

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Matthew Wilkinson

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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I advocate for the medicinal and recreational use of marijuana in Victoria. I currently use marijuana to self medicate for chronic insomnia and chronic pain that I have spent over a decade of my 26 years of life trying to address/resolve. Using marijuana in place of several potentially strong and dangerous-in-combination sleeping pills and pain killers means I can continue to live a somewhat regular life with no adverse side effects or impacts that may come with these medications. I have been at risk of toxic serotonin syndrome as result of my medication combinations in the past. My seemingly experimental experience with prescription sleeping medications throughout my early teen years greatly and negatively impacted on my wellbeing and education, also.

I know several other individuals who suffer from medical conditions including cancer, epilepsy, HIV, eating disorders, whom all rely on the use of marijuana to cope with their symptoms, and all whom are forced to access their medication through the black market. I know an individual who once produced and distributed oils to cancer patients free of charge because they could not access these products anywhere else and these products were critical to maintaining and bearable quality of life. Although the manner in which the Australian government has handled similar in the topics in the past: tobacco cessation tactics that only result in tobaccos products being taxed sometimes 1000% more than the value of the product, and the end consumer wearing the costs, effectively achieving nothing but emptying the pockets of addicts and making the poor poorer; the outlawing of synthetic THC that resulted in several deaths in WA; bring the only developed country in the world to soon outlaw liquid nicotine instead of regulating distribution; I don't have many high hopes that Australia will recognise the medical benefit and recreational benefit of marijuana (1 in 4 hospitalisations for young Australians are alcohol related) but I appreciate your time to read my input. Thankyou.

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File1:

File2:

File3: