

Submission  
No 131

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Submission to: Inquiry into impact of the regulatory framework for cannabis in New South Wales.

Date: 16 May 2024

I wish to address just a few points.

(d) The Impact on Personal Health can be phenomenal and devastating. Sometimes, incalculable. To realise how surgeons have been chopping into the brains of refractory epileptics trying to discover which areas can be destroyed to control endless cycles of seizures, when in many cases all that is needed is a protocol of appropriate cannabinoids from cannabis oil, makes one wonder how much longer are we destined to be stuck in almost-Dickensian 1900's?

My father died of a brain tumor. At the time, we were led to believe the only hope lay in devastating surgery and quality-of-life destroying chemotherapy. Only years later did I learn that these would at best delay the inevitable by a few months, and that the only product offering long term remission is cannabis oil, and lots of it. It's still not available in NSW in the heavy doses needed to treat brain tumors, and even if it were, at current prices, the oil would remain unaffordable. But if patients were able to grow their own, then remission would be within reach and not require that they sell the home in order to afford life-saving medication.

My mother suffered from degeneration of the spine caused by medication for another condition, and she also suffered neuropathic leg pain caused by nerve damage from "brittle diabetes". Over a period of 7 or 8 months we tried all pain medications that her doctor (and my googling) could come up with, from Norspan patches, through to Palexia, and so on, finally to Lyrica. None did anything to ease her pain. She was largely confined to her home, owing to agonising pain on standing or walking. In desperation, I suggested we try cannabis oil with CBD & THC. Her GP was as unhelpful as he could be—he said he knew nothing about cannabis (and obviously wasn't motivated to bother researching it, even for a loyal patient). I had another doctor refer my mother to a cannabis clinic, and having researched what was needed, I requested a prescription for specific products. I introduced it to my mother on a low starting dose, and found I never needed to increase it. After suffering debilitating pain that dominated her life for decades, only when in her 90s was she at last able to get about using a wheeled walker—and marvel at having no pain. It is criminal that the government vendetta against a medicinal herb condemned her to suffer for over half her life, when it was needless, and effective treatment was within grasp. She could have had cannabis plants growing in her organic summer garden, along with corn and tomatoes, and acquired her own medicine at an affordable zero cost.

(c) The Financial Cost to the Economy must be mind-boggling. I intend here doing nothing more than mention the drain on resources of policing and punishing. My broader concern is the outflow of Australian dollars channelled directly into the pockets of foreign pharmaceutical giants, all thanks to the vendetta against a medicinal herb that arguably has never killed a single person. Whereas Australians could be medicating with low cost locally-produced medications based on sustainably-farmed cannabis, we are instead buying pharmaceutical products (many with horrendous side-effects) from overseas to supply the big-money industries of cancer and pain. With our clean green reputation, and endless sunshine, Australia could be supplying half the world

with medicinal cannabis products, instead here we are importing them from Canada, while disallowing our own citizens to grow what they need for better health.

I wish the committee well in its deliberations, and thank you for the opportunity to make my points.

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