

Submission
No 320

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

At the start of the pandemic, whilst living overseas, at age 37 I suffered a bad case of shingles. It left me with extreme constant pain in my face, lost 20% of my vision. I have on-going neuralgia in a nerve on my face. Trigeminal neuralgia is often referred to as "the suicide disease" due to how many people take their life due to it.

I was out of work for 2 years. For the last four years I have had to take a drug, amitriptyline, that negatively affects my mood, ability to focus, and memory recollection. It is an old anti-depressant. It is very broad spectrum, affecting many parts of the brain. So much so that it is no longer prescribed for depression. It does however reduce nerve pain somewhat, and despite all the other side effects, I had no choice but to take it, as no other medication worked.

In the last 6 months I have been prescribed medical cannabis. With the help of my doctor, I have been able to slowly ween myself off amitriptyline. I finally feel like my old self, which I haven't known for over four years, has returned. Medical cannabis has been not just life changing, but life restoring, giving me back the life I had lost years ago.

Now that I'm back in Australia I'm grateful I can continue to be prescribed medication cannabis. However unlike when I lived in Europe, I have fear that I may be "caught" driving with it in my system when driving. I would never drive under the influence of anything that would reduce my ability. Whether than be a drug (prescribed or otherwise), tiredness, or anger.

Please consider updating the legislation to treat medical cannabis like any other drug, and test for IMPAIRMENT. Not the presence of something my doctor as prescribed me.