Dr James Moylan BA (Culture) LLB (1st Div Hon) PhD (Law, SCU)

Imprisoned at age nineteen, for forty days, for cultivating three tiny seedlings (which were not his).

On release joined with Dr Kerr and NORML (Seaforth Office in Sydney).

In 1984 the Democrats endorsed a NORML member (Viv Carter) to run on a 'decriminalise cannabis' platform in a by-election in St Marys' featuring Ron Mulock (who was then the Health Minister).

- James was the twenty-one year old campaign manager.
- This was the first candidate in Aus to run on a decriminalisation ticket.

The co-founder of the HEMP Party (now LCA Fed).

Has conducted civil liberties workshops for activists across Australia ('Police Wrangling').

Conducts civil liberties workshops for drug dealers and cannabis growers.

Deals daily with the needless harm being inflicted on Aussie citizens by our arcane drug laws.



CANNABIS in THAILAND

laissez-faire legalisation

Harmful outcomes?

The 20-20 Project: Thailand

20 respondents answer 20 questions about the evolving status of cannabis law & regulation in the Kingdom.

Seeking to identify personal, social, economic or other harms that may be associated with the rapid deregulation of the availability of cannabis in the kingdom. By sampling and documenting the response of the Thai population to recent alterations in the legal and regulatory framework pertaining to cannabis.

Particularly regarding

- a) the nature of the history of the legal and regulatory regime relating to cannabis in Thailand,
- b) the current status of the laws and regulations relating to cannabis in Thailand, and
- c) the lived experience of a range Thai residents who have been directly impacted by the recent alterations to the legal and regulatory regime.

Project aims: To promulgate a better understanding in Australia regarding the current status of cannabis law and regulation in Thailand and the nature of the response by the Thai population to recent alterations in the legal status of cannabis in their country.

Material outcomes: It is proposed that following on from a six-month (part time) research and fact-finding project (spanning January - June 2023), including a two-week period devoted to formally interviewing a pre-prepared list of twenty local respondents and asking a common list of twenty questions ($1^{st} - 10^{th}$ February 2023) the data generated by the project will serve to inform the LCA policy group.

Twenty Questions

(name & demographics)

- 1. What is your name?
 - a. How old are you?
 - b. Are you married? (How long have you been married?)
 - c. Where do you live?
 - d. What do you do for a living?

(cannabis use, quality, marketplace experience)

- 2. Do you use cannabis? if 'yes':
 - a. Why do you use cannabis? (recreationally, medicinally, craft?)
 - b. How often do you use cannabis?
 - c. Where do you get your cannabis?
 - d. How much do you pay for your cannabis?
 - e. Is the cannabis you use getting more or less expensive?
 - f. How often do you use cannabis?
 - g. How do you take your cannabis?
 - h. Are you happy with the quality of the cannabis you use?
 - i. Is the quality of the cannabis you use getting better or worse?

(legal cognisance & personal experience)

- 3. How much do you know about the cannabis laws and regulations that are currently in force in Thailand? (Prompt for details if necessary.)
- 4. Have you personally been in trouble with the law regarding cannabis?
- 5. Do you know many people who have been in trouble with the law regarding cannabis?

(medicinal)

- 6. How much do you know about medicinal cannabis?
- 7. Do you know where to get medicinal cannabis?
- 8. Would you use medicinal cannabis if a doctor prescribed it for you?
- 9. Would you use medicinal cannabis if someone else suggested its use? (Who?)
- 10. Do you know many people who use medicinal cannabis?

(recreational)

- 11. How much do you know about recreational cannabis?
- 12. Do you think recreational cannabis use is dangerous?
- 13. Do you know where to get recreational cannabis?
- 14. Do you know many recreational cannabis users?

(in general terms...)

- 15. In general terms, do you think legal cannabis is good or bad for Thai society?
- 16. Do you think the current laws and regulations are good or bad for the tourism industry?
- 17. Do you think the current laws and regulations are good or bad for Thailand's international image?
- 18. In general terms, do you think that the government has done a good or a bad job with cannabis law reform? (Explain.)
- 19. Have they explained the laws and regulations adequately?
- 20. If you were able; how would you change the laws to make them more appropriate?

The Sickening Hypocrisy of our Cannabis Laws

March 12, 2023. Australian Independent Media Network

"... in dozens of western world countries, governments have been expending huge amounts of taxpayers' funds on protecting the public from the danger of an unrestricted marketplace in cannabis. But now, in Thailand, there was at last a jurisdiction that could be compared to these many other highly restricted marketplaces. Consequently (I reasoned): if cannabis is now freely available in Thailand, then surely all of the 'harms' that we in the western world are being sheltered from would be in evidence?"

"... if the moralists and anti-cannabis crusaders in the west are correct, now that there is an unrestricted marketplace of cannabis in Thailand, there will have been a huge rise in instances of mental illness, also a massive tidal wave of immorality and illegality. Additionally, the youth in the Kingdom will have begun flocking to cannabis cafes in flagrant disregard of the law, probably losing their religion along the way."

114 retail cannabis outlets were visited

72 in Bangkok & environs38 in Pattaya4 village dispensaries

32 formal interviews were conducted

"Bangkok has an amazingly diverse range of cafes. There seems to be a cafe made for every part of Bangkok society."

In February 2023 there were more than 3000 cannabis retailers in Bangkok alone.

Now there are more than 6500.





High End Establishments - Kush House

FROM MY NOTES:

"Kush House is huuge. It is also really well appointed. There is a CEO and a Board of directors behind this offering, plus a stack of cash, and it shows. There are at least four staff and a manager on call. The pot is displayed both on electronic boards (that are a bit over the top in a Japaneesy sort of way) and in little smelling jars (that are cute).

There is a smoking room and all sorts of implements available (but do not look for brass fittings as the local scene is all glass). There are no edibles (as with all the outlets in the city) but the range of pot is good and its quality seems to be good in general. (But then, I doubt that they would be likely to offer me crapola).

It is expensive though. That is the big kicker. **The cheapest weed at Kush House is nearly thirty (Aussie) bucks a gram**, while the most expensive is an eye watering forty-three dollars a gram (ie, twelve hundred dollars an oz). So it seems that this dispensary is aiming for the top end of town and for tourists who are not shy of a quid.

I bought a gram of a shiva cross that was called Popcorn. It was very strong but as rough as guts. On the Cannabis Cup voting scale I gave it only 7.2 as it smelt great, mulled well, but was harsh and expensive.

All told the Kush House is a great place to visit and well worth a small purchase."



Expensive, flashy, very well presented, with a range of branded products including edibles, cones, waterpipes & papers.



This display features
14 different varieties
that are presented in
aroma jars — which
allow the customer to
lift the center insert on
the jar and smell the
aromatics associated
with the variety.

Note also the interactive electronic touchscreen listing the characteristics of the varieties, the strength of the bud, and its price (per gram).



Mid Range Establishments – Happy Star









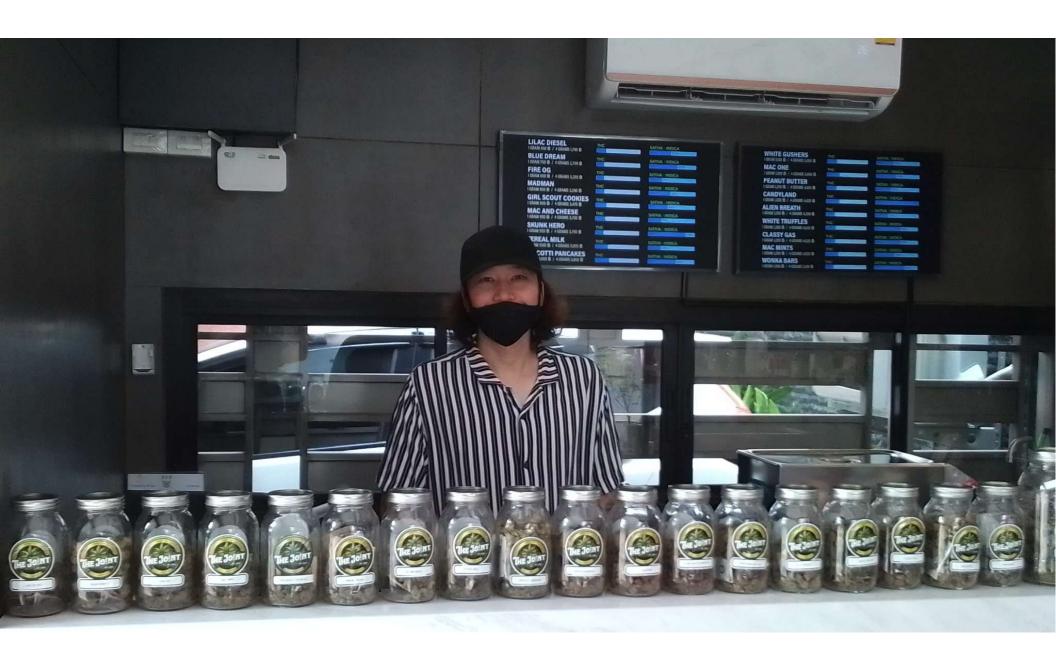
"They had a jar labelled 'Super Lemon Haze' that I picked up instantly - who wouldn't!
The familiar waft of haze had an odd overlay of gunginess that came from an Indica cross. A good move that deserves some sort of a commendation - maybe a minor pension? It was a nice toke. It smoked well. In fact, a gram of total class. Not in the Jesus weed range, mind, but it did have a kick, and sweet as sunshine on a Mardigrass Sunday. I gave it 8.1.
But again, it was expensive (in Australian terms). My little spin around the block cost me nineteen dollars and thirty-five cents (Aus) for just the one teensy weensy gram.

Other offerings from this tight little firm were for as much as fifty-four dollars a gram. Noticeably cheaper than at the bigger establishments yet still, for an Aussie, a bit of a shock. (It might be an idea to purchase a gram at a time to avoid nausea.)"

Central Business District (New Town) - The Joint

"'The Joint' was opening this morning just as I walked in the doors. I was very impressed by the way that they listed the varieties with a clear price range and also a good guide to most of what a cannabis punter wants to know but not too much nonsense. There was a good grasp of English which isn't always the case. But like always everyone was unceasingly polite and genuinely nice which makes for a damn fine day."





Central Business District (New Town) - The Leaf

"The Leaf is owned by a wonderful couple. He's a blowin from somewhere north like Norway. The wife is a local girl. They had a pantry full of edibles. A pretty and comfy cafe. What's not to love?"

"It took me until the 8th cafe, to encounter some weed that would have made me look twice on the Main St in Nimbin."

"In Australia we were all a bit shocked to see the price recently go up to about \$380 an ounce on the street if you know someone. Maybe up to 450 an ounce in the capital cities. But as I've noted in earlier reviews on this safari, Bangkok has all of that well beaten. Up to this point, the cheapest weed encountered is \$19.25A per gram - the most expensive, \$44.00A."









'But there are only so many tourists in the world.'

I was talking to a bloke called Mitchell, who has a cannabis café and lounge under construction right on the main bend in old Khaosan Street. He has a lot at stake. He sells nice lemon haze and knows everyone in Khaosan.

'There are thirty-six outlets within a hundred yards of where we are sitting. There are, as of today, four thousand and eleven outlets in Bangkok.'

Then he gestured expansively to the street, 'But there are only so many tourists in the world.'

Sitting by a little table in the corner of his half built empire, I pulled a cone and nodded at his sage words. It was not all accurate, but he sold good weed, and it was informed ranting (at least to a degree).

The three-day old press release he was citing had mentioned that there were now four thousand and eleven registered dispensaries, in Thailand, not just Bangkok. But any glance down a dark smoke filled alley in old Bangkok will instantly highlight three street vendors for every shop (at least). I came across one here in Pattaya today that had a good list of quality merchandise for between 100 and 300 baht per gram, with eight varieties at 100b.







Pattaya – a similar profusion of outlets









Pattaya – a similar profusion of outlets



