



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Ms Bec Cody MLA (Chair), Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA (Deputy Chair)

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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis
Use) Amendment Bill 2018

Submission Number: 14

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From: Lady Nora Preston <wildlife_carers_group@yahoo.com.au>
To: LACommitteeHACS@parliament.act.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 11 March 2019, 1:36
Subject: amended to include 1st para 'the animal kingdom' Fwd: inquiry into Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018. Closes 20 March 2019

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lady Nora Preston <wildlife_carers_group@yahoo.com.au>
Date: 8 March 2019 at 4:31:41 pm AEDT
To: LACommitteeHACS@parliament.act.gov.au
Subject: **inquiry into Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018. Closes 20 March 2019**

Cannabis is **an illicit** hallucinatory drug with the smoke being involuntarily forced into the lungs of babies, children, non smokers, **the animal kingdom**, etc causing hallucinations etc and serious health issues.

It is strongly recommended that cannabis only be allowed to be developed in oil form and to be only used for medicinal purposes.

These oils are already readily available in the ACT for patients.

ACT	02 6205 0998	hps@act.gov.au	ACT Health
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<https://www.tga.gov.au/access-medicinal-cannabis-products-using-access-schemes>

'.....**There is no safe level of drug use.** Use of any drug always carries some risk—even medications can produce unwanted side effects. It is important to be careful when taking any type of drug.

Immediate effects

- loss of inhibition
- spontaneous laughter
- quiet and reflective mood
- affected perception including sound, colour and other sensations
- confusion
- altered thinking and memory
- anxiety
- mild paranoia
- altered vision
- reddened/bloodshot eyes
- relaxation
- sleepiness
- reduced coordination and balance
- increased heart rate
- low blood pressure
- increased appetite.

Low to moderate doses

Low to moderate doses of cannabis can produce effects that last 2 to 4 hours after smoking. The effects of ingested (eaten) cannabis usually start within 1 hour. Some of the effects include:

Higher doses

- confusion
- restlessness
- excitement
- hallucinations
- anxiety or panic
- detachment from reality
- decreased reaction time
- paranoia.

Long-term effects

Long-term cannabis use can have many effects on an individual:

Brain: Impaired concentration, memory and learning ability.

Lungs: Smoking cannabis can result in a sore throat, asthma and bronchitis.

Hormones: Cannabis can affect hormone production. Research shows that some cannabis users have a lowered sex drive. Irregular menstrual cycles and lowered sperm counts have also been reported.

Immune system: There is some concern that cannabis smoking may impair the functioning of the immune system.

Mental health: Cannabis use, especially heavy and regular use, may be linked to a condition known as a “drug-induced psychosis”, or “cannabis psychosis”....’

<https://www.mydr.com.au/addictions/cannabis-marijuana-what-are-the-effects>

2018 update ‘...Marijuana Extracts

Smoking THC-rich resins extracted from the marijuana plant is on the rise. People call this practice *dabbing*. These extracts come in various forms, such as:

- *hash oil or honey oil*—a gooey liquid
- *wax or budder*—a soft solid with a texture like lip balm
- *shatter*—a hard, amber-colored solidThese extracts can deliver extremely large amounts of THC to the body, and their use has sent some people to the emergency room. Another danger is in preparing these extracts, which usually involves butane (lighter fluid). A number of people have caused fires and explosions and have been seriously burned from using butane to make extracts at home. [3.4](#).

How does marijuana affect the brain?

Marijuana has both short-and long-term effects on the brain.

Short-Term Effects

When a person smokes marijuana, THC quickly passes from the lungs into the bloodstream. The blood carries the chemical to the brain and other organs throughout the body. The body absorbs THC more slowly when the person eats or drinks it. In that case, they generally feel the effects after 30 minutes to 1 hour.

THC acts on specific brain cell receptors that ordinarily react to natural THC-like chemicals. These natural chemicals play a role in normal brain

development and function.

Marijuana overactivates parts of the brain that contain the highest number of these receptors. This causes the "high" that people feel. Other effects include:

- altered senses (for example, seeing brighter colors)
- altered sense of time
- changes in mood
- impaired body movement
- difficulty with thinking and problem-solving
- impaired memory
- hallucinations (when taken in high doses)
- delusions (when taken in high doses)
- psychosis (when taken in high doses)

Long-Term Effects

Marijuana also affects brain development. When people begin using marijuana as teenagers, the drug may impair thinking, memory, and learning functions and affect how the brain builds connections between the areas necessary for these functions. Researchers are still studying how long marijuana's effects last and whether some changes may be permanent.

For example, a study from New Zealand conducted in part by researchers at Duke University showed that people who started smoking marijuana heavily in their teens and had an ongoing marijuana use disorder lost an average of 8 IQ points between ages 13 and 38. The lost mental abilities didn't fully return in those who quit marijuana as adults. Those who started smoking marijuana as adults didn't show notable IQ declines. [5](#)

In another recent study on twins, those who used marijuana showed a significant decline in general knowledge and in verbal ability (equivalent to 4 IQ points) between the preteen years and early adulthood, but no predictable difference was found between twins when one used marijuana and the other didn't. This suggests that the IQ decline in marijuana users may be caused by something other than marijuana, such as shared familial factors (e.g., genetics, family environment). [6](#) NIDA's Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study, a major longitudinal study, is tracking a large sample of young Americans from late childhood to early adulthood to help clarify how and to what extent marijuana and other substances, alone and in combination, affect adolescent brain development. Read more about the ABCD study on our [Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Brain and Cognitive Development \(ABCD Study\)](#) webpage.

A Rise in Marijuana's THC Levels

The amount of THC in marijuana has been increasing steadily over the past few decades.⁷ For a person who's new to marijuana use, this may mean exposure to higher THC levels with a greater chance of a harmful reaction. Higher THC levels may explain the rise in emergency room visits involving marijuana use.

The popularity of edibles also increases the chance of harmful reactions. Edibles take longer to digest and produce a high. Therefore, people may consume more to feel the effects faster, leading to dangerous results.

Higher THC levels may also mean a greater risk for addiction if people are regularly exposing themselves to high doses.

What are the other health effects of marijuana?

Marijuana use may have a wide range of effects, both physical and mental.

Physical Effects

- **Breathing problems.** Marijuana smoke irritates the lungs, and people who smoke marijuana frequently can have the same breathing problems as those who smoke tobacco. These problems include daily cough and phlegm, more frequent lung illness, and a higher risk of lung infections. Researchers so far haven't found a higher risk for lung cancer in people who smoke marijuana.⁸
- **Increased heart rate.** Marijuana raises heart rate for up to 3 hours after smoking. This effect may increase the chance of heart attack. Older people and those with heart problems may be at higher risk.
- **Problems with child development during and after pregnancy.** One study found that about 20% of pregnant women 24-years-old and younger screened positive for marijuana. However, this study also found that women were about twice as likely to screen positive for marijuana use via a drug test than they state in self-reported measures.⁹ This suggests that self-reported rates of marijuana use in pregnant females is not an accurate measure of marijuana use and may be underreporting their use. Additionally, in one study of dispensaries, nonmedical personnel at marijuana dispensaries were recommending marijuana to pregnant women for nausea, but medical experts warn against it. This concerns medical experts because marijuana use during pregnancy is linked to lower birth weight¹⁰ and increased risk of both brain and

behavioral problems in babies. If a pregnant woman uses marijuana, the drug may affect certain developing parts of the fetus's brain. Children exposed to marijuana in the womb have an increased risk of problems with attention, [11](#) memory, and problem-solving compared to unexposed children. [12](#) Some research also suggests that moderate amounts of THC are excreted into the breast milk of nursing mothers. [13](#) With regular use, THC can reach amounts in breast milk that could affect the baby's developing brain. More research is needed. Read our [Marijuana Research Report](#) for more information about marijuana and pregnancy.....'

- o <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana>

- As you are aware, we have been strongly lobbying the Government to urgently ban tobacco.

Toxic Carcinogenic emissions: Cigarettes/tobacco: BAN TOBACCO.

There have been numerous assaults and incidents including causing deaths committed by illegal violent smokers ever since the no smoking laws came in.

The tobacco industry contributes to about 6 million deaths globally each year.

People that die prematurely due to second-hand smoke globally is estimated to be 600,000 people every year.

Rehabilitation centres will be needed for the smokers who can use patches instead of allowing them to continue to emit toxic carcinogenic tobacco smoke into all the non smokers lungs and into the atmosphere.

Let's not forget the animals, pets and wildlife lungs as well that are also involuntarily forced to inhale the toxic carcinogenic tobacco smoke causing them suffering and an agonising death as second-hand smokers.

There are no adequate permanently fixed no smoking signs in no smoking areas.

The no smoking laws legislation was drawn up by a smoker who was just covering up for himself and his smoking colleagues which has therefore always been inadequate to deter the smokers from illegal smoking, yet alone to stop smoking altogether.

October 1999 - Phillip Morris admits evidence shows smoking causes cancer: [Philip Morris Admits Evidence Shows Smoking Causes Cancer](#)

I draw your attention to the Canberra-Queanbeyan Chronicle dated 19/4/16, p.4, 9th paragraph article from the Stroke Foundation, 'Blood pressure check campaign', by James Hall: "...There are simple things we can all do to reduce our risk of stroke - manage your blood pressure...don't smoke and limit your alcohol consumption...".

January 2018 - Tobacco giant Philip Morris publishes advertisement declaring it wants to 'give up smoking': [Tobacco giant says its NY resolution is to 'quit smoking' — there's more](#)

Non smokers are a high risk candidate for heart attacks and stroke because of inadequate no smoking laws.

The public, including children and babies are forced to involuntarily smoke as they inhale the toxic carcinogenic tobacco smoke committed by smokers in the privacy of their own no smoking property in their back and front yards and their front and back doors that fill the homes with toxic carcinogenic tobacco smoke.

There wouldn't be any legal issues by banning tobacco in the ACT, instead a trend would be set where other states will follow. In fact other states are already way ahead of the ACT and have stated that they are going to ban tobacco in their states altogether.

Urge to ban tobacco with hefty fines and a criminal conviction that fits the equivalent crimes to heroin and illicit drugs.

Lit cigarettes are a lethal weapon.

Impact smoke has on the environment and smokers, including non smoker's health:

The Government has a duty of care to all non smokers, including vulnerable children and babies, by displaying large, clear, permanent fixtures, (nailed in) no smoking signs outside buildings at all the entrances to all buildings, and on every pillar, in all public places that also shows the hefty penalty, along with security's phone numbers, when non smokers lives are threatened by violent smokers who have no respect for the no smoking laws, and the non smokers lives.

It is not a matter of IF the smokers are going to kill the non smokers, it is a matter of WHEN the smokers are going to kill the non smokers.

Legally, this term is known as premeditated homicide.

Irresponsible cigarette smokers that flick their live cigarettes into the environment are the cause of the majority of fires. Smokers are costing taxpayers trillions of dollars in the fire emergency scheme, with the fire brigade having to run around putting out extra fires. Smokers fall asleep with lit cigarettes and burn down their homes.

Cigarette smoking is a drug addiction, that is also forced on the innocent non smoking victims, which includes vulnerable babies and children.

Every time a smoker lights up a cigarette, they release toxic, some known carcinogens into the atmosphere, that is dangerous to the passive smokers. Smokers are costing taxpayers trillions of dollars in the health scheme, and are forcing extra pressure on hospital beds by slowly killing passive smokers, or 2nd hand smokers with the same smoke related diseases.

Radioactive cigarette smoke- lead-210 (Pb-210) and polonium-210 (Po-210) are poisonous, radioactive heavy metals that research has shown to be present in cigarette/tobacco smoke.

Lead-210 and Polonium-210 come from uranium, an ore that occurs in small amounts in nature, breaks down, that releases radium as radon gas into the atmosphere. Once that occurs, radon gas decays quickly, producing lead-210 (PB-210) and polonium-210 (Po-210), highly

radioactive metals known as radon decay products. Radium is also present in phosphate fertilisers that are often used in tobacco farming.

As the radium in soil around tobacco plants releases radon gas, and ultimately the tiny lead and polonium particles float free, they attach to bits of dust and are carried to the surface of tobacco leaves. Because tobacco leaves are covered with thousands of fine hairs, these radioactive chemicals grab hold and remain, that is then inhaled by the smokers and passive smokers, that enters their lungs, causing lung cancer, a decline in health, organ removal, prolonged suffering, unable to breathe, oxygen won't help you either, because your whole immune system has shut down, your nose is running, bleeding, clotting, it feels blocked, you can't breathe, you can't eat, you slowly suffocate to death, releasing the toxic emissions into the atmosphere, and contributing to climate change.

Lead-210 and polonium-210 are insoluble in water, so they are not removed during the cleaning and cigarette manufacturing process.

This is only scratching the surface in the diseases that smoking causes.

Chemicals in cigarettes and cigarette smoke contain poisons, carcinogens and heavy toxic metals.

Cigarettes contain ammonia, (great to clean your toilet with, but not great for your immune system) acetone, (great to remove your nail polish, but not great for your vital organs), hydrogen cyanide, arsenic (great to kill your unwanted rats and mice, however, smokers are also killing themselves and innocent non smokers through passive smoking.)

Carcinogens in cigarettes - a carcinogen is defined as any substance that can cause or aggravate cancer. Approximately 60 of the chemicals in cigarettes are known to cause cancer.

TSNAs - tobacco-specific N-nitrosamines, are known to be some of the most potent carcinogens present in smokeless tobacco, snuff and tobacco smoke.

Benzene can be found in pesticides and gasoline. It is present in high levels in cigarette smoke and accounts for half of all human exposure to this hazardous chemical.

Pesticides are used on lawns and gardens, and inhaled into our lungs via cigarette smoke.

Formaldehyde is a chemical used to preserve dead bodies, and is responsible for some of the nose, throat and eye irritation smokers experience when breathing in cigarette smoke.

Toxic Metals in cigarettes - toxic/heavy metals are metals and metal compounds that have the potential to harm our health when absorbed or inhaled. In very small amounts, some of these metals support life, but when taken in large amounts, can become toxic.

Arsenic is commonly used in rat poison, arsenic finds its way into cigarette smoke through some of the pesticides that are used in tobacco farming.

Cadmium is a toxic heavy metal that is used in batteries.

Poisons in cigarettes - poison is defined as any substance that, when introduced to a living organism, causes severe physical distress or death. Science has discovered approximately 200 poisonous gases in cigarette smoke.

Ammonia compounds are commonly used in cleaning products and fertilisers. Ammonia is also used to boost the impact of nicotine in manufactured cigarettes.

Carbon Monoxide is present in car exhaust and is lethal in very large amounts. Cigarette smoke can contain high levels of carbon monoxide.

Hydrogen cyanide was used to kill people in the gas chambers in Nazi Germany during World War 2. It can be found in cigarette smoke.

Nicotine is a poison used in pesticides and is the addictive element in cigarettes.

Passive smoking/environmental tobacco smoke - smoke produced by a smouldering cigarette is known to contain at least 250 toxic chemicals, including 50 cancer-causing chemicals. The smell of cigarette smoke is harming your health, and the environment.

Health diseases from cigarette/tobacco smoke - heart, emphysema, lung cancer, mouth cancer, kidney cancer, cervix cancer and bone marrow, gangrene, blood pressure, cataracts, contributes to the development of osteoporosis, increasing the risk for fracture in the elderly, abdominal aortic aneurysm, acute myeloid leukaemia, pancreatic cancer, pneumonia, periodontitis and stomach cancer. These are in addition to diseases previously known to be caused by smoking, including bladder, esophageal, laryngeal, lung, oral, and throat cancers, chronic lung diseases, coronary heart and cardiovascular diseases, as well as reproductive effects and sudden infant death syndrome.

During 1995-1999, smoking caused approximately 440,000 premature deaths in the US annually, leading to 13.2 years of potential life lost for male smokers, and 14.5 years lost for female smokers.

Ref: Harmful chemicals in cigarettes and health consequences of smoking, the 2004 report of the surgeon general, by Terry Martin, About.com guide, updated September 08, 2009, and 2004.

Tobacco is responsible for contributing to harmful carbon emissions and accelerating climate change.

“CRUEL ANIMAL TESTING BY TOBACCO COMPANIES.

Most people are fully aware that smoking cigarettes is dangerous to one's health. With the ever-present Surgeon General Warnings printed on every single tobacco product on the market, you would be hard pressed to have missed it.

It doesn't necessarily take a doctor or scientist though to realize that breathing in carcinogens on a daily basis is a potentially lethal habit. Common sense tells us that breathing smoke of any kind is bad for our lungs, yet for tens of thousands of dogs in research laboratories around the world -- who are forced to ingest cigarette smoke for upwards of ten hours a day -- this apparently obvious fact is ignored.

