



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Transport
and City Services

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Urban Forest and Planning Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

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Standing Committee on Transport and City Services

Inquiry into Road Transport (Alcohol and Drugs) Amendment Bill 2026

The proposed changes to driving without medicinal cannabis impairment are well-considered, reasonable and open-minded. They also address the conflict between the existing Act and human rights.

As a person with a disability, I require daily use of my car to attend therapies. I value my independence but the current Act criminalises my freedom of movement if I use my car and makes me dependent on others to achieve a fulfilling life.

As someone who has never driven under the influence of drugs and has no traffic infringements due to my legal and defensive driving, I find it unwelcome that politicians, members of the public and organisations impose their values on me. The only person who can make careful decisions about my treatment is myself and my Authorised Prescriber.

Cannabis has been used by many people worldwide and as part of their cultural practices throughout human history. We all have an endocannabinoid system (ECS), a biological system in the body that includes endocannabinoids, neurotransmitters that bind to cannabinoid receptors, and is involved in regulating various physiological and cognitive processes such as mood, memory and pain sensation. It plays a crucial role in maintaining body balance and is found throughout the central and peripheral nervous systems.

I was saddened to read the media stories of other patients who experienced the same stigma and were subjected to ill-informed statements, including commentary from Attorney-General Tara Cheyne that such a change would only be pursued if it was “supported by comprehensive evidence”. This is a statement which is vague and without examples to back it up, and it is right that those taking professionally cultivated medicinal cannabis products politely question the veracity of public statements by elected Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Prohibition in Western nations meant medical researchers and related professions lost a century of opportunity to discover the benefits and risks of using this natural herb for therapeutic purposes.

The prohibition of cannabis followed the lead of the United States, where it was used as a pretext to demonise Hispanic workers, a term now used to describe illegal immigrants.

An informative book still in publication is Martin Booth’s *Cannabis: A History* (Bantam/Penguin 2004).

My experience of taking cannabis compounds, including Cannabigerol (CBG), Cannabidiol (CBD) and Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) products cultivated to professional standards by legal business entities, enables me to continue working towards overall wellbeing. I adopt a holistic approach to improved health and medicinal cannabis has a positive effect on my wellbeing, wellbeing which improves safe driving behaviour and allows me to engage in the benefits of community participation.

I hope this submission is informative to all MLAs interested in positive and progressive change.