

Submission
No 127

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 May 2024

Partially
Confidential

Submission: Inquiry Into The Impact of The Regulatory Framework For Cannabis in New South Wales

Overview

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important inquiry.

Reviewing the regulatory framework for Cannabis in NSW is very important.

I have PTSD from child sexual assault when I was seven years old. I have struggled my whole life to function like a normal person. PTSD causes recurring flashbacks of the crime and nightmares. I am haunted by memories. Over the past thirty years I have been prescribed many different antidepressants and medications to treat PTSD with no success at all. I had virtually reached the point where I thought I would never be able to work or function normally again.

I applied for medicinal cannabis in 2018 and was prescribed oil for PTSD and then later on also flower. This has changed my life. I can now function in society. I now have a full time job and the ability to make plans.

Cannabis needs to be the first option for PTSD not the last. I am now dependent on three different types of antidepressants which don't help with my PTSD and are expensive as they are not on the PBS.

Cannabis is the only thing, in my 42 years of experience with PTSD, that helps and stops all nightmares, flashbacks and intrusive thoughts.

I have never driven a car because I use cannabis. As a regular medicinal user, cannabis does not impair me like other people. People can drive with heroin in their system, and there are no tests to pick that up or other opioids which are much more dangerous to driving skills.

Everyone should be able to make a choice about what they put into their bodies.

Financial Cost of Cannabis Prohibition

Those who are sick and unable to work, or on a pension are unable to pay for expensive medicinal cannabis and it's pretty ridiculous when it can be grown in your own backyard, just like we grow our veges and our herbs.

2a. Victims of Crime Can't Access Medicinal Cannabis

I am a registered NSW Victim of Crime (VOC): 229396

VOC approved reimbursement payments for my prescription medications to treat depression and PTSD. I take three different medications for depression that cost \$120 per month and VOC reimburse me for the costs. These prescription medications are for depression and have no effect on the trauma of PTSD which is a separate condition.

In 2020 I was prescribed medicinal cannabis by a doctor for PTSD and even though it was very expensive at \$360 for a small bottle of oil I bought some and started using it. Within days I was up out of bed and feeling alot better.

When I put in my claim to get reimbursement from Victims of Crime (VOC) it was declined and they stated "I have previously approved the payment of prescription medication for and I would consider this request to be an alternative and complementary therapy". (Please see attached letter to me from VOC).

Cannabis is the only treatment option that works for PTSD and I've tried them all. Victims of Crime need to recognise that medicinal cannabis treats PTSD, they need to reimburse for this medical expense just like pharmaceutical ones.

The laws around cannabis use need to be changed now to bring us in line with the rest of the world who have already legalised cannabis and are aware of the benefits.

Thank you