

**Submission
No 352**

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

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Date Received: 31 July 2024

I write this submission from my personal view point but I speak on behalf of my colleges, volunteers and party members of the Legalise Cannabis Parties across the nation.

The people of NSW (and the rest of Australia) have been lobbying for legalisation of cannabis for decades. This has been a theme repeated throughout these submissions.

Since the 1970s when the “People” began to see thru the lies and propaganda, the “People” have been asking governments of all persuasions to lift the criminal sanctions. For the same length of time, the People have been denied, being told its a dangerous narcotic, it causes psychosis, it makes people lazy; it is dangerous to physical health; its a gateway drug to name but a few reasons that have been fired back at the People to shut us down for decades.

The current regulatory framework for medical use, is to criminalise some and allow others (who can afford it) a free pass when it comes to possession. Those who use cannabis for medical purposes without a script and permission, are criminals despite their medical need and financial vulnerability.

It seems that govts are afraid of losing face (or votes or both) if they admit that the war on drugs has been a failed policy and that backing down would be an embarrassment for the zillions of tax payer dollars WASTED over the 8 or more decades since prohibition was introduced. Until then, Cannabis had been the safe go to drug for doctors.

Today, most if not all of these myths have been debunked but the major parties in this state (and country) refuse to do anything to change the status quo. This is indicative of the constipated democracy we the People are forced to endure. Govts are completely out of step with the People on this issue.

More and more the People are voting for change from the privacy of the ballot box. For this reason the Legalise Cannabis political movement began in earnest in 2020 with the birth of the first EVER state political party being registered and devoted entirely to one policy – that of legalising cannabis. This led to the subsequent renaming of the federal HEMP party who will be contesting the upcoming federal election carrying the Legalise Cannabis flag for the People.

In all cases the Legalise Cannabis Parties were registered with only weeks to go to their upcoming state elections. With very little money and campaigning; and a tiny number of volunteers on booths and pre poll, we have seen the election of 5 MPs in 3 states over 3 years. This will only INCREASE.

Since the introduction of govt approved “prescription only” access with bureaucratic approval for those who can afford it, many adult social uses have leaked into this medical only market created by the LNP in 2016 with strict guidelines to prevent such leakage. What the govt didn't count on, were 2 things .. it ingenuity of the people and the NUMBER of people who want to use cannabis

for medical reasons .. thousands of people have been making their own oils, tinctures, vape juices and topical lotions for many decades under cover and sharing or selling them to people who wanted /needed them and NO ONE has been harmed.

Internationally, cannabis is legal in many jurisdictions. This has opened the way to REAL scientific research that strongly denies MOST of the negative claims perpetuated by the conservative section of society.

The 3 stage implementation policy offered by the Legalise Cannabis party is a sensible and responsible approach following the 3 yr trial in ACT that has proved all the nay sayers wrong yet again. Its past time to say YES to legalisation.

The offering of a drug summit on top of the recent inquiry into ICE will both produce the same recommendations ie to decriminalise drugs – of this I have no doubt.. isnt it time the govt listened and acted in the best interest of the people rather than in its own interest and the interest of big business?

NSW could lead the way to economic and environmental advantages that legalisation of cannabis would bring.

There is much more I want to say, but time is does not permit, and much of what I want to say has already been said over and over in these submissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit,

Kind Regards

Gail Hester

Cannabis activist and advocate since 2014.