

Submission
No 126

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 May 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear Honorable Members of Parliament,

Thanking you for the opportunity to put forward a submission.

The terms of reference give me confidence that the inquiry is on the right-track.

I will list considerations/concerns based upon my life experiences and exposure to drug markets over several decades.

Financial/Economic Context

Bastiat authored *That Which Is Seen, and That Which Is Not Seen*. Which can more generally be understood within the framework of accounting standards double-entry book-keeping. With cannabis illegal, the flow of funds is consumer to dealer, and where the dealer will use the full proceeds to their sole-benefit, fast-cars fast-women... That illegal flow also will likely involve money laundering. A regulated drug market would mean that there is a different flow of funds, and if that is government regulated it has taxation, and the ability to direct taxation to services such as drug-education programs, drug addiction programs, and the like.

Markets, Black / Grey / Red

Whilst cannabis remains illegal it supports criminality within all of illegal markets, Black (sales), Grey (money-laundering/non-violent), Red (violent - guns to defend turf, enforcers collecting debts...). It exposes consumers that may be law abiding besides their drug usage to vectors within the criminal community. The act of going to a dealer's premises to purchase drugs means interaction with criminal element, and there is always a possibility of armed robberies since dealers are known to have money and product.

Health

Having drug education programs, which could be funded through legal sales, could help in people better understanding usage and becoming aware of problematic habits. And having drug rehabilitation/counselling services, again funded through legal sales, could be extremely helpful. Illegality means that there is likely reservation to come forward and admit problems, removing the context of prosecution would be very good.

Driving

To highlight the problems with driving laws. A common scenario, finish work Friday afternoon, go for alcoholic drinks, which might end up being many drinks up to midnight, cab home, poor quality sleep, get up Saturday morning to do day's business tired and sleepless and drive, as long as you result in under 0.05 you are 'good'. By contrast, finish work Friday, go home to family, have a joint, eat a good dinner, watch a movie, have a good eight hours sleep, get up in the morning and drive, if you are drug driving tested you will likely get pinged and have a criminal charge for drug driving when you well slept and (relatively) sober. There needs to be a better system to judge capacity to drive in the moment.

Employment

Criminal charges can greatly affect employment in some sectors. Do I risk smoking a joint on Friday night and enjoying a good movie and good sleep and then getting pinged for drug driving on Saturday/Sunday? A criminal charge might mean loss of employment, or loss of future employment prospects. I think there must be some middle ground where responsible people are able to do their thing without such serious repercussions.

Thanking the Honorable Members of Parliament for bringing forward this committee and providing the opportunity to make a submission.

Sincerely yours,