
From: Iain McGregor
Sent: Friday, 24 January 2025 2:55 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 1; Danielle McCartney
Cc: Portfolio Committee 1
Subject: CM: Re: Impact of the regulatory framework for cannabis in New South Wales – Post-hearing responses – 11 December 2024

Dear Kara,

Apologies for the delay in response, I have just returned from leave.

The transcript is satisfactory, thank you.

To the question on notice:

The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO: Do you have any stats on the number of people who stopped using medicinal cannabis?

I note that most of our surveys at the Lambert Initiative are aimed at current users rather than previous users of medicinal cannabis.

However, I can report some pertinent results from our CAMS22-23 survey of current medical cannabis users:

A total of 2239 people answered the question *'In the last 12 months have you had a break of one month or more from using cannabis?'* and who indicated they mainly used prescribed medical cannabis.

- Of these, 871 (39%) indicated that they had had a break of one month or more from medical cannabis
- Of these 871, the (non-exclusive) reasons given for stopping were
 - i. couldn't source prescribed medical cannabis (17%)
 - ii. cost (29%)
 - iii. did not like side effects (3%)
 - iv. was not effective (4%)
 - v. recovered from condition (4%)
 - vi. wanted a break from cannabis use (43%)

Of course there are problems with this approach: there's no indication whether they were still abstinent or not at time of completing the survey, how long they were abstinent for before resuming, and just generally the survivor bias inherent in CAMS surveys, meaning the people who weren't happy with medical cannabis probably wouldn't have done the survey in the first place.

But those are the only data I can think of that get close to answering the question. It might well be worthy of further study!

Kind regards, Iain McGregor

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