared with Australia's federal Health Dept who largely ignored them, however, we held four national conferences between 1975-1978 at Australian Universities where leading Doctors and health professionals spoke in support of cannabis for its medicinal properties and highlighted that its effects were less harmful than drugs such as alcohol and nicotine.

Here we are almost fifty years later and still debating legalising growing cannabis for personal use and the laws are still treating its consumption as a crime not a health choice. We proposed the introduction of Cannabis Control Board back in '75 and I believe it still has many worthwhile elements which could be implemented to create a respond regulated cannabis market — one that's not controlled by the government, but should be comprised of ethical cannabis growers and professionals with long-standing industry roots.

The Cannabis Control Board would be a preferable option to the Black Market and responsible for issuing licenses for the following to open up opportunities for Australian producers and boutique growers in a regulated cannabis market:

Cultivation. Harvesting. Processing. Manufacturing. Distribution. Regulate branding, labelling and advertising with a more practical and less restrictive approach to better inform and educate patients, and allow more freedom of choice.

Why does the TGA have a stranglehold over all the aspects of regulating the cannabis market, and why are we importing so much medicine from Canada instead of nurturing the local market?

Under the current system exploitation is rife. I've seen Dispensaries advertising for Doctors to manage prescriptions on a salary of \$300,000pa at their Clinics selling their products for up to \$800. That's deplorable exploitation.

Medicinal cannabis products are not labelled with the THC content nor the product's terroir. The CCB would be responsible to maintain the integrity of full disclosure on labels of all products comparable with the Wine Industry.

Regarding driving under the influence of THC, the testing needs to be equivalent to DUI with Alcohol 0.05. THC can remain in the bloodstream up to five days but low dosage does not impair driving skills. Therefore, the current RDT laws and their enforcement has created a completely ridiculous and discriminatory situation for patients using prescribed medicine.

The expungement of Cannabis convictions and repatriation for associated damages to health and careers requires discussion and a resolution to provide for a more fair Australian society.

Your sincerely,  
Jim Billington