

Submission
No 326

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 July 2024

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I am a 40 something (I forget) year old male who started a plumbing apprenticeship in 2021. I live with my parents and have 50/50 shared care with my son.

My parents have helped me with taking care of me and my son as an apprenticeship at my age isn't easy financially.

In January 2022 I got covid from a co-worker.

Since then I have been in constant pain, I have terrible brain fog, memory loss, I can barely walk to the toilet and have to sit just to urinate.

I have spent weeks at a time in bed because the pain is too much.

I have been through all my options of the local so called covid specialist, physio and many, many horrible medications with terrible side effects and zero pain relief that are still causing me issues and many holistic healing methods.

I have tried to get assisted suicide and I have tried to commit suicide. The pain is 24/7. It never takes a break.

The one and only thing that I have tried that gives me any kind of relief is medical cannabis.

It doesn't fix me completely, I still cannot work or go without pain, but I can have moments where I don't think about the pain and moments when my skin, joints and muscles are more relaxed than anything else has given me.

The cost of this medication is so high that I cannot afford what I need to get what I possibly could from it. There are Ointments, Capsules, and better quality flower that helps more with pain, but it is not affordable when you cannot work .

I have never previously tried cannabis prior to contracting covid so it was a learning curve and a lot of getting use to the smell and taste.

The new vape laws have made it extremely difficult to access parts, claim warranties and even buy the new better dry herb vaporizers that are more efficient and use less cannabis .

There is no reason for dry herb vaporizers to be held back from the public. It has just caused stress, panic and jobs.

It is easier to buy a bong than parts to keep your vaporizers going.

Without something being done to bring the price down or allow people to grow some at home. I will eventually have the only option left of ending this pain.

I had to work through the pandemic or I would have lost my job. I went to work and caught covid and now I have no job.

The government doesn't allow me access to any other covid specialist other than the one I have locally and she doesn't want to help me. She through her hands in the air and said she doesn't know what to do. She informed me to go to the health minister and become a voice for people who have long covid and cannot access treatment.

My health has only declined as time goes on. I could drive to my doctors appointments in the beginning and just push through the pain. I tried multiple times to go back to work and tafe, but I am now at the point where I can either lie on my bed or be reclined in my chair. I only shower every second day and I haven't been outside for months. I have no pressure support pads and my shower stool, recliner and bed all hurt when I sit/lie on them.

The one and only thing helping me through each day is the bit of relief I get when I have some medical cannabis.

About a month ago I got to try 75% THC Shatter and for the first time in almost a year I stood up while urinating. It was the best pain relief I have felt since January 2022. Recently it has been discontinued. Everything is so difficult and it seems like everything is only getting worse in Australia when other countries like Canada are benefiting from moving forward.

While typing this I realise it doesn't matter what my life is like to anyone else. It will only ever matter if it effects the people in control.