

**Submission
No 304**

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

Name: Mr Antony Zbik

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The impact of the cannabis laws on me has basically turned me into a prisoner inside my own home. As a full time musician I used to travel all across NSW in my car to get to gigs, the cannabis driving laws have basically put an end to my music career forcing me to become dependent on Centrelink DSP and my elderly parents can't drive me to gigs every weekend. If I could be doing what I love doing I'd be doing it but I must follow the law. The Year DEFQON1 music festival was shut down by Gladys Berejiklian I lost my best dream job I only just got after 8 years of volunteering with them. As usual I had to bite the bullet and follow the law, to top it off then Driving on medical Cannabis gets made illegal cutting me off from employment further. What I don't understand is that during the 2016 Medical Cannabis Trials at Cumberland Hospital in North Parramatta they gave me an exemption card that allowed me to drive, I'd flash it to the police at RDT's and they'd let me pass without needing to be tested, I used this twice at roadside tests. I was in full hope that a system like this would continue but to my shock at the end of the trial I was told I couldn't drive again. they also handed me a script for fentanyl as they couldn't give me a script to continue getting these trial products. That script of fentanyl lead me to prescription opiate dependence which took over my life, I'd spend weeks in bed which wasn't helping me at all in 2019 I had an accidental overdose which put me in hospital and I found out the hard way that I'm allergic to naloxone which resulted in me being rendered unconscious. It was after this I decided I must quit this awful prescription opiate. It took me 3 months to quit an 8 pill per day prescription. I got my official medical cannabis prescription in 2020 which has seen me get my life back in order, I'm writing better music and I'm getting politically active, but it would help a lot if I could drive a car again so I can get back out into the music community and to the places I've represented politically.

As you might be aware Mobility Scooters can be driven as long as the driver is not exhibiting signs of intoxication, so this has become my only means of transport. as it doesn't have the range of a car I still cannot get myself to music gigs.

I suffer from chronic pain and left sided weakness from a spinal injury, Medical cannabis also helps me control tremors from the side effects of 22 years of ADHD medications (dexamphetamine) as well as the ADHD/ASD

This medication has given my life meaning again and I can see a bright future that's currently out of grasp because of the Cannabis Laws. Especially with discrimination.

I broke my leg last year and whilst in hospital I didn't medicate for 3 days and my symptoms and tremors started coming back, The Doctors in Westmead Hospital started accusing me of Overdosing on Cannabis when I clearly hadn't had it. I also had the head Dr accused me of abusing cannabis he cut my stay short avoiding assessing my spinal injury and now the hospital is rejecting all my referrals from my GP to get my spinal injury assessed. Also being admitted to Ryde Hospital in the past they checked in my medication but wouldn't administer it to me when I needed it to stop my tremors. They waited until I had breathing difficulties from the tremors to check out my medications which the prescription says I need it by a certain time which they fully ignored.

We need dedicated medical cannabis rooms in Hospitals where patients can check their medications in and gain access to them and use them when the patient needs them instead of waiting for approval from a head doctor which may take hours, and in that time more injuries can be caused to the patients due to the lack of freedom to act as needed in the system. Medical episodes don't wait for anyone. If a patient knows they can avoid the nasty side effects of their

condition we shouldn't be making them go through it just to administer the medication that treats it.