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I believe in full cannabis legalisation for recreational use. I don't like drinking alcohol and find it extremely hypocritical that alcohol is ingrained into Australian culture as a good thing and cannabis use is viewed so negatively. The comparison in detrimental effects is clear and can no longer be disputed in 2020. I don't want to get into what's the lesser of two evils argument as it's been going on for far too long and it's clear cannabis is not the evil substance that it's been touted to have been over the last 100 years. Instead I want to let you know that I have been what would be considered a regular smoker of cannabis joints for over ten years, I recently stopped due to a new job requiring work place drug testing. Over those ten years I never suffered any negative effects to my body or my mind. I worked hard, attained a degree through part time study whilst working a full time job. I don't smoke now and realise how much I miss the enjoyment of being able to have an occasional smoke and maybe enjoy a meal more, enjoy a movie more, enjoy music more, enjoy the company of my friends more, enjoy a walk through a park, whatever it may be to me being able to have a joint would most likely be comparable to someone having a glass of wine or beer after a long day at work, I can't enjoy that relief because I can't stand drinking alcohol and I'm not allowed to enjoy a small joint in my own home or anywhere without the threat of losing my job or being prosecuted by the law. I feel I'm a better, happier and more enjoyable person when I've had a smoke and I can't see how that's a bad thing. I've heard the arguments against legalisation countless times and quite often it seems from the uninformed and someone with an agenda. Science has proven the lies wrong about the harms of cannabis use, there may be a small number of people susceptible to psychosis which may be brought forward by excessive use of cannabis but even then these people need to be dealt with by the healthcare system and not the criminal justice system. Other myths or lies about increased usage by teens or increased drug driving have also been proven wrong by the countless US states and counties that have already legalised cannabis. So apart from the countless criminal convictions and cost to Australian citizens lives through persecution and the cost on the states through law enforcement, courts and jail why not flip that around and benefit from could be a great Australian cannabis industry taxed for domestic and international sale, use that money to help people in need through a healthcare initiative not a failed war on a harmless drug initiative. I truly hope that one day Australia can do the right thing by Australians and not law enforcement and pharmaceutical company lobbyists interests. I'm sorry for the formatting of this submission as I made it quickly on my phone. I beg of those in charge to please make mine and countless others lives just that bit more enjoyable and better by fully legalising cannabis use for adults. So many things we do are considered dangerous, riding a motor bike, sky diving, skiing, yet we don't ban them all for the safety of everyone, people are given a choice and that choice is regulated as much as can be to reduce harm but still allows one to do that activity. We're not here on earth for a long time and life can be tough on us all so why not make life easier and better for hundreds of thousands of Australians that would take up the offer of being able to legally enjoy a smoke of cannabis. Please do the right thing, listen to the scientists and doctors who specialise in this area, read the unbiased studies conducted in states and countries that have already legalised. Please do the right thing for your Australian constituents most of which will not even realise they have a voice in this matter and not just those small numbers with the loudest voice or the most money. Please.

Kind Regards,

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[REDACTED]