

## Select Committee into Alternate Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use

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**From:** Legislative Council Committee Office  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 November 2018 3:52 PM  
**To:** Select Committee into Alternate Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use  
**Subject:** FW: Submission RE: Inquiry into alternate approaches to reducing illicit drug use and its effects on the community

FYI

**From:**  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 November 2018 3:49 PM  
**To:** Legislative Council Committee Office <LCCO@parliament.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Submission RE: Inquiry into alternate approaches to reducing illicit drug use and its effects on the community

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in response to your inquiry into alternate approaches to reducing illicit drug use and its effects on the community.

I am a chronic pain sufferer thanks to ongoing nerve damage and ossification in my cervical spine. I have been on a multitude of prescriptions including anti-inflammatories, opioids, opiates and anti-depressants (for nerve related pain)

Most of which have lessened symptoms and pain, but come with many harmful side effects and more to come with continual use.

I began medically treating my ailments with cannabis over a year and a half ago, and since my symptoms and quality of life have increased dramatically, my depression has lessened, and I no longer find myself waking up 5-6 times a night to stretch and take more medication.

I have spoken openly and honestly with my GP and my Psychologist who both agree that if this has been the source of my recovery that they see no problem with me continuing this treatment as long as it causes me no financial strain.

But I am not alone, and hundreds of thousands of pain sufferers are unaware that there is treatment that is less harmful than conventional medicine.

Decades of studies have vastly debunked the propagandistic hysteria surrounding cannabis, and it's honestly insulting that government officials continue to regurgitate incorrect and honestly ignorant rhetoric about the "dangers" associated.

Cannabis accounts for no deaths, and less than 0.1% of the overall public health expense, and yet we as taxpayers spend millions every year, policing a prohibition that just does not make sense.

Alcohol and Tobacco are two of the most harmful drugs, and they happen to be legal and taxed, despite hundreds of thousands dying every year globally, causing a huge strain on the public health service and our Law Enforcement agencies.

Legalising cannabis across the board and decriminalising other drugs and removing the public stigma is essential to reducing addiction, preventable deaths and will at least be an attempt at harm minimization.

Governments all around the world are starting to realise this, it has only taken decades of advice, royal commissions and heartfelt pleas from former police commissioners to end this senseless war on our citizens, it is only a matter of time until it takes hold here.

Public polls conducted over the past few years from the ABC and 7 News, with polling numbers of up to 300,000 have time and time again shown that the Australian public wants legal cannabis, with up to 87% surveyed in favour.

It is simply unconstitutional that informed and consenting adults, whom are otherwise law abiding, tax paying citizens are forced into criminal situations to obtain a relatively harmless substance.

These are normal people, your parents, friends, colleagues.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts, I hope that you take the appropriate steps to end this senselessness, You could be the party to get the ball rolling and change history, or be forgotten as a dead draconian legacy.

Respectfully.