

Submission
No 263

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I'm a 62-year-old grandmother who works in the criminal justice sector. I was a regular user of cannabis for most of my adult life. Although I now choose not to consume any alcohol or drugs it seems completely insane to me that I and almost every single person that I know would be considered a criminal for using cannabis at some point in their life. I work in the AOD space and from my own personal experience and from research it is clear that alcohol is a much more dangerous drug and yet it is legal and in fact it's use is encouraged at every turn in our society - even by our politicians. I would like to see fair drug laws that tell us about the harms of all AOD (Including alcohol) but that it should not be a criminal offence for people who choose to use cannabis. We should be approaching the use of all AOD on a harm reduction basis. We need to be real and honest about the harms of AOD, but approached from a health basis and not a legal/criminal basis. We know that sending people to prison is NOT a solution to AOD use and in fact it only serves to further criminalise people.