



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
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Submission Cover Sheet

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

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Jonathan Fox



I'd like to make my submission on revising the ACT cannabis laws.

In my view, it's about time to legalize cannabis for personal use.

The "war on drugs" that has been running for generations now, has been a complete failure. The 'nanny state' approach to the prohibition on the personal use of cannabis has failed on many levels. It only keeps criminals in business and pushes young people into the hands of criminals.

There are dozens of states in the US that have legalized cannabis and it's time Australian states and territories adopt the same sort of laws.

I'm amazed that Australia is proving to be more conservative than the US on this issue.

What happened to Australia being a progressive nation, like it has been through its entire history?

I also believe that Portugal has completely revised their drug laws and have achieved great success.

If sold through government regulated shops, controlled and unadulterated cannabis would minimize any negative effects on users.

It's highly likely to actually save young lives, by providing a legal alternative to pills, ice or heroin.

People are far better off smoking unadulterated cannabis than taking pills or injecting ice or heroin.

It might help keep people away from alcohol, which in my view is a far worse drug than unadulterated cannabis.

The illegal trade in cannabis would be smashed and selling through regulated shops would allow for the cannabis to be taxed.

Tax revenues should be used to help people stop taking pills or injecting ice or heroin. Tax revenues should not be included in general revenue.

I grew up through the 70's and 80's, the peak years of the "war on drugs".

I've seen too many friends and acquaintances ruin their lives or die from using heroin. Nowadays young people are destroying their lives and dying using pills and ice; drugs far worse than clean heroin.

The smugglers and drug dealers are getting rich on the ruination and death of our young people and the misery of victim's families.

Our current laws enable the smugglers and dealers and make good citizens who like to smoke a little cannabis criminals.

Now is a great opportunity to completely reform the way we deal with illegal drugs.

Kind Regards

Jonathan Fox

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