

Submission
No 99

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK FOR CANNABIS IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 16 May 2024

Partially
Confidential

Dear Commissioners

I would like to start by thanking the Commission for this opportunity to make comment on the NSW Parliamentary inquiry into cannabis regulation.

I am a 66 year old male who has predominantly lived in Sydney all of my life. I was 24 years old when the introduction of Random Breath Testing (RBT) was introduced on 17th December 1982. I had been driving on NSW roads for some 6 years before this legislation was introduced & as such was privy to the history before & after its enactment. 7 News Sydney released a Facebook Video on 16th December 2022 celebrating the 40 year anniversary & provided an overview of the numerous aspects of life that had changed since it's introduction. Of particular interest as pertaining to the *NSW Parliamentary inquiry into cannabis regulation* is the history of testing & understanding the effects of alcohol on the ability to effectively & efficiently operate & motor vehicle before the introduction of such legislation.

The reason that I raise this issue, is that it directly relates to the current NSW Legislation & enforced by the NSW Police, that any evidence whatsoever that returns a positive cannabis drug test is guilty of a very serious crime. Usually, punishment is harsh on several fronts. The introduction of this "Zero Tolerance" approach by government by not considering the current effect of such drug has on the ability of a person to operate a motor vehicle is misguided.

As will be seen by the 7 News Documentary, the various NSW Governments historically took a vastly different approach to alcohol, & it's effects on driving ability. There has been no consideration given to the level of cannabis ingested at that point in time as tested & it's ability to affect driving ability.

As is well understood by the medical & pharmaceutical industries, cannabis or THC can remain within a person's system well after any psychoactive effects are null & void. The effect on peoples lives that result from a positive drug test can be enormous.

In my opinion, the *NSW Parliamentary inquiry into cannabis regulation* needs to immediately address this considerably unfair & irrational current regulation as it stands in regard to cannabis conviction & the levels of THC in the body & it's effect on driving ability.

In essence, that is the core responsibility of our NSW Parliament. To ensure that legislation is fair & appropriate.

Sincerely