

**Submission
No 333**

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

Name: Mr Andrew Murphy

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to start by echoing the calls of our elected Legalise Cannabis MP Jeremy Buckingham for a legal defence for medical cannabis patients who fail RDT's due to detection without being impaired. I am a safe driver with no driving offenses in over 15 years of driving. Let me drive!

Drug detection dogs can't distinguish the difference between medical cannabis and illicit cannabis. As a result I personally have been strip searched on the side of the road outside of Sutherland train station for a legally prescribed medication. I had none on me. I was employed running a building inspection business in the area. I wore a suit and tie because I often met with prospective purchasers and their agents, and occasionally with owners and their agents. We were actively succeeding in growing the business. Things were looking great. Then business partners saw me getting strip searched because there was no privacy afforded on the footpath. The business suffered. The owners had to scramble to keep clients, and I was lucky to keep my job. I call for the immediate halting of drug detection dog use until a new cohort can be trained that do not target law abiding citizens who smell like medical cannabis.

Police officers don't understand the implications of medical cannabis. On my entry to a music festival I was detained by police due to a drug detection dog. I cooperated in full. I was taken to a holding area where I was then strip searched. Nothing was uncovered. After the strip search, I was then interviewed by 2 officers. I showed them a photo of my prescription. I had none on me. They then tried to make me sign a pre-written statement admitting to the use of an illicit substance. I refused to sign this document as my prescription cannabis is not illicit for me. They then tried to refuse me entry to the event because I had admitted to using my medication that day. Their excuse was the venue would not be able to effectively administer the responsible service of alcohol. I also argued this point as I don't drink alcohol anymore thanks in huge part to medical cannabis. A person who was strip-searched for a prescription medicine they were not in possession of should be apologised to, not intimidated further and threatened with refusal of entry to a cultural event. Clearly the lack of concrete legislation by the NSW government has prevented the NSW Police force from retraining its officers on correct legal processes. I implore you to make sensible amendments to our laws to protect our rights and prevent the unlawful intimidation of medical cannabis patients.

My mother has severe scoliosis. She was prescribed medical cannabis for pain management. Unfortunately my mother is on the pension but her nontoxic medication is not on the PBS so she has stopped buying it and is instead reliant on highly toxic opioids that are on the PBS. She can't afford the exorbitant prices of medical cannabis. She is however an amazing gardener. My mother should be allowed to grow her own medical cannabis at home. I want to see any adult with the skills being allowed to grow medical cannabis for themselves OR their loved ones. Growing or preparing medicine for someone else should not be a crime.

I would like to see NSW treat cannabis like alcohol is currently treated in the following ways;

Restricted from minors unless medically prescribed

A regulated commercial market with legislated standards

A regulated home production option akin to home brewing

The right to gift it to others

The right to register trademarks related to the product

Thank you for your time today.

Andrew Charles Murphy

Granville NSW