

Submission
No 318

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I had a workplace accident when I was in my early 20s, resulting most notably in nerve damage in my lower back. It required almost 5 months of physio to correct to a point I could function without opiates. Even so, the physio at the time told me this would be a lifelong issue, not easily dealt with. The end result is a dull pain in my lower back, that if left unchecked gradually works its way down my legs until I can't walk. The only way to correct it at the time was physio again.

Medicinal cannabis has been a god send - while it doesn't really stop the pain in itself, it allows my mind to block it out, allowing me to correctly do the maintenance stretches my physio had taught me and allowing me to function day to day.

Prior to it, my GP gave me the choice of Endone or Lyrica. I am simply not willing to try Lyrica due to the side effects. My experience with Endone when the accident first happened has me steering away from that. Before medicinal cannabis I used to do physio when I could afford it, but used mainly alcohol to sleep, causing its own issues.

Personally I think doctors should be provided with the knowledge to at least have an understanding of medicinal cannabis, either through anecdotal or studied evidence. The lack of knowledgeable local GPs drives most people to cannabis clinics which I believe have a multitude of issues of their own.