

Dear Fiona

Thank you for this clarification.

The law as it stands does not allow you to drive whilst taking medical cannabis.

This has concerned me for a long time for a variety of reasons

I have been looking for an opportunity to elucidate my concerns and it would appear that your enquiry is looking into the use of how current laws affect people's use.

Looking briefly (because I only came across this yesterday), I haven't seen any submissions (could be wrong here) from users of medical cannabis like myself.

Without wanting to go into private medical details, I have lived in chronic pain since my late 20s and am now in my early 70s.

I have driven responsibly for over 50 years without incident, taking medications such as Mersyndol Forte, Tramal, Pallexia, Lyrica and Gabapentin.

I would strongly suggest that driving whilst taking these drugs is more dangerous and injurious than taking plant based medical cannabis, which is approved by the TGA.

I am totally reliant on medical cannabis and now take occasional analgesics to supplement the medical cannabis.

As I speak, a caller has phoned 3LO to state that he was driving whilst taking medical cannabis and was picked up by police and drug tested.

Having looked into the matter as extensively as possible, there are many people who drive taking the same drugs I took because even though they have been advised to take medical cannabis, they don't because they are not allowed to drive. A young woman I know with fibromyalgia will not take medical cannabis because she cannot get to work.

As a councillor, I worked for many years to improve public transport, which builds into all facets of lives. If you have to take approved medical cannabis and don't live near public transport and work, you don't have a choice but to drive illegally. There are many areas of Melbourne with atrocious public transport, e.g. can I point out areas of Melbourne where there are no trains and the community relies on intermittent bus transport.

If you live in pain, alone with no family to drive you and have to work, you have the choice of living and driving in agony, driving on drugs which are legal, which may or may not impair your on road abilities or taking a plant based TGA approved medication and risk being drug tested.

Chronic pain is complex. Some of the medications I have mentioned above also cause awful side effects, which impinge on quality of life. For example Lyrica and Gabapentin cause brain fog and ongoing lifelong issues. Plant based cannabis removes this also.

However there seems to still be reticence about the use and knowledge of approved medical cannabis.

I have some ideas as to how this could be properly managed, so that motorists with chronic pain issues could be safely on the road using approved medical cannabis and I don't know if your enquiry can put this point of view forward.

I am aware your formal submission process has closed. If this can't be recorded as a submission, could my correspondence be forwarded to members of the enquiry for information and possibly the Minister for Transport because what I have to offer in this space is valuable.

I was elected and a strong advocate to make people's lives better . The use of opiates and other drugs as opposed to an approved plant based medication need to be considered in a wider light

Thank you again for your prompt responses and allowing to make a contribution.

Regards
Roz Blades AM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10