

Submission  
No 195

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Millions of NSW citizens use or have used cannabis illegally, often for self medication purposes, potentially risking a criminal record and all the damage that can cause somebody living an otherwise blameless life. A relative of mine was unemployed for many years after a minor conviction. I know other users who weren't caught, and went on to become upstanding and respected members of the community. Clearly, the conviction does the damage. Most recreational cannabis users I know are ordinary people, holding down ordinary jobs, parenting ordinary families, living ordinary lives. They are not the drug crazed freaks or societal menace the media or police like to portray. None deserve to be punished for using cannabis.

The sky hasn't fallen anywhere personal use of cannabis has been legalised.

Marginalised members of society are more likely to be charged with cannabis offences. Legalisation reduces the opportunity for inappropriate policing or corrupt activities. Police benefit by shifting anti-cannabis resources to more pressing crimes of concern to the public. Legalisation removes criminal activity from cannabis use.

Legalisation could provide a financial windfall to the state and Australia. Illegal sales don't generate taxes or duties. Legal sales do.