

Submission
No 315

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Cannabis Legislation

Introduction

I am writing to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into cannabis legislation to advocate for the reform of cannabis laws in New South Wales. Current laws surrounding the cultivation and possession of cannabis are outdated and do not reflect contemporary understanding of the substance's benefits and societal impacts. It is imperative that we re-evaluate these laws to allow for the personal cultivation of a small number of cannabis plants for recreational use and to eliminate criminal convictions associated with such activities.

Outdated Nature of Current Laws

The existing cannabis prohibition laws were instituted decades ago, during a time when the understanding of cannabis and its effects was limited and often clouded by misinformation. Today, substantial research indicates that cannabis can be used responsibly and safely by adults, and its therapeutic benefits are widely recognized. The ongoing criminalization of cannabis users is an outdated policy that fails to align with modern science and societal values.

Benefits of Cannabis Legalization

- 1. Medical and Therapeutic Uses:** Cannabis has been shown to offer significant relief for various medical conditions, including chronic pain, anxiety, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis. Legalizing cannabis would facilitate greater access for patients in need and reduce the stigma associated with its use.
- 2. Economic Benefits:** Legalizing cannabis could stimulate the economy through the creation of new jobs in cultivation, distribution, and retail. Additionally, tax revenue generated from legal cannabis sales could be allocated to public services such as healthcare and education.
- 3. Reduction in Crime and Judicial Costs:** Prohibiting cannabis contributes to unnecessary legal proceedings and incarcerations, burdening the judicial system and law enforcement agencies. Decriminalizing the cultivation and possession of small amounts of cannabis would free up resources to address more serious crimes.

Personal Cultivation and Responsible Use

Allowing individuals to grow a small number of cannabis plants for personal use is a practical and sensible approach. This policy respects personal freedoms and aligns with the practices of several progressive jurisdictions worldwide. By setting clear guidelines on the number of plants allowed for personal cultivation, we can ensure responsible use while minimizing potential abuse.

Social Justice and Equity

Current cannabis laws disproportionately affect marginalized communities, leading to higher rates of incarceration and long-term negative impacts on individuals' lives. Reforming these laws would promote social justice and reduce the disparities caused by the criminalization of cannabis.

Conclusion

In light of the evidence supporting the benefits of cannabis and the drawbacks of its prohibition, it is clear that NSW's cannabis laws need reform. I urge the Inquiry to consider the following recommendations:

- Legalise the cultivation and possession of cannabis for personal use.
- Implement a regulatory framework to ensure the responsible use.
- Use tax revenue from legal cannabis sales to fund public health and education initiatives.
- Promote social justice by addressing the disproportionate impact of current cannabis laws on people that are attempting to self medicate.

By updating our cannabis legislation, we can create a more just, economically beneficial, and health-conscious society. Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,