In the tobacco industry's vain attempt to prove that their product doesn't actually kill people, they have invested literally millions of dollars into animal testing facilities of their own.

Despite the fact all scientific evidence points to the same conclusion -- using cigarettes and other tobacco products leads to cancers, emphysema, birth defects and a host of other physical ailments in humans -- tobacco companies and research laboratories continue on with what appears to be not only a complete disregard of scientific findings, but a lack of concern for the lives of other beings.

Inside laboratories built by the tobacco industry, or in contract laboratories, beagle puppies are attached to gas mask-like devices and forced to breathe in cigarette smoke for hours on end. After enduring months, if not years, of this torture, the poor, helpless dogs are killed so their lungs and other organs can be examined to study the impact the smoke had on them.

Since all conclusive evidence points to the fact that smoking is harmful for human beings, what could the possible motivation be for torturing and killing non-human animals, such as these dogs? And this horrific treatment is not limited to dogs. Pregnant Rhesus monkeys in these laboratories are forced to breathe in cigarette smoke during the duration of their pregnancy and, shortly before giving birth, the mother and her unborn child will be killed so her body may be dissected and her baby removed to observe the side effects of smoking on pregnancy and fetal development.

The same is true for a host of other species such as mice and rats.

It is hard for me to fathom the consciousness of a person who attaches a gas mask to a puppy's or pregnant monkey's face each day. What must go through their minds to enable them to justify such injustice? Unlike other forms of vivisection where a lab technician can delude themselves into believing that sacrificing another species benefits the greater good, those working inside tobacco research laboratories must be all too aware that their "research" will benefit no one other than the tobacco industry's pockets. "

Ref: Care2.

Rationale-Intent or Outcome:

Ban Tobacco: hefty fines and convictions equivalent to illicit drugs etc. Rehabilitation required for the drug addiction causing withdrawal symptoms.

Arguments for:

Toxic carcinogenic cigarettes smoke is not only killing smokers, it is also killing non smokers with the same smoke related diseases through secondhand smoke/passive smoking.

Arguments against: N/A

<https://www.peta2.com/news/mouse-glue-traps/amp/>

<https://wildlifecarersgroup.wordpress.com/2019/01/13/wildlifecarers-group-submission-animal-welfare-legislation-amendment-bill-2019-closes-7-2-19/>

<https://wildlifecarersgroup.wordpress.com/2017/05/15/submission-amended-draft-animal-welfare-and-management-strategy-2017-2022-closes-wednesday-24-may-2017/>

Sincerely

LADY NORA PRESTON - Independent Volunteer, began rehabilitating wildlife in the early 1980's
Founding President - since 2004
Honorary Member - since 2004
Animal Welfare Inspector - since 2004, advice given began in the 1970's
WILDLIFE CARERS GROUP - (WCG) founded in 2004

WILDLIFE CARERS GROUP is a VOLUNTARY INDEPENDENT NON PROFIT COMMUNITY BASED GROUP with no Government funding – Independent – adj. 1. Not governed by a foreign power; self-governing. 2. Free from the control of another or others; self-reliant.

Website: <http://wcg.awardspace.com> (we've been unable to update this website, as hard as a few of us have tried, updates on Facebook and Wordpress, some on Twitter)

<http://wildlifecarersgroup.wordpress.com/?sn=1>

We are also on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/nora.preston.16> with photos included on the site, and become a friend.

You can now follow us and join us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/wildlifecarersg/>

<http://canberra.climatexchange.org.au/wildlife-carers-group>

<http://www.myspace.com/wcginc> (not updated)

Check out <http://www.myspace.com/wcginc> and become a friend.

Support WCG. WCG is an independent, non profit, non government community based charity providing animal/wildlife care, rescue/rehabilitation and is also an animal/wildlife welfare group, providing protection for our wildlife/animals, run solely by volunteers, with no government funding, saving taxpayers money

Aims and Objectives: To promote the general welfare and continued survival of native fauna and flora as an essential element of the environment, and specifically to undertake the specialised care necessary for the rehabilitation of orphaned, sick and injured native birds and other animals, to promote public awareness of the need to conserve existing wildlife species, and an understanding of their particular habitat and feeding requirements.

Disclaimer: WCG and the author do not assume or accept any responsibility and shall not be liable for the accuracy or appropriate application of the information contained in this letter/email/blog/report/article.

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